

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

JUNE 3, 2017 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 183 NO.11 • **BRnow.org**



Trip Lee urged attendees of Send Conference to talk about Jesus in everyday conversations, willing to deconstruct people's misunderstandings about Him. "The real Jesus that we see in scripture is somebody worth believing," Lee said. (North American Mission Board photo)

By **LIZ TABLAZON** | BR Staff Writer

"I wasn't called to a place. I was called to Him. To obey was my objective, to suffer was expected, His glory was my reward."

Karen Watson, an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary who was killed in 2004 while serving in the Middle East, penned those words in a letter that was only to be read in the event of her death. The letter would later inspire California-based worship leader and artist Hector Gabriel to write the song "Peoples Praise." Gabriel performed it May 19-20 at the Send Conference in Frisco, Texas.

In the Dr. Pepper Arena, more than 4,000 church leaders, missionaries, students and families sang along,

declaring, "We will go, we will go." The song reflected the purpose of the conference, sponsored by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and IMB.

This year's theme, "Redefine," called attendees to grasp a clear understanding of what it means to live on mission, whether God calls them to do so at home or overseas.

Four main session speakers conveyed different aspects of what it means to redefine a life on mission. Speakers included D.A. Horton, pastor of Reach Fellowship in North Long Beach, Calif.; David Platt, IMB president; Trip Lee, hip-hop artist and pastor at Cornerstone Church in Atlanta, Ga.; and Vance Pitman, national mobilizer for NAMB.

Attendees had numerous options for breakout ses-

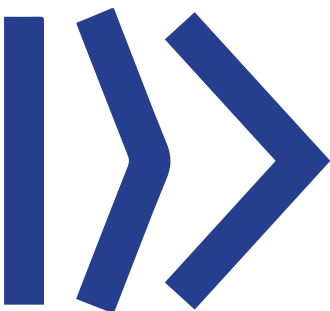
sions that featured, among others, Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; Jen Wilkin, Dallas-based author and Bible teacher; and Nik Ripken, missionary and author of *The Insanity of God*.

Leaving and leveraging

Horton set the conference's tone by drawing attendees' gaze to Christ as the example of obedience. Expounding on John 17, he pointed to Jesus as the pattern for submitting to God; the only pathway to God; and the personification of God's glory.

Jesus' confidence and assurance came from engaging

See SEND page 16



NAMB responds to McRaney lawsuit

By **DAVID ROACH** | Baptist Press

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has filed an official response to a lawsuit by former Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCMD) executive director Will McRaney, who alleges NAMB wrongly interfered with his separation from the BCMD in 2015, engaged in "slander and/or libel" and attempted to interfere with his speaking engagements.

NAMB's May 18 filing with a U.S. district court in Aberdeen, Miss., acknowledged notifying the BCMD in late 2014 of its intent to terminate an evangelism and church planting partnership with the convention, alleging the BCMD "became a dysfunctional and difficult ministry partner" during McRaney's tenure.

However, NAMB denied interfering with McRaney's employment situation or any of his

See NAMB page 19

Is fake news hurting your church?

We have been hearing a lot of talk about fake news. For those who are not sure what that is, Wikipedia offers this description. “Fake news is a type of yellow journalism that consists of deliberate misinformation or hoaxes spread via the traditional print, broadcasting news media or via Internet-based social media. Fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to gain financially or politically, often with sensationalist, exaggerated or patently false headlines that grab attention.”

Frankly, by that definition, a lot of network news, popular newspapers and widely used websites are feeding us fake news.

It is well known that between 80 to 90 percent of secular journalists embrace leftist, liberal or progressive political and social views. They do not represent the average American citizen. Many abandon fair practices of journalism and aggressively promote their own ideology. In doing so, they spread one-sided, false information – fake news.

As I preach in churches across the state, men and women in our congregations express to me their outrage and frustration over the bad news coverage they get from the secular news sources they depend on. They no longer trust most news outlets.

This tells me that pastors are forced to spend portions of their sermon time to correct the bad information their church family has digested the week before – especially when the news relates to biblical values. Pastors love God’s Word, and they love the flock God has called them to shepherd. They cannot allow the people they love to wallow in the quicksand of deceit. Therefore, they speak out as often as possible on issues that matter.

Apparently, that is not working out very well. Studies tell us that even faithful church members are embracing liberal social and theological views in increasing numbers.

Pastors simply cannot battle these trends alone. Even with the best website

and active social media, a local church needs outside sources to stand with them in the face of moral decline.

A recent Pew Research study reported, “About two-in-three U.S. adults (64%) say fabricated news stories cause a great deal of confusion about the basic facts of current issues and events. This sense is shared widely across incomes, education levels, partisan affiliations and most other demographic characteristics. These results come from a survey of 1,002 U.S. adults conducted from Dec. 1 to 4, 2016.”

I want pastors and church leaders to know that the ministry of the *Biblical Recorder* exists for this very reason. We help you do what no one can do alone. We must work together to combat widespread misinformation.

The *Biblical Recorder*’s staff serves the local church and church leaders by feeding your congregation news and information that supports the pastor’s faithful preaching of the Bible. Twenty-four hours each day, seven days a week, we provide news from a biblical worldview.

Will you compare our goals with the goals of the media you currently depend on? We are focused on three standards. Be biblical, focus on the Great Commission and glorify God. Is your congregation’s news source doing that?

Shouldn’t everyone in your congregation be receiving the *Biblical Recorder* or another news source that is committed to a biblical worldview?

I know what some are thinking at this point.

Many church leaders have been duped by the idea (fake news) that no one reads newspapers any more. Wrong! A 2015 Pew Research study reported that 51 percent of adults get their news from print only. Another 5 percent get news from mobile only, 5 percent from desktop only and 15 percent use combinations of print/desktop/mobile. Many more people are reading newspapers than you think!

The December 2016, Pew Research study reported, “When it comes to tech-

nology’s influence on America’s young adults, reading is not dead – at least not the news. When asked whether one prefers to read, watch or listen to their news, younger adults are far more likely than older ones to opt for text, and most of that reading takes place on the web.

“Overall, more Americans prefer to watch their news (46%) than to read it (35%) or listen to it (17%), a Pew Research Center survey found earlier this year. But that varies dramatically by age. Those ages 50 and older are far more likely to prefer watching news over any other method: About half (52%) of 50- to 64-year-olds and 58% of those 65 and older would rather watch the news, while roughly three-in-ten (29% and 27%, respectively) prefer to read it. Among those under 50, on the other hand, roughly equal portions – about four-in-ten of those ages 18-29 and ages 30-49 – opt to read their news as opt to watch it.”

As stated in the report, “reading” does not necessarily mean print media. Some are “reading” material on websites. However, even some of the youngest age segment prefer newspapers (10 percent), and the number climbs significantly in every age category until it reaches 63 percent of adults above the age of 65.

Don’t make the mistake of hastily writing off these older adults! This age group happens to be one of the fastest growing segments of our population as more people live longer. They are also the most resourceful both in terms of human experience and in material wealth. They are a significant and valuable part of your congregation. They deserve accurate news.

While the *Biblical Recorder* embraces new methods to communicate news to our Baptist audience, we have not abandoned the proven, time-tested method of

printed media. This 577-year-old practice of informing the public still works.

In 1455, Johannes Gutenberg introduced a radical change in human history when he invented the printing press. It is often said the printing press is one of the top five inventions in history, ranking alongside the wheel, the nail and the light bulb – all of which are still in use today.

We are not ready to give up on Gutenberg’s invention. Neither are we willing to depend entirely on the printed page.

The *Biblical Recorder*’s website is one of the most popular Baptist news sources in the world. In the last two weeks, we averaged 45,700 daily visitors on *BRnow.org*. That’s a lot of traffic! We know people are depending on us, and we work hard to deliver the truth.

Our digital edition, weekly e-newsletter (*BRweekly*) and social media tools also reach a broad audience.

I want to ask you some important questions. How many people in your church are receiving the print edition of the *Recorder*?

Will you begin a church group plan so your congregation can escape the world of fake news? Will you let your church know the *Biblical Recorder* serves them and is ready to help them grow spiritually? Will you tell them about our free app and free website? Has fake news hurt your church? Is it hindering our Great Commission assignment?

Try filling out the checklist on page 8 as a personal inventory to learn how the *Biblical Recorder* can serve you. People need to know!

For help with subscriptions, please contact Liz Tablazon, our circulation manager, at (919) 459-5693 or liz@BRnow.org. She is ready to serve you and your church. Thank you for allowing the *Biblical Recorder* to be one of your Great Commission partners! **BR**



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BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina
Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

Volume 183 No. 11
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Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$15.99 (one year); \$27.99 (two years); \$39.99 (three years)
- Bulk Plan (10+) \$11.50
- Family Plan, \$12.50
- Club Plan, \$13.50
- Single copies, .60 cents each

Payable in advance. N.C. sales tax is included. Digital rates: \$5.99 (one year); \$10.99 (two years); \$15.99 (three years).

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939.

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

Pastor's Conference update

Thanks to the generosity of *Biblical Recorder* readers like you, we have raised \$1,400 toward scholarships for small church pastors to attend the Pastor's Conference prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix in June.

Honor your father

Families, Sun., June 18, will be a great opportunity to express your love and appreciation to your father or a man who has had a significant positive influence on your life.

We can read in the Bible how God reveals Himself to us as our Heavenly Father. He guides us, protects us, loves us and disciplines us. Though we will most certainly fail Him over and over again, He will never fail us nor forsake us – His love for us is unconditional. How wonderful it is to have this divine, guiding presence in our lives!

Men, God entrusted us with monumental responsibility when He declared in His Word that husbands/fathers are to exhibit good and effective leadership with our families. Some Christian psychologists say that children will base their concept of God on what they see in their father.

Wow, if that is true, it should challenge us to be men who show love and respect for God and also for our wife and our children! We should strive to be a positive

role model for them as we love, obey and serve God. If you are a father or a father figure to someone younger, I urge you to take some time to pray consistently about the influence you have on that individual. Ask God for spiritual strength that will enable you to be a positive example for those who look to you as a good example.

Father's Day may be painful for some who have lost their earthly father, or perhaps your father did not reflect the character of Jesus Christ in his life. My friends, if that is the case, I pray that our Heavenly Father will be your comfort and strength this weekend.

I know two brothers whose father walked off and left their family while the boys were small. Even though their mother was heart-broken about this family break-up and the responsibility she was left to fill, she shouldered the responsibility to be a godly mother who taught her sons that God would be their father, that He would provide for their needs and they would get through this together by God's strength.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer



Today, those boys are grown men and they are strong Christ-followers.

To this day, I continue to value the time spent with my father and the lessons he taught me. He went to be with the Lord three years ago, but I can still remember his words, his sermons, his prayers and his constant encouragement. I will never forget how he would bear hug me even during my adult years and remind me how thankful He was for the ways God worked in my life. I give praise to God that Dad and Mom chose to raise my siblings and me in a spiritual environment that helped us want to learn about Jesus and to follow Him.

On this Father's Day, also take this time to reflect on the great love of our Lord – our Father who loved us so much that He gave His only Son to die for us and save us from our sins. That is the example of true fatherly love to which we should all look.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” – 1 John 3:1. **B3**

Couple discovers new mission field at Children's Homes

By J. BLAKE RAGSDALE | BCH Communications

Jay and Kim Smith spent 26 years sharing the gospel as missionaries in West Africa.

Today, the couple continues to share Christ's love in their new role as Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina's (BCH) cottage parents where they care for as many as 12 girls at Mills Home in Thomasville.

“It's still a mission field but a different mission field,” Kim explains.

Her husband agrees. “We love these girls with the love of God just as we loved the people in West Africa.”

Before the couple met, God impressed on each of them a desire to be involved with foreign missions. Not long after they married, they contacted the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board, known today as the International Mission Board (IMB), to discuss their desire to serve as international missionaries.

“It was now about finding the right job match,” Kim says. “Jay received his degree in agricultural education, and we were looking for something in that field.”

In October 1990, with their second child on the way, the couple received the IMB assignment for which they had been waiting. They arrived in West Africa three months later.

On the mission field, the Smiths worked with established churches to minister at a Bible school and home craft center for girls. At the same time, the Smiths were parenting their children.

“We were learning a new language and raising little ones while doing our work,” Jay says. “We spent quite a bit of

time in the village building friendships. They were getting to know our kids and we were getting to know theirs.”

After 16 years of ministering in hospitable conditions, the Smiths were assigned to a different area in the region where the gospel was unwelcome and Christians were persecuted. It forced them to use extreme caution.

“By this time, there were groups of believers native to the area who would come to us for discipleship and training. They would then go out and evangelize,” Jay explains. “We were more in the background.”

With conditions becoming increasingly dangerous, the Smiths returned to the states in 2015 for what they envisioned to be a temporary respite.

But while stateside, the IMB unexpectedly announced it was in the middle of a financial crisis and laid off hundreds of missionaries and staff members. The Smiths were given the option of retiring early.

“We weren't ready to retire, but we prayed through it and God made it clear to us that our time with the IMB was ending,” Kim says.

The couple once again prayed. But this time, they were seeking direction for their future.

As they searched for new ministry opportunities, they came across information about Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

“We didn't know anything about BCH. We had no background. We had no training,” Kim says.

“But God kept bringing us back to it,” Jay continues. “Just as He called us



BCH is always seeking servant-minded people, like Jay and Kim Smith, to serve children, families and special needs adults through its locations across North Carolina. For more information, visit bchcareers.org. (BCH photo)

to international missions, it was the same way with BCH.”

The couple joined BCH in February 2016.

BCH trains all cottage parents equipping them to provide the highest-quality care for children. The Smiths underwent training in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, the CARE (Children and Residential Experiences) practice model and

participated in a three-part internal staff member orientation. In addition, they receive continuous training throughout their time as cottage parents.

The Smiths joined Robert and Diane Earley as the cottage parent team at Blackwell Cottage.

One couple lives with the girls 24 hours a day, seven days a week for two

See Couple page 16

'Go-to' agency commits to long-term recovery efforts

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Production Editor

Packed with prayer, a building dedication in Lumberton brought local and state leaders together.

"Sat., Oct. 8, 2016, is a date many people in Eastern North Carolina will never forget," said Richard Brunson, executive director of North Carolina Baptists on Mission (NCBM), during a ceremony May 17 to dedicate a new hub for Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. "Thousands of people were affected."

People remember good days like wedding anniversaries and birthdays, but the dates of disasters also stick in their brains too, Brunson said.

When Hurricane Matthew hit in October, NCBM responded, first with mobile kitchens and assessment teams. They set up six feeding stations: Lumberton, Wallace, Whiteville, Fayetteville, Kingston, Rocky Mount and Greenville. They served 465,000 meals from those sites.

But, the devastation of Matthew continues. Many people are still displaced and unable to repair or find housing. While NCBM has its Red Springs Camp, getting people to Lumberton from that site was challenging and cost volunteer hours driving to and from the sites.

"Lumberton was really Ground Zero for Hurricane Matthew," Brunson said. "This is where the most jobs are. And this is the place where we really needed something bigger."

The 12,000-square-foot warehouse in Lumberton, which is located at 141 Avent Road, near Interstate 95, was purchased and renovated by NCBM to serve as a hub for Lumberton recovery efforts. The building can hold up to 100 volunteers inside with enough space for 50 more people staying in mobile sleeping units outside.

"God's made this place possible," Brunson said. "As North Carolina Baptists, a big part of our strategy is to

provide a place for people to serve others in Jesus' name, a place where we provide lodging and meals and the coordination of jobs."

Currently, N.C. Baptists have recovery sites in Windsor, Goldsboro, Warsaw, Black River in Pender County, Lumberton and Red Springs.

John Butler, a product of Lumberton and Robeson County, said, "God has provided for this community."

Butler, executive leader of business services for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said that by meeting the needs of people, "it will open the door for those volunteers ... to say let me tell you why I'm doing this. In the end, the greatest disaster that any person will ever face on this earth is the disaster of their life ending without a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ."

Lumberton Mayor Bruce Davis shared about the magnitude of the hurricane and the flooding it caused. "Lumber River is not just a little, local river," he said, naming eight counties that the river influences.

"At noon on Saturday when the river was at flood stage at 13 feet, people were worried but Sunday when it got to almost 25 feet, it was beyond worry," Davis said. "That's 11 feet above flood stage. You think about how much water that is."

The river is 113 miles long. The National Weather Service said the hurricane unleashed 13.6 trillion gallons of water on the Southeast. Davis said that's 75 percent of all the water in the Chesapeake Bay. "I know that when the Baptist men and women come into our state [emergency operations center] that we become a better EOC (emergency operations center)," said Mike Sprayberry, North Carolina emergency management director. Calling NCBM the "go-to volunteer agency in North Carolina," he said that he is "humbled [and inspired] by what you do."



Gaylon Moss, left, disaster relief coordinator for North Carolina Baptists on Mission, leads a prayer during the dedication of a facility for Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

Davis proclaimed May 17, 2017 as N.C. Baptist Men and Baptists on Mission Day in Lumberton and read the proclamation of thanks just before the ribbon cutting at the dedication of the new building.


More work

A couple of days of bad weather May 24-25 resulted in tornados and other storms leaving some damage in Davie, Iredell, Sampson, Stokes, Union and Yadkin counties. Each site is managing a

work schedule. Contact

- Courtney, Davie/Yadkin Counties – (919) 459-5661;
- Autryville, Sampson County – (252) 624-4996;
- King, Stokes County – (336) 394-2530;
- Marshville, Union County, (704) 254-0271.

To volunteer for Matthew recovery efforts, visit baptistsonmission.org or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5596. **BR**



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Church planting initiative among board highlights

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

Baptist associations, church planting networks and individual churches could receive up to \$10,000 in reimbursements for their investments in establishing new churches as part of a new pilot program through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

The program was announced to members of the BSC's Board of Directors during a regularly scheduled meeting May 22-23 at the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.

Under the program, the BSC's Church Planting Team will reimburse up to \$5,000 to associations, networks or sending churches for their investments in new church plants. Reimbursements would apply to funds invested during the first year of a new church plant's existence.

Associations, networks and sending churches would also be eligible for up to an additional \$5,000 if a new church plant is located in one of North Carolina's top 100 pockets of lostness that have been identified by BSC, bringing the total potential reimbursement to \$10,000.

In most cases, a pocket of lostness is a small geographic area where at least 70 percent of the population is unchurched.

The program will begin July 1, and convention leaders hope to work with 30 partners during the first year. Partners must be preapproved based on criteria developed by BSC. The program will be evaluated after the first year.

The reimbursements would also



Milton A. Hollifield, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina executive director-treasurer, talks about Richard Holbrook, who is retiring as director of Fort Caswell. See story, page 9. (BSC photo by K Brown)

require partners to reinvest funds in additional missions efforts in the state, either by supporting the second year of the church plant or by helping establish another church plant.

"This is a way that we can send people into the community to establish new churches," said Lawrence Clapp, chair of the board's Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee, in announcing the program.

While BSC does not directly support individual church planters or individual church plants, the convention does work with churches, associations and networks to help start new churches. Clapp said the new program provides a new approach to expand the convention's support of church planting efforts.

Similar funding programs through sending churches currently exists through the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and state conventions in

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, Clapp said.

Through its partnerships, the BSC has helped start about 100 new churches annually since 2007.

Those interested in the program should contact Mark Gray, who leads BSC's Church Planting Team.

In other action, the board's Executive Committee approved a proposal to assist Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in establishing a new ministry that will provide theological education and training to inmates serving long-term sentences within the N.C. prison system. BSC will provide SEBTS with \$69,500 over five years, beginning with an initial contribution of \$36,000 in 2017.

The funds will help the seminary cover capital costs associated with starting the North Carolina Field Minister Program. The program will offer inmates the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry. Graduates of the program will be designated as field ministers and appointed to ministry positions within prisons across the state. SEBTS plans to begin the program with an initial class of up to 30 inmates later this year.

"This new educational program in North Carolina aligns with our current strategy of impacting lostness through disciple-making and would enable us to help reach and minister to a population that is often overlooked and neglected," said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the BSC.

The Board of Directors also unanimously passed a motion authorizing John Butler, executive leader for the convention's Business Services Group, to negotiate a lease agreement with a private company to develop a solar farm on the property of Caraway Camp and Conference Center near Asheboro. If developed, the solar farm will be located on an unused section of Caraway's property that would not be developed for use by the camp.

The board also voted unanimously to approve a motion calling for the transfer of 20 percent of the convention's 2016 operating income over expenses to a contingency reserve fund. The transfer amount will equal \$25,668.

In other business:

- Board President Marc Francis appointed board members Ken Jones, Earl Roach and David Spray to serve on the nominating committee for Fruitland Baptist Bible College. Jones will serve as the chair of the committee, which has the responsibility of appointing three individuals to serve on Fruitland's Board of Directors. The committee's appointees will be presented to the BSC's Board of Directors for approval at September's meeting.

- The Executive Committee approved a recommendation by the convention's Committee on Nominations to appoint Kenneth Robinette and Nathan Sanders to the Board of the Directors for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. Robinette is a layperson from Rockingham First Baptist Church and will fill the 2018 unexpired term of Joan Mitchell. Sanders is a lay person from Scotts Hill Baptist Church in Wilmington and will fill the 2019 unexpired term of Wendy Peters.

- The board approved six motions brought by the Articles and Bylaws Committee that updates language in the convention's articles of incorporation and bylaws for consistency, establishes a new Convention Relations Special Committee to replace the former Christian Social Services Special Committee and changes the dates of the election of board officers from January to September. All proposed amendments will be voted on by messengers at the 2017 BSC annual meeting in Greensboro on Nov. 6-7. The proposed amendments will be available online for review at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting and will be published in the *Biblical Recorder*.

- The board voted to name a section of the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell as Holbrook Village in honor of longtime Caswell director Rick Holbrook. Holbrook is retiring at the end of May after 32 years of service.

- The board heard an update from Hollifield and other convention staff members on the progress being made related to the "impacting lostness through disciple-making" strategy.

The board's Executive Committee is scheduled to meet again July 13 at the BSC offices in Cary. The next meeting of the full Board of Directors is scheduled Sept. 25-26, at Caraway Camp and Conference Center near Asheboro.

See pages 8-9 for more stories. **BR**

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Russell Moore: ‘Parenting is hard’

By SETH BROWN | BR Content Editor

Parenting is both timeless and urgent, according to Russell Moore, as each new generation of moms and dads face age-old challenges complicated by rapidly changing cultural norms. Christians need to think carefully about how they pass on life and godliness to their children, but it won’t be easy, so Moore is asking people to trust in Christ and rely on the church.

Moore, who serves as president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), spoke with the *Biblical Recorder* via telephone to answer questions about cultural issues related to childrearing and the upcoming ERLC national conference, “Parenting: Christ-Centered Parenting in a Complex World.”

The annual event will take place Aug. 24-26 in Nashville, Tenn., featuring key speakers such as Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family; Sally Lloyd-Jones, *New York Times* bestselling children’s book writer, including *The Jesus Storybook Bible*; Jen Wilkin, well-known writer and speaker; and Crawford Loritts, author and senior pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Ga.

Below is a lightly edited transcript of the interview.

Q: Of all the pressing issues clamoring for attention today, why did you choose to focus on parenting at this year’s ERLC national conference?

A: Largely because parenting is the No. 1 issue that I’m asked about on any given day. It applies to the whole spectrum of gospel, moral and ethical issues that we face: from technology, to gender questions, to explaining cultural issues to kids.

It’s by far the No. 1 question that we get, both from parents and from churches that are seeking to equip parents. We hear quite a bit from youth pastors and children’s ministers who are dealing with parents who feel as though they lack confidence in training up kids in a time like this.

Q: There are two things you never discuss in polite company, so the saying goes: politics and religion. But today you could add “parenting” as a third. Conversations about how to raise children can easily become heated. The term “mommy wars” is now a topic of its own because of how volatile parenting debates can be. Should churches address parenting issues as part of discipleship, or are people squabbling over mere matters of preference?

A: We should address parenting issues as part of discipleship, but we need to speak definitively where scripture speaks definitively and not speak definitively where scripture does not.

We already know how that works in other areas of discipleship. There are some things that we call out as morally wrong, but other things that we – in a Romans 14 way – leave to people’s consciences. The same thing applies to parenting.

Sometimes the heated debates that go on about parenting are really about preferences or people seeking to exalt their way of parenting over against some else’s. That’s not a Christian pattern. The Bible calls us to count others as more significant than ourselves.

We also need to recognize that parenting is hard. As one friend of mine puts it, “Parenting is not just hum-

bling, it’s humiliating.” Even those who think they’re experts on parenting come to a point where one realizes just how difficult this is.

So, we equip families to parent without shaming or seeking to belittle them.

There are certain biblical principles that we seek to embed in one another’s hearts that might express themselves in different ways in different contexts in different families.

The way, for instance, that I do family devotions is not something I would say every family ought to do this way. What I would say is the Bible calls us to teach our children the scriptures, and teach our children the gospel, and different families will work that out in different ways.

I think we have to constantly be differentiating between clear biblical principle and prudential wisdom, where we’re not giving explicit direction but we are giving a biblical framework.

Q: Parenting is a wide-ranging topic. Will you outline some of the issues the event will cover?

A: We’ll be talking about how to rear children who see the church as their primary community and Christ as their primary identity.

I think that’s where the pre-eminent struggle is now – whether or not our children identify themselves first with the global body of Christ or with a peer group or an economic group or a consumer group. That’s one of the main issues that we’ll be dealing with.

We’ll also be talking about how to deal with prodigals: what to do with children who are wandering away from the Lord, in a way that stands by both conviction and connectedness.

And then we’ll be talking about a range of issues: how to make decisions about technology, how to raise children to understand biblical categories of male and female, how churches can equip parents who have unique situations – special needs children, children in the foster care system and others.

We recognize there are some things that every generation has been talking about, all the way back to Abraham. There are other questions, though, that our parents and grandparents never had to answer.

Q: A lot has been said in recent years about the negative impact of “screen time” on children. But older generations have lamented the effects of new technology as far back as Socrates, who claimed the newfangled written word would destroy our memory. Do you think the current hand-wringing is unwarranted, or is there truly something unique going on with today’s handheld digital devices?



Russell Moore delivers a plenary talk at the 2016 ERLC National Conference. (Photo by Rocket Republic)

A: I don’t think we have too much hand-wringing about technology. I think we don’t have enough hand-wringing on this particular issue.

Christians are often overly fearful of various things in culture, but this is one where I think Christians aren’t fearful enough. I don’t think we take seriously what actually is going on with technology, partly because it’s impossible to keep one or two steps ahead of emerging technology.

Sometimes parents think if they have a filter on their Internet at home then the technology issue is settled. That’s just not sufficient.

There’s not only the question of how to keep our children moving toward sexual purity in a “pornified” culture, but there’s also a question of what it means to be a human being.

What does it mean to have real human connectedness in a time like this?

When you say that every generation has talked about technology in negative ways, that is definitely true, but many of the ways previous generations talked about technology turned out to be true.

Think, for instance, of the warnings about television that Neil Postman gave us in the 1970s and 80s. In *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Postman was prophetic and really wasn’t paid attention to at the time. So, I don’t think there’s enough careful thought going into technology today.

Technology is skyrocketing in terms of speed. We don’t know what the next generation will be facing, but we know it will be even more confusing than what we’re dealing with now.

Q: Gender issues flooded our national conversation quicker than anyone expected. Many Christian parents have been caught off-guard by the need to discuss what it means to be male and female with children at a very early age. How can Christian parents address gender issues from a biblical perspective in proactive ways, rather than reacting to the latest thing their child heard on the playground?

See Parenting page 14

Conference discount

Biblical Recorder readers get 20 percent off the registration cost for the 2017 ERLC National Conference. Use promo code CAROLINA when you sign up at ERLC.com.



Ride to Clyde bikers collect \$32,379 for children's homes

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

Over the course of three days, 78 motorcycles traveled 460 miles in the second annual four-day Ride to Clyde and presented \$32,379 to the N.C. Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) during the annual BBQ Festival at Broyhill Home in Clyde on May 13.

The amount greatly exceeded the more than \$19,000 given in the inaugural Ride to Clyde last year. More riders took part this year, with some 97 bikers making the trek from the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell on Oak Island to Clyde, with stops at:

- Cameron Boys Camp in Moore County, a year-round residential wilderness ministry;
- Mills Home on the main children's home campus in Thomasville to meet the kids, hear a testimony from a 15-year-old girl and to have a blessing of the bikers led by BCH President Michael C. Blackwell;
- Lake Junaluska for an overnight stay and time to pray and think about the experiences of the ride; and
- Broyhill Home in Clyde, a 92-acre home currently providing care for 50 children, the home's maximum capacity.

Larry Phillips told the crowd at Broyhill Home, "We love what you're doing. It's our vision to share the love of Christ and make a difference in the lives of the children we come in contact with," he said as he presented the check.

"The children's handprints will be on the hearts of these riders forever," he said.

Broyhill Director Linda Morgan told the bikers that she has worked with the home for 44 years. "I got to see how God transformed a blackberry patch into a haven of hope," Morgan said. "It's because of people like you who give and give and give."

Some of the bikers work all year on collecting funds for the Ride to Clyde. Top contributors this year were Jerry and Jeune Coffey, who collected more than \$8,000 for the collection. They are members of Chase Baptist Church, Forest City. They held a golf tournament, served meals and did a variety of fundraising projects.

BCH constitutes one of N.C. Baptists' biggest and most needed ministries. Each year the homes care for more than 20,000 lives impacting numerous children and families through 21 locations across the state.

Though the children's homes receive funding through the Cooperative Program, those funds have not kept up with BCH's ever-growing ministry to the state's increasing numbers of children



Bikers give away candy and kazoos as they visit with children along their Ride to Clyde, an annual trip from Fort Caswell to Clyde visiting Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina sites along the way. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

needing care because of broken homes, abuse and many other social situations.

For more than 100 years, BCH has depended on capital campaigns, collection of food and other items needed for day-to-day living and special campaigns like the Ride to Clyde.

Riders were quick to say they were blessed more than the kids, who were delighted to be able to sit atop a huge Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Ultra Classic, Honda Gold Wing or other brands of motorcycles – and happily blow the horn.

Occasional rainfall meant the bikers wore their rain suits, but the wet could not dampen the spirits of either the riders or the children who greeted them with signs, waves and squeals of happiness. "It was just such a blessing to be with the children," said Terry McPherson, who rode his 1999 Harley Davidson Road King, which already has 132,000 miles, from his home in Midland. He is a member of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, a church that has a number of motorcycle enthusiasts among its membership.

Another Hopewell member is Phillip

Morris, president of the Carolina Faith Riders group, who rode with his wife on their 2004 Electra Glide in the Ride to Clyde.

"It was absolutely awesome," he said, "and we are so thankful to get to see what Baptists are doing through the children's homes."

Steve Starling, pastor of Freedom Biker Church in Monroe, brought eight members with him on the ride; he also took part last year.

Starling also said that the best part of the ride was learning about the amazing ministries to children that Baptists have. Bringing members to visit the homes and meet the kids was sort of like jumping in with both feet and getting the full experience, he said.

Three riders came from Hope Community Church in Shelby, said member Dub Caldwell, one of the three. They are part of the Bikers for Christ group, which boasts more than 3,000 members across 50 states and 23 other countries.

"What a blessing it was to meet the kids," he said. Caldwell let one child after the other sit atop his Harley Davidson.

In a Friday night gathering beside Lake Junaluska Friday evening, the riders swapped experiences of the ride. One man came near weeping as he told how a boy at one home would not take candy, but his face just lit up when he was offered a penny with a cross cut into it.

The cross pennies are great witnessing tools, the riders agreed. One man told how a girl at Camp Duncan was given a penny and told the gospel; she immediately gave the penny to one of her friends — and told her the gospel story as well.

Judy Evans of Otto told how eager one girl was for a hug and just clung to her. Judy is wife of Baptist State Convention staffer Lester Evans, who works with associational partnerships.

"Just call me Crash," joked Coot Yow at the Friday night session, telling how he slid down on his motorcycle and sprained an ankle on Oak Island. But he and his wife made the ride anyway, hauling his bike on a trailer pulled by his pickup. They are members of Kinza Baptist Church in Stanfield.

The Ride to Clyde originated with Brian Davis and Rit Varriale, pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church, Shelby, as a way to share the love of Christ with children in care, raise money for the Baptist Children's Homes and share about their ministries with riders. It also happens to be a great way for bikers to enjoy the open road for a few days. ■

"It's our vision to share the love of Christ and make a difference in the lives of the children we come in contact with. The children's handprints will be on the hearts of these riders forever." – Larry Phillips

BSC board members hear strategy update

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

Having a heart like Jesus and the eyes of a missionary are two keys to reaching the people around us who don't know Christ.

That's the approach that Steve Harris of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) Strategic Focus Team encouraged members of the convention's Board of Directors to have as they seek to engage the state's 5.8 million lost people with the gospel.

Harris was one of several BSC staff members who provided an update on the convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making" during the recent Board of Director's meeting held May 22-23 at the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.

Harris and BSC Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. challenged board members to work in their respective regions to educate and lead others to make an impact for Christ in one of the 250 concentrated pockets of lostness across the state that have been identified by the state convention.

While lost people may be found in every community across the state, BSC research has identified concentrations of lost people that have been prioritized for engagement.

A pocket of lostness is a small geographic area where at least 70 percent of the people are unchurched.

"It's going to be a mammoth challenge to engage each of the top 100 pockets of lostness and much more of a challenge to engage the next 150," Harris said. "The only way this can happen is if many of our leadership within the Baptist State Convention takes ownership of this calling."

Convention officials provided updates in several areas related to progress being made in fulfillment of the strategy and also shared some resources to equip pastors and church leaders in their efforts to impact lostness.

Harris and colleague Dan Collison introduced a web-based resource called MissionInsite to board members that can be used to access demographic and other data. MissionInsite allows church leaders to map areas in their local communities and access data related to ethnic

and racial diversity, religious beliefs, population trends and more.

Harris and Collison said MissionInsite provides tools that enable pastors and church leaders to analyze their communities to help them develop strategies for gospel engagement.

Mark Gray, who leads the BSC's Church Planting Team, shared about an event his team regularly conducts called Operation Reach. The daylong event equips pastors and church leaders to identify unreached people groups in their communities through group learning and field exploration. The goal is to help church leaders see their community in a new light and help them develop a strategy for engagement.

"Context determines strategy," Gray said. "It takes different kinds of churches to reach different kinds of people."

Planting new churches and strengthening existing churches are two major components of the convention's strategy.

"In the first quarter of this year, we have seen great things happen with new churches," Hollifield said. "This is a significant part of our evangelism in our impacting lostness strategy."

Hollifield reported that in the first quarter of 2017, the convention has already facilitated the launch of 34 new churches in the state, which have reported more than 4,000 people in attendance. Moreover, those churches have made more than 17,000 evangelistic contacts, resulting in more than 1,000 people accepting Christ as Savior.

Brian Upshaw, team leader for the BSC's Disciple-Making Team, shared some examples of how the convention's church health and revitalization strategies have engaged numerous churches across the state.

"We want to make sure we focus on revitalization in relationship to the Great Commission," Upshaw said. "Evangelism and discipleship are at the heart of church revitalization."

Upshaw said convention staff and its team of coaches, consultants and contract workers worked with more than 1,000 individuals representing 518 churches in 2016. So far in 2017, the team has had some level of

consultation with 562 people representing 150 different churches.

Hollifield also shared progress that's been made in reaching college and university students, and how N.C. Baptist churches are partnering in missions in North America and around the world.


The vision of the convention's Collegiate Partnerships Team is that none of North Carolina's college campus would be left without a reproducing gospel presence. Hollifield reported that the number of campuses engaged with the gospel has grown from nine in January 2014 to 48 as of May 2017, which represents an increase of 534 percent.

Additionally, Hollifield reported that 317 N.C. Baptist churches have missions partnerships in 28 of the 32 cities identified by the North American Mission Board as "Send" cities where there is great spiritual need. The majority of those partnerships are in four cities: New York, Baltimore, Toronto and Boston.

Other churches have international partnerships. Church leaders can learn more about about global missions opportunities through one of four vision tours scheduled for this fall and winter through the BSC's Office of Great Commission Partnerships.

Hollifield challenged board members to educate others about the convention's strategy and encouraged them to get involved in all that God is doing across North Carolina.

"We want to educate you about what can be done in your region of this state to help more North Carolina Baptist pastors and church people recognize the needs and opportunities around them, and learn how they can make a difference in impacting lostness in this state," Hollifield said. "I want to challenge you to become an agent of change in your region by speaking up to others, modeling for them and leading them to get in the game to make a difference where God has put you to minister in His name."

To learn more about the BSC strategy to impact lostness through disciple-making and the work of the Strategic Focus Team in pockets of lostness, contact Russ Conley at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5557, or rconley@ncbaptist.org. 

Tellers named for 2017 SBC in Phoenix


Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines has named tellers for the SBC 2017 annual meeting June 13-14 in Phoenix.

Brandon Park, lead pastor of First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo., will chair the tellers. Also appointed as tellers are:

- C.J. Adkins, senior pastor, Westmoreland Baptist Church, Huntington, W.Va.;
- Andrew Bailey, Phoenix campus pastor, Palm Vista Baptist Church, Surprise, Ariz.;
- Alan Chan, pastor of church ministry coordination, Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles, Alhambra, Calif.;
- Justin Compton, pastor, Redemption Hill Baptist Church, Fishersville, Ky.;
- Jed Coppenger, lead pastor, Redemption City Church, Franklin, Tenn.;
- Derek Duncan, lead pastor, Living Water Church, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.;

- Dennis Dunn, senior pastor, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.;
- Debbie Eddington, women's ministry director, Island City Baptist Church, Wilmington, Ill.;
- Joseph Gaston, reverend, Redemption Baptist Church, Pompano Beach, Fla.;
- Michael Guyer, minister to students/families, Open Door Church, Raleigh, N.C.;
- Brian Jump, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Clever, Mo.;
- Martin Lizarraga, Morningside Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz.;
- Mike Manning, associational missionary, Harmony Baptist Association, Pine Bluff, Ark.;
- Leslie Manning, serves with husband, Harmony Baptist Association, Pine Bluff, Ark.;
- John Mueller, discipleship & shepherding pastor, University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ark.;
- John Powell, First Baptist Church, Hamlin, Texas;
- Jeremy Roberts, lead pastor, Church of the Highlands, Harrison, Tenn.;

- Richie Stanley, minister of education, Victory Baptist Church, Buckeye, Ariz.;
- A.B. Vines, bishop, New Seasons Church, Spring Valley, Calif.;
- Brad Wheeler, senior pastor, University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ark. 

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Holbrook Village to honor Caswell director's legacy

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

Rick Holbrook helped transform the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell from a summer camp destination into a year-round ministry for all ages.

Now a section of the grounds at Fort Caswell will bear his name so future generations of visitors will remember his legacy. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) Board of Directors voted May 22 to name a central section of the Caswell property as Holbrook Village upon a recommendation made by the BSC's Business Services Special Committee.

State convention leaders, board members and Caswell staff recognized Holbrook and his wife, Kathy, during a reception held in their honor as part of a regularly scheduled meeting of the convention's board meeting at Fort Caswell. During the reception, officials unveiled a sign that will mark the area designated as Holbrook Village.

Holbrook retired at the end of May after 32 years as the N.C. Baptist Assembly's director.

"I really appreciate this," Holbrook said. "I'm not the kind of person who likes to be in the spotlight, but I appreci-

ate what you've done here and the good words that have been said about Kathy. It's obvious that this is the kind of operation where without the support of your family, you cannot achieve anything. You can't even keep going."

Holbrook also expressed appreciation to all current and former Caswell staff, calling them "one big family."

Holbrook Village will be located in a central section of the Fort Caswell property along the Atlantic Ocean where Sandpiper cottage and three other residential buildings are located. Two additional cottages are planned for the Holbrook Village site, with construction scheduled to begin in 2018.

"This is a small way to honor you and all that you have given as an outstanding visionary leader," BSC Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. said in announcing the naming of Holbrook Village.

Since becoming the assembly's director in 1985, Holbrook oversaw efforts that led to the construction of nine new buildings and renovations to 45 others. He also helped expand the number and types of camps, conferences, retreats and activities offered at Caswell, making the facility a popular destination throughout the year. Now, between 40,000 and



Brian Hemphill, from left, Fort Caswell director; John Butler, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) executive leader for Business Services; Milton Hollifield, BSC executive director-treasurer; and Kathy and Rick Holbrook, celebrate Holbrook Village at Fort Caswell. (BSC photo by K Brown)

45,000 people attend activities at Caswell each year. Holbrook's focus was to use Caswell and the events hosted there as ministry opportunities. Since 2003, more than 6,000 individuals have made first-time professions of faith during the annual summer youth weeks, and thousands more have surrendered to a call to vocational ministry.

One of those individuals who felt a call to ministry during a trip to Caswell was Brian Hemphill, who has served alongside Holbrook in a variety of roles for the past 24 years. "It's been an honor for me working with [Holbrook] and to have him serve as a mentor to me," said

Hemphill, who will become the next director of Caswell.

Hemphill's life isn't the only one that's been touched by Holbrook.

John Butler, executive leader for the state convention's Business Services group, said investing in other people and helping them grow is a big part of who Holbrook is.

"There's an incredible amount of respect for Rick among the Caswell staff because he's a great boss, and he really cares about his people," Butler said. "People always want to tell me about how Mr. Holbrook has impacted their life." **BR**

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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.”

North Carolina Missions Offering: Do you have eyes to see?

by Chad Austin



Do you have eyes to see the hungry, the sick and the hurting?

When we have eyes to see as Jesus did, we will see the world as it really is: broken, hurting and lost. And we'll be compelled to make a difference.

“Eyes to See” is the theme of this year’s North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO). The annual offering supports a variety of ministries that respond to physical and spiritual needs in North Carolina, across the country and around the world.

The theme is based on John 4:35b, where Jesus said to His disciples: “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (NKJV).

Generally received in September of each year, the NCMO supports the 17 different ministries of N.C. Baptist Men, also known as Baptists on Mission, as well as church planting, mission camps, associational projects and missions mobilization projects. The goal for this year’s offering is \$2.1 million.

Thanks to the generous support of the NCMO by N.C. Baptists, lives are being transformed by the power of the gospel. Each year, numerous individuals come to faith in Christ through the ministries supported by this special offering.

“As North Carolina Baptists, we have to see opportunities and needs before us and respond accordingly,” said Richard Brunson, executive director of Baptists on Mission. “But we can’t do it alone. We need each other.”

Helping meet physical needs is a great way to build bridges to the gospel, and many of the ministries of Baptists on Mission do just that. In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, scores of Baptists on Mission’s disaster relief volunteers from across the state came together to help those impacted by the storm.

By helping repair and rebuild victims’ homes, volunteers had opportunities to share the love of Christ in both word and deed. To date, more than 60 victims of Hurricane Matthew have placed their faith in Christ.

And Baptists on Mission has committed to continue ministering to those in need, with an ambitious goal of rebuilding up to 1,000 homes in eastern North Carolina in the coming years. Support of NCMO is what makes ministries like disaster relief possible.

Support of NCMO also helps get more people engaged and involved in missions through short-term projects and a variety of national and international partnerships.

Baptists on Mission operates two mission camps located in Red Springs and Shelby, which give local churches an opportunity to engage in community missions projects. Baptists on Mission also has a number of missions partnerships designed to mobilize individuals and churches for service through short-term missions trips.

Each year, thousands of volunteers serve with ministry partners all across the United States in places like the Appalachian coalfields, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, the Rocky Mountain states and Vermont. Volunteer teams also serve

in other places around the world, such as Armenia, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya and Romania.

The NCMO is also vital to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSC) church planting efforts. The convention’s team of church planting consultants provides training, coaching and additional support to church planters, equipping them to reach their communities for Christ. By giving to the NCMO, you help plant churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.

“People see what they are prepared to see,” said Mark Gray, who leads the state convention’s Church Planting Team. “We will only reach the 5.8 million who are lost in North Carolina if we learn to see them like Jesus.”

NCMO also supports missions on the local level. Each year, a portion of the offering is designated for the 77 local Baptist associations across North Carolina for a variety of missions and ministry efforts.

God has equipped each believer with unique talents, skills and abilities that can be utilized for missions and ministry. But before we can respond, we have to see people the same way Jesus did. And when we have eyes to see people as Jesus did, we are moved to action.

The NCMO supports many ministries around our state and world. Together we can reap a harvest through your faithful prayers and generous support of this offering.

ncmissionsoffering.org

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There are several NCMO videos for you to download and use in your church services at: vimeo.com/channels/2017ncmo

 vimeo.com/ncbaptist

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NCMO is traditionally recognized during the month of September, but some churches choose to focus on the offering at other times of the year. Information and resources will be made available during the summer months.

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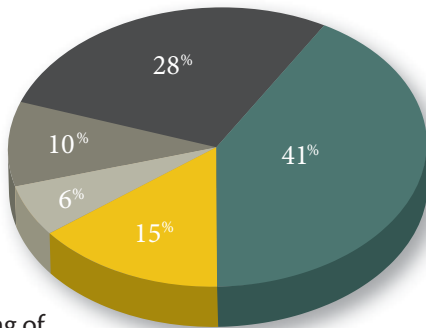
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■ NCBM/Baptists on Mission	\$ 856,720
■ Church Planting	\$ 596,000
■ Mission Camps	\$ 313,080
■ Associational Projects	\$ 210,000
■ Mobilization Ministry Projects	\$ 124,200



– 2017 –
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baptistcommission.org/events/region-rallies

N.C. Baptist Men/Baptists on Mission (NCBM) helps churches involve their members in missions and ministry in 17 different ministries, including aviation missions, disaster relief, medical missions and more.

Church Planting with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina consists of working with churches, associations and church-planting networks to facilitate the launch of new churches. The convention provides training, coaching and additional support to church planters, equipping them to reach their communities for Christ.

Mission Camps are located in Red Springs and Shelby and their focus is helping churches get involved in missions. The camps host churches, youth groups and others to coordinate short-term mission projects

consisting of construction, painting, home repair, yard work, Bible schools, sports camps and more.

Associational Projects are supported by a portion of the NCMO's receipts and are distributed to the state's 77 Baptist associations from which they came. Associations use these funds in a variety of mission and ministry projects.

Mobilization Ministry Projects include men, women and youth mobilizing to serve on mission teams in North Carolina, the United States, North America and around the world.

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Coming soon! Free NCMO promo resources

A packet of free resources to promote this year's North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) will be mailed to N.C. Baptist churches by the end of June. Resources include a coordinator's guide, a DVD of missions testimonial videos, posters, bulletin inserts, offering envelopes and more.

If your church has ordered NCMO resources in the past, you will receive the same materials in the mail this year. Watch for your packet to arrive sometime by the end of July.

If you need to place a new order or order additional materials, watch for an email in early July with ordering instructions. New orders may be placed in July and August in preparation for the September NCMO emphasis.

There are other resources also available for free download from the NCMO website at ncmissionsoffering.org/resources.

Learn more at

 ncmissionsoffering.org

Don't miss regional missions rallies in August

Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend one of the 10 regional missions rallies scheduled for August all across North Carolina. See the full list of dates and locations for the rallies in the events listing above and join us for the rally in your area.

Rallies will highlight opportunities N.C. Baptists have to be involved in missions across our state, in our nation and around the world. Rallies will include times of worship, prayer and testimonies,

with a special focus given to ministries, projects and partnerships supported by the North Carolina Missions Offering.

The rallies are open to anyone interested in missions, which include men, women and youth. A meal is provided at no charge, but reservations are required to ensure an accurate meal count.

Learn more at

 baptistsonmission.org/events/region-rallies

NCMO week of prayer

Prayer undergirds everything we do, and the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) and the ministries it supports are no different.

That's why we've designated Sunday, Aug. 27 to Sunday, Sept. 3 as a special week of prayer for this year's NCMO. Since the month of September marks the primary NCMO emphasis in many churches, this week of prayer is designed to focus our hearts on

praying for missions in the week leading up to the beginning of the NCMO emphasis.

Please consider how you and your church can pray for the ministries supported through NCMO. Several prayer prompts have been developed for individuals and churches for the week of prayer. To learn more, visit ncmissionsoffering.org/pray.

Learn more at

 ncmissionsoffering.org

Regional Missions Rallies

Region 1: Seaboard, N.C.

Galatia Baptist Church
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017

Region 2: Elm City, N.C.

Southside Baptist Church
Monday, Aug. 14, 2017

Region 3: Salemburg, N.C.

Salemburg Baptist Church
Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017

Region 4: Raleigh, N.C.

New Hope Baptist Church
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017

Region 5: Salisbury, N.C.

Stallings Memorial Baptist Church
Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017

Region 6: Rockingham, N.C.

First Baptist Church
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017

Region 7: West Jefferson, N.C.

West Jefferson Baptist Church
Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017

Region 8: Maiden, N.C.

Mount Ruhama Baptist Church
Monday, Aug. 14, 2017

Region 9: Candler, N.C.

Pole Creek Baptist Church
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017

Region 10: Sylva, N.C.

Scotts Creek Baptist Church
Monday, Aug. 14, 2017

Akin to graduates: 'There is a death worth living'

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS Communications

As followers of Jesus, death and life hold great significance and allow for what Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), calls “the ultimate win-win scenario!”

Akin challenged 234 graduates from the seminary and The College at Southeastern with a message from Philippians 1:21 during the 65th SEBTS commencement ceremony, May 12.

The seminary commencement was held at 10 a.m., and the college commencement was held at 3 p.m.



DANNY AKIN

“To those who are graduating today, I want to say to you, wherever you go, whatever you do, whether in life or by death, I hope that you never forget, it is all about Christ,” said Akin.

Akin spoke of the worth of living for Christ as he highlighted the personal, practical and powerful nature of living a life abandoned to Jesus.

Quoting Maltbie Babcock, writer of the hymn, “This is my Father’s world,” Akin said, “Life is what we are alive to.” He asked graduates, family and friends what they were passionate about, drawing the connection that Paul was solely passionate about making Jesus known to others.

Drawing from John 11:25 and John 14:6, Akin reminded graduates that Jesus was the embodiment of life itself.

Akin also spoke on the value of death in the Christian life, noting that it is profitable in 1 Corinthians 5:8, which says, “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

“There is a life worth living on the front end, but there is also a death worth living on the back end,” said Akin.

Christ is worth more than anything on this earth, noted Akin.

As he ended the charge, Akin gave an invitation for those in attendance to know Christ as Lord and Savior. **BR**

Great Commission: The ‘heartbeat’ of student’s calling

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS Communications

Mary Ann McMillan never intended to earn a full degree when she began at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS). She just needed 20-30 hours of course credit to go back to the international mission field full-time.

On May 12, McMillan received her doctorate in Christian education, adding on to her master’s degree in intercultural studies that she received in 2013. After coming to SEBTS and earning the necessary hours to go back overseas, she decided to complete her master’s degree, which she knew would prove useful for the future.

The Lord had cultivated in McMillan a strong desire to go overseas and minister in closed countries, and she realized that having a doctorate in education would provide the platform for that goal.

It’s still a pretty incredible realization for McMillan that she is receiving her doctorate in May, knowing that she came from humble and challenging beginnings. She was an orphan until the age of seven, moved into foster care and then was adopted “into a family that should not have adopted a child at all,” as she recalled.

Her time in college was spiritually transformational as she became involved in a campus ministry and decided to follow Jesus as a junior in college. It was after she became a believer that God began giving her a heart for missions.

“Right before I was graduating college I really felt the Lord calling me to do missions full-time. I just didn’t know what that looked like so I actually went overseas with the [International Mission Board] as a journeyman,” she said.

Her first year was difficult as she faced obstacles to her ministry because of her race.

McMillan remembers times being chased down the street or having items thrown at her due to racial oppression.

“I had a curfew at four in the afternoon because it got dark at four and the majority of the ministries started at eight at night, but I had to be in early because of my race,” recalled McMillan, “so that’s why they decided to allow me to switch countries so I ended up in the Czech Republic my second year.”

Even in the midst of spiritual and racial oppression, God proved Himself powerful during that first year as McMillan and her teammates were doing ministry one day. While some women were gathered in a field and listening to a translator share his testimony, one of the women in the group stopped him.

“She stopped him and said, ‘I don’t want to hear your story. I want to hear



Mary Ann McMillan, once an orphan, receives her doctorate in Christian education from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to undergird her missionary service. (SEBTS photo)

hers,” McMillan recounted, “and pointed at me.

“She said that ‘I’ve never seen a person of color before and I want to hear how

she became a believer and why the Lord is so important for her.”

At that moment, McMillan had the opportunity to share the gospel with that group of women.

She had recently finished her two-year Journeyman term when she first stepped onto the campus of SEBTS. Everything was new and the difficulty of reverse culture shock was in full swing. She remembers a professor who noticed she was struggling and encouraged her lovingly, but truthfully.

“I can teach you anything you want to know in your classes, but your relationship with the Lord is more important than anything,” he said. “You can get all the schooling you want, you can have the best job, succeed in life, but if you don’t have a good relationship with the Lord you’re not going to make it.”

McMillan eventually became involved

See Calling page 15

A GRADUATION BLESSING

Psalm 127:4 reminds us that our children are like arrows in the hands of a warrior. Just like arrows are made to be fired from a bow, our children are made to be launched from our homes into the world.

No event in a child’s life depicts this launching like graduation.

Thousands of students will receive their high school or college diplomas this spring. My son is one of them!

As a part of the recognition of this achievement for him, we participated with several other families in a celebration of blessing for our graduates.

It was an informal time for parents to stand and share some affirmation and encouragement for our seniors. Milestones like graduation are a perfect time to focus on the discipleship of a child or grandchild and point them to Christ.

Here are some ideas for making the most of the opportunity through a written blessing:

1. Make it biblical. It is always important to remind our kids of the gospel (2 Peter 1:12). The blessing is a time to read scripture over them and remind them of the truth of their identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), God’s power (Ephesians 3:20) and the Spirit’s presence (Galatians 5:16-26).

There are many blessings in the Bible that can also serve as a model,

like 1 Chronicles 28:9.

2. Make it personal. Affirm the image of God you see in your child. Celebrate their character, personality and God-given gifts and abilities. Acknowledge the work of God in creating them. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that we are His workmanship, or His masterpiece, from the word which literally means poem.

3. Make it missional. Charge your children to remember that they are blessed to be a blessing. They are to make Jesus famous among the nations! Because my son is a musician and I wanted to remind him of this purpose, I included Psalm 40:3 in his blessing, “*He put a new song in*

my mouth ... Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.”

Whether it is a public gathering with others or just a private affair with your family, make time to bless your children as you launch them into the world.

Write it down, read it before family and friends and give it to your child as a reminder of your love and God’s grace. Aim straight and launch your child into the world to make an impact for God’s glory!

That’s how you get the call right. (EDITOR’S NOTE – Brian Upshaw is the church health and revitalization team leader at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5632, or bupshaw@ncbaptist.org.)



BRIAN UPSHAW

Gaines to be nominated for second term as SBC president

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

Tennessee pastor Steve Gaines will be nominated for a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), his son Grant announced May 17.

Gaines “has led the convention faithfully” over the past year and been “marked by ... godly traits,” Grant Gaines, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., wrote in a statement to Baptist Press announcing his intent to nominate his father at the June 13-14 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

Steve Gaines, pastor of Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., has focused his first year in office on calling Southern Baptists to pray and rekindle a passion for personal evangelism.

He has championed the Cooperative Program (CP), Southern Baptists’ unified method of funding missions and ministries in North America and internationally.

Grant Gaines stated three reasons he plans to nominate his father. “First, he has been a consummate statesman in a year full of political and moral turmoil in our nation.

“Through his example, he has shown us all how to combine both a prophetic voice when need be, as well

as wise restraint when certain comments might not be helpful,” Grant Gaines wrote.

“Second, through his emphasis on prayer, he has encouraged thousands of Southern Baptists to a deeper prayer life.

“Anyone who knows Steve Gaines knows him as a man of prayer, and I would love to see his passion for this spread to even more people and churches over the coming year.

“Third, his emphasis on personal evangelism has been a needed reminder in our convention,” Grant Gaines wrote. “It’s important that we be reminded that without personal evangelism, church planting and global missions cannot be effective.”

Grant Gaines concluded, “As his son, I’ve been able to observe for years now the way my father has exhibited these strengths long before he became president of the SBC ... I would like to see him serve our convention for another year.”

During the 12 years Steve Gaines has pastored Bellevue, the congregation has averaged 492 baptisms annually, according to data from the SBC’s Annual Church Profile (ACP).

Previously, he pastored churches in Alabama, Tennessee

and Texas.

Earlier this year, Bellevue became the first church that cooperates with the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC) to give \$1 million through CP during a 12-month period, the TBC reported.

The church has designated the same amount for CP in its 2017-18 budget year.

In 2016-17, that total represented 4.6 percent of Bellevue’s undesignated receipts, according to the church. ACP data reflects similar totals.

Gaines served as president of the SBC Pastors’ Conference in 2005, preached the convention sermon in 2004 and was a member of the committee that recommended revisions of the Baptist Faith and Message in 2000.

A current trustee at Union University, Gaines has served in the past as a trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources and in various other state-convention and SBC leadership roles.

He is married to Donna, and they have four children and 10 grandchildren.

The author of four books, Gaines holds master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. ■■



STEVE GAINES

Grady Cothen, former president of 2 SBC entities, dies

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press
& MARILYN STEWART | NOBTS

Grady Cothen – the former chief executive of a state convention, a Southern Baptist university and two Southern Baptist Convention entities – died May 19 at The Orchard retirement home in Ridgeland, Miss. He was 96.

Among his service to Southern Baptists, Cothen was executive secretary of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California (1961-66), president of Oklahoma Baptist University (1966-70), president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (1970-74) and president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (1974-1984).

The California convention has since been renamed the California Southern Baptist Convention, and the Sunday School Board has become LifeWay Christian Resources.

“Few Southern Baptist leaders have made so deep a mark in so many different places as did Grady Cothen,” New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley said in a news release.

“He came to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary when it was in a crisis. He brought stability and a foundation upon which our future was built. We thank God for giving our convention such an excellent leader.”

When Cothen arrived at New Orleans Seminary, it was experiencing “depleted enrollment, financial deficits and crucial

faculty vacancies,” according to the news release.

Under Cothen’s leadership, the *Times-Picayune* of New Orleans reported in 1974, the seminary experienced more than 15 percent growth of its student body.

The first alumnus to serve as president, Cothen led New Orleans Seminary through a restructuring and helped it launch a doctor of ministry degree. In 1984, he told Baptist Press (BP) his service at the seminary “was perhaps the closest to my own sense of personal call” of any ministry position during his career.

At the Sunday School Board, according to BP, Cothen established four priorities for his administration: to provide in-depth Bible study curriculum, to equip believers for the work of ministry, to enrich and support family life and to encourage ministers and their families.

Under his leadership, the Board purchased the Holman Bible Publishing Company, now part of B&H Publishing Group, and enlarged its program of continuing education for ministers among other accomplishments, BP reported in 1984.

LifeWay President Thom Rainer told BP the purchase of Holman in 1979 stemmed from “Cothen’s vision and leadership.”

The acquisition “has benefited both LifeWay and the Southern Baptist Convention, by allowing us to develop and publish the Holman Christian Standard Bible and now the Christian Standard



Grady Cothen, who died May 19, served as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1974-84. (SBHLA photo)

Bible as faithful translations stewarded by Southern Baptists,” Rainer said. “We can be thankful he had the foresight to step out in faith in making that critical acquisition.”

The latter years of Cothen’s Sunday School Board tenure included stomach cancer surgery and a series of related health issues that led to his retirement for medical reasons in 1984.

Cothen told the 1980 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors’ Conference that the day he received his stomach cancer diagnosis, a news story in his local paper noted a 13 percent survival rate among those with his condition.

That reality prompted reflections on his life and ministry.

“I thought to myself, if it’s all done

today and there’s never another moment, what a glorious privilege God has given me,” Cothen said according to Tennessee’s *Baptist and Reflector* newsjournal.

“What a glorious time spending your life for God. If He says it’s enough, glory, it’s good enough.

“When you gaze down the gun barrel of eternity, there is no more sweet thought in life than that we’ve done the best we could for God.”

Cothen also recalled, “I stuck out my tongue at the devil and said, ‘Get back, you rascal. God has overcome death.’”

An advocate of the moderate cause during the SBC’s conservative resurgence, Cothen finished second to Atlanta pastor Charles Stanley in the 1984 SBC presidential election.

The resurgence led Cothen to write two books, *What Happened to the Southern Baptist Convention?* in 1993, and *The New SBC: A Moderate Looks at Fundamentalism in 1995*.

Cothen was born in 1920 in Poplarville, Miss.

He received an undergraduate degree from Mississippi College, a master of Christian training from New Orleans Seminary and three honorary doctorates. He pastored churches in Tennessee, Oklahoma and Alabama.

His wife of 63 years, Martha “Bettye” Cothen, died in 2005.

He is survived by his wife Mary Colmer Cothen and three children as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild. ■■

Conservatives applaud bill to raise juvenile delinquent age

By **SETH BROWN** | *BR* Content Editor

**“The Holy Scriptures teach that justice requires proportionality.”
– Mark Creech**

Teenagers that commit low-level crimes should not be tried in court as adults, say some conservative groups in North Carolina, and raising the age limit of juvenile delinquency from 16 to 18 would decrease recidivism and increase rehabilitation, among other benefits. Plus, it’s simply the moral thing to do, according to Mark Creech, executive director of the Christian Action League.

Creech and others, including the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina (BCH) and Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform (CCJR), have expressed strong support for the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (H.B. 280).

The bill, which is currently before the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations, would increase the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18, except in the case of certain felonies.

Tarrah Callahan, CCJR executive director, called the

bill “an investment in our youth” during a March 20 press conference.

“We are throwing children into the adult system and limiting their ability to be productive and successful adults,” she said.

“Rather than allowing them to participate in the juvenile system that offers far more rehabilitative opportunities, we are channeling them into a future life of crime.”

BCH released a statement signed by CEO Michael Blackwell and COO J. Keith Henry:

“Based on our experience in working with children and families we believe that raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction will ultimately lead to significant financial savings, safer communities and better outcomes for children,” said the press release.

Depending on the crime’s severity, state law allows court sentences for juvenile delinquents to include prison alternatives, such as returning the individual to a parent or guardian, or placing them into the custody of social services.

“The Holy Scriptures teach that justice requires proportionality,” said Creech. “In other words, there should be different kinds and degrees of punishment for offenders of the law. It is not proportional, sensible or moral that our state’s criminal justice system treats 16 and 17-year-olds as adults with they commit minor, low-level crimes. It results in far more drastic and permanent consequences for them.”

BCH said, “Young people who land in the adult criminal justice system are twice as likely to commit a crime. They are also disproportionately at risk while in custody – more likely to be victims of rape or assault and to commit suicide.”

The bill passed the N.C. House with overwhelming support in a 104-8 vote.  

Parenting

Continued from page 6

A: Some parents are reluctant to talk about these issues for fear that they will discuss them too early, in a way that could be unsettling or confusing for their child.

My counsel to parents is to try as best you can to get to your child first with a framework for gender and sexual issues, so that the framing of these issues comes first from parents and the church before it’s confronted on the playground.

That means having wisdom about *what* is appropriate *when*. That’s often going to be unique to each child and their context.

So, for instance, in my home we home-school our children. Our children’s primary peer group is within the church and within the neighborhood. My then-six-year-old came home and asked me about transgenderism. I asked where he heard this, and it was sitting in the dentist’s office, seeing a news report on transgenderism. He’d never heard of it.

The temptation for us as parents is to be so alarmed when asked about these things that we can give a sense of a lack of confidence to our children. If the Bible has given us everything we need for life and godliness, then we don’t have any reason to be fearful about addressing these sorts of questions.

Q: Your talk is titled “Cross Shaped Parenting.” What does that mean?

A: We can sometimes fall to a kind of prosperity gospel parenting, in which we give biblical principles along with the assumption that if we put these into place then our families will flourish with sustained happiness and blessing –

in the way the world defines happiness and blessing.

The biblical picture is that, when we take up our cross and follow Christ, it applies to our parenting as well. When we become parents, we are entering into a realm of spiritual warfare. We’re dealing with the cultivating of a new generation. The principalities and powers are going to kick back against that, and they do.

My message is going to be that parenting is, in fact, difficult. In every era and in every culture, there are spiritual reasons behind that difficulty, but none the less, parenting is worth it.

Just as we see in the cross – both the beauty of God’s grace and the horror of human sin – in parenting we see a reflection of what it means to know God as Father, what it means to know church as family.

We need each other when it comes to parenting. We need to bear one another’s burdens, recognizing and knowing, if one isn’t in a difficult situation right now in parenting, one will be.

Q: Pew Research released a study last year saying young adults ages 18-34 are now more likely to be living in their parents’ home than with a spouse or partner in their own household. Do you think that’s a problem, and if so, how can parents of these young adults respond to the growing trend?

A: That’s definitely a problem, and I think there are many reasons for it.

One of those reasons is economic. We’re living in a time of great economic uncertainty and instability, especially for

those who are just starting their careers. That’s especially true when they start those careers with horrifying amounts of student debt. So, I think the economic piece is one factor here, but I think there’s another piece that’s cultural and spiritual.

There are many in the emerging generation that lived through “divorce culture” as children as their parents were splitting apart. They desperately want to avoid being in that situation themselves, but the way they’re responding to that is not by committing themselves to faithful, intact, stable marriages, but by avoiding marriage altogether.

I think there’s a fear of marriage, parenting and maturity that snowballs when one doesn’t have a peer group that’s marrying and starting families. There are people who simply cannot see how they could go out on their own and “leave and cleave.”

That’s part of what the older generation of the church is here to do, to say to young men and young women, “You really can do this. You really can be faithful husbands and wives and fathers and mothers, even though you don’t feel as though you’re ready.” No one is ready. No one feels ready to take on that responsibility.

Some of our generational disconnectness plays into that as well. It’s ironic because at one level it would seem that we have more generational connectedness because the 28-year-old is still living at home with mom and dad, but it’s actually the result of generational disconnectness because the adult child doesn’t see how he or she could live out the sort of path that his or her parents or grandparents took.

Q: What parenting issues do you see on the horizon that Christians should be prepared for?

A: One of the issues is the overprotectiveness that we see from many parents in American culture right now. It’s combined with a kind of parental negligence.

There are some parents who are fearful of having their children play outside or ride a bicycle to the neighbor’s house but who aren’t really concerned about the media intake of their children or whether or not their children are thriving spiritually. That’s a problem.

Many of us are sheltering where we shouldn’t be sheltering and not sheltering where we should be sheltering. And it’s difficult to know the difference between those two things.

Another issue is navigating how to raise children who have biblical convictions without empowering children to be Pharisees.

Different children have different points of vulnerability. Some of my children have a natural tendency to be really lax about discernment issues. Some of my other children are more like me and have a vulnerability toward being Pharisees or judgmental.

I have to figure out how to teach my children about what the Bible commands – how Jesus defines reality – without teaching them how to divide people up into the good people and the bad people, so that we have children who are actually gospel people who are on mission with Christ. That’s a difficult thing to do, and I think it’s a challenge right now for Christian parents.

For more information, visit ERLC.com.

Calling

Continued from page 12

at Imago Dei Church, worked for SEBTS and, in April 2016, packed her bags to move to California to work at Saddleback Church, pastored by Rick Warren. She is the PEACE Center training director, a program that seeks for churches in different countries to partner together in church planting, leadership development, healthcare and educational needs.

The PEACE Plan became very personal to McMillan when she took a trip to Rwanda, a country that Saddleback has partnered with for years. She saw how local churches were caring for orphans. In fact, 35 orphanages had been emptied because children were being given a home through families in local churches.

McMillan was so impacted by this experience that she used this orphan care model within the local church to inspire her dissertation at SEBTS.

“I’ll never forget the first time Mary Ann and I met, and she shared her dreams of completing her doctorate in preparation for being prepared for God to use her on His mission field,” said Ken Coley, director of Ed.D. studies at SEBTS. “Well, she’s seen two dreams come true – she has earned her Doctor of Education degree and has a very special base of operations there at Saddleback to reach the world for Christ.”

The Great Commission is still the heartbeat of McMillan’s calling on her life. She hopes to one day either go overseas as a career missionary or stay in the States to train others’ to go from the classroom to the nations. Graduation is a little surreal for McMillan this time around as she knows that this is her last degree she will be receiving from SEBTS. However, seeing how far God has brought her is an exciting reality.

“It’s so weird to think about this whole journey and going to seminary and it’s like, man, [I] started out as an orphan and now I’m becoming a doctor,” she said. **BR**

PrayerLink expresses its mission in redesign

By ROGER S. OLDHAM | Baptist Press

Calling on the Southern Baptist PrayerLink leadership team to “fan into flame a passionate pursuit of God in prayer,” Chris Schofield opened the group’s winter meeting as PrayerLink’s first executive director.

“The Lord is not through with what we began years ago,” said Schofield, director of the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

“This ministry cannot be about us. It must not look to the past, but adapt to changing realities and press on to what lies ahead,” Schofield said, according to a report in *SBC LIFE*’s pre-convention 2017 issue released earlier this month. *SBC LIFE* is the journal of the SBC Executive Committee.

The PrayerLink leadership team settled on four verbs during its two-day meeting that convey its mission and voted to redesign its logo to reflect its mission.

The new logo incorporates the group’s global prayer focus; its passion to lift up Jesus’ high priestly prayer in John 17:20-21; and its desire – by praying, connecting, resourcing and serving – to join hands with people of every race and kindred.

“We [primarily] serve through praying,” Schofield said.

“Then we serve the greater group by putting together the logistics of our meetings” so others have a model to emulate in their respective settings, whether churchwide prayer services, small group

gatherings or associational meetings.

PrayerLink is composed of prayer coordinators from Southern Baptist entities, Woman’s Missionary Union, state Baptist conventions and Southern Baptist ethnic and language fellowships.

Working in collaboration with associations, state Baptist conventions and SBC entities, PrayerLink seeks to foster a Great Commission prayer mindset among Southern Baptists and other Christ-followers and promote Great Commission prayer ministries woven throughout the Southern Baptist network of churches.

NAMB prayer initiatives

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) hosted the PrayerLink leadership team’s Jan. 9-10 meeting in Alpharetta, Ga.

William Brown, NAMB’s supporting church coordinator, and Maggie Green, endorsed missionary services coordinator, introduced two prayer resources designed to undergird church planters:

- PrayerConnect, “a weekly prayer email sent to subscribers with prayer requests submitted by NAMB missionaries,” Brown said.
- Pray for Planters, an initiative to enlist at least 10,000 churches to pray for North American church planting missionaries. Pastors and individuals can register at PrayforPlanters.com to pray through a list of planters in a specific city, state, province or on college campuses.

Under the theme “God Is Greater Than,” PrayerLink will meet again Oct. 5-7 in Alpharetta, Ga. **BR**



WHATEVER THE TERRAIN, BE READY.

When we follow the call of God, it may be to the church down the road or to the wild of a far away country. Whatever the terrain, Southwestern Seminary is committed to preparing you for the way forward. At Southwestern, we will fuel your heart and strengthen your mind for a ministry that is sure to include some bumps and peaks along the way. Let us fill your pack with the gear you need for the long haul. **BE READY.**

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SEND

Continued from page 1

the accomplishment of His Father's will, Horton explained.

"I rob myself of this confidence when I look to circumstances ... taking my eyes off the Father," he said. "Assurance in victory in Christ flees away because I have chosen to walk in disobedience, submitting myself to the sin of fear.

"The only way for us to recalibrate our hearts to be obedient to the mission that we are called to live by our Savior, is to put our eyes back on Jesus."

Horton said the Greek word for 'example' means "Jesus is the one Christians are called to trace. As He suffered and endured while living on mission, we are called to trace His every move."

Recounting the biblical story of Esther, Platt addressed a common critique of the book bearing her name. Some scholars throughout history have questioned Esther's inclusion in the Old Testament because the book doesn't mention God.

"The fingerprints of God are all over this book," he said. "It's like a divine drama with cosmic coincidences at every single turn. ... You cannot write a better script than that. Do you see what the book of Esther is teaching us about history? God has got the whole thing rigged. He's rigged it for a reason. God has a purpose: to save His people for the sake of His praise among all the peoples in the world."

Esther's story, Platt said, reveals that God is sovereignly orchestrating all of history for the accomplishment of His purpose, and He is sovereignly orchestrating every person's life for the accomplishment of His purpose.

Platt emphasized that while the mission field includes front yards, workplaces and schools, God calls some to leave their jobs and go to the nations, or to leverage their jobs to go to the nations. He encouraged students not to merely quit school and go overseas, but to take their education seriously and "work hard in ways that open up doors for the spread of the gospel through your life, through your profession." He implored retirees to "spend the last years of your life before you see your Savior's face ... introducing His name to people who've never even heard."

Speaking from Romans 10, Lee urged attendees simply to talk about Jesus. "If you say something, God may save someone," he said.

Some people may reject Jesus because they have only heard false things about Him, Lee said.

"Some people think of an easy-going Jesus who doesn't really care about our sins, or a hateful Jesus who they think the



More than 4,000 church leaders, students and families came from across the country to be equipped to live on mission. (North American Mission Board photo)

"The only way for us to recalibrate our hearts to be obedient to the mission that we are called to live by our Savior is to put our eyes back on Jesus."

— D.A. Horton

only thing He cares about is condemning our sins," Lee said. "The real Jesus that we see in scripture is somebody worth believing.

"Sometimes it takes conversations with people to deconstruct their understanding of who they think Jesus is, because the Jesus that they're rejecting is not even the real Jesus. This means some of us will have to think about the misunderstandings we have about Him."

Concluding the conference, Pitman reiterated Platt's charge to take God's mission personally – at work, school,

home, wherever. He echoed Lee's call to have gospel conversations within and across cultures. Pitman further reminded attendees that their lives on mission will only be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and that God can use anyone's life to inspire and motivate others.

"When you examine the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, almost everywhere you read of somebody being used greatly for the Kingdom of God, you always find this phrase: 'The hand of the Lord, the power of the Lord, the presence of the Lord was with them.'"

People tend to commend leaders based on their skills and expertise, Pitman said, but God empowers ordinary Christians like the church in Antioch as described in Acts 11 – people never referred to by name, but only as "them."

"You know what we desperately need in the church of North America? We need some of 'them' with just the hand of God on them."

Austin Stone Worship of Austin, Texas led worship throughout the weekend, with Thomas Eugene Keys, III and Crowder also ministering through music.

The conference was the second of three events held in different regions around the United States. The first was in Long Beach, Calif., on Feb. 3-4. The final Send Conference this year will be July 25-26 in Orlando, Fla. **BR**

Couple

Continued from page 3

weeks and then rotate off and the other couple serves two weeks.

By April 2016, the Smiths had transitioned to their new mission field.

"The girls need God. They are up against things man can't fix," Kim shares.

As with the majority of the children served by BCH, the girls cannot remain with their families for a variety of reasons. Most have experienced some form of physical and emotional trauma.

"We aren't here to replace their parents, but we want to take care of them and be there for them physically, emotionally and spiritually,"

Kim explains. "We want to help them feel safe."

Through devotions, prayer and personal conversations, the Smiths introduce the girls to Jesus.

"It's the same as on the international mission field – having Jesus in people's lives helps them with what they are going through," Jay says. "Here, the mission field is to help the girls understand who God is and for them to come to faith in Christ. There's nothing like seeing a life change before your eyes."

During their first year at BCH, the Smiths have witnessed several girls accept Jesus as Savior.

"We're a family here. We had that on the mission field, and it's one of the things that drew us here," Jay says. **BR**

OPPORTUNITY CORNER



The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) is sponsoring “Chess Not Checkers,” a leadership development equipping track Aug. 10-11 at the BSC chapel. This training will provide insights as to how one makes decisions concerning situations either in a reactive or strategic way.

Participants will also discover leadership lessons that will transform a struggling organization into a thriving one. Cost is \$25 for one day only or \$95 for both days and does not include required book *Chess Not Checkers: Elevate your Leadership Game* by Mark Miller. Visit ncbaptist.org/leadershipevent3.

Church Weekday Education Summer Conference



The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is hosting Church Weekday Education Summer Conference on Aug. 11-12 at Embassy Suites, Cary. The theme is “Jesus Knows Me, This I Love!” based on Ephesians 3:20.

The keynote speaker is Tom Howe, speaking on “Unleashed by Design.” In addition to other speakers, sessions and worship, there will also be three breakout sessions with many options

to choose from. The program for directors and assistant directors is two days and for staff is Saturday only. Cost varies between \$75-125 for members of the North Carolina Baptist Church Weekday Education Association and \$105-160 for non-members, depending on whether the participant is a director or staff member. Retreat pricing does not include hotel accommodations. Visit ncbaptist.org/cwe-conference.



The Faith at Home Network is hosting a Fall Conference Series. Participants will learn how to implement a biblically-based family ministry in the church and how to equip parents and grandparents in the church to be the primary disciplers of their families. The conference will be led by four of the country’s top ministry leaders: Ron Hunter Jr., Rob Rienow, Mark Holmen and Doug Bischoff. The series includes: “What” Family Ministry Can Look Like in Your Church, Aug. 29, Lakeview Baptist

Church, Hickory; “Why” Family Ministry is a Vital Part of Disciple-Making, Sept. 12, Calvary West Baptist Church, Advance; “How” to Make Family Ministry a Reality in Your Church, Oct. 13-14, Caraway Conference Center, Sophia. Cost for each one-day event is \$25. Cost for the October event is \$87, which includes lodging, meals and materials or \$40 for commuters, which includes meals and materials only. A discount is offered when registering for all three. Visit faithathomenc.org.

MI Retiro de Jóvenes IDENTIDAD

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is hosting “My Identity,” a Hispanic Youth Retreat Sept. 1-4 at Caswell Conference Center on Oak Island. The conference theme verse is 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Participants will experience worship, workshops, recreation and more. Cost is \$150 if registering before July 18 or \$160 after and includes lodging, seven meals and a T-shirt.

Visit ncbaptist.org/hyr17.

AROUND THE STATE

Obituaries

WILLIAM “BILL” DAVID BOWYER, 63, died May 22.

An Illinois native, Bowyer went to Southern Illinois University where he served his local church as a student minister and janitor. He received his master’s degree from Southwestern Seminary and married Deana.

Bowyer pastored Royal Oaks Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; First Baptist Church, Effingham, Ill.; Rock Hill Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.; and Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Raleigh, where he served for the past 19 years.

He would share Christ wherever he went, from restaurants to other countries. During his 40 years of pastoral ministry, he led 43 mission teams in places such as El Salvador, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Azerbaijan and Russia. He was a trustee at two seminaries: Southeastern and Midwestern. Bowyer served as the chairman of the search committee that recommended Midwestern’s latest president, Jason Allen.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Deana; two sons, Jacob Bowyer of Raleigh and John Bowyer of Nashville, Tenn.; two granddaughters; and brother Tim Bowyer of Newnan, Ga.

Memorials to: Bill & Deana Bowyer Moldova Legacy Foundation, 716 Barley Green St., Wake Forest, NC 27587.

MARJORIE ANN TRIPPEER BENNETT, 88, died May 5.

A native of Ohio, Bennett was a Meredith College graduate (1950), married in 1951 and was sent to Bangladesh (then East Pakistan, 1957) by the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board). She and her husband, Troy C. Bennett, later served in Lebanon, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa. They retired to North Carolina in 1990.

In recent years, Bennett worked with internationals in Winston-Salem and Elon University. She wrote an autobiography in 2015: *Stories of God in My Life*.

She is survived by her three chil-

dren: Stephen Bennett of Alexandria, Va.; Becky Perry of Raleigh; and Debbie Bennett Reynolds of Rush, N.Y.; five grandchildren; and three siblings: Robert Trippeer, Marian Dodson and Donald Trippeer.

Memorials to: First Baptist Church designated for Friends of Elon Internationals, 400 S. Broad St., Burlington, NC or the Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1200 Front St. #110, Raleigh, NC 27609, or Hospice of Alamance-Caswell 914 Chapel Hill Rd., Burlington, NC 27215.

DANIEL FRANKLIN “DAN” PAGE, 83, of Greenville, S.C., died May 8.

A North Carolina native, Page was a graduate of Whiteville High School, Chowan Junior College (associate), Carson Newman College (bachelor) and Southeastern Seminary (master). He was ordained to the ministry in 1955 and served as pastor of Council Baptist Church, Council, N.C.; Hamer Creek Baptist, Mt. Gilead, N.C.; minister of education at Waverly Place Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.; First Baptist Church, Morehead City, N.C.; and director of missions in Oxford, N.C., and Greenville, S.C. During his tenure in Greenville, he was instrumental in the expansion of Marietta Baptist Camp; the formation of the Martin-Webb Learning Center; and Rolling Green Retirement Community where he served 28 years on the Board of Trustees. In 2016, he was presented the Hoke Smith Legacy Award. In 2000, he received the Victor Glass Award from the Unit of North American Mission Board of Outstanding Leadership in Ministries of Racial Reconciliation. From 1986-2000, he served the South Carolina Baptist Convention as director of the new work department. He was an active member of First Baptist Church Mauldin.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elizabeth Ford Page; daughters: Danise Egan of Fair Oaks, Ca., and Lori Sewell of Simpsonville; and four grandchildren.

Memorials to: Men’s Ministry at First Baptist Church of Mauldin, 150 S. Main St., Mauldin, SC 29662.

Staff changes

First Baptist Church, Carthage, has called **BRIAN MURPHY** as pastor. Murphy served as a National Guard Army chaplain for 10 years and as a suicide prevention coordinator for over a year.

MARTY MIDDLETON has been called as student pastor to Fort Johnson Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C. Middleton previously served as pastor for family discipleship at Fairview Baptist Church, Apex, for 11 years.



BILL BOWYER



MARJORIE BENNETT

June 11

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

June 18

Forge True Friendship

**Focal passage: 1 Samuel 18:1-4;
19:4-7; 20:10-13**

Some of my closest friends are people that I met in college and lived with in the university dormitories. As I look back, these friendships were formed almost instantaneously and deepened with time. Deep friendships are often forged in such ways.

First Samuel 18:1 tells us, “*When David had finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan committed himself to David, and loved him as much as he loved himself*” (HCSB).

There is really no introduction to Jonathan or explanation for David’s friendship with him. All we are told is that after David killed Goliath, Saul brought David into the royal household (1 Samuel 18:2) and David and Jonathan quickly became friends.

But what was it that caused David and Jonathan to remain lifelong friends? Their friendship, like all true friendships, was based on commitment. After all, David and Jonathan’s commitment is seen in the covenant that they made with one another (1 Samuel 18:3).

Commitment is not just a word; it is an action.

For David and Jonathan, their friendship commitment was expressed through

concern and care for one another. For example, Jonathan was concerned for David’s welfare in several ways.

He gave David special armor to protect him on the battlefield (1 Samuel 18:4), and he defended David verbally (1 Samuel 19:4-7) as well as physically (1 Samuel 20:10-13).

David and Jonathan had a shared commitment to their friendship and that resulted in Jonathan and David always acting in the other’s best interest.

Does that describe your relationships with others? Are you committed to others and similar causes? Are you a friend that others can depend on?

If you bash your friends behind their backs, berate them or fail to help them in their time of need, you are not a true friend. God desires that we should act as friends to others because He has demonstrated the ultimate act of friendship toward us in dying for our sins (John 15:13).

All of us know that it is sometimes hard to find true friends in life, but the best place to start is to heed the advice of Proverbs 18:24, “*A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly*” (KJV).



DAVID CROWTHER
Pastor,
Mount Olive Baptist
Church, Pittsboro

Respect Authority

Focal passage: 1 Samuel 24:3-12

We live in a society that is rapidly changing. Unfortunately, respect is a value that seems to be eroding at an ever-increasing rate.

As we listen to the nightly news, we see disrespect shown toward those in authority, whether they are politicians, police officers, teachers, pastors or parents.

Such disrespect toward authority stands in total contrast with the respect David showed to those in authority over him. In 1 Samuel 24:3-12, the Bible describes an encounter in which David had the opportunity to take the life of King Saul, a man who was actively seeking to take David’s life.

As David hid in the dark recesses of a cave high in the cliffs of the Judean desert, he made a decision to respect authority. David did not spare Saul’s life simply because he “chickened out” in the moment, but respect was

a godly virtue by which David lived (1 Samuel 26).

David respected authority because he respected God and realized that God had placed certain persons in authority. Thus, he referred to the king as “*the Lord’s anointed*” (1 Samuel 26:6, 9-10, 12).

Just as David respected those in authority over him, believers today are called to respect individuals in authority (Romans 13:1-7). We are not only to respect the respectable, but even those who we do not deem worthy of respect.

Surely David had little personal respect for a man like Saul who sought to kill him and who perpetually lied to him. Nevertheless, David respected Saul’s office.

Because David could live under authority, God eventually gave him authority and made David king over all of Israel. God has called all Christians to respect His authority and the authority of parents, teachers, pastors, bosses and government leaders.

God will not bless us and put us in authority over others until we have submitted to the authority under which He has placed us (Matthew 25:23).

David respected authority because he respected God and realized that God had placed certain persons in authority.

June 11

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

June 18

The Past

Focal passage: Psalm 78:5-8, 32-39

My Uncle Jack is researching our family’s ancestry. So far, he’s discovered that our family came from England, settled in South Carolina and fought in the Revolutionary War. It is fascinating, but it is not the best part of my ancestry.

The best part is that my great grandfather, William Wallace, helped build a church and taught his children, including my grandmother to believe in Jesus. She in turn taught her children, and they taught theirs.

I am so thankful that my grandmother taught us to teach for the future.

In Psalm 78:5 we are told of God that “*He established a testimony in Jacob and set up a law in Israel,*” in order that His people might teach it to their grandchildren “*so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God’s works, but keep His commands*” (Psalm 78:7).

Asaph reminds the Israelites of all God had done throughout their history under Moses’ leadership in Psalm 78. He wants

them to remember the past. “*In spite of all this, they kept on sinning...*” (Psalm 78:32). We keep sinning too.

I once heard a speaker say that every time she began to complain about someone else’s sin she would add “just like me” to her sentence. For instance, if I am complaining about someone’s gossip then I would add “just like me” to my objection. This not only reminds me of my sin, but it causes me to seek God’s forgiveness and reminds me almost immediately to pray for myself and the one whom I have grumbled about.

After all, we are all sinners saved by God’s grace. Praise the Lord, “*Yet He was compassionate; He atoned for their guilt and did not destroy them. He often turned His anger aside and did not unleash all His wrath*” (Psalm 78:38).

God has offered us compassion for the present that “*while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*” (Romans 5:8).



EMILY CARTER
Member,
University Hills Baptist
Church, Charlotte

Focal Passage: Psalm 23:1-6

For the past three years I have been battling cancer.

When I first began the journey I naively thought that God would heal me, and we would be done with cancer.

Just before my six-month follow up, the doctor noticed new spots, which led to more radiation.

Then a few months later more spots on the other side – more chemotherapy and another surgery.

Then the original trouble was back and, for almost a year now, we have been trying various medicines to halt this disease and prolong my life.

An even healthier diet was put in place. But God in His mercy continues to use this cancer in ways I never thought possible. I’ve learned so much about Him. It is through the hard times that I am able to see God most clearly.

The Shepherd

In Psalm 23 we see some wonderful aspects of God’s character. The first three verses show us that God provides. He provides for my needs, gives me rest, gives me peace, restores my soul and shows me the way to righteousness. (Psalm 23:1-3)

What more could you or I need?

He not only provides, but He guards me. Stage four cancer may take my body one day, but it cannot take my soul. It is sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).

Eventually everyone faces the valley of the shadow of death.

But do not fear. Fix your eyes on Jesus and watch the light shine brighter and the shadows fade away.

Your Father will protect you and bring you comfort.

Finally, God hosts us. He invites us into His house forever. He prepares the table, He anoints our heads and He overflows our cups.

Remember from John 14:2 that Jesus goes to prepare a place for us as well.

Oh, the things that God has for us when we are together with Him!

NAMB

Continued from page 1

other business dealings and asked for dismissal of the suit.

The lawsuit was filed in Mississippi state district but moved to a federal district court in northern Mississippi at NAMB's request. According to NAMB's Notice of Removal, Federal law permits NAMB to have the case removed from state court because the plaintiff and defendant are residents of different states and the amount of money at issue exceeds \$75,000.

NAMB told BP in a statement, "After [McRaney] rejected or ignored several offers to meet and discuss these matters biblically, we regret that Dr. McRaney has chosen to involve the courts, however, since he has chosen this venue, we will be good stewards of NAMB's resources and defend the case vigorously."

McRaney asked in a May 18 statement emailed to journalists, "Why are NAMB lawyers and trustee officers offering general denials, when the complaints and

allegations against [NAMB President] Dr. [Kevin] Ezell and others are specific and specific answers are available?"



WILL MCRANEY

NAMB's response to the lawsuit claimed McRaney "caused the BCMD to violate the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement [for evangelism and church planting] and otherwise hindered and interfered with BCMD's performance of its obligations."

According to the response, "NAMB was entitled" to notify the BCMD it would terminate the partnership "given the facts and circumstances as they existed at the time."

Contrary to McRaney's allegation he was terminated from the BCMD, the response stated, "NAMB is informed and believes that [McRaney] voluntarily resigned his employment pursuant to some kind of severance agreement."

NAMB claimed McRaney "seeks to unfairly enrich himself" in filing suit and alleged he "demanded in a let-

ter to NAMB that it pay him ... \$7.7 million in damages."

Among other claims in NAMB's response:

- "NAMB denied[d] that it published any defamatory statement regarding" McRaney.

- NAMB denied it interfered with McRaney's speaking engagements after he left the BCMD.

- NAMB acknowledged it "situated" a photo of McRaney "in the reception area at NAMB's office in Alpharetta [Ga.] during some period of time." But it denied McRaney's claim the photo "has caused additional damage" to him.

- NAMB denied that McRaney is "entitled to any relief whatsoever in this action."

NAMB has also argued that if the lawsuit proceeds, it should be transferred from the U.S. district court in northern Mississippi to the U.S. district court in northern Georgia, where NAMB's corporate office is located.

The anticipated next step in the case likely will be a series of motions and responses.

Visit BRnow.org for further updates on the case. **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Buckhorn Baptist Church located in rural Como, North Carolina, is a multigenerational congregation seeking a **pastor** with a minimum of five years pastoral experience and graduate of a seminary, divinity school or Bible college. We're searching for a pastor who is passionate about working with all areas/ages of the congregation along with our local community to grow our church. Buckhorn Baptist Church is Bible-based worship, believing the Bible was true yesterday, true today and true always. Congregation focuses on reaching local community, home and missions. Resume deadline June 30, 2017. Include statement of faith, personal testimony and audio or visual of recent sermon. Mail to: Buckhorn Baptist Church Pastor Search Team, c/o Pam Carr, 448 Buckhorn Church Road, Como, NC 27818.

Corinth Baptist Church at 991 Corinth Church Road, Salemburg, NC, is actively seeking a **Bivocational Pastor**. All resumes should be sent to David Naylor, 4712 Honeycutt Road, Salemburg, NC 28385, or email to naylor168@gmail.com. We will receive resumes until June 26, 2017.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Cowpens, SC, is seeking a **full-time Southern Baptist Pastor**. Send resume to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 250 Mt. Olive Road, Cowpens, SC 29330, or mtolive@bellsouth.net.

Hillside Baptist Church, Cornelia, GA, is a conservative Southern Baptist church seeking God's will in finding a **Bi-Vocational Pastor**, who has a heart for people, is evangelistic and mission-minded. Please send resume to Hillside Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, c/o Jimmie Allison, 200 Burrell Street Cornelia, GA 30531.

Church Staff

Kelleytown Baptist in Hartsville, SC, is seeking a **full-time Student Minister**. Hartsville is a great place to live and raise a family. It is home to a fortune 500 company, Coker College, and the Governor's School for Science and Math. This ministry position will serve alongside the pastoral leadership team and other leaders to effectively lead a Kingdom mind-set church. The primary purpose of this position will be to develop a comprehensive student ministry for middle and high school students. The Student Minister must be a professing Christian who is an ordained Southern Baptist minister and active member of a Southern Baptist church. Our ideal candidate is someone who has earned a seminary degree from a Southern Baptist seminary or a like-minded divinity school. Other skill sets desired is someone who is a self-starter, good organizational skills, relational, growth-minded and passionate about discipling young people. Please send resume to rod@kelleytownbc.com or to 2609 Kelleytown Road, Hartsville, SC 29550.

Zoar Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is seeking **PT Worship Leader/Minister of Music**. Blended worship; avg attendance 100-125. Choir, organ/piano, congregational worship tracks. For full job description/details, contact Alex Carroll. Send resume to Zoar Baptist Church, Attn. Alex Carroll, 1740 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152, or arcarroll92@gmail.com.

Mountain View Baptist Church of Hamptonville, NC, is seeking a **full-time Director of Worship Ministries**. Responsibilities include leading blended worship, directing a comprehensive church music program including choirs, vocal groups, praise band and instrumental ensembles and coordinating church media. E-mail resume to mvbc@yadtel.net.

South Main Baptist Church, Greenwood, SC, seeks spiritually mature **full-time Minister of Students**. Candidates should demonstrate professionalism, leadership and social skills to reach students and their families for Jesus Christ. Musical ability and experience in leading contemporary worship is preferred but not required. South Main is a growing SBC church with approximately 1,400 members that embraces both classic and contemporary styles. The Minister of Students serves middle school through collegiate students and requires modeling a genuine Christian faith, relational skills, necessary experience and education to lead a vibrant student ministry. Duties include developing a scripture-focused ministry, leading and discipling students to personal faith in God through Jesus Christ, planning, teaching, pastoral care, activities, and outreach. Submit resumes to joinourteam@southmain.church or South Main Baptist Church, PO Box 1093, Greenwood, SC 29648.

Antioch Baptist Church (ABC), Waynesville, NC, is seeking a **part-time Church Administrator**. Detailed information posted on website: <http://www.antiochwnc.org/open-positions/>. Resumes should be mailed to ABC Personnel Committee Chairperson, 542 Iron Duff Rd., Waynesville, NC 28785.

New Hope Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor of Family Ministries and Music**. This will oversee a comprehensive ministry to families that include children and youth and also be responsible for worship and music ministries. Bible college or seminary degree preferred. Other qualifications will be considered. This position requires someone who is an equipper and enjoys seeing others grow spiritually and in leadership abilities. Send resumes to nhmbc@myglnc.com attention search committee or mail to New Hope Baptist Church, 5142 NC Highway 58 N., Wilson, NC 27896. Job description may be viewed at www.nhmbc.net.

Denominational

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) is seeking a **full-time Regional Director**. The regional director will be responsible for orchestrating ministry services of NCBAM in the north central region of NC. Master's degree in gerontology, social work or a related field preferred. Or, bachelor's degree with two years' experience in a related field. Visit <http://www.bchfamily.org/about/employment> to apply. Resumes may be sent to NCBAM, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361.

Miscellaneous

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

Share the Biblical Recorder - FREE. Order three months free. Contact liz@BRnow.org.

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org.
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at BRnow.org.
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

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.

ADVERTISE
(919) 459-5691



BEYOND/ME

First, I obey God by giving my tithe to our church. My tithe joins tithes of fellow members.

Together, our combined giving enables our church to reach our community — our Jerusalem. *(My Group)*



BEYOND/US

Our church partners with thousands of others across North Carolina to support missions and

ministry statewide through the Cooperative Program. Together, we pray and train people to share Jesus in hundreds of communities where as many as 70 percent of the people do not know Him. *(My North Carolina)*



BEYOND/NORTH CAROLINA

As we partner with 46,000+ Southern

Baptist churches, our Cooperative Program dollars help send thousands of missionaries across North America to reach people for Christ and start urgently needed new churches. Together, we can reach our Judea, our nation, as Acts 1:8 says. *(My Country)*



BEYOND/USA

Our Cooperative Program giving helps send our missionaries far and wide, yes,

to the ends of the earth. It is tragic that decreased giving through the Cooperative Program has forced nearly 1,000 Southern Baptist missionaries to come home! Together, we must increase Cooperative Program giving now to reap the harvest of souls God is making possible. How many missionaries will be serving when our kids and grandkids take over missions support? What missions legacy will we leave them? *(My Globe)*

Download a bulletin insert and a PowerPoint presentation at:
ncbaptist.org/cooperativeprogram

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

