

Pastor shares lessons
from turkey hunting
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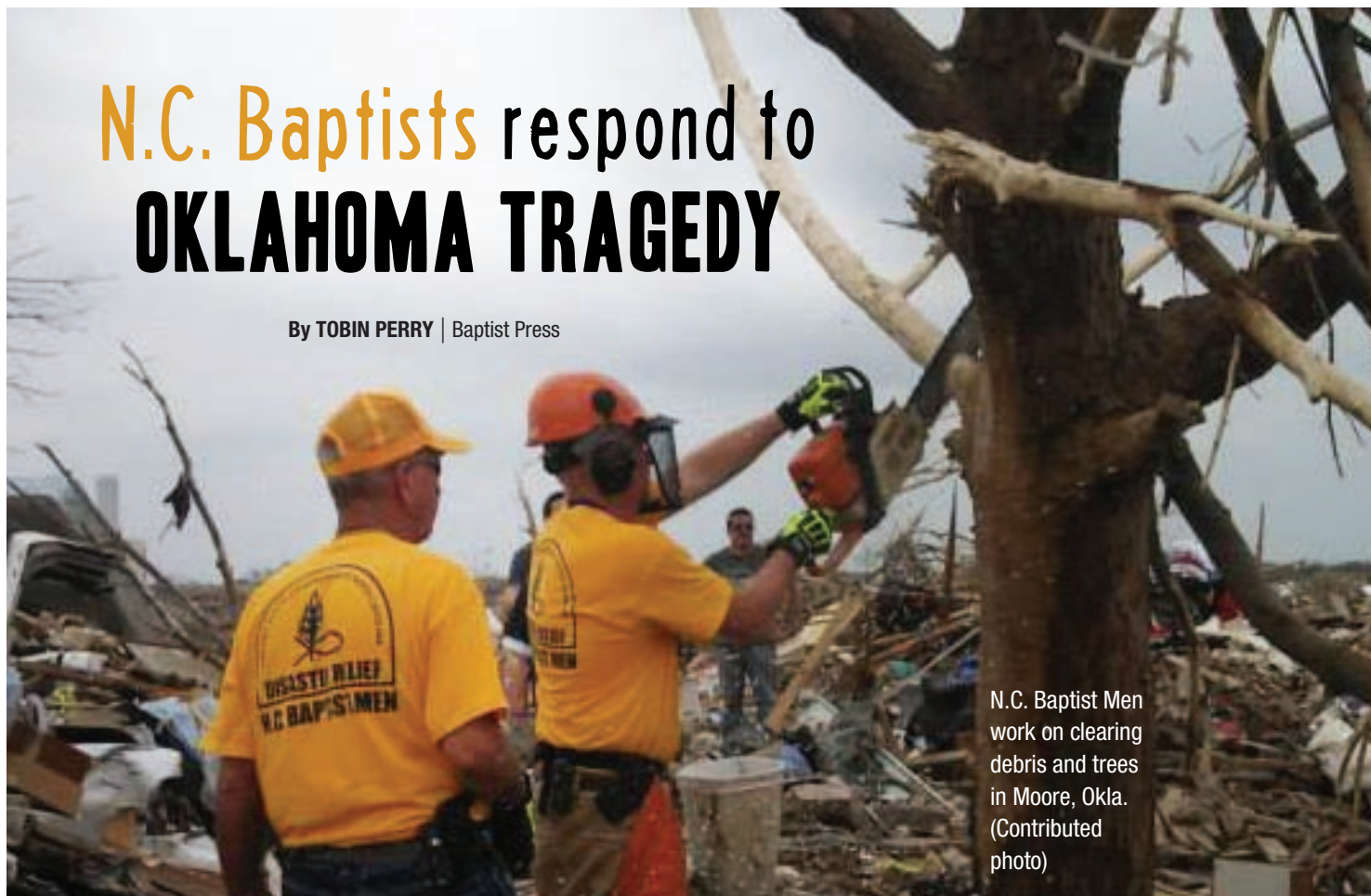
 **First Week**
in the United States
reaches out to international students
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BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

JUNE 8, 2013 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 179 NO. 12 • **BRnow.org**

N.C. Baptists respond to OKLAHOMA TRAGEDY

By TOBIN PERRY | Baptist Press



N.C. Baptist Men
work on clearing
debris and trees
in Moore, Okla.
(Contributed
photo)

For 90 minutes on the afternoon of May 20, Ivette Castro didn't know if she, her 16-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son would live to see the evening as an EF5 tornado – the most powerful rating possible – bared down on them.

Trapped in a small closet together, the three prayed. Admittedly their spiritual background

had been spotty at best. The family rarely attended church.

But in those hot, cramped quarters, it became obvious to Castro that God was sparing her family. "Other than a miracle, [we wouldn't have gotten out]," Castro said. "We were pinned in. So many

See NCBM page 8

'Impacting lostness' plan OK'd, campus ministry debated

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

The Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) signed off on a new strategy and structure designed to plant more churches, strengthen existing ones and tackle areas of "lostness." The board meeting was held May 21-22 at Caraway Conference Center and Camp in Sophia.

Entitled "Impacting Lostness through Disciple-Making," the five-year strategy will now go before N.C. Baptists this fall at the BSC annual meeting in Greensboro. The plan will take effect January 2014.

At the heart of the new strategy and structure is the desire to reach 5.8 million North Carolinians who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. To help accomplish that, the strategy focuses on making more disciples and mobilizing Baptists through training and engaging more ethnic groups located in eight population centers.

See Plan page 9

Boy Scouts decision stirs Baptist churches to consider options

BR, Southern Baptist TEXAN and Baptist Press

Some North Carolina Baptist churches plan to announce in the coming weeks how they will handle the new membership policy that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) approved May 23.

Under the new membership policy that will take effect Jan. 1, 2014, BSA will officially admit openly homosexual youth. For now, it will maintain its stand against accepting openly homosexual adult leaders. BSA delegates approved the change by a margin of 61-39 percent.

Leaders at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, which has chartered a Boy Scout troop for about 50

years, met May 29 to discuss the church's future with BSA. The next day the church released a statement to the *Biblical Recorder*. According to the statement, the church will continue to review its relationship with the organization and will announce a decision in the coming weeks.

"Our goal is to partner with those organizations that support the values and outcomes of biblical faith," the church said in the statement, "and to do so in a way that is thoughtful, moral, and grace-filled as we hold out the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community."

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of State Road also plans to have its deacons make a decision on the matter

and present a recommendation to the congregation for a vote, said Pastor John Attaway.

Though Attaway believes the congregation will vote to cut ties with BSA, he said the church could decide not to officially do so until its charter agreement with BSA is up in March 2014.

"I feel that is the right thing to do," said Attaway, who is an Eagle Scout. "... As a church we should honor our charter obligation.

"... There will be a period that overlaps that we're sort of standing with an organization that we don't agree with their moral principals. But ... our local troop is not

See Scouts page 10

‘First Week’ shows Christ’s love to international students

By BUDDY OVERMAN | BSC Communications

When Sammy Joo arrived in the United States 12 years ago from South Korea to attend Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., he came with his wife, infant child and all the belongings they could squeeze in two duffel bags.

“We did not have a mattress or a couch or a kitchen table and chairs. We had just an empty apartment,” he said. “That first month was very difficult.”

Eventually Joo and his family – wife Debbie and daughter Gracie – furnished the apartment through the generosity of others. But those first weeks proved a trying time.

Every year thousands of international students like

Joo arrive in North Carolina, and most arrive in need of furniture, transportation and help navigating their new surroundings.

Joo now serves as consultant for international campus ministry for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). He organizes an effort to help meet the needs of international students who arrive in the Triangle area



SAMMY JOO



(Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill) each August. The initiative is known as First Week in the United States.

First Week provides local church volunteers opportunities to serve incoming international students in three ways: pick up students from the airport, donate used furniture or provide students a ride to a local store.

“The purpose of First Week is to connect local church volunteers with incoming international students in the Triangle area to reach those students with the gospel by meeting their physical needs and sharing the love of Christ with them,” Joo said.

First Week launched last August, and Joo is praying for more volunteers to participate this year.

To participate, volunteers register on the First Week website (www.firstweekinus.com), which serves as a connecting point for students and volunteers. Volunteers can use the site to post furniture they want to donate or times they are available to assist students with travel needs, and they can also scan postings from students with specific needs.

“All the volunteers need to do is sign up and post their furniture or their availability to help students to adjust,” Joo said.

“The students will visit the website and see the postings, and then they can respond.”

Rick Trexler, BSC campus ministry team leader, said First Week will benefit all who participate.

“First Week will strengthen the local church and equip individuals to be ministers where they are, and it will make an eternal difference in the lives of these students,” he said.

“First Week is a great opportunity for North Carolina Baptist churches, associations and individuals to partner together to expand the Kingdom.”

About 8,000 international students representing more than 150 nationalities enroll at Triangle-area universities each year. Most students are from countries that have been closed to the gospel or lack a gospel witness.

First Week is a platform from which Christ-followers can demonstrate authentic Christianity that leads to effective evangelism.

“When they meet American Christians, that is their first exposure to see what Christianity is about,” Joo said. “This is a great way to meet with the students to

See Students page 15

SEMINARY GRADUATES

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Doctor of Ministry – Ken Tan, leader of the multicultural team at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

The College at Southeastern Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

– James David Bunch, Wake Forest; Jennifer Lee Hall, Youngsville; Justin Asbury Martin, Wake Forest; David Ryan Myers, Durham; Nathan Christopher Roberts, Wake Forest; and Amy Suzanne Sain, Vale.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Master of Arts (Christian Studies) – Matthew Daniel Bryant, Thomasville and Darrin S. Deese, Monroe.

Master of Arts (Ethics, Theology, and Culture) – Samuel Thomas Currin, Oxford.

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling – Dorothy Amos Hilliard, Apex; Amber Alexandria Shirley, Apex; Kyle Wayne Sullivan, Wilmington; and Alexandra Troxler Valencsin, Brown Summit.

Master of Arts in Biblical Languages – Andrew Glen Daniel, Eden.

Master of Arts in Christian Education – Joseph Henry Miller, Little Switzerland.

Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership – Kenneth Lee Branch, Raleigh and Kimberly Ann Spainhour, Asheboro.

Master of Divinity w/Advanced Standing – Philip Andrew Crouse Jr., King; and Robert Lee Wood II, Fayetteville.

Master of Divinity w/Biblical Counseling – Kellen Kenneth Lake, Wake Forest; and David Ernest McKnight, Durham.

Master of Divinity w/Christian Apologetics – David LeVoyd Ethridge, Raleigh.

Master of Divinity w/Christian Education – Kevin Michael Craig, Brevard.

Master of Divinity w/Christian Ministry – Kevin David Blalock, Durham; Stephen Michael Breagy, Wake Forest; Peter Joshua Cardillo, Wake Forest; Steven Michael Chromy, Bunn; Jason C. Engle, Roxboro; Willis Edward Finch III, Spring Hope; Derek Martin Andrew George, Wake Forest; Andrew Jordan Goodson, Maiden; Matthew Phillip Hill, Taylorsville; Daniel Thomas Howard, Winston Salem; James T. Hughes III, Durham; Zachary F. Jones, Wake Forest; Michael Gil McKee Jr., Arden; Jeffrey Glenn Moss, Durham; Joshua Thomas Navey, Monroe; Nathan Scott Neufang, Durham; Robert Hayden Nixon, Hamptonville; Olubisi Olasunkanmi Ojo, Clayton; Thomas Scott Reyner, Durham; William Stephen Teague, Granite Falls; Chad Michael Tramp, Clayton; and Stephen Weeks, Rocky Mount.

Master of Divinity w/Expository Preaching – Jared Pempfer, Louisburg.
Master of Divinity w/International

Church Planting – Jennifer Lee Hall, Youngsville.

Master of Divinity w/Pastoral Ministry – Andrew Jerold Reynolds, Greensboro.

Master of Theology – William Douglas Aleshire, Wake Forest; Gregory E. Lamb, Sanford; and Nhiem Thai Tran, Wake Forest.

Doctor of Ministry – Eric B. Holland, Fuquay-Varina; and Jeffrey Mack Johnson, Asheboro.

Doctor of Education – Amanda LeAnn Burkhart, Goldsboro; Amanda Kathryn Cooley, Chapel Hill; James D. Grant, Sylva; Jerry Michael Hollis, Apex; David Bruce Horton, Hendersonville; Thomas Winston Hudgins, Apex; and Catherine Johnson Moffett, Gibsonville.

Doctor of Philosophy – James Mark

Harmeling, Clayton.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Master of Divinity (School of Theology) – Jonathan S Blaylock, Candler; Jonathan G. Goodman, Winston-Salem; Jonathan M. Hearing, Asheville; and Joshua B. Wester, Rocky Mount.

Master of Theology (School of Christian Ministries) – Myoung Cheon Ko, Fayetteville.

Master of Arts in Leadership (School of Christian Ministries) – Aaron C. Tant, Durham.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Master of Arts in Christian Education – Brenton Daniel Cisson, Lincolnton



CHURCH NEWS



North Carolina Campers on Mission

James Saunders, president of North Carolina Campers on Mission (NCCOM), presents the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award to Ed and Rachel Gillum. The Gillums are members at Blaise Baptist Church, Mocksville.

Submissions

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

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AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

Harmony Baptist Church, West End, has called **TONY HANCOCK** as pastor.

DAN COLLISON has been called as pastor of Dillon Road Baptist Church, Jamestown. He was the executive director of Toronto Church Planting and a North American Mission Board missionary in Toronto.

Cherry Point Baptist Church, Havelock, has called **TRAVIS CROCKER** as associate pastor. He previously served First Baptist Church, Anderson, S.C., and First Baptist Church, Beaufort, N.C.

STEPHEN B. PIERCE has been called as senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Pilot Mountain. He previously was senior pastor of CrossLand Baptist Church, Stilesville, Ind.



Hamilton Church, Hamilton, has called **MATTHEW DUPUY** as pastor.

CALVIN CHAPMAN has been called as pastor of Morven Baptist Church, Morven.

Victory Baptist Church, Lilesville, has called **BOBBY ELLER** as pastor.

JEROME CASH has been called as pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Wadesboro.

Retirement

ROGER WORLEY retired May 19 from his associate pastor/music position at East Lumberton Baptist Church after 35 years in ministry. After finishing Southern Seminary, he began ministry at First Baptist Church, Maiden. He also served at Stallings Memorial, Salisbury; Hazelwood, Waynesville; and Penelope, Hickory. He was at East Lumberton for eight years. He has retired to Camden, S.C., where he continues to be available for interim worship leader and revival roles. Call (803) 432-1848.



Mingo Baptist Church, Dunn

Mingo Baptist Church, Dunn, celebrated its centennial with special services May 18-19. Included in these services were the recognition of the families of the charter members, former pastors, oldest and youngest members, a memorial service and special remembrances by members. A video presentation depicting the church's history was also shown. Louis Strickland is the pastor.



Sharon Baptist Church, Reidsville

Pastor Tom Brown, left, of Sharon Baptist Church, Reidsville, presents Gerren Street a licensing certificate. He was licensed May 26. Street is currently serving the church as youth director and is a recent graduate of The College at Southeastern in Wake Forest.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Flourish encourages ministry wives

Connect the ministry wives in your church to Flourish, the North American Mission Board's online network designed specifically for them. Led by Kathy Litton, this online community provides resources, wisdom and support designed specifically to equip and encourage ministry wives in their unique role.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Campbell Divinity selects first music chair

Larry G. Dickens, who has been minister of music at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville since 1999 and is a 1975 Campbell University graduate, is the first person selected to fill the Gay T. and Haskell A. Duncan Chair of Church Music at Campbell University Divinity School.

While at Snyder, Dickens served as an adjunct professor at the Divinity School from 2006 until the present and served as a church music intern supervisor for the university's music department from 2003-2006 prior to that. He will begin his full-time duties July 1, while assisting Snyder for a few months during the transition. As associate professor of church music and worship, Dickens will give leadership to the master of divinity in church music concentration and teach courses in that

concentration as well as guide the planning of weekly chapel services.

"The privilege to serve as an adjunct faculty member has given me new perspective on the state of church music in our region," said Dickens. Out of this experience came his vision to birth Oasis: Renew for the Journey, a church music conference hosted by Campbell Divinity School each summer. Dickens has served at several South Carolina churches along with First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Yates Baptist Church in Durham and Second Baptist Church in Fayetteville, all in North Carolina.

In addition to his bachelor of arts degree in music education from Campbell, he has degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned a master of divinity degree in church music and a doctor of ministry degree. **BR**



LARRY DICKENS

Wingate professor wins national award

Wingate University's Heather McDivitt has been selected as an Outstanding Advising Award winner in the Faculty Academic Advising category from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

The award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students.

She will be honored and presented with the award in Salt Lake City, Utah, during the NACADA Annual

Conference this fall.

McDivitt, assistant professor of religion, has been teaching in the religion department at Wingate since 2006.

Before coming to Wingate, she earned a degree in elementary education from Grove City College in Grove City, Pa., a master in education at State University of New York at Buffalo, a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a PhD in Systematic Theology from University of Edinburgh in Scotland. **BR**



HEATHER MCDIVITT

Mars Hill College recognizes community service

Four individuals were recognized for their service to the community at the annual Mars Hill College (MHC) Community Engagement Convocation on April 16 in Broyhill Chapel.

G. MacLeod Bryan Caring Award

The G. MacLeod Bryan Caring Award is given to one student and one faculty or staff member who address the community's social challenges and leave a positive impact.

Keri Arrington, a senior social work major from Marshall, N.C., is the student recipient of the 2013 G. MacLeod Bryan Caring Award. Arrington served as the president of the MHC Social Work Club and is a residential advisor, a member of the judicial board and one of the founding members of the Rotaract Club. She is also a sister and chair holder in Sigma Alpha Chi.

Nathan McMahan is an adjunct professor at Mars Hill and the faculty recipient of the 2013 G. MacLeod Bryan Caring Award. McMahan teaches five courses and leads Pagos social justice groups. He helps coordinate general education courses and connect students to the community.

I. Ruth Martin Award

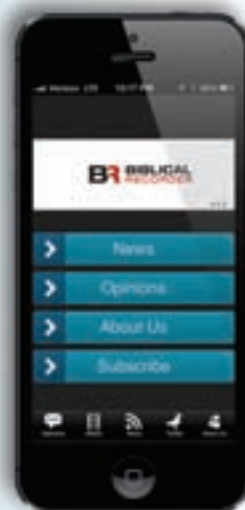
The I. Ruth Martin Award honors an individual who has faithfully served the community without receiving spotlight recognition.

Bob Cole, a Mars Hill resident, received the I. Ruth Martin Award for Christian Service. Cole is an active volunteer with Madison County Neighbors in Need. He is a member of the senior adult council at Mars Hill Baptist Church and has served as chair of the finance committee. He is a former board member and treasurer for Madison County Habitat for Humanity and the Kiwanis Club of Madison County.

Michael Emory Award

The Michael Emory Award is presented to someone who pursues truth and justice and demonstrates Christ-like compassion, loyalty and service to the economically, socially and emotionally oppressed. Leah Taylor, a junior psychology major from Baltimore, Md., received the Michael Emory Award. Taylor is a Bonner scholar, has volunteered at Eliada Homes for Children and serves as a supplemental instructor for general psychology classes. **BR**

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Sharing Mission:Dignity is a ‘family’ thing

By JOHN AMBRA | GuideStone Financial Resources

It was October 2001, and Buddy Temple was in a quandary. The retired postal service worker and court bailiff had sold a house a few months earlier and couldn't figure out where God wanted him to direct part of the proceeds. No matter how many options he looked at, he had no clear direction.

"I was trying to do something with the money that belonged to God," Temple said. "Every time I sat down to write a check, something stayed my hand. I've never had a problem giving to the Lord, but this time I just couldn't do it."

Buddy and his wife, Nora, joined a group of friends on a trip to Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico to attend a weeklong senior adult event sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources.

On Tuesday afternoon, the day after their arrival, Buddy walked up to Glorieta's prayer garden and spent some quiet time by himself near the reflecting pool as the gold leaves of the aspens rustled in the crisp autumn air. "God, I need to get rid of this money. It's yours," he prayed.

That night, in the main conference session, Buddy and Nora listened to a presentation about GuideStone's Mission:Dignity ministry. It was the first time they had ever heard about the needs of several thousand retired ministers and their widows who had served in small, rural churches and now were struggling to pay for basic expenses. Immediately, Buddy had the peace in his heart that he had been searching for.

As they went back to their cabin later in the evening,

Nora knew Buddy's countenance had changed. She said to him, "That's where your money's going, isn't it?"

When they arrived home in Texas, Buddy made out a check to Mission:Dignity. A year later, after reading more stories about the impact his gift was making, Buddy began sending a monthly gift as well and has continued ever since. "The first check I write is for my church. The second one is Mission:Dignity."

In 2008, the Temples moved their membership to Woods Chapel Baptist Church, near their home in Arlington, Texas. Two years ago, Buddy told his men's class about Mission:Dignity.

"I got one of the monthly thank-you letters and there was a story about an old pastor who only got a \$39 retirement check and needed a battery for his car. It really hit me that what goes around comes around. We have 16 men in our class and all of us could do something. I thought they needed to hear this. They were surprised about the \$39 income."

"Buddy presented it and we voted on it," said teacher Tom Boddie. "We are glad to give, and we really get a blessing out of it."

Each month, the class takes up an offering. It started with five dollars each, but some give more. The collections average about \$100 a month. "These men are ready and willing to give. They even have their money out on the tables when it's our week for Mission:Dignity and I really don't even have to say anything," Buddy noted. "I don't count the money. Somebody counts it and announces the total to the class. Then I deposit it and mail in a check."

Recently, one of the women's classes heard what



was going on and asked if they could give, too. They bring their money to the men's class and it gets added into the monthly collection. More than \$3,000 has already been given by the two classes. At last year's Mission:Dignity Sunday, Buddy and Nora had a chance to tell their whole church about the ministry using the free video and bulletin inserts that are available. Their pastor, Eric Armstrong, wholeheartedly supported the church learning about Mission:Dignity.

Buddy and Nora count it a privilege to be in a position where they can give back to those who have ministered through the years. Buddy has even volunteered to speak at other churches, if needed.

Nora said, "This is some kind of organization if 100 percent of our money goes to those in need."

"I feel so close to these people," Buddy added. "It's like I am sending help to my own mother or to a family member. I can't take any credit for this, though. It's all been from God."

Mission:Dignity Sunday is June 23. Spread the word by encouraging your church, Sunday school class or mission organization to participate in this special day! Order free bulletin inserts and a short video. Posters and ads can be downloaded at www.MissionDignitySBC.org/Resources.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – John Ambra is director of development for Mission:Dignity at GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.) **BR**

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Mission:Dignity Sunday is JUNE 23, 2013 — Order Materials Today.

Southeastern takes strategic initiatives toward ethnic relations

SEBTS Communications

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest has recently hired a special advisor to the president for diversity and a director of Hispanic leadership development in order to make strides toward ethnic diversity.

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, has made efforts toward ethnic diversity within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) by forming advisory councils with African-Americans and Hispanic leaders. Page said he believes that true relationships with other ethnic leaders are fundamental to both unity and evangelism.

Acknowledging Page's action for di-

versity, Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, desires to serve the church by building an institution that reflects the Body of Christ in heaven.

"Ethnic diversity ... is hardwired into the Great Commission," he said. "If we are to truly be a Great Commission



WALTER STRICKLAND

seminary, moving in this direction is really an easy decision and one I wish we had made many years before now."

Walter Strickland, an African-American and two-time graduate of Southeastern, will occupy the special

advisor to the president for diversity position.

"[Ethnic diversity] is not the ultimate goal ...," Strickland said. "The ultimate goal is to fulfill Christ's Great Commission by equipping students to take the gospel to all nations."

As the special advisor to the president for diversity, Strickland will advise the president and his cabinet on matters related to ethnic relations and institutional diversity. He will also help provide curriculum and course level strategies for Southeastern.

Edgar Aponte will serve as the director of Hispanic leadership development.

"My prayer is that we will bring glory to Christ by training and equipping current and future Christian leaders among the Hispanic community in the United States and throughout Latin America," Aponte said. Serving under John Ewart, associate vice president for Global Theological Initiatives, Aponte, Hispanic himself, will provide direction and administra-



EDGAR APONTE

tion for Hispanic leadership development initiatives. He will also build relationships with local and national Hispanic ministries for the expansion of a Hispanic student population at Southeastern.

"Southeastern is here to serve the Spanish-speaking church," Aponte said, "and we want pastors to see us as their ally in serving them as they work to fulfill the Great Commission."

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research and LifeWay's Missiologist in Residence, said on the seminary's Between the Times blog that Southern Baptists need to begin making intentional decisions to train younger generations and attract/reach and welcome ethnic diversity to Southern Baptist church families. He said when Southern Baptists "build a physically diverse [and] spiritually unified community, this presses us forward together for a common mission." And that common mission is the proclamation of the gospel to all nations.

Akin is trying to make Stetzer's statement a concrete reality.

"These newly appointed positions at Southeastern are only a first step, but ones I believe are in the right direction," Akin said. "It is never too late to start doing the right thing. ... This is clearly the right thing to do." **BR**

Two N.C. teens serve as National Acteen panelists

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

North Carolinians Amy Washburn and Anna Carpenter will take the stage during the Woman's Missionary Union's (WMU) annual meeting in Houston to speak about Acteens and living a mission lifestyle.

Washburn and Carpenter are serving as National Acteens Advisory Panelists through the end of the year. They will be at the WMU annual meeting June 9-10 in Houston, just before the SBC's annual meeting begins.

"I have learned to live for opportunities to serve," said Washburn, who recently graduated from Hickory Grove Christian School in Charlotte.

She began in Acteens seven years ago at University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte.

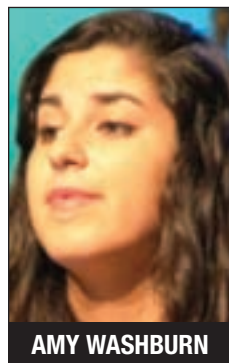
"Acteens has helped me learn how to live a missions lifestyle every day. Acteens has taught me the importance of prayer in living a missions lifestyle, by teaching me how to lead prayers in worship and by praying for missionaries.

"Acteens has taught me how to share my faith and spiritual gifts within my church, the neighborhood, and mission trips across the country."

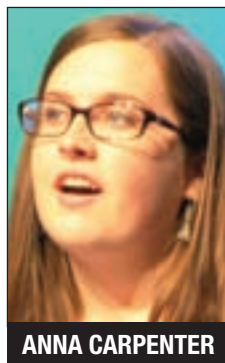
Carpenter recently graduated from Greene Central High School in Snow Hill and is a member at First Baptist Church in Snow Hill, where she became involved in Acteens.

"Missions are God's hands and feet for the world," said Carpenter. "It is impossible to love people and not do missions."

Carpenter has participated in mission



AMY WASHBURN



ANNA CARPENTER

projects at the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH), caroling at local nursing homes and other agencies.

Washburn has also served at BCH, along with projects that include Operation Christmas Child, the Empty Stocking Fund at the YMCA and international student ministry at UNC Charlotte.

Both ladies are leaders in their respective Acteen groups.

They have shared their story about Acteens involvement at a local and state level and will be sharing on a national level in Texas. They are also serving as 2012-2013 N.C. Acteens Advisory Panelists.

Washburn and Carpenter will serve with four other teenage girls on the national panel.

Last year, N.C. had three representatives on the national panel. Acteens is WMU's missions organization for girls in grades 7-12.

The ladies will each receive a \$1,000 Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship for Acteens from the WMU Foundation.

They will also write articles for *The Mag*, the missions magazine for Acteens and the Acteens website, www.wmu.com/students. **BR**

Awaken me O Lord!

Bertha Smith was a Baptist missionary to China and Taiwan and one of the leaders God used to fan the flames of revival in China in 1927. During an intense time of political unrest, the missionaries were gathered together for prayer when the Holy Spirit stopped Smith. Within her heart she was harboring unconfessed sin toward another missionary in the room. Smith immediately confessed her sin to the other missionary and the prayer meeting continued. Heaven

descended on the meeting, more hearts were broken and sins were confessed. The result is what scholars call the Great Shantung Revival of 1927.

Awakenings start with repentant hearts. Therefore, it must begin with me. Not someone else – but me. It's time I understood Matthew 3:2 more clearly. It's not the church in America that needs to repent – it is me. The earth is groaning; the Kingdom is at hand. What then shall we do? Repent!



Dr. Chris Schofield

Prayer Points

- Ask the Father to give you a broken heart over your sin
- Pray for the church in America to be swept with a spirit of repentance, for the Kingdom is at hand

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



Calvinism committee urges SBC to ‘stand together’

By MICHAEL FOUST | Baptist Press

A 19-member advisory committee on Calvinism has issued its report to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee President Frank Page, acknowledging tension and disagreement within the denomination on the issue while urging Southern Baptists to “grant one another liberty” and “stand together” for the Great Commission.

“We can talk like brothers and sisters in Christ, and we can work urgently and eagerly together,” the 3,200-word report reads.

“We have learned that we can have just this kind of conversation together, and we invite all Southern Baptists to join together in this worthy spirit of conversation. But let us not neglect the task we are assigned. The world desperately needs to hear the promise of the [g]ospel.”

The advisory team – not an official committee of the convention – was assembled by Page in August 2012 to advise him on developing “a strategy whereby people of various theological persuasions can purposely work together in missions and evangelism.”

The committee was composed of Calvinists and non-Calvinists from different walks of life in the convention.

The report lists areas of theological agreement and acknowledges differences between the two camps, saying “we do indeed have some challenging but not insurmountable points of tension.”

The committee says its goal was to “speak truthfully, honestly, and respectfully” about the issue, and that disagreements over Calvinism should not “threaten our

Great Commission cooperation.”

“We affirm that Southern Baptists stand together in a commitment to cooperate in Great Commission ministries,” the report says.

“We affirm that, from the very beginning of our denominational life, Calvinists and non-Calvinists have cooperated together. We affirm that these differences should not threaten our eager cooperation in Great Commission ministries.

“We deny that the issues now discussed among us should in any way undermine or hamper our work together if we grant one another liberty and extend to one another charity in these differences. Neither those insisting that Calvinism should dominate Southern Baptist identity nor those who call for its elimination should set the course for our life together.”

Southern Baptists, the report says, should “not only acknowledge but celebrate the distinctive contributions made by the multiple streams of our Southern Baptist heritage.”

“These streams include both Charleston and Sandy Creek, the Reformers and many of the advocates of the Radical Reformation, confessional evangelicalism and passionate revivalism,” it says. “These streams and their tributaries nourish us still.”

Both sides of the theological divide, the report says, have extremes that should be rejected.

“We must stand together in rejecting any form of hyper-Calvinism that denies the mandate to present the offer of the [g]ospel to all sinners or that denies the necessity of a human response to the [g]ospel that involves the human will. Similarly, we must reject any

form of Arminianism that elevates the human will above the divine will or that denies that those who come to faith in Christ are kept by the power of God. How do we know that these positions are to be excluded from our midst? Each includes beliefs that directly deny what The Baptist Faith and Message expressly affirms.”

SBC leaders, entities, churches and even prospective ministers all have a role in ensuring that a debate over Calvinism does not divide the denomination, the report says.

“We should expect all leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention and all entities serving our denomination to affirm, to respect, and to represent all Southern Baptists of good faith and to serve the great unity of our Convention,” the report says. “No entity should be promoting Calvinism or non-Calvinism to the exclusion of the other. Our entities should be places where any Southern Baptist who stands within the boundaries of The Baptist Faith and Message should be welcomed and affirmed as they have opportunities to benefit from, participate in, and provide leadership for those entities.

“We must do all within our power to avoid the development of partisan divisions among Southern Baptists.”

Page will present a report from the advisory committee during the SBC’s annual meeting June 11-12 in Houston, Texas.

See the full report at brnow.org/News/May-2013/SBC-Calvinism-committee-releases-report.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – The Biblical Recorder has created a page on its website for SBC 2013. Visit <http://www.brnow.org/Resources/SBC-2013> to get complete coverage before, during and after the annual meeting.) BR

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NCBM

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things happened. I was supposed to be at work. I decided to stay home for some reason. Because I stayed home, I was able to get my kids to do the things that saved their lives.”

A disaster relief team from North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM) helped Castro and the family find a variety of items they had given up for lost, such as a hard drive containing photos and an urn full of a pet’s ashes. At the time of publication, the N.C. team was working in areas near the elementary school in Moore, Okla., where seven children were killed.

“We’re cutting some trees, and we’re pushing debris, but our number one objective is to help the homeowners find their valuables,” said Bill Martin, project coordinator with NCBM and a member of Mineral Springs Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

After teams sifted through the damage with homeowners, they used skid-steer loaders to push all the remaining debris to the front of the lots so FEMA can haul it away. “It’s ... total devastation,” Martin said. “[Televised news reports are] showing a lot, but it’s not giving it justice like it is on the ground.”

Except for a recovered wedding band, photographs and few other items scattered along the ground, “there’s nothing salvageable,” Martin said.

“The number one thing is pictures – the pictures of the family or friends, children, grandchildren,” he said. “That’s just above everything else to the homeowners. They get their pictures, [and] they’re in pretty good shape.

“The reason is there’s nothing left – washers, dryers, cars, bedroom furniture, clothes ... [are] gone.”

About 50 NCBM volunteers arrived May 23 in Moore. According to reports from the field on May 30, NCBM had helped complete nearly 100 projects since the team arrived. Four professions of faith in Moore – and a total of 15 decisions throughout the state – had been reported as a result of the relief efforts.

Richard Brunson, NCBM executive director, thanked N.C. Baptists for their support of disaster relief missions. He asked people to continue praying for the victims and volunteers.

“North Carolina Baptists have been blessed with over 14,000 trained men and women volunteers and lots of equipment that can be used to minister to hurting people and to glorify God,” he said. “Pray for the teams and the people they will assist.”

N.C. Baptist volunteers were among hundreds of other Southern Baptists who are helping Oklahoma storm survivors in Moore and Shawnee, Okla., following historic tornadoes. More than 40 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) volunteer chaplains have been engaged in the response.

Oklahoma SBDR mobile kitchens had prepared more than 35,000 meals within a week of the disaster, and a total of more than 160 recovery and cleanup jobs had been completed.

“I felt like God called me here,” said Bill Ammons, a volunteer from Bethany Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. “I’ve felt like God has called me other places, too. When He calls me, I go.”

Billy Puckett, a member of First Baptist Church in



Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers Roy Byrd, left, and Bill Ammons clear a damaged tree from a home in Moore, Okla. (Photo by John Swain)

New Orleans, has been helping his Louisiana team with a variety of tasks in Moore, including repairing roofs and debris removal.

Puckett noted that Louisiana has been on the receiving end of significant SBDR work over the past several years – from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to Hurricane Isaac last year. Since Oklahoma Southern Baptists had been such a big part of those efforts, Puckett wanted to help them in their time of need.

“I’d like [the people of Oklahoma] to see that we want to come and stand alongside of people, love on people and hug people during their tough times,” said Puckett, who serves as director of community ministries for the New Orleans Baptist Association. “If they have a bad perspective of the church, I

hope this gives them a new perspective of the church.”

A Kansas-Nebraska SBDR team saw that in action days after the tornado. At one of the ministry locations

the team talked with a 28-year-old woman who was a believer but wasn’t involved in church.

The team’s chaplain, Brian Rothrock, shared with her the story of Nicodemus and encouraged her to get involved in a local church. As the volunteers left, the woman told Rothrock that God had been drawing her back to Him for some time and the experience of seeing the team’s faith in action had left her changed and committed to getting involved in church.

“She got to tell her story,” said Kelly Cook of Crosspoint Church in Hayes, Kan. “She was encouraged, and she was changed. We were just another piece of God showing His love to her.”

The North American Mission Board coordinates and manages Southern Baptist responses to major disasters through partnerships with 42 state Baptist conventions, most of which have their own state disaster relief programs.

Southern Baptists have 82,000 trained volunteers and chaplains and 1,550 mobile units for feeding, chainsaw, mud-out, command, communication, childcare, shower, laundry, water purification, repair/rebuild and power generation. SBDR is one of the three largest mobilizers of trained disaster relief volunteers in the United States, along with the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

For more information about NCBM disaster relief efforts in Oklahoma and how you can help, go to www.baptistsonmission.org/oktornado. To support this effort financially, please donate to the Oklahoma Midwest Tornado Fund; 100 percent of all donations will go toward this disaster. Mail to: NCBM Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512 or donate online by clicking the “Donations” area on the right of website.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Tobin Perry is a writer with the North American Mission Board. Melissa Lilley, who coordinates communications for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Shawn Hendricks, the Biblical Recorder’s managing editor, contributed to this story.) **BR**

“The number one thing is pictures. ... That’s just about everything to the homeowners.”
– Bill Martin

Fruitland to change name, position for future

BR staff

It looks like Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute will officially change its name by inserting “College” in place of “Institute” in the coming months – a move that President David Horton said will better position the school for the future.

The Board of Directors for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) approved the name change during its meeting May 21-22 at Caraway Conference Center and Camp in Sophia. N.C. Baptists will vote on the name change during their annual meeting this November in Greensboro.

Since 1946, Fruitland – which is owned and operated by the BSC – has provided training for pastors and church leaders. Horton described the change as an “update” to what Fruitland could have done in the 1990s when it began offering an associate degree in religion with an emphasis in church ministries.

“It doesn’t really change anything we’re doing,” Horton told board members during the meeting. “It just explains and it expounds upon what we’re trying to accomplish at Fruitland.”

The name change, Horton added, will help Fruitland move forward as it seeks accreditation and develops two new degree tracks in church planting and apologetics. Fruitland also is in the middle of a campaign to raise \$1 million dollars to pay off its chapel, which was built to accommodate 600 people at graduation ceremonies and conferences. In October, N.C. Baptist churches will take a special offering for the campaign and to honor Kenneth Ridings, Fruitland’s former president.

For now, Horton said, Fruitland has no plans to expand beyond being a two-year school, or abandon its roots as an institution that was formed in order to assist local pastors with limited opportunity for formal training.

“Our plates are pretty full right now,” Horton said. “... But I believe we are prepared to move further into this two-year arena and ... [become] a stronger, solid school that can be accredited. And that’s going to take a long time, a lot of work, a lot of patience as we ... are moving forward carefully and cautiously, hand-and-hand with the leadership of our state convention.” **BR**

Plan

Continued from page 1

“The reality is that North Carolina Baptists have failed to reach those who are spiritually lost within the borders of our state,” shared Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC’s executive director-treasurer, in his report. “And in reality we are not making many disciples of those we are reaching.”

Board members approved the BSC’s plan with an overwhelming majority. But approval didn’t happen without about an hour and a half of discussion and debate – nearly all of which focused on the future of N.C. Baptist Campus Ministry.

Under the new plan, the BSC’s Collegiate Partnerships team will work more closely with churches, part-time leaders, volunteers and associations. Together, they will develop networks to strengthen and expand campus ministry throughout the state.

The main point of contention for some N.C. Baptists has involved the BSC’s plans to no longer support full-time ministry positions on college campuses. This would eliminate nine campus ministry positions.

The nine campuses with full-time staff positions include Appalachian State University, Boone; East Carolina University, Greenville; North Carolina State University, Raleigh; University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill; UNC-Asheville, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Pembroke, and Western Carolina University, Cullowhee.

Since announcing the plan, the BSC has received numerous letters and emails from N.C. Baptists regarding campus ministry. The BSC distributed letters for board members to review during the meeting. Those letters voiced concerns that campus ministry will no longer exist or be as effective.

“I’m not going to let that happen,” said Hollifield. “I want to reach more students. I want to keep the students connected to the churches. ... I have no interest in us losing the presence of Baptist Campus Ministry on these campuses.”

The strategy will have to be contextualized and based on the individual needs of each campus to be most effective, Hollifield added. He cautioned that many of the final details of the plan will not be worked out until a 2014 budget is approved in the coming months.

“It’s a new model that is in the process of being formed,” Hollifield said. “We’re going to use what model we need to use to be effective on those campuses.”

For now the BSC plans to hang on to their campus ministry facilities, some of which are old, rarely used or in need of repair. How each building is utilized in the future will depend on the specific



Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC’s executive director-treasurer, talks with Patrick Austin and Sydney Stikeleather, both representing Baptist Campus Ministry, following the Board of Directors meeting May 21. (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

needs of the students, Hollifield said.

One statistic that is fueling the need for change with campus ministry, Hollifield said, involves the number of college students who are leaving the Church after graduation.

“When they leave home and go away to college, more than 85 percent never return to church,” Hollifield said. “You look at these thousands upon thousands of students that are on these campuses ... [and] I’m concerned that many of these students are not connecting with a local church while they are there. ... I’m concerned there is a tendency to see the campus minister as their pastor, and ... they don’t get connected to the church.”

Board members also raised questions and concerns regarding the number of college students who are active in campus ministry efforts.

According to a BSC report, there are around 1,000 total students involved in campus ministry at the nine schools that have a campus minister. BSC staff shared during the meeting that about 2,400 students were “reached” last year through campus ministry on more than 38 N.C. college campuses.

“That’s less than 100 people per campus,” said Phil Addison, a board member and pastor of Stony Point Baptist Church. “You’re talking about campuses that have 10,000 to 20,000 people on them. Don’t get me wrong. What’s the value of a soul? I understand that. But at the same time, we have to be realists and stewards. ... Something is going to have to change. It’s got to change.”

“I personally ... see [the new strategy] as a good thing. I see it as an opportunity to let other churches get involved.”

But some board members expressed

skepticism about the new plan. Concerns involved manpower, logistics and an uneasiness with a new approach toward campus ministry.

“I’m really bothered by this,” said Gerald Morris, a board member and director of missions with the Tuckaseegee Baptist Association. “That’s where I met my wife. ... I did not grow up with a family that went to church on a regular basis. ... That is what kept me going. ... This has been thrown out there so fast.”

Sydney Stikeleather, an ex-officio board member and president of the Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) for the state, also expressed concern about the strategy. She explained how she had felt like a rug had been “pulled out from underneath [her]” when she learned UNC-Charlotte, where she is also president of the school’s BCM, was losing its full-time campus minister.

But during and after the meeting, Stikeleather expressed optimism toward the plan.

“The main thing I took away from this meeting is that none of these people want to see campus ministry end,” she wrote

in an email to campus ministry leaders across the state.

“They recognize the need of the gospel on campus, and they want to spread God’s love in the most efficient and effective way possible.”

Stikeleather appealed to fellow campus ministry leaders to get involved and work with Baptist leadership, churches and associations.

“No one understands your campus and your students better than you,” she wrote.

“You are a vital part of the success of BCM in the future. ... I must ask you to do one of the most difficult things us sinful, selfish, prideful human beings can do: let go and trust God. ... I am excited about the future of BCM. I am excited to see churches take a stronger role in the lives of our students. I am excited to see more students in churches. More than anything, I am excited to see what God has in store for all of us.”

In other business ...

- board members approved a name change for Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, which is owned and operated by BSC. If approved by N.C. Baptists this fall, during their annual meeting, the new name will be Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

- the BSC’s Executive Committee approved the naming of the Jim and Nancy Jacumin Family Retreat Lodge, an 80-bed facility that includes meeting rooms, and kitchen space. The lodge is part of Caraway’s New Beginnings campaign to expand and improve the campus. The Jacumins are members of East Valdese Baptist Church in Valdese. Jim Jacumin is a former N.C. senator and former member of the Board of Directors. The Jacumins gave \$250,000 toward the construction of the lodge, which is set to begin in the coming weeks.

- board members learned that high-speed Internet will be available on the Caraway campus within two weeks.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Sept. 24-25 at Caraway. **BR**



Phil Stone retires

Phil Stone, at right, senior consultant with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) Congregational Services, will retire June 28 after 30 years at the convention. Stone, along with Milton A. Hollifield Jr., left, BSC executive director-treasurer, enjoy the western-themed party May 30 at the BSC building in Cary. Stone’s family and friends attended the event, along with current and former BSC employees. (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

Scouts

Continued from page 1

responsible for this decision. ... This isn't their fault, and they're as much against it as we are. ... In that case our charter obligation outweighs the gap between January and March when this new ruling comes into effect."

Ultimately, the final decision will be up to the deacons and the church body, Attaway added.

"I do not see us going along with the Boy Scouts of America in their [new] configuration," he said. "The decision is completely wrong, not only morally and spiritually, but legally. It's going to open up more opportunities for lawsuits. And it's inconsistent with everything [the BSA] stood for legally and morally up to this point."

"I've heard from a number of the Scout leaders and some of their families, members; they're all against this change," he added. "Many of us fear it's going to be the end of the Boy Scouts of America as it has ever been known."

Across the country

Southern Baptist pastors and leaders across the country have voiced concern and opposition to the policy change. "We're going to have a long, hard discussion of our support for our local troop," said Gregg Simmons, pastor of the Dallas-area Church at the Cross in Grapevine.

For five years Church at the Cross has chartered Troop No. 4. Though he could not speak for the congregation at large, Simmons said it would be difficult for him in good conscience to continue sponsoring an organization that holds unbiblical views.

The new policy is rife with moral confusion and legal ambiguity, said Ben Wright, associate pastor at High Pointe Baptist Church in Austin, but he said the vote is not necessarily a "deal breaker" for High Pointe.

However, progression toward acceptance of homosexual leaders would warrant another review of the relationship, Wright said.

Wright noted Boy Scout guidelines prohibit the promotion of social and political agendas within the organization but "this resolution steps right into that." Discussion with High Pointe Church elders, Wright said, led to the conclusion that the new policy inevitably will lead to the acceptance of homosexual leaders. That change will come from within the organization or be foisted upon it by a lawsuit, he predicted.

Simmons said by giving tacit approval of homosexuality the organization loses its moral bearings.

"How will they maintain 'morally straight'? They have stripped that statement of all meaning," he said, referring to the Scout Oath. "You're not just teaching young men how to build campfires."

Wright said the wording is troubling, leaving the policy open to a myriad of interpretations. The phrases "sexual orientation" and "sexual preference" remove the essential moral fiber from the language.

The phrases imply that a whole host of sexual expressions outside of heterosexuality are simply a matter of natural proclivities, not behaviors that should come under moral scrutiny, Wright said. With their carefully chosen words, the BSA Executive Committee ironically embraced a social agenda, which would be a violation

of the Scout guidebook for Scouts or Scout leaders, he said.

Both pastors said their churches welcome the opportunity to minister to youth or adults who struggle with same-sex attraction. But membership in the church depends on an individual's trust in the Gospel and desire to live according to biblical standards, Simmons said.

Several Southern Baptist leaders have been critical of the Scouts' new policy.

Frank Page, president of the SBC's Executive Committee, said the vote "ushers in a sea-change in the credibility of the Boy Scouts of America as a viable boys' organization for millions of Americans who believe strongly in the principles of biblical morality. To claim that the Boy Scouts is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training suddenly rings hollow."

Richard Land, outgoing president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, advised Southern Baptist churches to withdraw their support of Scout troops and support the Royal Ambassadors ministry to boys.

SBC President Fred Luter said, "My prayers go out to the parents and churches who have been forced to make decisions about being a part of the Boy Scouts organization. As Southern Baptists, our commitment to the Word of God and Christian values must take priority over what is 'politically correct.'"

R. Chip Turner, chairman of the BSA Religious Relationships Committee and former president of the Association of Baptists for Scouting, admitted the language of the new policy is problematic. Turner called

the potentially broad interpretation of the statement "scary." But so, too, is the thought of Southern Baptist churches withdrawing from Scouting and the ministry opportunities it presents, even to young boys struggling with same-sex attraction, he said. Turner wrote an "open letter to Southern Baptists" asking them not to abandon Scouting.

"Are the evangelism and family ministry opportunities now lessened in the church's Scout unit(s)?" he asked. "Are the lost and un-enlisted any less our responsibility now? I respectfully remind us that the Great Commission remains unchanged and no vote can alter this reality. The local church still owns its Scout units and is responsible for selecting the leadership. As 'fishers of men,' are we not to go where the fish are located?"

Russell Moore, president-elect of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission told Baptist Press at the time the decision was announced, "Few, if any, are suggesting the Boy Scouts kick out boys based on their particular temptations. We don't, and shouldn't do that in our churches, much less in the Scouts. But this change is more than this. It doesn't speak in terms of temptations but in terms of the claiming of a sexually politicized identity as morally neutral."

The revision of the membership policy "highlights how important it is for churches to speak clearly of both our love for all people, including our gay and lesbian neighbors, and the importance of God's design for human sexuality for human flourishing," Moore said. "The

gospel doesn't define us, as the culture does, in terms of our wants and desires. The gospel addresses us, all of us, as sinners and calls us to a life of freedom and cross-bearing sacrifice."

Commenting on Turner's open letter, Roger S. Oldham, vice president for convention communications and relations with the SBC Executive Committee, said, "It is disappointing, but not surprising, that Turner's letter repeats the BSA party line – we've changed; but don't leave us!

"Our ability to show the love of Christ will not be hampered by choosing not to expose our children to an organization that has taken the first step toward a worldview at odds with biblical morality," Oldham said. "While Turner's logic may sound reasonable on the surface, it is based in a flawed understanding of the very gospel it references.

"The Boy Scouts have planted the seed of their own destruction. It may take a while for the seed to germinate fully, but when it does, its flower will not bear the pleasant aroma of the gospel. As 'fishers of men,' we are to rescue men and women and boys and girls from the destructive consequences of sin, not subject them to it."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Bonnie Pritchett, a correspondent for the Southern Baptist TEXAN, and Michael Foust and Art Toalston of Baptist Press contributed to this article. Shawn Hendricks, managing editor of the Biblical Recorder, also contributed.) **BR**

Pardue to get BSC Pastor's Conference president nomination

Marty Jacumin, pastor of Bay Leaf Baptist in Raleigh, will nominate Micheal Pardue as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) Pastor's Conference during the 2013 Pastor's Conference in November.

Pardue and his wife of nine years, Rachel, have three sons, Elijah, Jason and Kyle and three daughters, Kristen, Addelyen and Lilyanna. He is native of Taylorsville where he grew up at East Taylorsville Baptist Church. He answered the call to vocational ministry at 13.

He has been the pastor of First Baptist Church in Icard since February. He has previously served in ministry positions in churches in Ellenboro, Bostic, Shelby, Kings Mountain and Taylorsville during his nine years of ministry.

Pardue holds a bachelor's degree in theater arts from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, a master's degree in Christian ministry from the T. Walter Brashier Graduate School at North Greenville University in Greer, S.C., and a doctor of education degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In November 2009, he was elected vice-president of the BSC Pastor's Conference and to the BSC Board of Directors in 2010. Earlier this year he was elected to the Board's Executive Committee. **BR**



MICHEAL PARDUE

"I do not see us going along with the Boy Scouts of America in their [new] configuration. The decision is completely wrong, not only morally and spiritually, but legally."
– John Attaway

You can learn a lot from a turkey

I have discovered that a pastor can learn a lot about ministry from a turkey; or, more accurately, from turkey hunting. I suppose it would have been easier to simply visit the frozen food section of my local grocery store, but then I would not have benefitted from the following ministry insights turkey hunting taught me.

Turkey hunting requires tremendous amounts of patience. One simply cannot make a turkey appear on demand.

Turkeys have their own schedules and routines. The goal of the hunter is to situate himself or herself in places where a turkey will appear. That often requires getting up, walking into the woods well before dawn, and then waiting and waiting.

Something similar is true in ministry. We want to see our churches grow in spiritual maturity and experience spiritual transformation. And, we want it now. Pastors want it now and, too often, lay leaders want it now. After all, it is often reasoned, “that is why we hired a new preacher.” Yet, there is something amazing that happens while we wait: we learn. The pastor and congregation learn to love and trust each other. And, most importantly, we learn to trust God. Waiting reminds us that it is God alone who makes things grow (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Turkey hunting also requires persistence. Patience is needed in a turkey blind on the day of the hunt. Persistence is needed to keep coming back to the woods. Persistence means learning what the birds are doing and adjusting what we are doing in order to put ourselves in a place to take a shot. Turkey season in North Carolina is generally from the first weekend of April until the second weekend of May. It lasts about six weeks. During my first turkey season I did not even hear a bird. In my second season I heard a bird, but did not see one. Finally, in my third season, I saw a turkey. But it took three more days of hunting to finally bag that bird.

Ministry, too, requires persistence. The essence of persistence in ministry is not losing heart. Paul spoke of this very thing in 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. In that passage he talked at length about the variety of discouragements, sufferings and pressures faced in his ministry (2 Corinthians 4:7-12). He concludes that all of those things are working together to reach more people and cause God to be glorified (2 Corinthians 4:13-15). For that reason, he says, “we do not lose heart” (2



ROB POCHEK
Guest column

Corinthians 4:16). Persistence is a willingness to view minor disappointments in light of the bigger picture of what God is doing. It is a reminder that our troubles in ministry are “light and momentary” compared to the “eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Preparation is essential in turkey hunting. In fact, when a couple turkey hunters pack up their truck for a hunt, one would think they were going away on a two-week trip. Turkey hunting usually involves some kind of ground blind (a camouflaged pup tent), a chair, turkey calls, additional bird calls, multiple layers of camouflage clothing, boots, hats, masks, a backpack with water and light snacks, and, of course, a shotgun. In addition, it is wise to have scouted the area one is hunting prior to the season starting in order to have an idea where the birds may be roosting. None of these things, by themselves, guarantees that one will even hear a bird. But, without these things, the chances of actually bagging a bird are quite rare.

Preparation is essential in ministry, too. It seems to me that in ministry there are at least three kinds of preparation that are essential: character, competence and culture.

Character here refers to a heart that is fixed on Christ and that demonstrates that in moral living. Think about Paul’s list of requirements for an overseer in 1 Timothy

3:1-7 (and Titus 1:7-9). The bulk of those requirements are moral qualifications. One needs to take holiness seriously to effectively lead God’s people. Competence refers to one’s “skill set” for ministry. In the aforementioned list, only one of those requirements has to do with “skill set,” yet it is too often neglected. Paul says a pastor’s primary skill needs to be the ability to “teach” God’s word to God’s people. In short, if a pastor is not a good preacher/teacher, he is not a good pastor.

By culture I mean a missionary mindset about the culture in which one serves: both inside and outside the church. The ability to adapt to morally indifferent matters of culture, rather than criticize it is vital. If I can learn the terminology and habits of the people I am trying to minister to, I will likely be more effective in sharing the gospel with them.

The final lesson that turkeys taught me had to do with pests: ticks and snakes, in particular. Because turkey season happens when the weather is warming up, both snakes and ticks are out in abundance. In the woods, ticks can be hard to spot. If you don’t spot them, they cling to you, burrow under your skin, and suck the lifeblood out of you. Snakes, too, are camouflaged rather well. But, when I spot one, I try to move in the other direction.

Let’s be honest, ministry has “pests” too. There can be people like who are a lot like ticks and snakes in our lives. Yet, they are people for whom Christ died. When we face pests in ministry, we need to be reminded that “it is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:24b).

I admit readily that I am not a great turkey hunter. But, I do believe turkey hunting has made me a better pastor. I have learned a lot from a turkey, and I pray these insights will be a blessing in your life and ministry.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Rob Pochek is the senior pastor at Raleigh Road Baptist Church in Wilson.) **BR**

TAR HEEL VOICES

Open letter to N.C. Baptists concerning campus ministry

(EDITOR’S NOTE – The following is an open letter written May 20 to North Carolina Baptists and Milton Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of N.C. by Don Rogers, a retired campus minister from University of North Carolina at Charlotte.)

Dear Milton:

Since I have been stunned at your recent decisions regarding campus ministers and campus ministry in general, I must tell you and others how I feel.

Your recent article in the *Biblical Recorder* indicates that you hope to establish “collegiate partnerships” with local churches to carry out the convention’s mission with students. In doing so, you hark back to the early days when churches which began student ministry

requested that local associations and the state convention provide help because they were unable to meet the need.

Going backwards is hardly a worthy goal.

I remember how excited I was to be invited to come to Charlotte in 1978 to join one of the most outstanding group of men and women who were dedicated to the task of doing the Lord’s work on campuses throughout the state. The reputation of North Carolina Baptists and their vision for campus ministry were widely known and appreciated by those who understood the breadth and depth of that vision.

When I retired in 1999, I did not anticipate that you would move so directly to diminish the work on the campuses that others had so carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully established over decades

of ministry.

I urge you to reconsider your position; and I am encouraging North Carolina Baptists to refuse to follow leadership that would reduce the effectiveness of ministry to students, staff and faculty. Clearly, this is a poorly thought-out plan of action. Also, it is obvious that no one who was knowledgeable about campus ministry was included in this decision making.

Numerous former students who were associated with North Carolina Baptist Campus Ministry are now leaders and faithful church members all over the world. Their testimonies would provide strong support for the continuance of campus ministry in North Carolina as they experienced it.

Don Rogers
Trade, Tenn.

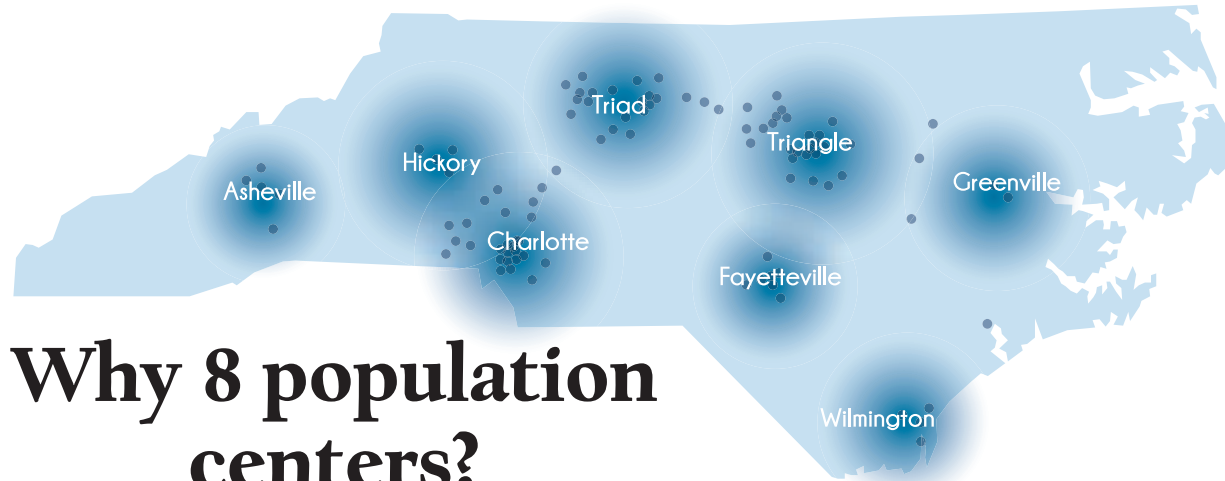
OPPORTUNITY CORNER

WMU-NC plans leader training

Exemplifying Excellence is a dual training experience for associational and church Woman’s Missionary Union leaders. Associational leaders will be trained in their specific duties and responsibilities in their role of serving churches of the association. Training will be held July 12-13 at First Baptist Church of Salisbury and July 26-27 at First Baptist Church of Wallace.

Church leaders will learn about their roles and resources in missions education for the local church July 13 in Salisbury and July 27 in Wallace. The early bird cost for each training is \$25 prior to June 15; the cost is \$35 after June 15. Registration is not complete until payment is received. Registration will close on July 1 for Salisbury and July 15 for Wallace.

Visit www.wmunc.org.



Why 8 population centers?

A few weeks ago I was driving on Market Street in Greensboro and passed by the location where, as a child, I went to my first drive-in movie with my parents. Back then it was a field just a short distance from the old Baptist Book Store. Times have changed.

The old movie theater is gone, the Baptist Book Store, now LifeWay, has moved and this part of town has become an international marketplace. In a half-mile stretch you can find food, markets, phone cards and much more from all over the world. My hometown and our state are changing.

Research conducted by the Intercultural Institute for Contextual Ministry has identified the top 100 areas of lostness in North Carolina.

The study revealed that 97 percent of the areas of lostness are located around eight population centers across our state. These centers are: Charlotte, the Triangle, the Triad, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Hickory, Asheville and Greenville.

The concentration of lostness in eight population centers was not the only reality discovered. In additional research of the United States Census Data, we learned that the eight population centers are home to nearly 75 percent of the total population of N.C. The growth rate in these areas from 2000 to 2010 was 22.33 percent. This data confirmed that our state is becoming more urban and suburban and less rural.

The numbers alone do not tell the whole story. Within the total numbers, it was discovered that the eight population centers are also becoming more ethnically diverse.

The percentage of the ethnic population of N.C. living in the eight population centers has reached 77.82 percent. The rate of growth of the ethnic population in the eight population centers is more rapid than the population as a whole.

The concentration of lostness, the population growth rates and the increasing ethnic diversity in the eight population centers are all realities that cannot be ignored.

The current number of churches affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of N.C. is almost equal within the eight population centers as outside the centers. This means that in the population centers there is one N.C. Baptist church for every 2,929 people. This is compared to one N.C. Baptist church for every 1,289 people outside the eight population centers.

So why focus on eight population centers? The reality is that lost people live throughout our entire

state. It is estimated that nearly 5.8 million people in N.C. are without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We cannot ignore one single person who is among the 5.8 million. However, we cannot ignore that a majority of the 5.8 million live in eight areas of our state.



MIKE SOWERS
Guest column

I learned an important lesson as a young boy growing up on a farm in Colfax. When the hay needed to be harvested, people came from all over town to get it up and put it in the barn. We all worked together until the work was done and celebrated when it was complete. This is the time for all N.C. Baptists to come together and reap the harvest.

No single church or association can accomplish the task alone, but working cooperatively we can reach the lost and disciple new believers more effectively. If

we commit to fulfill the Great Commission we can impact lostness through disciple-making across the state and fulfill our Convention's vision of becoming, "... the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Mike Sowers is the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's senior consultant for the Office of Great Commission Partnerships. This column is the latest in a series by the BSC to explain its new strategy approved by the Executive Committee [April 2013] and the Board of Directors [May 2013]. See BRnow.org/Resources/Impacting-Lostness.) **BR**



Strategic partnerships help advance the Kingdom

About a week ago, members of our staff returned from a Southeast Asia vision tour. They met with International Mission Board missionaries and spent time in villages with local believers. They also explored opportunities for North Carolina Baptists to engage this area of the world with the gospel, which is home to more than 340 unreached, unengaged people groups.

Our Office of Great Commission Partnerships, led by Michael Sowers, is doing a tremendous job helping N.C. Baptists reach lost people not only in Southeast Asia, but also in Moldova through a partnership with the Baptist Union of Moldova.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

I was blessed to join members of our staff last year for a mission trip to Moldova and saw firsthand the great need for evangelism and discipleship. A group of pastors participated in a weeklong Moldova vision tour last fall with the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, and as a result, N.C. Baptists are now engaged in five of the nine regions in Moldova.

Jimmy Huffman and Camp Caraway staff returned not long ago from a camping summit in Moldova, helping train leaders in how to use camps to reach people for Christ.

Through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, N.C. Baptists are also committing to strategic, intentional partnerships in Boston, metro New York and Toronto. Three new partnerships have already formed this year in the Boston areas of Falls River, Lowell and Charles River.

Twenty-one churches are now focused on partnering in the Greater Toronto Area, home to nearly one out of every five residents of Canada. More than 140 languages and dialects are spoken in Toronto.

I am also excited to tell you that plans are already underway for this year's Coats for Queens outreach in New York. Last year, with the leadership of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C. Baptists spread out in Queens and Brooklyn to give away free coats to anyone in need, and to pray and share the gospel with people. This year, the goal is to collect 50,000 coats and distribute Jesus videos in various languages.

I want to ask that you please begin praying for a group of students who will serve two weeks later this month in metro New York as part of their second year of training through the Next Generation Missional Journey. This three-year initiative, sponsored by Great Commission Partnerships, trains young mission leaders.

These students will serve alongside the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA) and work among the Sri Lankan people on Staten Island, an area MNYBA is targeting for a new church plant.

I am grateful to God for Baptist people who are investing their lives in these partnership areas so that we can see God's Kingdom advanced.

As you rejoice about all of this mission involvement, realize that you are helping make it all possible when your church supports missions through the Cooperative Program. Has your church accepted the 1% CP Challenge?

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15 **BR**

Why every pastor should read about Melissa's suicide

(EDITOR'S NOTE – This week I yield my space to Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. In a recent blog he shared this moving comment on Frank Page's newly released book about his daughter's suicide. This is a subject that can no longer be hushed. Two months ago a member of the Biblical Recorder's Board of Directors and long-time pastor in our state chose to take his life. Incredible grief was pressed on so many. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the suicide rate for people aged 35 to 64 jumped 28 percent between 1999 and 2010. This disturbing fact means more Americans die of suicide than by car accidents. It happens to Christians and non-Christians. We can learn from the Page family.)



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

The words seem cliché in some ways: "It's a parent's greatest fear." But they are not cliché. They are real. And haunting.

Frank and Dayle Page had the "perfect" family. Or so it seemed to many of us on the outside looking in. Frank had pastored a megachurch. He had been elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Even today he serves as president and chief executive officer of the administrative offices of the denomination. And he has three lovely daughters.

But one of those daughters, Melissa, was troubled most of her life. She was spunky and compassionate at the same time, but her life was dominated by problems and depression.

Melissa took her own life.



THOM RAINER
Guest column

A courageous story

Page decided to write a book about Melissa. He took the courageous path. There are no false platitudes in this book. No syrupy cover-up for the distinguished Page family.

No holding back. The book delivers one hard punch after another. It details the day Melissa took her life. And Frank writes again and again about Melissa's last words on that fateful day: "Daddy, I love you."

He writes it because he wants to remember her love for him. He writes it as if he can grab the words and snatch Melissa back to life. He writes it with both gratitude and deep pain.

Frank told me that he wrote this book out of selfishness; he said he wrote it for his own therapeutic needs.

I don't buy it.

Certainly there was a therapeutic value for him to write the book, but there is no hint of selfishness. It took deep courage to write this book.

Taking down the façade

Many of us in vocational ministry want to try to fool our churches and the world.

We want to act like our home has no problems.

We never fight with our spouses. Our children are the embodiment of angelic beings. We are never tempted. We have no sin issues in our lives.

And we certainly don't have family members who are depressed, and perhaps, suicidal.

Frank Page takes down the façade. He lets us see a real family with real problems, with real struggles, and real hurts. It's a family not that much different than all of ours. It's a Christian family in a fallen world.

Why you should read this book

I wish every Christian leader in America would read this book. Frankly, I wish every Christian would read this book. It is one of the most powerful books I have ever read.

I read the entire 200 pages in one sitting. I could not stop. I did take occa-

sional breaks to wipe tears from my eyes. And I did take a few other breaks to pray. But I couldn't put the book down.

You need to read this book. You really do.

You need to hear the story behind suicide. We recently were shocked and saddened to hear about Rick Warren's son's suicidal death. We were reminded again that depression and suicide

could come to any family. Your family. My family. You need to understand some of the issues behind depression and suicide so you can more effectively minister to others. Indeed, you may find yourself using the book to minister to your own family.

I also pray that this book will get into the hands of thousands of persons who are contemplating suicide. Frank writes a series of letters to those who are struggling to the point where they may take their own lives.

You should also read this book to see how a Christian leader courageously allows others to see the real world of a messy family. We all, to some degree, have messy families. But we are often too prideful to admit it.

Be a part of a movement

On Friday, May 31, 2013, we published the podcast interview I recorded with Frank Page on this blog (*ThomRainer.com*). Please take less than 30 minutes to listen. You really do need to do so for your own ministry and, perhaps, for your own family.

Then get the book. It's called *Melissa*:

**"It took deep courage
[for Frank Page] to write
this book."**

A Father's Lessons from a Daughter's Suicide. Read it for your ministry. Read it for your family. Read it for yourself.

Perhaps a movement will grow from this book.

Perhaps lives will be saved because we have a greater awareness and sensitivity to this darkness. Perhaps we will learn to love more deeply. Perhaps we will become more compassionate people.

On one weary occasion, Frank Page was asked how many children he had. Because he was so tired of explaining where the third child was, he conveniently omitted Melissa.

As soon as he did, he had deep grief and remorse. He had denied his first-born, his third daughter. He vowed never to leave out Melissa again. Yes, she had committed suicide, but she was a believer. Frank has no doubt where she is today. He will never deny her existence again.

Melissa lives for us too. Her story, told by her father, is one of the most incredible tomes I've ever read.

Thank you, Frank. Thank you Frank and Dayle Page.

Thank you for your courage. Thank you for your love of your family. And thank you for giving life to Melissa.

May her story give life to many more.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Thom S. Rainer serves as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. He publishes a daily blog at *ThomRainer.com*, where this column was originally published, and can be found on Twitter @ThomRainer and at facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer.) **BR**

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices (letters to the editor)

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

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June 16

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

June 23

God Delivers His People

Focal Passages: Exodus 3:7-10; 12:12-13, 29-31; 14:5-6, 13-14, 21, 26

As a young man I first heard the hymn that asks, “Does Jesus Care?” The chorus responds, “Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief.” What a comfort to know that God not only knows our situations, but He also shows us with lovingkindness. However, God has not comforted us to be mere spectators; He will use us in this midst of trials to bring glory to Himself. Imagine Moses’ surprise at the burning bush when God declared, “I will send you to Pharaoh.” Are you ready to be used as part of God’s comfort to His people?

Passover sacrifices were an act of faith foreshadowing God’s sacrifice of Jesus for the salvation of His people, by grace through faith.

As Jesus prepared to die on the cross, He taught His disciples that the Passover meant much more than ancient deliverance from Egyptian slavery. He would be “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). God’s holiness and justice demand judgment on sin. His

grace placed that judgment on His Son: “He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24). Have you celebrated God’s grace in your life lately?

Some charismatic groups claim to have cornered the market on “deliverance ministry.” Such ministries typically focus on deliverance from a variety of immediate threats, such as drugs, alcohol or pornography.

While everyone should desire freedom from individual sins, we must focus on God’s overarching deliverance from sin and death. This deliverance frees us from the clutches of all the lesser traps of life. God delivered the children of Israel from slavery and unto the Promised Land. As Christians we have been delivered from sin and unto righteousness.

Only disobedience can cause us to die in the wilderness outside the center of God’s will. Where are you?



TROY RUST
Senior pastor,
Somerset Baptist Church,
Roxboro

Focal Passages: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-8, 12-17; 24:4-8

When my father confronted my childhood disobedience I would often say, “I forgot.” Unfortunately, he was always willing to refresh my memory as discipline was delivered. In the Old Testament Israel often struggled with forgetting. As God handed down the Ten Commandments He began by reminding the children of Israel of His work in delivering them. People who have been delivered by God’s power must strive to maintain lives of singular devotion to Him.

We all know that talk is cheap and people can claim to be anything they think someone else will believe. I once knew a man who tried to convince everyone he had been a Navy Seal, an ATF agent and a special informant for the local police department. While one claim might have been believable, the continued stacking

of outlandish tales with a life that contradicted them proved the man to be the president of the local liar’s club. Is your testimony believable? Are you talking the talk AND walking the walk?

When the children of Israel had received the Law they offered sacrifices to God and beheld the consuming fire of His glory (Exodus 24). Sadly their mountaintop experience soon faded. In his book *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald Whitney tells the story of a childhood birthday party that was highlighted by him buying each partygoer a ticket to the local high school basketball game. His dream of having fun watching the game with his friends collapsed as they all ran off, each in his own direction. They forgot who bought their tickets and who they were supposed to be celebrating. Selfish is the enemy of worship. Do we celebrate Jesus in corporate worship and private devotion, or seek to indulge ourselves? When the Israelites should have been demonstrating lives of worship to the God who redeemed them, they turned aside to do as their flesh desired. How often do we fail to show consistent obedience to God and opt for “me time?”

June 16

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

June 23

Who Said Life Would Be Fair?

Focal Passages: Job 15:5-6, 9-10, 20; 16:19-21; 19:5-6, 25-27; 21:7-9

Early in May my wife and I visited our son who lives in Baltimore. He is the program director for the Downtown Sailing Center, a non-profit organization that runs a special sailing program for children and adults with disabilities. On Saturday morning we observed about 25 participants and an almost equal number of volunteers sailing the Inner Harbor. We spoke briefly with a young woman who appeared to be about the age of our son. She shared that she had brought her mother, who was a paraplegic. She did not share what caused her mom’s condition, nor did we ask. What was obvious was she loved her mom, and was doing what she could to help make life better for her. Another sailor was a man named Bob. Apparently Bob was a regular, because even though he had no capacity to get in the boat unaided, and minimal verbal communication ability, he was able to sail solo, and do it quite well.

The question “Who Said Life Would Be Fair?” is a most difficult question to

ask and answer. A few years ago my dad had a leg amputated. Since then he’s dealt with other health-declining issues. To his credit, he’s been a trooper. He doesn’t invite or want pity. As best as he can, he strives to live.

Today’s text includes conversations from the second series of speeches between Job and his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. As someone once said to me, “With friends like that, who needs enemies?” Collectively, they possessed little tolerance for Job’s assertion that he was blameless. Eliphaz called Job “a sinner using crafty language;” Job’s own words condemned him. Bildad and Zophar concurred that Job must be “guilty as sin.” Job’s counter to these hurting assertions was his continued belief in God: “His heavenly witness is his advocate (16:19) and he knows that his Redeemer lives (19:25).” That being said, Job still could not understand why the wicked and their families were prospering while he was living in torment.



WAYNE PROCTOR
Pastor, Eure
Baptist Church

Focal Passages: Job 28:1-4, 12-13, 15-16, 20-23, 26-28

A popular children’s game is “Gossip.” The children sit in a circle and the first person tells a line, such as “The purple dragon eats buttercups and honey.” By the time it has passed through about a dozen ears, the final product may sound something like this, “Purple is my favorite color, and I like to eat honey.” Unfortunately, this children’s game portends real life. Who can you trust with your inner questions, your deepest secrets, your doubts and fears? Further, this quandary is escalated in the present be-

cause of social media. To give an example, I recently visited a church member in the hospital. By the time I reached her, word of her admittance was already on Facebook. Later I heard that it was reported that she was in the hospital in Greenville (which she wasn’t) and that she had food poisoning (which she didn’t).

Whom Can I Trust?

Job had little reason to trust the advice, opinions or diagnoses of his friends. To summarize their third series of speeches to Job: “You’re delusional. No human being is sinless. Not only are you guilty, you are abundantly wicked, you are trying to hide endless iniquities.” Job’s counter was defiant: “I will never affirm that you are right; I will maintain my integrity until I die (27:5).” Job’s dilemma, however, extended far beyond the “sage-like” attempts of Eliphaz and Bildad to give a rational reason for their friend’s misery. Job’s greater problem was making sense of God. He admitted that God was elusive to him, that his search for God was not going well. Further, he was terrified in God’s presence (23:15).

To give Job credit, in chapter 28 he begins to identify a key component to his inner healing: God’s wisdom. He contrasts it with commodities we find precious, such as silver or gold. Yes, we can mine them from the deepest recesses of the earth and buy and sell them, but we can’t exchange them for wisdom. Wisdom comes from God, and we are wise when we fear Him.

Students

Continued from page 2

share the love of God that will open the door for sharing the gospel.”

To that end, the ultimate goal extends beyond the students’ first week in North Carolina. The goal is to lead students to faith in Jesus Christ so they return home as Christian leaders.

“We need to raise up more international Christian leaders so that we are not just sending American missionaries. This is a great way to meet that need,” Joo said. “If we can disciple these international students, they will be more effective than missionaries because

they don’t have to go through language training, and they know their culture. They can go and serve their community and share the gospel there. It’s a strategic ministry with much potential.”

Volunteers will play an important role toward achieving that goal. Joo is praying for volunteers to build lasting relationships with students.

“Once volunteers meet with students and help them out in August, I encourage them to invite the students to their home for dinner or something else,” Joo said. “True friendship gets started from there.”

Beginning in September, Joo will provide cross-cultural training to help volunteers learn how to build lasting relationships with students and how to engage in spiritual conversation. Volunteers are invited to attend but not required.

Joo asked N.C. Baptists to prayerfully consider participating this August by volunteering time and resources to help share the love of Christ with international students.

Visit www.firstweekinus.com, email sjoo@ncbaptist.org or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5562. **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Small Southern Baptist church, Taylor Memorial, located in the Sandhills area of North Carolina is seeking a **pastor**. For more information, please see our website www.taylormemorialbaptistchurch.com.

South Side Baptist Church is accepting resumes for **Full-Time Pastor**. SSBC is committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, the SC Baptist Convention, and the Lakelands Baptist Association. SSBC affirms the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Seminary training from an accredited Southern Baptist seminary is required. Send resumes to South Side Baptist Church, 505 West Greenwood Street, Abbeville, SC 29620, or email to trampusc@gmail.com.

Casual/Contemporary, SBC-aligned Baptist church with a progressive worship style is seeking a doctrinally conservative, team-oriented, Kingdom-minded **Pastor-Teacher** to lead a congregation of approximately 200 members. Submit resumes to Howard’s Creek Baptist Church, 240 Howard’s Creek Church Road, Boone, NC 28607, Attn: Pastor Search Committee or send email to howardscreek@bellsouth.net.

Reeds Baptist Church, a SBC congregation located in Lexington, North Carolina, is seeking a **full-time pastor** with five or more years of ministry experience and a master of divinity degree. Candidate should be a gifted communicator/preacher who can teach and challenge others to apply Biblical principles. He should be a proven leader who works well with others and motivates them to discover spiritual gifts and use them in service to the church, community outreach, and missions. Send resumes and DVD to: Pastor Search Committee, 180 Reeds Baptist Church Rd., Lexington, NC 27295.

First Baptist Church seeks **Pastor** who is evangelistic minded, has strong administrative skills, Bible believing and has a servant spirit to minister to a congregation with a vision. Masters in Divinity and five years or more pastoral experience required. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 2600 Rouse Road, Kinston, NC 28504, or gordonelucas@yahoo.com.

Zion Baptist Church (www.zionbaptistshelby.com) is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We are a moderate congregation that is dually aligned with the SBC and CBF. We seek a candidate with a minimum of 5 years pastoral experience that is also a graduate of an accredited seminary or divinity school. Qualities we desire are a servant leader, a person with strong interpersonal skills, and an inspiring preacher. Send resume to Zion Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, 525 W. Zion Church Road, Shelby, NC 28150, or email resume to jlail@yahoo.com. Resumes will be accepted through July 15, 2013.

Senior Pastor, Salem Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, VA (salembc.com). SBC congregation affirming female deacons and 1963 Baptist Faith & Message. Diverse congregation with strong commitment to local missions. Many young professional families and urban commuters. Contemporary and traditional worship. Seeking a visionary leader, biblical preacher, and creative worship planner. Resumes: pastorsearch@salembc.com by June 15.

Church Staff

New Hope Baptist Church in Earl, NC, is seeking a **full-time Youth and Children Minister**. Send resume to New Hope Baptist Church Attention: Search Committee, P.O. Box 116, Earl, NC 28038, or russandmo@aol.com.

The Memorial Baptist Church of Greenville, North Carolina seeks a **full-time Minister of Youth/Children and Families**. The ideal candidate will have attended a CBF related seminary and/or divinity school and will have at least one year’s experience ministering in one or more of these areas. Greenville, with a population of 100,000, is the home of East Carolina University. We are located half-way between Raleigh and the beach, about an hour’s drive from each. Our church is growing and healthy and would be an excellent opportunity for singles or families alike. Please send resumes to Holly Sloan, Committee Chairperson at hollybsloan@gmail.com or to our pastor, Greg Bowers, at bowersg@tmbc.org. Additional information, including a full job description, can be found at our website www.tmbc.org.

First Baptist Church is seeking a church staff member called to lead in **Youth and Children’s Ministry**. Applicants are asked to submit an application, cover letter and resume to the church before June 21. Applications are available on the church web site - www.woodruff1st.org. First Baptist Church, 801 Cross Anchor Road, Woodruff, SC 29388; (864) 476-8171; office@woodruff1st.org.

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

Conservative Southern Baptist church in Charlotte area seeking a candidate for **full-time Minister of Children**. Primary responsibility will be working with school age K-5. College and seminary preferred. Some experience and Awana background desired. Send resume to Children’s Minister Search, PO Box 31046, Charlotte, NC 28231.

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC, is receiving resumes for the full-time staff position of **Director of Children & Family Ministries**. The candidate will have a four-year college degree and a minimum of two years of experience in leading programs for children ages birth through fifth grade. The position is responsible for planning and administering a comprehensive ministry (including counseling) to children and their parents. Send resumes to: joann.hampton@cornerstonesbc.org.

Naples Baptist Church in Hendersonville, NC, is seeking a **part-time choir director**. For more information call the church office at 828-692-7982 or send a resume to naplesbchurch@hotmail.com.

Miscellaneous

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There are few people who commit to something and stick to it. But standing up for a just cause and doing what is right is important to Dr. Michael Blackwell. For 30 years, he has been a strong advocate for children. It's been no secret how he feels and to what lengths he would go to serve those who are least among us.

On July 1, Blackwell marks his 30th anniversary as the leader of Baptist Children's Homes. Always with his finger on the pulse of the needs of children and families, Blackwell has pushed the boundaries of innovation to implement new ministries.



He has overseen growth in traditional services as well as created ground-breaking programs for developmentally disabled adults and the aging. And under his leadership, the ministry has maintained unwavering stability despite turbulent social changes and financial challenges.

Over the years, Blackwell has sustained an unprecedented breadth of support from North Carolina Baptists. His influence among Baptists goes well beyond his role as president/CEO of Baptist Children's Homes affording him the unique opportunity to preach in hundreds of churches across the state, from small village congregations to large urban churches.

Today, Blackwell remains as energized as ever, committed to serve North Carolina's most vulnerable.



Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina
 P.O. Box 338 Thomasville, NC 27361 www.bchfamily.org

