

## Yellow shirts a 'blessing' to residents

NCBM leader says four more months in Raleigh

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

**A**s a young boy, Lin Honeycutt never imagined that he would one day be coordinating recovery efforts in the neighborhood where he was raised.

"It's been quite an experience," Honeycutt said. "It's been a big blessing to be able to help people I've known all my life."

He lives, works and goes to church in the same area where he grew up in south Raleigh and is the white hat coordinator for the North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM). NCBM set up its Raleigh headquarters at Carolina Pines Baptist Church on South Saunders Street, a hard-hit area of the capital city after an April 16 tornado carved a path through houses and businesses, streets and playgrounds.

As of June 4, Honeycutt said Baptist Men and its volunteers had completed 575 chain saw jobs with at least 60 more to go. Honeycutt estimated that chain saw jobs will be complete within a couple of weeks and all volunteers will be redirected to restoring and rebuilding efforts.

NCBM has agreed to adopt Stony Brook Mobile Home Park, which originally had 180 homes. Baptist Men will rebuild or restore 100 of the homes that were deemed salvageable.

"We're getting the families out of the shelters and back into their homes, said the Highland Baptist Church member.



BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle

**SWARMING** — A team from Red Mountain Baptist Church in Rougemont works to cut and remove a tree in a south Raleigh yard. From left, Wally Watson, Eric Sanders, Bill Johnson and Jamie Gillie spend their Saturday on mission while another team from their church served at Samaritan's Inn in Durham.

Because of the amount of devastation, he believes NCBM will be at Carolina Pines for at least four more months.

Honeycutt, who has seen more than his fair share of disasters in his 22 years of volunteering with NCBM, compared the destruction to hurricanes — Katrina and Floyd.

### Recapping experience

Honeycutt was in Winston-Salem April 16 at one of the Baptist Men's regional training weekends. He was on

his way home Saturday afternoon when he received a call redirecting him to Sanford where a home improvement store was demolished.

He was 30 minutes from Sanford when he received a second call telling him to go home because a tornado was tearing across his area.

"I kind of freaked out," said Honeycutt, who could not imagine a tornado hitting downtown. "I didn't know what to expect."

After talking to his wife about what she was seeing, "I put it in high gear,"

he said. Honeycutt drove to his business and unhooked a camper he had used at disaster relief training.

"I couldn't even get down the streets," he said. "South Saunders was blocked off completely. There were no lights anywhere."

Compared to others, Honeycutt said the damage at his business was minimal — roof, ceiling and signage.

By 10:30 p.m. Honeycutt was surveying the church with a flashlight to

(See Yellow Page 5)

## Garner church celebrates American Idol

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

**S**eeing Scotty McCreery grow up through First Baptist Church in Garner to become this season's American Idol is no surprise to Travis Tobin.

"We are very proud and pleased in how he's represented the Lord," said Tobin, FBC's senior pastor.

When the 17-year-old defeated Lauren Alaina in the final show May 25 he knew exactly who to thank: "I thank the Lord. He got me here."

When he made the final three, McCreery came home to Garner to a warm welcome. Thousands of fans packed a Garner park and showed up throughout the day at his various appearances.

"It's really unbelievable how all this has come together quickly," Tobin said. "He was quick to honor the Lord while he was here."

Tobin remembers it was almost a year ago that McCreery went to Milwaukee to audition for the show.

After receiving his prized Hollywood ticket, McCreery caught a plane back to Raleigh to go with his youth group on a mission trip to New York.

McCreery has been part of the church's youth praise band on Wednesday nights, and throughout season 10 of American Idol, has been sharing symbols of his faith.

"We knew he was trying to let us know he had his mind and heart on the Lord," explained Tobin, who said he's spotted McCreery wearing a BeDoTell shirt, reflecting the Baptist State Convention's youth ministry. He also wears a cross necklace and an "I am Second" wristband, showing his support for a movement that chronicles the personal stories of struggle and transformation of celebrities and everyday people.

When asked about McCreery's faith life, Tobin said that the teen feels closer to God than ever before even though it has been a struggle not being part of his church family.

Scotty and his mother have only been able to attend

(See Garner Page 2)



**WINNER** — Scotty McCreery made a name for himself on American Idol and brought attention to his faith. McCreery, 17, won the competition May 25. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Garner.



# Garner church celebrates Idol

(Continued from Page 1)

church services a couple of times since being in Hollywood.

"It's been more of Scotty with his mom spending time in prayer," Tobin said. "One of the things he desires is that God give him a greater hunger for His Word."

Tobin said the students have tried to include Scotty in worship on Wednesday a couple of times via Skype. Because of the time difference, he could usually participate some.

During his May 14 homecoming, about 130 church members wearing "Team Scotty" yellow T-shirts canvassed the park distributing tracts that included "My Story," Scotty's personal testimony, and sharing how to have a relationship with Christ. The volunteers also helped people with directions and

provided assistance to town officials.

"In between his songs, he was quick to give testimony to the Lord," Tobin said. "My prayer is that he'll keep walking with the Lord so He'll keep blessing him."

Tobin believes "people fell in love with Scotty and the character he exhibited."

Because of Scotty, the church has seen an uptick in emails as well as visitors. Tobin said on Memorial Day weekend, typically a low turnout day for most churches, there were more visitors than normal. Tobin has received emails from across the country and around the world praising Scotty for his Christian witness.

"It's been an interesting experience," said Tobin, who is becoming known as "Scotty's pastor." "God's showing favor to Scotty right now."

## Well-known conservative N.C. pastor, Gerald Primm, dies

Gerald C. Primm, 89, former pastor of Eller Memorial Baptist Church in Greensboro, died May 28 at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital.

Known as a strong conservative leader in North Carolina, Primm worked to restore the biblical roots of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

"He served the Lord with all his heart and as the Scripture says of others, 'lived to be old and full of days,'" said Barry Nealy, director of missions at Three Forks Baptist Association.

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, called Primm a "great man."

Primm fought in World War II as a fighter pilot. He flew 56 combat missions in a P-38 Lightning covering several countries.

"Gerald was a jewel of a man," said CJ Bordeaux, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham.

His exploits as a fighter pilot ranged from starting his European service in Casablanca, to starting his combat missions in Mateur, Tunisia, in Northern Africa and in escorting bombers to Sardinia.

After Sardinia was liberated by the Allies, he was stationed at Sardinia where he suffered from a bout of yellow jaundice.

Six of his combat missions were flown out of Gioia del Colle on Italy

proper. The most harrowing was the mission to escort bombers to bomb a ball-bearing plant in Wiener-Neustadt, Austria.

When the bombers arrived at Wiener-Neustadt they had to abort their mission due to weather, but this just started the travails of Gerald as the enemy were spotted.

Gerald counted about 25 of them and then another 35 were spotted for a total of 60.

Outnumbered by 60 to 16, Gerald's plane was fixed upon, and a bullet knocked out his hydraulic system and one engine. His wing flaps were not maneuverable and his landing gear would not deploy.

Gerald dismissed bailing out over Yugoslavia and decided to skim the mountain tops and glide over the Adriatic Sea. To compound Gerald's problems a German plane was coming in for the kill and one of Gerald's fellow pilots, Jim Advay, came to the rescue and drove the enemy fighter away.

They remained life-long friends after the war. Gerald's Wiener-Neustadt escapade ended as he spotted an airfield north of Foggia, Italy, and Gerald crash landed at 130 miles an hour without the plane somersaulting down the runway.

He is survived by his sons, John and Mark Primm, both of Greensboro; a sister, Jean Purcell of Columbia, Md.; a brother, Bud Primm of Greensboro; and four grandchildren.

## Nominations announced for Convention

Three nominations for the three top posts at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) have been announced.

Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, will be nominated for the president's role by Marty Jacumin, pastor of Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh. He is currently the first vice president. Harris was also president of the 2008 Pastor's Conference.

For first vice president Bobby Blanton, pastor of Lake Norman Baptist Church in Huntersville and chairman of the BSC's Executive Committee, will nominate C.J. Bordeaux, who is currently serving as second vice president. Bordeaux is pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham and has previously served on the Giving Plan Study Com-

mittee and Committee on Committees as well as through the Home Mission Board (currently the North American Mission Board).

Lee Pigg, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, has announced his intent to nominate Timmy Blair for second vice president. Blair is pastor of Piney Grove Chapel Baptist Church in Angier.

In other nominations, Blair will nominate Scott Faw as president elect of the Pastor's Conference. Faw is pastor of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church in Siler City. The president is elected two years in advance to help in coordinating the line-up of speakers.

The elections will take place in Greensboro at the BSC's annual meeting in November.



BR photo by K. Allan Blume

**BURNING** — Pastor John Attaway III and the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church congregation in State Road finish their May 29 service outside with a note-burning ceremony. The church paid off its \$1.8 million-note for its 800-seat sanctuary.

## More than burning a note

May 29 was a celebration day for Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in State Road.

Pastor John Attaway III recently celebrated 25 years as pastor, but this day focused on the final payment of a \$1.8 million-note for the 800-seat sanctuary.

The celebration included a reading of the church's history along with unique stories of God's faithfulness. Johnny Enloe, Elkin Baptist Association's missionary, and his wife, Kay, attended the services.

Attaway challenged the people to be a kingdom focused church and be obedient to the Great Commission. His message from 1 Chronicles 29 celebrated what God has done in providing their facilities.

He encouraged the congregation to

"give the next generation more than a paid-for building. Let us be a launch pad for a bigger mission." The church already gives to missions through the Cooperative Program, and they send mission teams out regularly. But they want to increase their giving since the debt is paid.

When the church broke ground on the facility, each member brought a shovel. So, the whole church got involved. With the note burning, the church wanted to involve all members in a similar manner. So each member was given a copy of the note. After the service, everyone marched out to the front lawn where each person tossed the note into a covered burner.

Visit [www.BRnow.org](http://www.BRnow.org); click "Photo Gallery."

## Things to watch for from the SBC

With the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), there are several items on the agenda that messengers should consider.

The International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board need approval to change wording regarding each of the entity's purposes.

Also, there will be an ethnic study that will share its results with the Convention. This year's SBC will feature a commissioning service as well as

a shortened schedule allowing messengers time with their families or to network.

Are you a North Carolina Baptist going to the Convention or participating in Crossover or other events surrounding the SBC? We'd love to hear from you.

Email [editor@biblicalrecorder.org](mailto:editor@biblicalrecorder.org). Share your pictures and information with the *Biblical Recorder* by contacting [dianna@biblicalrecorder.org](mailto:dianna@biblicalrecorder.org) or (919) 847-2127.

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# NAMB offers \$15M for church plant loans

By Mickey Noah  
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — As part of its expanding emphasis on church planting, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) is dedicating up to \$15 million for financing new church plants across North America.

The new church plant loan initiative was approved May 11 by NAMB's board of trustees at their regular meeting. The board's church finance ministry will continue to make loans to established, existing churches.

"We are serious about planting new churches and giving church planters all the tools and resources they need to be successful," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "The new church plant loan program, recently approved by the trustees, is just another example of that."

NAMB and its predecessor, the Home Mission Board (HMB), have been making loans to established churches since 1900. But this marks the first time NAMB has utilized its church loan resources specifically for creating new loan products for church plants, said Karl Dietz, director of church finance ministry for NAMB in Alpharetta, Ga.

Interest income from the loans flows directly back to North American missions. As of April 30, Dietz said NAMB had \$135 million representing 428 outstanding church loans on its books.

Dietz, whose team consults with 600-800 churches seeking financial counsel and loans each year, said the new church plant loan program is designed for church plants that do not qualify under NAMB's current underwriting guidelines but have commitments of outside support or sponsorship from an established Southern Baptist church.

The new program consists of five loan options. Three of the new loan products will be used for the purchase of a first unit facility or land for the church plant. The loan amount can go up to \$3 million, based upon the outside support of the church plant. A fourth loan product will allow an existing SBC church to use part of its equity in its own facilities to go toward a church plant. Loan proceeds can be used for almost any purpose directed by the loan borrower.

The final new loan product (up to \$50,000) can be used by a church plant for the purchase of equipment and furniture.

Dietz said NAMB's underwriting guidelines will require that the new church plant be at least one year old; does not own its first building; is a self-governed, legal entity; and averages 40 adult attendees each Sunday. The plant must have documented financial support extending into the future at least two years.

The purchased property serving as the new church plant has to be owned, not rented, and can be a new or previously used church building, storefront or any other building.

"In today's economy, we recommend to church plants that the best thing they can do at first is to buy an existing building and do renovations," said Dietz, who noted that the new program's interest rate will be the same as the current rate of 6 percent, which is subject to change. NAMB does not charge any additional fees beyond normal real estate closing costs, he said.

Dietz said it normally takes his team at NAMB 10 days to approve a loan if the church plant's loan package is complete. Because of the number of people involved — appraisers, real estate agents, engineers, attorneys — it usually takes another 45-60 days for the loan to close.

"We've been doing this for over 100 years now," said Dietz, referring to NAMB and HMB. "We've developed guidelines over the years that have been tested in good and challenging economies. We know how much debt a church can take on based on historical income, salaries and other expenses."

"A church that is healthy spiritually will be healthy financially. If you see a church doing a lot of the right things, that's a healthy church. The challenge for NAMB is that when you make a loan to a church, you're making a loan to an entity that doesn't sell a product or service. It's totally dependent on its members' giving."

In the wake of this spring's devastating tornadoes and major flooding across the country, NAMB's church finance ministry team also is offering a free resource, "After a Disaster," a guide for churches whose properties have been impacted by disasters. The booklet is under "downloadable resources" at [www.churchfinanceministry.com](http://www.churchfinanceministry.com).

The booklet outlines what must be done immediately following any major disaster affecting a church; how to organize leadership teams; how to evaluate the impact of the disaster on facilities, finances and ministries; how to develop an action plan; how to rebuild and/or renovate; and how to partner.

For additional information, call (800) 759-5901. At the website are tools for modeling a loan based on the church's finances, budgeting, recordkeeping and forecasting.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Noah writes for the North American Mission Board.)

## NAMB strikes deal with Timothy Barnabas

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (BP) — Southern Baptist pastors will be the beneficiaries of a new leadership development partnership between the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the Timothy Barnabas ministry.

"One thing we hear consistently is that in addition to starting new churches, Southern Baptists need to do a better job taking care of existing churches," NAMB president Kevin Ezell said. "Leadership development for pastors is one of the ways we can do that. My hope is to see the Timothy Barnabas conference become an equipping and growing place for pastors but also a place where they can come and relax and be appreciated. That's what we want to do."

Through the partnership, NAMB will provide office space for Timothy Barnabas at its Alpharetta, Ga., offices along with need-based scholarships for church leaders and a more regionalized approach to Timothy Barnabas conferences through Southern Baptist state partners.

Started in 1994 through the leadership of Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., Timothy Barnabas has provided leadership development through instruction, encouragement and networking at annual events such as pastors' retreats and men's conferences. The partnership is aimed at providing reproducible and contextualized experiences that would help meet needs region by region.

## CP lags 1.92% below pace so far

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries received by the SBC Executive Committee are 1.92 percent below the same time frame last year, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee (EC) President and Chief Executive Officer Frank Page.

The total includes receipts from state conventions and fellowships, churches and individuals for distribution according to the 2010-11 SBC Cooperative Program (CP) Allocation Budget.

As of May 31, gifts received by the EC for distribution through the CP Allocation Budget totaled \$130,314,404.44, or \$2,545,288.04 behind the amount received at the end of May 2010.

Designated giving of \$147,289,329.48 for the same year-to-date period is 6.78 percent, or \$10,719,812.29, below gifts of \$158,009,141.77 received at this point last year. Monthly CP allocation receipts for SBC work totaled \$15,936,344.95 while designated

gifts received last month amounted to \$16,315,629.58.

Month-to-month swings reflect a number of factors, including the timing of receipts from state conventions. The end-of-month total represents money received by close of business on the last business day of each month.

For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$130,314,404.44 is 97.82 percent of the \$133,214,726.79 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year.

The CP is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund and other special gifts.

North Carolina's May numbers were not ready for this issue of the *Biblical Recorder* but an April report reflected lower numbers than usual, something leaders attributed to the late Easter Sunday.

## BSC annual meeting to follow two-day schedule in Greensboro

The 2011 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will, for the first time since 1994, feature a two-day meeting instead of a three-day meeting. Messengers approved the change during the 2010 annual meeting.

North Carolina Baptists will gather at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro Monday, Nov. 7-Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The two-day schedule eliminates the Wednesday morning session.

The shorter convention will allow many messengers to return home rather than spending an additional evening in a hotel, and additional expenses associated with the third day of a convention meeting will be eliminated.

The shortened schedule will still allow appropriate time for all aspects of the annual meeting, such as the Convention sermon, ministry reports, business sessions, theme interpretations and times of worship.

More detailed information about various sessions and presentations will be available soon at [www.ncannual-meeting.org](http://www.ncannual-meeting.org).

Messengers will be able to stay at the head-quarter's hotel, the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, for a discounted rate of

\$99 per night (\$112.61 including tax). This pre-pay rate, which is the same for king and double rooms, is only available at the BSC annual meeting web site.

Reservations cannot be made by calling the Sheraton or the BSC.

A reservation is refundable if notice of cancellation is given at least 24 hours prior to time of check-in.

All messengers staying at the Sheraton receive free wireless Internet.

The annual meeting has been held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro for several years.

The Sheraton Hotel is located on the same property as the Convention Center, allowing messengers easy access to their hotel room and all the meeting halls.

North Carolina Baptists who make their room reservation online, as opposed to mail-in registration or even phone and email registration, will reduce cost and time spent by staff processing reservations.

The reservation deadline is Oct. 31. The reservations made after Oct. 31 must be made directly with the Sheraton Hotel at their normal rate.

For reservations, visit <https://store.ncbaptist.org/magento/index.php/annual-meeting.html>.



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# Church News



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➤ Dewey "Buck" Butler, center, gets assistance from Pastor Scott Butler and deacons Alan Hoover and Terry Jackson of **Chase Baptist Church**, Forest City. Butler was one of 11 baptized Easter Sunday April 24. The church was taking part in the Find it Here evangelism outreach and had 21 professions of faith in April.



Contributed photo

➤ Willie Roberts and Roy Barbee, members of **Campers on Mission (COM)** participate in the COM project of sorting, inventorying and repacking food collected during Baptist Children's Home April Food Roundup. This is the fifth year that COM has been involved in this food project and camped in the campground located on the Mills Home campus.

## 3,500 rally in Raleigh for marriage

RALEIGH (BP) — Around 3,500 Christians rallied in support of a constitutional marriage amendment May 17 at the North Carolina capitol, urging legislators to let citizens vote on the issue.

North Carolina and West Virginia are the only two states in the southeast without an amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. A majority of states (29) have one. "We're here today to protect families and make sure every child retains the right to have both a mother and a father," Bill Brooks, president of the North Carolina Family Policy Council told the crowd,

according to The Associated Press (AP). "We're here today to preserve our right to religious freedom and our sincere belief that anything other than marriage shared between a man and a woman goes against God's design for creation."

With Republicans now in charge, amendment supporters are hopeful the House and Senate will take action. The GOP took control of the House and Senate in November for the first time since 1898. Democrats previously had blocked an amendment. Three-fifths of the legislature must approve it for it to appear on the 2012 ballot, AP reported.

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## Opportunity Corner

### New Beginnings luncheons at Caraway

Pastors and up to five members of their congregation are invited to attend the New Beginnings luncheon at Caraway Conference Center and Camp, Asheboro, on June 28 or July 19 in thanks for their support as well as to provide information on Caraway's min-

istries and New Beginnings campaign. The luncheon will also include tours of Caraway.

Contact Jimmy Huffman to attend: (336) 629-2374 or [jhuffman@caraway.org](mailto:jhuffman@caraway.org). Tours are at 10:30, and the luncheon will be from 12 to 2.

### All State Youth Choir Tour

July 17-24, ninth through 12th-graders will sing for the North Carolina Baptist All State Youth Choir Tour. They will be singing in Buies Creek,

Mooreville, Shelby, Charlotte, and Winston-Salem. Visit [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org), or contact Phil Campbell (704) 732-1101; [fbclincmusic@bellsouth.net](mailto:fbclincmusic@bellsouth.net).

### Campbell to hold music conference in July

Nationally acclaimed composers David Schwoebel, Pepper Choplin, Terry Taylor, Mark Edwards, and more will teach and perform at Campbell University Divinity School's OASIS Renew for the Journey conference.

The conference will be July 19-20, and registration is \$138 per person.

Visit <http://divinity.campbell.edu/Oasis/Home.aspx> or contact Melanie Walk at [walkm@campbell.edu](mailto:walkm@campbell.edu), (800) 760-9827, ext. 4765.

### Church Weekday Education staff retreat

"We Are All In This Together" is the theme for the Church Weekday Education Staff Retreat July 22-23 at the Hawthorne Inn and Conference Center in Winston-Salem.

Registration is \$100 for North Caro-

lina Baptist Church Weekday Education Association members; \$130 for non-members.

Contact Abby Earle at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5646, or [aearle@ncbaptist.org](mailto:aearle@ncbaptist.org). Visit [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org).

### Church Brotherhood Leadership training

Church missions leadership men, youth and boys are welcome to take part in the Local Church Brotherhood Leadership Development Conference Aug. 19-20 at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro. Men will have training in all areas of Brotherhood

work: Royal Ambassador Lad/Crusader leaders, Challenger leaders, and Baptist Men/Men's Ministries directors.

Pastors are encouraged to attend as well.

Event cost is \$74, and registration is online at [www.baptistsonmission.org](http://www.baptistsonmission.org).

### Women on Mission retreat

The Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina's Women on Mission Retreat is Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Caswell Baptist Assembly, and speakers include Ruby Fulbright, Phyllis Elvington and

Renea Henderson. Cost is \$75 including meals and lodging, and the theme is "On Butterfly Wings."

To register contact (910) 278-9501 or go to [www.wmunc.org](http://www.wmunc.org).

### 'Why is my church news not here?'

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to print significant news from the churches, but our staff relies on our churches and associations to send us information. Most items will be edited. Accuracy and timeliness are enhanced if you send the information to the *Biblical Recorder* as soon as it is available (generally within two weeks after the event).

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Or, send to *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619. Call (919) 847-2127 for information or if you have questions about a submission. If you have submitted something and don't see it or have not heard back from us about when it will run, please send it again.



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# Yellow shirts a 'blessing' to residents

(Continued from Page 1)

see if it would be suitable for responding to the disaster. With power out in south Raleigh, he said he got chills recounting how the lights at the church came on while inspecting it.

"There were no lights anywhere else," Honeycutt said. "The lights have not been off since then."

Honeycutt said it has been a blessing to serve in his hometown.

"Not only were we able to help residents but we were able to help supporting churches," he said.

Chain saw teams were on site April 17, the day after storms ripped across the state. They worked to clear streets for two days. By April 18, NCBM was contacted by Red Cross to help with feeding people. The first meal served 45,000 out of the church's parking lot.

At one point, there were 12 sites operated by NCBM to help communities in need across North Carolina.

The site in Fayetteville closed about two weeks ago, leaving Raleigh as the only site left open to help those in need. While the feeding has switched to the church's kitchen to feed the volunteers, Honeycutt estimated 30-50 volunteers each day with as many as 150 on site at any one time.

"We have been able to use local volunteers through the city and county ... as many as 125" totaling about 250 on a recent Saturday, Honeycutt said.

Because the city is known for its oak trees, Honeycutt said two out of three of the jobs needs heavy equipment. For the first time, NCBM had to purchase a 48-inch saw, and he said that some of the trees are still bigger than that saw's range. Honeycutt said he had a bucket truck, cherry picker and excavator as

## NCBM seeks partners to help rebuild

North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM) is moving toward the repair and rebuild stage and is in the process of seeking church-to-family partnerships. Volunteers are still doing chain-saw, debris removal and putting tarps on homes in the Raleigh area.

Baptist Men has set a goal of helping 400 families rebuild homes. The idea is to partner churches or individual groups within churches to help these families. The families will apply for help and commit to giving funds from FEMA to help purchase materials for rebuilding their home. There is also a form for the church or group to complete.

NCBM is providing up to \$3,000 of building materials per home for the

partner church to use in rebuilding the home. The church or group does not have to commit to provide any amount of money, although ministry to that family is encouraged.

There will need to be a meeting to agree on what the volunteers can do for the family and assess what resources are available.

Other ways to help the family: call on a regular basis; ask about prayer needs and share those needs within prayer ministry or the church bulletin; collect furniture and appliances; and invite them to church or other events.

Contact Baptist Men at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5599, email [lharrington@ncbaptist.org](mailto:lharrington@ncbaptist.org) or write to N.C. Baptist Men, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512.

well as six Bobcats operating out of the Raleigh site.

He said 650 jobs is typical for a hurricane site but not a tornado. This recent disaster showed Honeycutt that "disaster can happen at your back door."

Preparedness is key, Honeycutt said.

### Volunteer crew

Red Mountain Baptist Church in Rougemont sent a team of four down recently to help on a Saturday. Wally Watson, a member at the church, led three other men — Jamie Gillie, Eric Sanders and Bill Johnson — as they cut apart a large black walnut tree that had fallen in a yard in south Raleigh.

Watson became Baptist Men coordinator five years ago at his church; they bought a trailer and have since had a total of 15 church members trained in some form of disaster recovery.

He and some church members spent four days in Sanford in May doing similar work.

Anytime we get a phone call, Watson said he brings a request before the church.

Teams have worked at Camp Duncan and Baptist Children's Homes facilities as well as doing yard work for people in their community.

"It's really been special for me ... in fact our church is starting to respond more," Watson said.

Gillie was just certified in March at a training in Fayetteville. He also served on the crew that worked in Sanford recently. Gillie was out of the state when the tornados hit North Carolina, but it was all over the news in Washington state where Gillie had gone to see his brother.

Watson said he has used presenta-

tions for the congregations to encourage and motivate members to get involved. Volunteers share with the church how God has worked in them to bless others.

### 'Blessing' ministry

Freddie Malone, 62, sat on her front porch planting flowers as a NCBM team cut apart a neighbor's tree.

"I am very happy to see those yellow shirts," said Malone. "It is a blessing for us."

Malone grew up on this street, and she knew the tree they were cutting was tall, even when she was just a little girl playing in the yard.

The tree down in the yard across from her house served as a daily reminder of the devastation that struck her neighborhood April 16. "You never get over it because every time you see it you go through it again," she said.

Malone serves as the caretaker of the rental property where the volunteers were cutting the tree. The woman who owns the house lives in another state.

Malone said her house was fine but she had damage in her back yard. She lost a metal shed and her privacy fence was toppled. She had no electricity for five days and no phone for three weeks.

"We were truly blessed," she said. "God looked out for us."

Because of the coverage of the fallen tree, Malone said she could not tell the house behind the tree had sustained some damage from it. The renter in the house beside the tree had begun planting flowers and preparing to have a party in that section of the yard for a birthday and graduation this month. Now that the volunteers in yellow shirts have come, that party might happen.

"I praise God that He sent them," Malone said.



## News Briefs

### Religious leaders call a strike on tobacco

(RNS) Religious leaders are hoping to hit a home run in a campaign to get Major League Baseball players to ban tobacco use on fields and dugouts of the national pastime.

More than two dozen members of the coalition group Faith United Against Tobacco wrote May 30 to Michael Weiner, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, focusing on the hazards of smokeless tobacco.

"What players do on their own time is their business, but what they do when they are in uniform and on camera is all of ours, especially considering what's at stake," wrote the leaders, citing increased use of smokeless tobacco by high school boys, and players who have been sickened or killed after dipping or chewing tobacco.

Leaders of Christian, Jewish and Muslim organizations see baseball players' role-model status as the biggest risk for young people.

"When the cameras are rolling and they zoom in on a player, the last thing we want our kids to see is a big wad of chewing tobacco in his cheek or under his lip, as if he's an advertising spokesman for deadly tobacco," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

### Ergun Caner moves to Texas

Ergun Caner, the former president of Liberty Theological Seminary has been hired as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Arlington Baptist College in Texas.

Caner, who remained as professor at Liberty after trustees removed him as president and dean in June 2010, will teach theology, church history and apolo-



**COMMISSIONING** — Samuel Cheung, music minister at Mandarin Baptist Church in Los Angeles, Calif., leads the congregation in the hymn "O Zion Haste" during the International Mission Board's (IMB) missionary appointment service May 22 where 26 missionaries were appointed. After hearing the missionaries' testimonies, IMB President Tom Elliff challenged the crowd with a question: "Does your heart beat for missions?"

getics at Arlington. He was demoted because of exaggerated claims about his Muslim upbringing.

"I have the utmost confidence in Dr. Ergun Caner," President D.L. Moody said in presenting the candidate to the board of trustees.

"I believe that he has the abilities, wisdom and passion to enhance the work and ministry of Arlington Baptist College as we prepare a generation of giants for Jesus Christ."

Founded by J. Frank Norris in 1939 as the Fundamental Bible Baptist Institute, the Arlington Baptist College is affiliated with the World Baptist Fellowship. Norris, the one-time editor of the *Baptist Standard* and longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Worth was nicknamed the "Texas Tornado" during a long-running feud with Southern Baptists.

### Yeats to be re-nominated SBC recording sec'y

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — John L. Yeats will be re-nominated for another one-year term as recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) during the June 14-15 annual meeting in Phoenix, an SBC seminary leader has announced.

"John Yeats is a respected leader in our convention who has led with skill, integrity and Christlikeness," said Russell Moore, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "John is held in affection and admiration by Southern Baptists in every sector of our denominational community."

Last year's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., marked Yeats' 13th annual meeting as recording secretary. The SBC recording secretary is responsible for the record of the proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, training volunteer pages and the final edit of the SBC Book of Reports and the SBC Annual. He also serves as an ex officio member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Yeats designed the process currently used for the flow of information from the convention floor to the platform and distribution to the Order of Business Committee, a process that has enhanced the accuracy of the official record.

Yeats currently serves as director of communications for the Louisiana Baptist Convention (LBC) and edits the *LBCLive* missions magazine. He is a former editor of state Baptist papers in Oklahoma and Indiana and has served churches in six states during 40-plus years of pastoral ministry.

Yeats is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 2006, he received a doctor of ministry degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.





# Nearly ready

**HELPING MORE PEOPLE** — Eddie Williams has been living at the facility to get it ready for the part of this year. The warehouse, above right, is used for materials for jobs in the community. The new building has heating and air conditioning systems. Teams work on projects a day per person providing a low-cost way.

*“It’s all in God’s timing, if I can just stay patient. The Lord did not bless me with lots of patience.” — Eddie Williams*

## Volunteers finish Shelby Mission

By Mike Creswell  
BSC Communications

**E**ddie Williams stands amid walls framed in bare wooden 2X4s, but he is seeing finished rooms for sleeping, eating, conferences and other activities at the Shelby Mission Camp.

Williams and his wife, Martha, are veteran missions workers who coordinated North Carolina Baptist response to Hurricane Katrina in Gulfport, Miss., for about two years, and then oversaw the successful renovation of a former textile plant near Red Springs in Robeson County into the Red Springs Mission Camp.

Now Eddie and Martha are coordinating the construction of the Shelby Mission Camp in Shelby.

There are two major buildings, warehouse plus a larger building which houses administrative and conference spaces, housing and cafeteria.

The two mission camps have been started in a partnership between the Baptist State Convention and North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM).

Both camps are funded by North Carolina Baptists through their contributions to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO).

At Red Springs, Baptists bought and converted a textile factory into a mission support station that is Wal-Mart-sized.

At Shelby, Baptists bought 43 acres of well-situated land for \$175,000, a good price for a site located just off the 74 Bypass, one of the city’s busiest areas for restaurants and shopping. Two major buildings were constructed during 2010 and into 2011.

The warehouse is completed and the main building’s exterior shell is completed, lacking only interior walls, wiring and heating/AC systems before it will be ready to host teams.

“We have a lot of work to do, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel,” Williams said.

To keep costs down, Williams is depending on volunteers to do as much of the finishing work as possible.

“We have volunteer teams lined up for hanging sheetrock this summer. We already have many full weeks between July and August. But we still have some empty slots if a team wants to check with us,” he said.

“Howard Wacaster (see story below) has helped a lot with the electrical system, and we’ve had good help with plumbing, but we still need some professional help with heating and air

conditioning systems. Since these will be suspended from the ceiling, we really need people who are fully qualified for this kind of work,” he said.

“We’ve had many volunteers who come and work just for a day at a time. That has helped tremendously,” he said. A few volunteer work teams have even come from other states, he added.

“The most common remark we’ve heard both from Baptists and others who have come to see the facility has been, ‘This is impressive!’” Williams said. “It will be a top-notch facility, something that will be here for a long time, and it will be something we can use in many ways.”

The mission camp concept was the brainchild of Richard Brunson, NCBM executive director, who wanted to see the skills, equipment and expertise developed by some 40,000 North Carolina Baptist volunteers who responded to Hurricane Katrina put to work in North Carolina. The concept has been well received.

Williams says the concept of “mission camp” has been a new one for Cleveland County government officials; he has done lots of explaining about the facility’s purpose as he pursued permits and clearances for the camp.

That purpose is all about missions:

The camp will accommodate thousands of North Carolina Baptist volunteers who will have sleeping space and meals provided at the camp so they can do work projects throughout the area — at \$18 a day per person.

Several thousand volunteers put in more than 7,000 volunteer days at the Red Springs Mission Camp last year.

Since more churches are located nearer to the Shelby camp, volunteer use could be even higher.

“I’ve been getting calls from churches in a wide area wanting to know when they can come and work,” Williams said.

“We’ll be setting up projects such as home repair, wheelchair ramp construction, evangelism and many other kinds of ministries all across Cleveland County, which is a big county,” he said, “but we’ll also eventually get into Gaston, Rutherfordton, Lincoln and McDowell counties. We’ve already supported Deep Impact projects in Lincolnton.”

As soon as the final construction bits are done, Williams is looking forward to completely focusing on community projects.

“It’s all in God’s timing, if I can just stay patient. The Lord did not bless me with lots of patience,” Williams says with a laugh.

### August rallies

August 22-30 is the North Carolina Baptist Men’s Mission Celebrations week.

There will be an event in each region including worship, testimony, mission videos, prayer and food.

Contact Kecia Morgan at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5613, or [kmorgan@ncbaptist.org](mailto:kmorgan@ncbaptist.org) for registration help. Visit [www.baptistsonmission.org](http://www.baptistsonmission.org).

### Promoting NCMO

How does your church promote the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO)? Do you highlight your missions or host a speaker from the Baptist State Convention?

Send the *Biblical Recorder* your photos and information about how you promote missions. Contact [dianna@biblicalrecorder.org](mailto:dianna@biblicalrecorder.org) or (919) 847-2127.

By Mike Creswell  
BSC Communications

**H**oward Wacaster pulls a heavy electrical cable and then mounts a ladder to make a connection.

He is at the Shelby Mission Camp, helping finish off the interior of the camp’s administration/housing/food station building.

The mission camp is situated on a 43-acre site just off the 74 Bypass in Shelby. It will be a work center for thousands of North Carolina Baptist volunteers to work in and around Shelby.

Camp coordinator Eddie Williams is depending on volunteers like Wacaster to get as much of the final finishing work done as possible.

Wacaster (pronounced WAY-caster)

has been working at the Shelby Mission Camp off and on for months.

“He has become a great friend to Martha and myself,” camp coordinator Eddie Williams said of Wacaster. (Martha is Eddie’s wife who helps him coordinate the Shelby camp.)

Wacaster has contributed the equivalent of thousands of dollars of electrical contracting to the camp. He still climbs ladders quickly for a 68-year-old.

But that’s only half his story.

Wacaster has been fighting leukemia since 2005.

He has kept the disease at bay with intensive chemotherapy treatments, which leave him exhausted and ill.

But on good days, as his energy picks up, he heads over to the mission camp and starts to work. Why not stay home and rest, people ask him.

“Well, you know, if you’re sitting at home in a chair, you have a lot of time to think. And over here, I have a lot of things that take my mind off of it,” he said.

In fact, he said work at the mission camp has been a “God-send” to him, allowing him to put his certified electrician skills to work for Kingdom purposes.

Missions work is nothing new for Wacaster.

He recalls working long hours in eastern North Carolina, cleaning up after Hurricane Floyd, which struck in 1999. He made many other mission trips after that.

A member of Flint Hill Baptist Church in Shelby for 48 years, he says he has served on every committee possible and still serves as Baptist Men director.

He retired from his job with an air-

## Missions vs. cancer: Volunteer tries to





Williams, left, serves as the coordinator for Shelby Mission Camp. He and his wife, Martha, study for service to the community. The two main buildings, above, were built in 2010 and right, has been completed and will store supplies for feeding teams as well as construction. The main building still has interior work left to do. It needs interior walls, wiring and heating. Living at the site have been hosted in mobile units. When the site is complete it will cost \$18 million to serve the surrounding area and its needs.

**North Carolina  
MISSIONS  
Offering**

## Shelby Camp

The camp will also handle small conferences for churches and associations.

"We'll be exploring how to fully use the facility, especially when weather does not allow outside activities," he said.

While many Baptists have supported the camp with their labor, others have helped in other ways, Williams points out.

"Between the main building and the warehouse, we will have a prayer garden. Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby has taken the lead on that, and one lady in that church gave a donation to help with it," he said.

Williams could not list all the churches and groups which have stepped forward to help the camp:

- one church will get three flagpoles installed off front;
- Eagle Scouts will work on an outdoor amphitheater;
- First Baptist Church, Boone, donated a large, powered projection screen to be used in a conference room;
- Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute donated pews;
- Samaritan's Purse brought in a truck-

## 'give back'

plane parts manufacturer in 2005 because of his leukemia; he left Flint Hill's deacon board in 2008 for the same reason.

Yet Wacaster is not bitter.

"If you love God and you love the Lord Jesus the way you should, you need to give back. I'm just trying to give back," he said.

Recently Wacaster's condition took a turn for the worse: He was diagnosed with acute lymphoma, an even more dangerous blood cancer which could be fatal. He faces intense chemo treatments for the next six to eight weeks.

Wacaster sees the life-or-death options of his illness through Christian eyes. "I am a winner either way," he told Williams.

"He smiled, waved and drove out the gate. What a testimony!" Williams said of his friend.



**TILLING** — Dale Duncan, former president of North Carolina Baptist Men, readies the ground near the entrance of Shelby Mission Camp.

load of office furniture from a factory which closed down;

- Appalachian State University donated bunk beds;
- Many churches and associations donated furniture;
- Several Woman's Missionary Union groups donated paper products, napkins, bathroom paper, and trash bags.

On a recent day, Dale Duncan, former president of NCBM, ran a tiller alongside the camp entrance so grass could be added to beautify the entrance.

Similarly, the Shelby Mission Camp will help Baptists provide an attractive, attention-getting introduction of Jesus Christ to thousands of people in the area. That is what Williams is really impatient to see.

Contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5606, or visit [www.ncmissions.org](http://www.ncmissions.org).



BSC photos by Mike Creswell

**WRAPPING** — Howard Wacaster, 68, has provided electrical contracting for Shelby Mission Camp for months.

# Program allows public school students to hear gospel

By Laura Moore  
BR Editorial Aide

With the school year coming to a close, 103 student's lives have been changed forever. 2011 will mark the year that they came to know Jesus Christ through a program they signed up for at — believe it or not — their public school.

Out of 450 students, 103 have made professions of faith since four Released Time Bible Education programs were started in February in Bladen County. Four programs in four months have opened doors for 450 students to hear about the Bible.

A multi-state organization called School Ministries ([www.schoolministries.org](http://www.schoolministries.org)) partnered with Jason Williams, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Dublin and North Carolina coordinator for the ministry, to begin its first Released Time Bible Education programs in North Carolina this year. Williams has helped with this ministry in other states as well.

What is a Released Time Bible Education ([www.releasedtime.org](http://www.releasedtime.org)) program?

Volunteers can offer the program to students who will leave school grounds to study the Bible during their school hours. Students must have their parents' permission to participate, and volunteers transport students from the school to the program's location off campus. At Bladenboro Primary where Williams has been active leading a program, students are transported in buses to Dublin First Baptist Church for their Bible lesson, then transported back for the rest of their regular school day.

There are no laws in North Carolina that prohibit a program like this from starting as long as it is conducted off school grounds and has the school board's approval. Other factors that a program needs include transportation for the students, a location for the Bible education time, liability insurance, volunteers and church community support. Usually, schools will allow students to have Released Time Bible Education during their elective or enrichment class time.

"To have a great work we have to have great volunteers," Williams said.

Each volunteer serves in an area compatible with their desire and giftedness whether it be driving, teaching, counseling, keeping attendance records, etc. "We look to make sure we are putting our volunteers in the right places," he said.

With an organization like School Ministries, churches can find the resources they need to get a program started.

## Wingate gets community service honor

The Corporation for National and Community Service honored Wingate University as a leader for their support of volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

Wingate was admitted to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging its students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community. This is the third year

Program leaders can find curriculum as well as valuable advice and support on how to run a program. Williams describes the Bible education curriculum as a character based study that ties the roots of the character back to Jesus. "Our first goal was to establish the character of obedience," he said. Through the story of Adam and Eve's disobedience in Genesis, "we started there, interjecting the gospel."

And through these Bible lessons, scripture is finding its way into the homes of students. "The church is being able to take the gospel home to families in a quicker legal way," Williams said.

"If I reach one unchurched kid for Christ, and they go home and reach their family, then our work has multiplied," he said. Many of the students that are being reached through Released Time are kids from families that have no church home or involvement. When students first sign up to participate, they are asked if they

have a church. For students who are unchurched, it's important to start connecting them with a church near them.

"We have a guy at church who started coming for his kids. Then, he realized he needed it (Christ) too," said Williams about the church he pastors.

While every situation is different and costs will vary depending on many factors for each program, overall "cost is very inexpensive for the opportunity," Williams said.

"The cost is much less than what it would cost a church" to run a program on its own.

So much of the success that School Ministries has seen in Bladen County since February is a result of the nature of the opportunity. There are 1.3 million public school students in North Carolina.

The nature of the program is about bringing Christ to a central location and community where there is the potential to reach entire families, said Williams.

"When you can win kids for Christ you can often win the family. So, this ministry is for the family," he said.

Williams and School Ministries, Inc. want to start four new programs a year in North Carolina schools as they campaign to raise \$100,000 to cover start up costs.

The campaign's initiative is to find 1,000 people to contribute \$100 each.

While some have contributed \$5 and others \$500 in the past couple of months, they are still currently in need of about 880 people.

Williams said, "We take that money and put it into helping programs start. We help offset the cost so that funds don't slow the process."

Contact Jason Williams at (910) 549-0661 or [Jason@schoolministries.org](mailto:Jason@schoolministries.org).



Williams



# 8 benefits of bivocational ministry

BARRE, Vt. (BP) — “But I don’t want to be bivocational.” That was the declaration of a young man whom I recently talked to. He was nearing graduation from seminary and felt led to do ministry in a lesser-reached area of the nation.

Vermont, which is the least church state in America, definitely fits the bill for being lesser reached. As the Vermont director for the efforts of my denomination, I have plenty of openings in which he could fulfill his calling to a lesser reached area. But when he found out that most evangelical churches in Vermont have less than 100 people in worship on a typical Sunday morning and that few could sustain a fully funded pastor, he was discouraged.

I can certainly understand his frustration. After all, he had invested a significant amount of time and money in seven years of schooling in order to gain his master of divinity degree from an accredited seminary. In any other field, such an investment of time and money likely would produce a lucrative career. But if a person feels a calling to ministry, and wants to do that ministry outside the Bible belt, the likelihood of finding a fully funded position drops significantly.

For those who may not be familiar with the term “bivocational,” it simply means that the minister must work a second job in addition to serving a church. It does not mean that the minister is “part-time.” It simply means his ministry position is not fully funded, and therefore, he must find additional income from some other source.

The reasons that people want to avoid this situation are numerous, but the most obvious is that it is a lot of hard work. Balancing two jobs and a family is a challenge. Pastoral burn-out among bivocational pastors is notoriously high. Unfortunately, bivocational ministry is a reality that is not going away anytime soon. Both the current economic situation in the nation, as well as the giving trends of younger generations, indicate that churches will continue to struggle to fully fund pastoral positions for some time.

However, just because there are challenges to bivocational ministry does not mean that such situations should be viewed in a negative light. There are actually a number of advantages that bivocational pastors have over their fully funded counterparts:

- Bivocational pastors are not as dependent on the church for their financial support as fully funded pastors. This relieves them of the stress of what might happen to their families if they were dismissed from the churches they serve. In some situations, bivocational pastors actually have more personal resources than fully funded pastors because they have two sources of income.

- Bivocational pastors often find more opportunities to witness to the lost than fully funded pastors because they spend more time with non-Christians through their secular employment.

- Bivocational pastors seldom live in a “bubble” where only church people inhabit. Their secular em-

ployment requires them to interact with and understand better the needs of non-Christians. Therefore, they frequently feel they relate to the people in their congregations better than fully funded pastors because they “work” just like the laypeople do. These frequent interactions and the increased sense of relating to laypeople often help bivocational pastors have more realistic sermon illustrations and greater credibility in the pulpit.

- Bivocational pastors have the ability to serve a larger number of churches because they can serve churches that cannot fully fund pastors. They also get to experience the joy of allowing churches to fund other needed ministries instead of so much of the churches’ funding going to support their own salaries.

- Bivocational pastors feel they are better able to encourage the churches they serve to create a culture whereby the laity use their gifts and devote more time for ministry, since there are no fully funded pastors “paid” to “do everything” for congregations. Most bivocational pastors feel this creates healthy churches over the long term, though it sometimes creates more stress in the short term.

- Bivocational pastors often feel it is easier to teach about financial stewardship and/or to solicit contributions from church members. This is because so little of the churches’ funds are spent on the pastors’ salaries; the pastor is not perceived as being “self-serving.”

- Bivocational pastors frequently express that they feel more dependent on the Holy Spirit in their sermon preparation and less dependent on their formal theological training, elocution or research skills. This greater sense of dependence on the Spirit is perceived as a positive thing by most bivocational pastors. It is interesting to note that the bivocational pastors who express this the most strongly often have previously served larger churches in which they had been fully funded.

- Bivocational pastors sometimes say that being bivocational gives them valid excuses not to attend denominational meetings that they perceived as irrelevant, uninteresting, and/or promoting things that are not helpful to their own ministry. This does not mean they never attend meetings, but that their bivocational status makes them feel more comfortable attending only the meetings that they perceive as being helpful and as being more applicable to their situation.

While bivocational ministry has many challenges, it also has many advantages. Learning what the advantages are can help bivocational pastors, or those considering bivocational ministry, feel better about their ministry.

When bivocational pastors feel more confident about their roles, they tend to be more effective in their ministries. Churches and denominational leaders need to look for ways to help bivocational pastors celebrate the advantages of bivocational ministry, a growing reality in North American church life.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Dorsett is director of the Green Mountain Baptist Association. For information, visit [VermontBaptist.org](http://VermontBaptist.org). Visit his blog at [TerryDorsett.com](http://TerryDorsett.com).)

## GUEST COLUMN



Terry Dorsett



## Tar Heel Voices

### Seminaries preached gospel

It is with some regret that I must respond to the Guest Column by Danny Akin in the May 14 (*Biblical Recorder*), titled “Owens’ legacy to be remembered, celebrated at Southeastern Seminary.”

President Akin’s (column) alludes to “professors who doubted the truthfulness and inerrancy of the scriptures” at Southeastern.

He contradicts the article by Norman Jameson, who said, “(Owens’) work now goes almost unnoticed.” It seems that Owens’ resurrection to fame can be lifted up only by buying a chair of (New Testament) studies at (Southeastern) to keep his ideas alive.

I completed degrees at two SBC seminaries “in former times.” My wife and I served in pastoral and missionary roles for over 50 years. I’m sure Dr. Akin expresses opinions not true with my experience, along with many other faithful students.

I never sensed any professor or administrator ever teaching or preaching any other gospel than Jesus Christ.

Mr. Akin was not there, and he simply is misdirected in that accusation. We were free to ask questions of the

Bible, and we normally got a deeper understanding of its meaning, rather than surface satisfaction.

The New Testament I follow says, “Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”

It also encourages us to “love one another, for God first loved us.”

Let us all do likewise, and let all this ugliness toward each other go away. Let’s just tell our own story with Jesus in the center, not re-imaging the past of others.

It will honor God and Jesus Christ much more in the final analysis.

Ray W. Benfield  
Winston-Salem



## Clarification

In a May 28 story about the May Board of Directors meeting, there was a reference to Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute’s articles and bylaws. Fruitland does have a constitution but no articles and bylaws. The Board approved the institute’s constitution at the May meeting.

# Students answer God’s call

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

The summer months are a busy and exciting time. Summer means vacation for many families.

Churches often host special outreaches and send out mission teams. Your Convention staff is busy helping host many camps and missions opportunities for children and youth.



I know many students look forward to summer because it brings a much needed break from the classroom and from all their studies.

Yet, some students find themselves working just as hard in the summer because they choose a very special way to spend summer vacation.

I want to share with you about a special group of students and ask you to please join me in committing to consistently praying for them these next few months.

They are our Baptist students involved in summer missions.

Our Baptist Campus Ministry and Student Ministry Team offer many opportunities for summer missions.

This summer college students from all across the state will serve in a variety of different ways.

Students on the BeDoTell team make Caswell their summer home and lead worship, Bible studies and skits.

They help minister to the thousands of middle and high school students who come to Youth Weeks each year.

The testimonies of how God works in the hearts of youth and how they respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading during these weeks at Caswell is remarkable.

Students serving with Deep Impact travel the state to various locations in order to help lead the camp weeks.

Deep Impact provides youth and their leaders the chance to join with other youth groups and spend one week serving a community through outreach such as Vacation Bible School, senior adult ministry, construction/clean up projects, sports camps and medical clinics.

Deep Impact allows students to learn about missions during the worship and teaching times each day, but also gives them a hands-on experience.

Many churches are not able to hire a full time youth minister.

Youth Corps connects a student with one of these churches for the summer; a valuable experience for both the church and summer youth minister.

Baptist Campus Ministry provides local, national and international mission opportunities.

For example, this year two students are serving with the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina.

Students are ministering in our partnership areas of Toronto and New York, at an orphanage in South Africa, and with inner city ministry in East St. Louis and Waco, Texas.

Pastors, youth leaders and parents: if you know a student serving in missions this summer please let them know you are praying for them. Your support and encouragement is invaluable to them.

These students give us examples of how the Acts 1:8 mission is being carried out as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

Adults, let’s not just encourage our students in their mission this summer. Let’s seek to follow the example they are setting and join God where He is at work.

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

— 1 Timothy 4:12



# How can we bring glory to God?

**H**ow do we glorify God? Are there some specific actions or attitudes which bring Him glory? Is glorifying God limited to the actions of individuals or is this something a church, ministry or denomination can do? Since one of my three main goals for the *Biblical Recorder* is to glorify God, it will be helpful to initiate some discussion on the subject.

Most students of the Bible are familiar with the first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. It simply asks, "What is the chief end of man?" The response is equally simple, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." While Baptists are not accustomed to the regular recitation of the catechism, we should not ignore the priority of glorifying God.

The *Holman Bible Dictionary* defines "glory" as "The weighty importance and shining majesty which accompany God's presence. The basic meaning of the Hebrew word *kabod* is heavy in weight... This is not so much something someone bestows on another as a quality of importance which a person, group or nation has and which another recognizes."

The New Testament word for glory is *doxa*. This Greek word expresses a kind of glory that is exclusively reserved for God. Since there is no one or no thing comparable to Him, He alone is worthy of glory.

To ascribe glory and honor to God is to recognize the superior quality of His importance. Giving Him glory is not contributing something to Him. It is recognizing what already exists and acting in ways which demonstrate our awareness of His uniqueness. He is in a category occupied by no other.

So, how do we go about ascribing glory and honor to Him? The most common answer is in the verbal expressions of worship. To give glory to God is to offer praise, worship and rightful recognition of God's place in creation, in history and in the personal activity of the individual. Christians do this powerfully through music — all kinds of music. Expressions of worship through music comes in many languages and more styles than there is room to mention. If the text of the music accurately describes the God of the Bible, and it is presented with a pure heart, He is glorified.

Have you noticed that many religions have no music?

There is no song, because they have no god who is worthy of worship. Their god is a dead

idol or hollow list of rules. If all is in vain, there is no song.

We sing because of the joy we experience from our living God. We sing because we have seen His mercy and received His grace.

Another way we glorify God is through prayers of repentance. The act of repentance gives God glory because the humble sinner is acknowledging that God is right and the sinner is wrong. God is glorified by our recognition that He is absolutely correct. He is perfectly truthful. When confronted with His holy nature, we must be like Isaiah. He heard the seraphim worshiping God, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3). His response to God's glory was repentance. "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and

I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:5). That is how to glorify God!

Repentance puts us in our place. Even though we have trusted Christ as our Savior, believers are not immune to the destructive elevation of self which pride produces. Pride contaminates worship, robbing God of His glory, while claiming glory for ourselves.

In the first chapter of the letter to the Romans, Paul described people who intellectually know who God is, but refuse to acknowledge His supreme nature. In verse 22 he says of such people, "Professing to be wise, they became fools." You can read the consequences of their action. God "gave them up." He let them follow their dead end road so their misplaced worship would become obvious. This kind of intellectual arrogance is all around us in North Carolina, America and the world. In our state there are 5.6 million people who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Where can they go to see the glory of God?

We cannot fight intellectual pride. But, we can proclaim the gospel which sets people free from the bondage of self-worship. Only through the gospel is misplaced glory corrected by true worship.

The witness of a faithful Christian glorifies God. Jesus instructed His disciples, "Let your

light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). There you have it! Live in such a way that causes others to glorify God. Those in your sphere of influence look at the way you live. They recognize that it is impossible for you to live this way without some kind of outside help. God is glorified as they see Him working in your life.

The same process can be applied to a church or a ministry. Does the non-Christian world around your church glorify God as they see the awesome things He is doing in your church family? Are they seeing things that cannot be explained by human effort? Does the genuine expression of our faith whet the spiritual appetite of those around us? Lostness is overwhelming in North Carolina. Never in history has there been more unreached, unbelieving people in our state. What an opportunity to glorify God!

What glorifies God? A complete list is much too long to cover here, but I want to suggest a few more for your consideration.

- God loves His word, so when His word is held high, internalized in the believer and obeyed deliberately, God gets glory.

- God is glorified when His people acknowledge Him as Father and grow in the intimacy that characterizes a healthy father-child relationship.

- God is glorified when His Holy Spirit indwells His children so strongly that His power is displayed in ways that cannot be attributed to human ability.

- God is glorified when His Son is received and subsequently proclaimed as the Messiah who died for sinners, was buried and arose from the grave.

- God is glorified when believers acknowledge His ownership of our lives. "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

- God is glorified when the resources of His children are wisely invested in the priority of building His Kingdom through the local church.

I would like to hear your additions to this list. The *Biblical Recorder* staff welcomes your feedback ([editor@biblicalrecorder.org](mailto:editor@biblicalrecorder.org)). We want to partner with North Carolina Baptists to glorify God. We want to be an instrument of encouragement, grace and truth to you and your church.

## From the Editor



K. Allan Blume

***"Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God."***

**— Psalm 86:8-10**

## REACT: Tar Heel Voices is your forum

- Letters are limited to 300 words.
- Letters may be edited for style, length and clarity.
- Name may be withheld only for sufficient reason.
- Letters must be signed and include contact information such as an address and phone number.

- Only one letter from a writer will be published in a 90-day period.
- **E-mail to** [editor@biblicalrecorder.org](mailto:editor@biblicalrecorder.org), or
- **mail to:** Editor, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.
- Contact (919) 847-2127 with questions.



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## Lesson for June 19

## Formations

## Lesson for June 26

## Listening to God through Creation

Focal Passage: Acts 17:22-34

Of all the cities on Paul's itinerary, there was none more like America and the western world today than Athens, Greece.

The citizens of Athens were, for the most part, quite educated and very religious (17:22).

Athens was the intellectual cradle of the Greco-Roman world. Philosophers abounded. And while there was the synagogue, it was really out in the marketplace that people spoke and listened to the ideas that changed minds and hearts. As to religious beliefs, most Athenians were polytheistic and/or pantheistic.

A popular teaching was that the world and the gods were in union — the heavenly bodies and the forces of nature were part of the personality and actions of the gods, their heroes.

Moreover, they were guilty of worshipping at altars conceived more by superstition than reality.

To such a world Paul sought to bring the message of Jesus Christ. But how?

How do modern day missionaries tell the biblical story of God's plan to people who have a totally different world view?

Here was Paul's six-part message:

(1) There is one God, not many. As such, God is the Lord of creation. Creation was ordered and planned by God.

(2) God does not live in shrines or altars. Humans did not, nor can they, create or alter who God is.

(3) God does not need anything from

us to be God. All life proceeds from God. Our life (human life) is a gift from God.

(4) God's purpose is that we seek and find Him. He is not far from any of us.

(5) God is Judge. God is justice, and God is righteous. As holy God, there is a definite right and a definite wrong. Righteousness is rewarded and wrong is punished.

Our proper response to God's righteousness and our sin is repentance.

(6) There is a resurrection from the dead. The resurrection is not a myth or a theory; the resurrection was proved when Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

One of the lessons we must understand is this: our obligation is to tell the story, and to tell it with compassion and grace.

Our obligation is faithfulness; the result is God's job. I know we don't like rejection. I doubt Paul did either. The outcome of Paul's work in Athens was mixed.

Some of the intellectuals of Athens mocked Paul.

They called him a babbler, one who "peddled religion."

He wasn't a great hit at the Jewish synagogue either.

Further, as far as we know, no church was founded by Paul. But there was Dionysius. There was Damaris. There was a start.



Wayne Proctor  
pastor, Eure  
Baptist Church

## Listening to God's Word

Focal Passage: Acts 18:24-28

Each of us has our own story of how we came to follow Jesus. My own story goes like this: raised in church, early profession of faith, some years of spiritual lethargy, and then a time of inner spiritual revival.

What made a huge difference for me was reading and getting into the Bible.

It became a passion, and it still is. But, it wasn't a solo journey. Whoever originally said "there are no lone ranger Christians" was absolutely right.

I had a support system which consisted of some peers and some wiser, more experienced adults.

Every day I am thankful for those lay men and women and those pastors who invested in

my life.

My life story is not so radically different from that of Apollos, the man who is featured in this lesson.

Apollos was from Alexandria, Egypt. He was a Jew in a city of about 100,000 Jews. Apollos also grew up with educational opportunity.

Alexandria was home to the largest library of its time, so it is reasonable to expect that Apollos would have made the most of his opportunity to read the writings of many great philosophers and thinkers.

But at some point in his life, Apollos decided to become a Christian. We're told that he knew something of the baptism teaching of John (the Baptist), but lacked a full understanding of Jesus' ministry and the working of the Holy Spirit. We're also told that Apollos was an excellent speaker. He "knew his Bible."

I expect he had excelled at scripture memorization, public speaking, and debate in school.

He was formidable in the pulpit.

Furthermore, he was bold in his conversation and witnessing to his people, the Jews. He did not shy away from confrontation, whether in private or public.

At the time we meet Apollos he was in Ephesus, probably taking care of some business matters.

While speaking in the synagogue, he was fortunate to be heard by Priscilla and Aquila. They were impressed, but they also saw a young man who could be far more effective if he was tutored or mentored properly.

Expediently, they talked to Apollos and made him an offer, saying something like this: "Let us help you. We can teach you things that Paul has taught us. We can tell you things about Jesus that you have not had the opportunity to know. We can teach you, and with our help, you can be even more effective as a Christian teacher and leader."

Apollos said "yes," and years later he would become one of the trusted leaders of the Corinthian church.

## Lesson for June 19

## Bible Studies for Life

## Lesson for June 26

## How Much Is Enough?

Focal Passages: Philippians 4:10-20; 1 Timothy 6:1-19

In our culture, contentment is not only underrated, but it is ridiculed. We are told we have little appeal if we do not wear the right designers, if we don't drink the right soda, have on the newest cologne or live in the best neighborhoods. Manufacturers place "new" and "improved" labels on all of their products to routinely boost sales. Our society thrives on "anti-contentment."

The Apostle Paul in both of our passages this week reminds his readers true wealth is best demonstrated through giving, that success is found in contented dependence on the Lord, and a mark of maturity is when "wanting" is understood as being separate from "need." Unfortunately, we live in a world where we are told to "get all we can and can all we get!"

Paul is merely expanding on the theme Jesus taught in Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount.

Every parable and example Jesus gave — in addition to what Paul is teaching us in these passages — is an illustration of the Beattitudes found in Matthew 5:3-12.

According to the commercials and advertisements and those people who coat you in a mist of sweetness near the cosmetic departments, you are what you eat, what you wear and what you smell like. Yet according to the Bible, you are what you

worship! When we begin to worship "stuff," we start down a road of worshipping anything other than our Creator.

The problem is, when we are deceived into doing this, we will realize we will never find satisfaction.

A new car will only make you happy until you see next year's model.

The outfit or suit you bought that makes you look so good, does so until you see a different one (or until the Krispy Kremes start poking out).

When I was at Clemson studying history, most of my graduate assistant friends loved to party on Thursday nights. They would get "blasted," but then they would go back and do it again the next week.

One time I asked: "If getting drunk is so great, why do you have to do it again?"

Better yet, why do you do something you rarely remember?"

What makes believers radically different isn't having, wanting or experiencing things; it's what we love and worship.

When we as humans seek to find fulfillment and contentment in anything other than Christ, we will find ourselves hungering for more.

No matter the allure or the advertising campaign, nothing in this world will be enough.

It is only when we have "much Jesus" that we will have enough.



Jim Grieme  
pastor, Watkins  
Chapel Baptist  
Church

## Why Be Generous?

Focal Passages: Luke 19:1-10; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 John 3:16-18

Anyone who has traveled in larger cities has come across beggars and panhandlers. They often gather along well-traveled thoroughfares, whether the off-ramps of freeways, heavily-trafficked sidewalks near stores and restaurants, or just by accosting you while entering or exiting your vehicle in a parking lot. They "look" needy, but are they really? *USA Today* once wrote some of these "panhandlers" make over \$70,000 a year — just by looking pitiful!

As believers, those who profess to belong to Christ, we are to be different from those outside of a relationship with Christ.

This means we view the world, ourselves and what we have differently. We are no longer of this world since we belong to Christ and His kingdom. Since our "citizenship" is to another King, we should also act differently.

One of the most important characteristics of this difference is how we treat our belongings, our things.

When we reach the point we view our money, our stuff and our goods as not ours, but that money, stuff and good belong to Christ, it is then that people can see Christ in our lives most clearly!

***"If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but shuts off his compassion from him — how can God's love reside in him? Little children, we must not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth."***

***— 1 John 3:17-18***

In Luke 19:1-10, Zacchaeus demonstrates the changed nature of someone who has encountered Christ in a life-changing way. Jesus had announced to both Zacchaeus and the crowd He was going to the house of Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was so overjoyed, he stood and proclaimed how Jesus had changed him — he was going to give away "half" of all he possessed and restore four-fold what he had swindled. No one forced him.

Jesus had not made this a requirement of salvation. Zacchaeus was a changed man.

When we realize who we are, then we have a chance to demonstrate what we are.

Only after coming to this conclusion will anyone else be able to determine to whom we belong.

When we see Jesus, really see Him like Zacchaeus did, we will be unable to react in any other way except joyful worship! The Lord of all Creation has made us His!

We will desire to tell everyone about the one who "called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

This will affect our character, our relationships and our wealth.

We're His, and all we have is His. By giving some of His things away to accomplish His purposes, we will experience a joy beyond description and give proof of

His love within us! What better reason is there to be generous?

***"I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot."***

***— Philippians 4:11-12a***



# 'Band of brothers' gathers at Arlington

**By Commander (Chaplain) Manuel A. Biadog Jr.**  
*First-Person Account*

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP) — Today's Marines in combat are our modern-day "Band of Brothers."

The term Band of Brothers was popularized by the 2001 Stephen Spielberg and Tom Hanks 10-part TV miniseries about a U.S. Army elite paratrooper unit during World War II, based on a book by Stephen E. Ambrose.

In the book and the miniseries, the men of "Easy Company" of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division formed a brotherhood of their shared experiences from basic training in 1942 at Camp Toccoa, Ga., to D-Day in June of 1944 and their ultimate triumph at the end of World War II.

A modern-day band of brothers has shared a difficult, dangerous and traumatic experience in battle, losing their brothers-in-arms in combat. Those who know the true meaning of brotherhood have lived it daily and established a special bond that binds them together for the rest of their lives.

This brotherhood was evident at Arlington National Cemetery during a bittersweet reunion of a small band of 18 Camp Lejeune Marines of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force on April 1.

Charlie Company Marines gathered to pay homage and respect on behalf of their two fallen brothers, Tyler Owen Griffin of Voluntown, Conn., and Kevin Michael Cornelius of Ashtabula, Ohio, both Lance Corporals who gave their lives while supporting combat operations in Afghanistan in April 2010.

From Camp Lejeune, N.C., the Marines were joined by the families, friends and loved ones of the fallen Marines who talked and exchanged memories and life experiences that brought them together.

Standing at attention, the Charlie Company Marines looked on while the families and loved ones were given time to grieve alone through a moment of silence and prayer at the gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery.

Slowly, one by one, each of the 18 Camp Lejeune Marines knelt down with dignity and honor, removed their covers and placed their hand on their fallen brothers' tombstones offering silent prayers, reflections and tears.

That moment of silence was broken from afar by someone softly whispering, "Semper Fi."

Choking back tears, Lance Corporal Griffin's mother Suzie Wilding said she had an impression she heard the distinct voice of her son Tyler saying faintly in her heart, "Mom, I don't deserve this honor, I was only doing my job. My job is being a Marine." Others shared their observances:

— "It is one thing to serve in combat with these Marines and to see them hurt or die, (but it) is another to face reality by meeting their families and relive



Photo courtesy of Dan DeGuzman Jr.

**PAYING TRIBUTE** — From left, Corporals Stephen Rothermelpilla and Richard Castagna salute Lance Corporal Kevin Michael Cornelius' and Lance Corporal Tyler Owen Griffin's gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery.

their sacrifices by a physical remembrance of them at Arlington. It is very humbling. That's makes it real for me," said First Lieutenant Daniel Kapavik, Third Platoon Commander.

— Celeste Corbissiero, grandmother of Lance Kevin Corporal Cornelius, said: "My grandson was very fortunate to be with such a wonderful group of men." She vividly remembers all the letters and emails she received from Kevin in Afghanistan.

"Every email and letter I received from Kevin always ended up with the same last sentence: 'I'm doing what I want to do. There is no place else I rather be. Semper Fi.'"

Corbissiero spoke proudly of her grandson: "Kevin wanted to be the best Marine." She remembers him telling her: "Grandma, if anything happens to me, if I die, don't cry because I'll be in heaven."

— Johnny Wilding, Lance Corporal Griffin's stepfather, said humbly: "Tyler and Kevin were the best of friends since they first met at Camp Lejeune. It is pretty incredible they had served together in Afghanistan, lost their lives four months apart, and (are) both ... buried together one space apart at Arlington National Cemetery."

It has been 235 years since the independence of the United States of America. Countless courageous

Americans have defended this country since the Revolutionary War — in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Panama, Grenada, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

The unselfish deeds and inspirational actions of our fallen American heroes are inscribed at The Confederate Monument at Arlington National Cemetery that reads:

Not for fame or reward  
Not for place or for rank  
Not lured by ambition  
Or goaded by necessity  
But in simple  
Obedience to duty  
As they understood it  
These men suffered all  
Sacrificed all  
Dared all — and died

May we never forget Lance Corporals Griffin and Cornelius' final acts of bravery and accomplishing their duties with HONOR, COURAGE and COMMITMENT. Their ultimate sacrifice and love for our flag, our country, their comrades-in-arms, their faith in God, their friends and their families will forever be enshrined in the hearts of our nation's proud and grateful citizens.

May God grant us the vision, wisdom, understanding and determination to make us worthy of the sacrifices of our dead heroes, and may we never forget that all future wars and conflicts again will cost the lives of the best and brightest of our nation in order to keep America safe and to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States of America.

**(EDITOR'S NOTE — Commander (Chaplain) Manuel "Don" A. Biadog Jr., CHC, USN, is a Southern Baptist chaplain endorsed by the North American Mission Board. He currently is serving as the Command Chaplain, Naval Base Kitsap, Washington. He previously served as Command Chaplain, Naval Station Newport, R.I.; Deputy III MEF Chaplain/III MHG Chaplain, III Marine Headquarters, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan; Group Chaplain, Carrier Task Force-76, White Beach, Okinawa, Japan; Deputy Chaplain, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq; Staff Chaplain, Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Irvine, Calif.; and Assistant Command Chaplain, Naval Base Guantánamo, Cuba.)**

## Mars Hill College hires chaplain

Effective mid-summer, Mars Hill College has hired Stephanie McLeskey as chaplain.

McLeskey was at the University of Georgia, where she served in two positions, as academic advisor and as campus minister through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia.

McLeskey is an ordained Baptist minister and a member of Milledge Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Ga., where she is a supply preacher, Sunday School teacher, Wednesday night teacher and chair of the Outreach Committee. She also holds committee positions with CBF/Georgia and national CBF.

## Classified Advertisements

### Denominational

The Columbus Baptist Association will be accepting resumes for the **Director of Missions** position until June 20, 2011. Pastoral experience required. Seminary training preferred. Send resumes to Dr. David B. Heller, [pleasantplains@embarqmail.com](mailto:pleasantplains@embarqmail.com), or mail to 208 S. Thompson Street, Whiteville, NC 28472; Attn: Dr. David B. Heller.

### Pastor

Beach Road Baptist Church in Southport, NC, is seeking a **senior pastor** with vision and passion for evangelism and outreach. We are a conservative church with blended worship. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Beach Road Baptist Church, PO Box 11457, Southport, NC 28461, or email: [brbcpastor11@yahoo.com](mailto:brbcpastor11@yahoo.com).

**Full-Time Pastor.** Small Baptist church in Durham, NC, is seeking full-time pastor. Info about church and position available at <http://visitimmanuel.org/pastorsearch/> via the Internet.

### Church Staff

**Minister of Music Needed.** A conservative SBC of 3,800 members is seeking God's person for the position of minister of music. This person will be responsible for the planning of a blended worship service at 11:00 as well as overseeing the contemporary 9:30 service. This active ministry has an excellent sanctuary choir of 105 members, an orchestra that plays monthly, youth choir, senior's choir, graded children's choirs and 2 youth/children's handbell choirs. Seminary training preferred. Please send resume to Lou Nelson, Administrator, at Village Baptist Church, 906, S. McPherson Church Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303 or email [lou@villagebbc.org](mailto:lou@villagebbc.org).

Southside Baptist Church, Suffolk, VA, is praying for God's will for a **Worship Pastor**. This position is full time in a growing church. Job description available and resumes are currently being accepted. You may email Lead Pastor Stewart McCarter at [smccarter@sbcusuffolk.org](mailto:smccarter@sbcusuffolk.org), or mail your resume to Southside Baptist Church, 917 Carolina Road, Suffolk, VA 23434.

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR.** Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church, Sanford, NC, is seeking a church administrator who will partner with ministry teams and committees to oversee the financial, facilities, office, and personnel management of the church, working as part of the ministry staff to carry out the ministries of the church as assigned by the Senior Pastor. JHBC supports and participates in missions through various organizations including CBF and the Baptist State Convention of NC. Salary range: \$38,000-\$40,400, with benefits. Send resume with cover letter by June 15, 2011: Personnel Committee, JHBC, 316 W. Main Street, Sanford, NC 27332 or [info@jhbc.org](mailto:info@jhbc.org).

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR.** Charles Town Baptist Church of Charles Town, W.Va., seeks a full-time associate pastor for children, youth and educational ministries. This staff member will be responsible for the development of a comprehensive educational program, with special emphasis on children's ministries. Seminary degree and full time experience are preferred. Hard working, likable, and creative are required. We are a Baptist General Association of Virginia church dually affiliated with the CBF and SBC. Submit resume to: Charles Town Baptist Church, 211 East Congress St., Charles Town, WV 25414, or email to: [pastor\\_brian@charlestownbaptist.org](mailto:pastor_brian@charlestownbaptist.org).

**Minister of Music.** Baptist Home Church of North Wilkesboro, NC, is seeking a part time minister of music to lead four worship services each week, oversee church choirs, and have a heart for outreach. We have blended worship with strong application of New Testament living. Contact Associate Pastor Jeff Blackburn (336) 670-2213.

### Miscellaneous

**NCBAM needs emergency alert systems** for aging adults. \$150 provides greater peace of mind for an aging adult living alone. You'll sleep better, too, knowing you made a difference. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

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





# Joplin devastation leaves them 'stunned'

By Joe Conway  
Baptist Press

JOPLIN, Mo. — The sky over Joplin, Mo., continued to spit light rain and clouds threatened on the horizon four days after one of the nation's deadliest tornadoes plowed through the heart of the city. Search and rescue teams continued their hopeful trek through miles of debris.

And through it all, a spirit of resolute hope spurred on this city of 50,000. In the middle of the work clearing rubble were Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers by the score.

Chainsaw crews from Missouri and Oklahoma clocked hundreds of hours helping churches and residents clear tons of fallen trees.

"I'm just stunned today, speechless. Please keep the people of Joplin in your prayers," said Missouri Baptist Convention interim executive director Jay Hughes, who was touring the site of the devastation along with North American Mission Board president Kevin Ezell.

One of the first disaster relief (DR) volunteers Hughes and Ezell visited was also a storm victim, Gary Hunley. Hunley, a Missouri DR volunteer who has already been helping with the response, was taking time to search the remains of his home May 25.

"I believe the Lord allowed this to help me learn how to relate to people," said Hunley as he and his wife, Twyla, combed through their belongings. They are members of First Baptist Church in Oronogo, Mo., which is 10 miles



Photo by Joe Conway

**DEVASTATION** — NAMB president Kevin Ezell, left, listens as Gary and Twyla Hunley of Joplin, Mo., recount their survival of an EF-5 tornado that destroyed their home and leveled a section of the city. Hunley is a disaster relief "Blue Hat" with the Missouri Baptist Convention. He's been helping with the Joplin response.

from Joplin. "We had downsized," said Twyla. "We had just gotten the house the way we wanted it. Now it is gone."

Twyla credited God's protection and her husband's devotion for their survival. "The wind was blowing so hard. We were praying. I did not think we were going to make it. Gary never let go of me. We never stopped praying, and God never let go of us, either."

Gary agreed. "It was very scary — all the noise and the air pressure," he said. "The wind was so strong it felt

like 10 men trying to push the door in. Then everything started breaking apart. We asked God to help us. When it was over, everything else was gone but He held our hand."

Said Ezell, "If we could see people's spiritual needs in the same way we see physical needs, we would be much quicker to attempt to help them. You look at the incredible destruction — everything is gone — and a few blocks away everything is fine. Spiritually, it is the same way: you look at one family

and they are fine. Just down the block another family is falling apart."

Southern Baptists, Ezell said, have the opportunity to meet both spiritual and physical needs through disaster relief. He echoed Hughes' call for prayer for the people of Joplin, and those affected by storms across the country.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon addressed members of the faith-based DR response teams in the city and told them that they had the opportunity to minister in critical ways, thanking them for their efforts. He said search and rescue efforts would continue through the end of the week. The death toll in Joplin stands at 125 and is expected to climb.

President Obama has visited the city and took part in a citywide memorial service for the victims of the storm, the governor said. Following the governor's dialog, Ezell and Hughes met with Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Craig Fugate, who thanked the men for the work of Southern Baptist DR. Also at the meeting was David Myers, director of the White House Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security.

Missouri Baptist DR director Rick Seaton said assessment teams were still at work Wednesday.

"We have seven Missouri chainsaw units out, and two from Oklahoma," Seaton said. "We also have a shower unit operating, and we have 11 chaplains working today. We expect to have a feeding unit up and operating when the city is ready for that."

# Tuscaloosa pastors 'standing in the gap'

By Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Standing outside tornado-battered Alberta Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Larry Corder recaps that it was the church where he and his wife grew up in the 1960s.

He returned seven years ago as pastor, prayerful of revitalizing a church surrounded by poverty, crime and illegal drugs.

The devastation of a tornado now has upended the lives of Alberta Baptist Church's pastor and its members.

Corder and other Tuscaloosa church leaders gathered in Alberta's parking lot May 25 for a time of encouragement from Rick Lance, state missionary and executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

"The definition of standing in the gap — you're seeing the best of it here," Lance, an Alabama native and former Tuscaloosa pastor, said to the group amid the noise and dust of bulldozer operators clearing away remnants of tornado-obiterated houses on all sides of Alberta Baptist Church, just two miles from the University of Alabama. In one block adjacent to the church, five people were killed.

Corder and Donnie Payne were from congregations that, as Payne put it, "took a major hit" from Tuscaloosa's April 27 tornado. Payne is pastor of Forest Lake Baptist Church in the geographic center of the city.

Other pastors were from churches that rushed into action that evening — Doug Reeves of East McFarland Baptist Church; Dale Glover of Cottondale Baptist Church; and Scott Reynolds of North River Church — along with Tim Foster, chairman of Hopewell Baptist Church's deacons. Also on hand were Billy Gray, interim director of missions for the Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association, and Gary Bonner, the association's associate director of missions and pastor of Bethany Baptist Church.

Nearly every church, apart from structural damage, had families whose homes or rentals were demolished by the tornado.



Photo by Bethany Rogers/ABSBM

**FINDING REASON** — Pastor Donnie Payne hopes Baptists can give hope to Tuscaloosa's tornado victims by sharing that, "You're here for a reason, and we want to help you find that reason."

"Wounded" was Lance's description for "what has happened on April 27 and since April 27.

"We've been wounded as a state; I have felt wounded emotionally, personally, but not to any degree of ... (others) in the directly impacted areas," Lance told Baptist Press. "I've traveled the state and been in most of the affected regions, which are many, and the evidences are the same: People have been traumatized ... but we will recover and we will rebuild and we will renew as the time goes on."

In immediate recovery, for example, mobile chapels are being placed at various sites where churches need a meeting place during the rebuild phase that may entail two or more years, Lance said.

"Then the renewal part of it: ... We hope that we can have a sense of renewal in Alabama — in Alabama Baptist life and our state life — because this is an opportunity in the midst of a crisis to be the people of God, people of faith, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ," Lance said.

## Reason for living

Payne, of Forest Lake Baptist Church, told Baptist Press, "We've been praying for God to give us a way to connect with the community ... and share the gos-

pel and meet people's needs. "We never dreamed that a tornado would give us that opportunity, but it has."

The message Payne hopes tornado survivors will hear from fellow survivors in Tuscaloosa's churches: "You're here for a reason, and we want to help you find that reason."

Three of the church's senior citizens died of the overwhelming trauma stemming from the tornado, Payne said, while many members were miraculously spared as the tornado tore through their neighborhoods. The church facility sustained an estimated \$2 million in structural damage, the pastor said.

At Alberta Baptist, the tornado buffeted the spiritual breakthroughs the church had been experiencing in recent years, Corder said.

The church had participated in Southern Baptists' pre-Easter "God's Plan for Sharing" evangelistic initiative in 2010 and seen results from its prayerwalking, door-to-door visits and its invitations to worship.

African Americans, high school and middle school students and older children have been baptized in the aging, predominantly white church — including nine on one Sunday, "more than the previous two years combined," Corder said.

And the church had dedicated a \$1.8 million renovation of its sanctuary and education space last October. Despite the tornado, and a multiple myeloma cancer diagnosis of his wife Brenda, Corder said the church's spiritual growth seems to be accelerating.

"It seems like Satan always rears his head in the midst of all the good that's happening, so other than a few exceptions, we're seeing our church really pull together," the pastor said. "I'm challenging our people from the Word of God every week, trying to encourage them and let them know this is not going to be a short-term recovery, it's going to be long-term. We're running the race. We've been given the baton. Our church has accomplished, with God's blessing, so much good over the years. Many people have gone out in the ministry from this church, including myself."

Additional Tuscaloosa-area churches listed by *The Alabama Baptist* as damaged by the April 27 tornado are Fleetwood, New Eastern Hills, Pilgrim Rest, Rose-dale and Temple Baptist.