



# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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## #SBC19 NEWS

Due to the **Biblical Recorder** print deadline, many of our subscribers will not receive this issue until the Pastors' Conference and Southern Baptist Convention are complete. Visit the website: **BRnow.org** or follow @**biblicalrecord** on Twitter for live updates. Follow @**dsethbrown**, @**diannacagle** and @**liztablazon** for more news. See page 6 for some photos and information from Alabama.



## IMB sex abuse prevention underway amid new report

By **DIANA CHANDLER** | Baptist Press

**A** new media report on sex abuse allegations, admissions and convictions involving former International Mission Board (IMB) workers comes as the IMB is implementing extensive sex abuse prevention reforms. The IMB is hiring a full-time senior staff member to oversee prevention response efforts, will involve outside legal counsel when reports of child abuse and sexual harassment are received, and will go beyond legal reporting duties in handling such cases, IMB President Paul Chitwood said in announcing an extensive reform effort May 22.

“To be successful, Southern Baptists must partner  
**See IMB page 4**

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By **MARILYN STEWART & GARY D. MYERS** | NOBTS

NOBTS photo

**J**ames K. “Jamie” Dew Jr. has been elected ninth president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) in a special called trustee meeting June 5. Dew comes to NOBTS from his position as vice president for undergraduate studies and distance learning at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, N.C.

“I’m humbled to the core of my being,” Dew said in accepting the NOBTS position.

“I’m going to give you everything I have. I believe we’re going to have a fantastic time as we go forward together.”

Trustee chairman Tony Lambert pointed to Proverbs 21:1 in announcing Dew’s election, adding, “Today, we ask that this will always be true for the now president and professor of Christian philosophy,” reflecting the passage’s picture of “channeled water in the Lord’s hand.”

Frank Cox, chairman of the presidential search committee, said each of the four final candidates were excellent choices, but that the committee became convinced that God was leading them to Dew.

“There are certain times in my life when I know that God showed up,” Cox said of the interview process that confirmed Dew as the nominee. “This was one of those times.”

The search committee announced May 20 its unanimous decision to nominate Dew to succeed Chancellor

Chuck Kelley, who retires July 31.

Dew laid out his vision for the seminary, with the Great Commission as his focus in pledging his commitment to equipping students to follow Christ and go “to all nations” sharing the gospel and leading lives of service to others.

“I will give you everything that I am to champion New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,” he stated.

Dew’s academic credentials include a Ph.D. in theological studies from Southeastern and a Ph.D. in philosophy conferred this summer from the University of Birmingham in the U.K. His holds a master of divinity

**See Dew page 12**



# The future of the *Biblical Recorder* is bright

This has not been a good time for many Baptist news outlets. Many have discontinued their regular printed newspapers, and others have been folded in to the communication departments of their state conventions. The *Biblical Recorder* now has the oldest Baptist newspaper still in publication, having been established in 1833. Let me share with you three reasons why I believe that the future of the *Biblical Recorder* is bright.

The future for the *Recorder* is bright because of the leadership of Allan Blume for the past eight years. Before Blume became the editor, he had a proven record as a pastor in this state. He brought more than ideas about how we should do church. He helped build a great church.

Blume had also shown his love for North Carolina Baptists through his service as the president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's board of directors. He helped reestablish a sense of trust between North Carolina Baptists and their news journal.

During his time, the *Recorder* accurately presented news that affected Baptist life. But he also presented this

news as someone who was positive about the work of the Southern Baptist Convention and the state convention. Many who felt marginalized by the editorial direction of some in the past felt they could return to the *Biblical Recorder* for news that would be trustworthy and encouraging.



**STEVE SCOGGINS**  
Guest Column

The future for the *Recorder* is also bright because they have picked the right person to lead into the future. Seth Brown served as content editor for the past four years. He has a thorough grasp about what the *Recorder* should be. But as a young man, he has fresh insights about where the *Recorder* should go in the future.

Brown is committed to maintaining and improving the print edition. Many N.C. Baptists receive their information about what is going on in Baptist life through the print edition. But he also realizes the importance of digital news as well. Many of us believe that *BRnow.org* is the finest source of news in Baptist life. He is committed to a digital-first news strategy.

The future for the *Recorder* is bright because of its excellence and innovation.

The *Recorder* is a model for how news should be reported in Baptist life. Brown intends to lead it to become a greater blessing to our churches through new and redesigned platforms, such as helping churches find pastors and staff not only in the print edition, but in a more informative way at *BRnow.org*.

As president of the convention, I am privy to the fact that he has already found ways to be more cost efficient in this vital ministry.

With all that is positive, our churches can make sure that this vital ministry continues in the future by increasing the numbers of subscriptions among your members. The annual cost for the *Recorder* is surprisingly low. It varies from \$13-16 depending on the number of people subscribing in your church.

Why not spend a small amount of money and give the leaders in your church an annual subscription through a group rate? If you give 10 leaders a subscription, you will have only spent \$135 for the year, yet you will have helped them become better Christians, better mission supporters and better church members.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Steve Scoggins is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville and president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.) **BR**

## #MeToo: One year later

When I came forward last year about a secret I had kept from everyone in my life, I had never heard of the #churchtoo movement or hashtag. Although I was vaguely familiar with the #metoo movement, I was not motivated by it to speak out.

With a career in social media, I spend a great deal of time online – including Twitter. Last April, I began to see headlines that concerned me. They piqued my curiosity. As I read more, I was flooded with memories from over a decade ago. Memories I had pushed away and forced myself not to think about.

One evening, after our children were in bed, my husband noticed anger I had tried to suppress for days. I have always been good at suppressing emotions, but my whole being was consumed with what I read online. Could there be others hurting and feeling the shame I couldn't bring myself to express in words to my husband?

I believe many men, pastors, and ministry leaders have a desire to know about sex abuse. They want to learn more about how to respond, and how not to respond, to a survivor when he or she reaches out for help.

Men, too, have a part in the redeeming work of God and a role in what's being done in the church in the area of church abuse. Here are a few of the men that walked with me through a difficult year.



**MEGAN LIVELY**  
Guest Column

My husband, Vincent is a believer, father and Southern Baptist. After I finally shared my story with Vincent, we met with our pastor that day. Vincent also met with him separately, desiring to seek godly counsel.

When Vincent woke up in the middle of the night to find me sobbing, he didn't try to make things better, fix my problems or allow me to see his own anger about something that happened long before we met. He prayed for me, sometimes silently. He took me to my doctor. He took me to counseling. He left

work early and took long lunches.

When I didn't want to go to counseling, he gently reminded me of the medical and psychological needs I had. In my worst moments, he never mirrored the craziness evident inside of me. He was a constant, consistent support of love.

This was a new lesson for me as a child of divorce. In my mind, when things got difficult, people left. Those that were supposed to love me gave up or stopped showing up. He didn't.

My pastor. As I shared my story with him, he didn't hide the ache he felt. He never pretended to have all the answers. He wept with us. When he didn't know what to say, he asked me to recall scripture that came to mind. When I was unable, he led me to verses and passages that have always been a balm to my soul.

Without sharing my story with anyone else, he contacted medical professionals for advice. He encouraged me to seek medical attention immediately. He checked on us to make sure we followed through.

As a pastor, he knew he couldn't meet the needs I had and was very quick to

let me know I was susceptible to mental health issues, such as complex trauma and psychosis.

He was also vocal about sharing one important message: my physical symptoms were not an indication of the healthiness of my relationship with God.

Bruce Ashford, provost and professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), was the first leader I contacted at the seminary. He responded immediately. With no questions asked, he told me the school would support me if I wished to press charges.

SEBTS President Danny Akin was the next to respond with kindness, compassion, love, and support – consistently.

George Harvey, director of planned giving and general counsel at SEBTS, responded with protection. He locked up my file at SEBTS and has worked all year long to protect me, my records and my privacy.

Kevin Ueckert, board chairman for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, encouraged me with this wise statement that has remained with me all year

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## 6 characteristics of godly fathers

Throughout the pages of scripture, God reveals Himself to us in His Word as our heavenly Father. The Bible tells us that as our perfect Father, God loves us unconditionally, provides for our needs, guides us along life's journey and will never leave us nor forsake us. These are comforting truths!

When we think about God as our Father, these truths also provide us with some principles to live by as earthly fathers. God has entrusted men with a great responsibility to provide spiritual leadership in their homes and to their families. Even the best of earthly fathers may not fulfill all of these responsibilities perfectly every day, but they are biblical characteristics that we can strive to achieve daily by submitting ourselves to God each day and allowing Him to do this through us by the person and power of His Holy Spirit.

### • Godly fathers love their family.

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul writes that husbands should love their wives *"as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"* (Ephesians 5:25). That is a love that is selfless and sacrificial. One of the best things a father can do is to love his wife and not be shy about letting their children know. This is a great way to teach your son to love his mom and his wife after they are married.

### • Godly fathers lead their family.

In the Old Testament, Joshua made a strong and clear commitment about following God when he declared,

*"as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"* (Joshua 24:15).

Men must not neglect the calling and responsibility to provide spiritual leadership in the home. Take time to lead your family in Bible reading and prayer.

### • Godly fathers provide for their family.

There are many verses in the Bible that point to God as our provider, but perhaps the most famous one is Philippians 4:19 in which Paul writes, *"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* In the same way that God provides for our physical, spiritual and emotional needs, we should strive to do the same for our families.

### • Godly fathers impart wisdom.

We know God's holy, inspired and inerrant Word is the ultimate source of wisdom and truth. Deuteronomy 6 instructs us to impress God's truth upon the hearts of our children and instruct them as we rise up, sit at home, travel down the road and lie down (v. 6). Look for ways to impart God's truth through the daily rhythms of your life.

### • Godly fathers provide correction.

Hebrews 12 reminds us that God always disciplines us out of love, and we must strive to do the same with our children. Paul also encourages fathers not to provoke or antagonize our children to anger but to *"bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4).



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.  
BSC executive  
director-treasurer



### • Godly fathers demonstrate forgiveness.

The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15 gives us a picture of what the heart of our heavenly Father is like. After the son returns home having squandered much of his father's wealth, the father runs to him, embraces him, forgives him and restores him to his place in the family.

What a beautiful picture of what God does for us! May we strive to model that picture of forgiveness within our families.

Perhaps you are burdened by guilt because you feel like you have failed your family in these or other areas. Perhaps your own father did not reflect these qualities, and you are suffering from a strained relationship with him. Or perhaps you have lost your earthly father and you are mourning his absence and missing his presence. The beauty of our relationship with God is that He forgives, restores broken relationships and gives us another opportunity to do the right thing.

May we look to our perfect heavenly Father for comfort and strength in order to be a dynamic godly father for the good of our family and the glory of God.

*"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"* – Ephesians 6:4 (ESV). **BR**

## Advice from Dad

Baptist Press

**"I** already know, Dad." I had my doubts over the confidence that my oldest son exuded as he took the car keys from me.

He put the car in drive and sped off entirely too fast.

A lot of thoughts flowed through my mind:

- "I wish I was 15 years old again so that I would already know everything."

- "You may know everything, but I've got 25 years of experience on you."

- "If the DMV signed off on you after only 20 minutes, they should be required to ride with you the next six months, not me!"

It's funny how things come full circle.

It seems like just yesterday I was giving the same instructions to my own father when I was 15.

With an eye roll and a sigh of disgust, I would listen to instructions that I already knew, like checking my blind spot and not going backwards when I wasn't looking in that direction.

My dad told me once, "I know that you are 15 and already know everything, but give me the pleasure of pretending like I'm teaching you something and just listen."

Your heavenly Father knows just how you feel, Dad: *"If my people would only listen to Me, if Israel would only follow My ways"* (Psalm 81:3).

You may be a religious straight-A student who has heard all the Bible stories – with Bible drill medals to prove it.

God may be attempting to speak to you through others and His Word about your brokenness, but you are reluctant to listen to Him and do what He says.

Maybe He is trying to get your attention to get behind the wheel, take a risk and share hope with your neighbor.

What else has God got to do to get your attention?

"Dad, I hit a tree."

Now before you go feeling sorry for him, the tree had been in the same place for the past 50 years. It was in just the right spot where a 15-year-old who wasn't looking behind would back right into it.

I like to think my heavenly Father planted it there to remind my son that maybe his earthly father may still know a few more things than he does

(and also as a catalyst to get his first job to pay for a dented tailgate).

Maybe it was planted there as a reminder to warn all of us: *"Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge"* (Proverbs 19:27). God has planted an abundance of divine counsel so that we may be *"like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither"* (Psalm 1:3).

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Lee Clamp, South Carolina Baptist Convention team leader of evangelism, is online at @leeclamp and facebook.com/leeclamp.) **BR**



LEE CLAMP  
Guest Column



Saturday's Sermon Preparation

## Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to [editor@BRnow.org](mailto:editor@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period. All submissions will be edited by *Recorder* style guidelines. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.

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



# Chitwood to emeritus missionaries: ‘Nobody’s done’

By ANN LOVELL | Baptist Press

**K**arl and Peggy Wallace were in the next-to-last group of missionaries appointed by then-Foreign Mission Board President Baker James Cauthen in 1978. The Wallaces served 40 years in Peru and Colombia with the FMB, now International Mission Board (IMB), under five different presidents through seven major reorganizations.

“I always tell new people not to worry about changes,” Peggy Wallace said. “Just be faithful to where God has placed you.”

The Wallaces were among 22 missionaries recognized by the IMB in a service near Richmond, Va., May 30. They represent a cumulative total of nearly 600 years of missionary service, IMB President Paul Chitwood said.

These men and women “have given to the cause of taking the gospel to the nations generously and joyfully,” Chitwood said. “We praise the Lord for them.”

## Work yet to do

As with most missionary gatherings, it had the feeling of a family reunion, filled with reconnections, stories and memories. The service capped a week of recognition and support for the retiring missionaries, who traveled from locations across the country to attend.

But for those retiring missionaries who might think their service is “over,” the message was clear: There is still work to be done.

Woman’s Missionary Union Executive Director/Treasurer Sandy Wisdom-Martin, in her remarks to the group, quoted the U.S. Army’s first general order: “I will guard everything within the limits of my post and quit my post only when properly relieved.”

“We rejoice in all that God has done through you for the sake of the gospel around the world,” Wisdom-Martin said. “But I want to say to you – and I hope it’s not too bold of me – tonight you are merely getting

your transfer orders. You have not yet been discharged. There’s work yet to do. Your post assignment has changed, but the work hasn’t been completed.”

Wisdom-Martin assured the missionaries that their continued service is essential to the work of the church in the world.

“We need you now more than ever,” she said. “We need you to shine light in dark places here at home. We need you to show us how to be resilient in the face of difficulties. We need you to show us how to become faithful because our culture has experienced the death of loyalty. We need you.”

## Remember with joy

Chitwood thanked the retiring missionaries on behalf of Southern Baptists, preaching from Philippians 1:3-6, encouraging them to remember their service with joy, just as the apostle Paul encouraged the Philippians in the letter he wrote from a prison cell.

“I don’t know what your time on the field was like,” Chitwood said. “We heard some snippets tonight....



Richard and Fran Kelly, right, who are retiring after 20 years with the International Mission Board (IMB) in Sub-Saharan Africa, reconnect with friends at the IMB emeritus recognition service May 30. In the early years of their ministry, Richard and a coworker prayerwalked from village to village over the entire country of Gambia. (IMB photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

We heard about some real challenges, heartache and loss.... But I want to encourage you to be joyful in your memories.... Dwell on the victories. Call to mind those experiences that bring a smile to your face, a chuckle or even a good, long laugh.”

“Why? Because as sovereign as God is over the victories, He is sovereign over the defeats,” Chitwood said. “As sovereign as God is over the successes, He is sovereign over the failures. He is sovereign over the pleasant experiences and the painful ones.”

Because God works all things together “*for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to His purposes*,” the apostle Paul could focus on the good, Chitwood said. “And so can we.”

“I’m not at all trying to dismiss or forget the challenges,” Chitwood said. “We just love you and thank God for you. We think you ought to have joy from having given your life the way you’ve given it and lived your life the way you’ve lived it, even if there was much pain and hardship involved.”

## Still a place

Echoing Wisdom-Martin’s appeal, Chitwood also told the retiring missionaries, “There’s still a place for you.”

He shared a conversation from earlier in the day he had with a missionary who retired from the IMB a number of years ago. Now in his 80s, the retired missionary continues to make regular trips to Southeast Asia and speak and write about his experiences. “He is still carrying the gospel to the nations,” Chitwood said. “He told me to tell you, ‘There is still a place for you.’”

Chitwood reminded the missionaries that the work of global evangelism is not yet done. “Nobody’s done,” Chitwood said. “This isn’t a funeral. There are no caskets here. Keep finding ways to serve and to be a part of this work. Your partnership in the gospel doesn’t end until the work is complete.” **BR**

## IMB Continued from page 1

with one another in diligently demanding the highest standards to respond to these incidents,” Chitwood said in the statement at [imb.org](http://imb.org). “We want to go beyond minimum legal standards. We must be the leaders in best practices that set the standards others follow in these areas. Therefore, as the IMB continues our work in these areas, I call on every Southern Baptist entity and every Southern Baptist church to join us.”

Days later on May 31, the *Houston Chronicle* highlighted in its article, “Abuses by missionaries,” cases involving former overseas missionaries Walter Dildy (deceased), Gene Kingsley (deceased), William N. McElrath, George Thomas Wade Jr., and Mark Aderholt, whose legal case is ongoing.

The IMB chose not to comment in Baptist Press (BP) regarding the specific cases in the *Houston Chronicle* article, but continues to work with the law firm of Gray Plant Mooty (GPM) “to review individual cases and take responsibility for

any failures on the part of the IMB.” IMB trustees selected the firm in late 2018, a few months after then IMB-president David Platt called for an external examination of IMB’s handling of past child abuse and sexual harassment allegations, as well as a review of IMB’s policies and practices.

“As noted in Gray Plant Mooty’s examination update,” IMB Public Relations Director Julie McGowan told BP June 3, “as GPM reviews individual past cases, GPM has identified whether any actions are needed in each specific matter, such as reporting an allegation to government authorities, following up to ensure victims received care, sending communications to those who had contact with perpetrators, gathering additional information, and conducting investigations.

“GPM is consulting with other experts as needed during the examination,” McGowan said. “As Dr. Paul Chitwood noted on May 22, IMB agrees with all the recommendations we have received from

Gray Plant Mooty, and we are committed to implementing all those recommendations with their help.”

IMB will report any additional cases unearthed in GPM’s investigation, Chitwood has said.

“We have already begun to report every known incident of alleged child abuse by IMB personnel or others affiliated with IMB that has not been previously reported,” Chitwood said in May.

Chitwood has also apologized to abuse victims.

“My prayer is that in the days and weeks ahead, you will find healing and peace, and that the steps we are actively taking today in some small way may help foster that healing and peace for each of you,” Chitwood said. “I commit to you today that we will do better in the future.”

Chitwood made his comments during the May 22-23 IMB trustee meeting near Richmond, Va.

Concurrently, GPM released an update

on its investigation and recommendations. Among many GPM recommendations, IMB should:

- adopt protocols for reporting allegations of child abuse to U.S. and foreign government authorities;
- revise policies to make clear that personnel must directly report suspected child abuse to government authorities as well as to IMB;
- revise employee screening;
- provide increased training on topics including child safety, sexual harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence;
- provide age-appropriate education to help children of IMB personnel recognize and report abuse;
- use trauma-informed interview techniques and a trauma-informed approach to weighing evidence, and
- encourage reporting to IMB leadership when perpetrators, following the end of their affiliation with IMB, are working in a position that would provide access to children. **BR**



# Virginia Beach tragedy spurs mourning, prayer for president

By GRACE THORNTON | Baptist Press

**A** Virginia Baptist church is mourning the loss of one of its own in the wake of a mass shooting that left 12 dead in a Virginia Beach office building on May 31.

The tragedy also opened the door for Virginia pastor David Platt to share the gospel as he prayed over President Donald Trump during an unexpected visit from Washington, D.C., to nearby McLean Bible Church in Vienna on June 2.

In Virginia Beach, former London Bridge Baptist Church member Herbert “Bert” Snelling was shot and killed as DeWayne Craddock made his way through Building 2 of the Virginia Beach Municipal Center, opening fire on his former colleagues. Craddock, a veteran city engineer, had emailed his resignation letter that morning, and his boss – Richard H. Nettleton – was found among the dead. Craddock, too, died in a shootout with police, leaving authorities still searching for a motive for the massacre, according to CNN.

Greg Brinson, pastor of London Bridge Baptist Church, told those present at a prayer vigil June 1 that he has been in Virginia Beach for more than 30 years and “the last 26 hours have been the worst I can remember.”

His church welcomed the community to gather and pray that night for friends and neighbors affected by the tragedy.

Snelling’s family was among those. Snelling was a member of the London Bridge Baptist congregation before join-



David Platt, left, prays for President Donald Trump at McLean Bible Church in Virginia. (Screen shot)

ing another church in the area. He was known as a devoted follower of Jesus, a loving husband and a committed community member.

A contractor, Snelling had used his skills for London Bridge Baptist’s local and international missions efforts, building houses in Guatemala and doing home and roof repairs locally. He was the only victim who wasn’t a city employee – he was in the municipal building to get a permit that day, according to the Virginian-Pilot.

Brian Autry, executive director of the SBC of Virginia, said he and other Baptists “continue to pray for all of the families impacted by the shooting and that God will provide comfort and peace that only He can provide.”

In the hours and days since the shooting, pastors and lay chaplains have

mobilized to Virginia Beach and the larger region to offer ministry to grieving families and the community, Autry said.

Members of London Bridge Baptist have been among those hard at work. Brinson said his church was praying for the victims’ families, first responders and city employees and for the gospel to permeate the city.

“As we sat in a middle school cafeteria [the night of the shooting] waiting with families and friends gathered there to hear the fate of their loved ones, no one was talking about cars or homes or social issues, all that was stripped away,” Brinson said. “We were dealing with life and death and faith. As I looked around, the Lord impressed on my heart the tremendous need for the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, to be shared throughout our city.”

## Unexpected visit

Following the shooting, President Trump made an unannounced visit to McLean Bible Church in Vienna, Va., about 15 miles outside of Washington D.C., “to visit with the pastor and pray for the victims and community of Virginia Beach,” said Judd Deere, White House spokesperson.

Earlier in the week, Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan’s Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, had posted a video on Twitter calling Christians to pray for the president on June 2.

Platt said he found out about the visit just minutes before Trump arrived and, citing 1 Timothy 2:1-6, decided that it was “good, and pleasing in the sight of God, to pray for the president” – a “unique opportunity,” not a political one, he wrote in an online letter to the church later that day.

Backstage with Trump, he and another McLean pastor “spoke the gospel in a way that I pray was clear, forthright, and compassionate,” Platt wrote.

Then he spoke the gospel message again in his prayer with the church.

“God, we pray that he (Trump) would know how much You love him – so much that You sent Jesus to die for his sins, our sins – so we pray that he would look to You, that he would trust in You, that he would lean on You,” Platt prayed.

“That he would govern and make decisions in ways that are good for justice, and good for righteousness, and good for equity, every good path.” **BR**

## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Mission:Dignity is a ministry of GuideStone Financial Resources that provides financial assistance to previous Southern Baptist servants and their widows. There are a total of 143 households that received assistance in North Carolina in the last year. The total assistance to Mission Dignity recipients in North Carolina was \$628,818, which included additional

assistance as a result of the hurricanes along with other personal emergency needs.

Mission:Dignity Sunday is June 23. Resources to promote the offering are available at <http://igfn.us/f/2a17/n> or text MDORDER to 41444 from a mobile device. To download videos or other materials, visit [MDSunday.org](http://MDSunday.org).

## HHS stops internal fetal tissue research

Baptist Press

**S**outhern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore and other pro-life leaders welcomed the President Donald Trump administration’s newly announced decision to halt internal research by a federal entity using tissue from electively aborted babies.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced June 5 the discontinuation of research within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) involving human fetal tissue from elective abortions.

Regarding fetal tissue research, HHS also disclosed:

- The establishment of an ethics advisory board to review proposals for external experiments, such as at universities, using tissue from elective abortions and to recommend whether NIH should provide funding.
- The funding of efforts to develop and certify alternatives to the use of human tissue from elective abortions in HHS-supported research.

Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), noted he is “grateful for this action.” **BR**

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# SBC 2019

The Southern Baptist Convention and its many other auxiliary meetings were just beginning at the *Biblical Recorder* print deadline, so here are a few highlights from the weekend and Sunday. Please check [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org) and the next *BR* print issue for coverage of the actual meeting.



J.D. Greear, second from left, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., prays with a group of volunteers at Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., before doing door-to-door evangelism in the neighborhood. The outreach was part of several evangelistic events across the city June 8 called Crossover 2019. (BP photo by Hannah Anders)



Joy Bolton, left, of Summerville Baptist Church in South Carolina, her husband Lee, Linda Cooper, center, president of the national Woman's Missionary Union, and Lindy Lynch, a sophomore at Garner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C., share the gospel during Crossover 2019 in Birmingham, Ala. (BP photo by Kathleen Murray)

From Twitter:

@TrevinWax: The last three days serving on this resolutions committee for #SBC19 have been long and tiring, but also fantastic in getting to spend time with these brothers and sisters. Pray for our team as we continue our work this weekend in preparation for next week.

@JimmyScroggins: 1. We don't have to be unanimous on all issues to be united on the most important issues. Unity doesn't require unanimity.

From the *Recorder*:

@biblicalrecord:

"Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal ... but sometimes on earth, there is pain that is lifelong. We need to be okay with the tension that everything is not healed or restored on earth ... but God is absolutely present and at work."

— Katherine Wolf @hopeheals #SBCPC19

"Our resolutions at this Southern Baptist Convention are not the same as repentance."

— @EdLitton #SBCPC19

"The Beatitudes are oversized clothing. We don't fit them yet. We are growing up into them." — @DrRobertSmithJr #SBCPC19

@diannacagle: Ruby Fulbright - former leader of @WMUNC - wins Dellana West O'Brien Award from @WMUFoundation @NationalWMU #SBC19

@diannacagle: Kevin Ezell calls @NationalWMU the "secret sauce" for what makes @NAMB\_SBC work well #SBC19



# Tiananmen rally promotes religious freedom

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

**H**uman rights advocates including Christians marked the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre with a rally in Washington June 4, calling the U.S. to hold China accountable for past and continued human rights abuses.

As many as 10,000 died and 28,000 were injured in the massacre while the Chinese government maintains it killed no more than 300, speakers said at the event held by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) with many co-sponsors, including ChinaAid, the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, the World Uyghur Congress and the International Campaign for Tibet.

The persecution of house Christians, the detention of as many as 3 million Uyghur Muslims, the mutilation and organ harvesting of Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience, forced abortions, imprisonments, harassment and brainwashing are among current atrocities, VOC Executive Director Marion Smith said at the midday event on the U.S. Capitol's west lawn. China mandates worship of President Xi Jinping.

"Here in the United States more and more Americans are beginning to see the People's Republic of China for what it is, an unreformed Communist dictatorship that tramples on human rights inside of China and threatens the peace of the world," Smith said. "To sit by in the face of such travesties is to betray the memory of Tiananmen's victims and our own national interests as Americans. Instead, we must continue their fight, serving as their voice and applying maximum pressure on Beijing for reform and accountability."

ChinaAid President Bob Fu offered hope through scripture. "I want to read one verse from the scripture in Psalm 10:17 to encourage us that those who are persecuted, those who are afflicted by the oppressors, your voice will never be forgotten, your fight will never be isolated," Fu told an estimated 350 rally attendees. *"We are with you. So you Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted, you encourage them and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror."* He read the scripture in both English and Chinese.

Fu is also a key organizer of the newly formed Coalition to Advance Religious Freedom in China, a multi-faith action group urging the U.S. to impose sanctions and otherwise pressure China to eliminate human rights abuses.

The Washington rally was designed not only to honor Tiananmen victims, ChinaAid English Editor Brynne

Lawrence told Baptist Press in advance of the event, but also to "draw the conversation on China's human rights abuses into the modern day.

"The Chinese government's resolve to suppress freedom of religion and speech has only strengthened in recent years, resulting in thousands of victims," Lawrence said. "Because of this, we cannot afford to let the Tiananmen Square murders fall out of the public eye, as they serve as a symbol of the Chinese people's ongoing struggle for freedom and as a conversation starter for what that struggle looks like today."

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) said the crimes against women, including forced abortions and sterilization, are unprecedented. He foretold a day when China would be a land of freedom.

"We will call on Congress, it is bipartisan, and we will call on the president to be even stronger so that the next 30 years, and sooner rather than later, will see a matriculation from dictatorship to freedom and democracy," Smith said. "Under Xi Jinping, we've seen a marked deterioration in the human rights situation on the religious front, whether it be the Falun Gong, Tibetan Buddhists, the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, or the Christians.

"Even the officially recognized patriotic church and Three Self movement are under a more aggressive siege by Xi Jinping," said Smith, a ranking member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Xi Jinping "has declared war on religion, and world leaders – including in this Capitol – need to speak out boldly and unambiguously against this attack against people of faith."

Chen Guangcheng, founder of The Chen Guangcheng Foundation and an active student organizer at the time of the massacre, called on Congress to use the 2016 Global Magnitsky Act to force change. The act allows the executive branch to impose visa bans and targeted sanctions on individuals who commit human rights violations or acts of significant corruption.

Speaking through an interpreter, Guangcheng said the Tiananmen massacre was part of a nationwide suppression of freedom. He put the event's death toll at 10,425 people and injuries at more than 28,000. More than 1 million people had gathered in the square by the end of May in a sustained protest.

"Ever since then, the Chinese regime has declared war on the people of China," said Guangcheng, a rally co-sponsor. "We need to think about how we can make the Chinese regime go into the ash pit of history."

The Chinese people participate in more than 200,000 protests annually, he said, indicating continued hope for deliverance. **BR**

## #MeToo Continued from page 2

long – "You were forced to show mercy at a time where there should have been justice."

There are Southern Baptist men that have dealt with abuse in ministry, along with decades of cover up, in the worst ways possible. They have sinned against abuse victims and the church.

There is no need to sugarcoat the wrong that has happened.

However, in the last year, I experienced men in leadership that responded appropriately.

As we work to be more like Jesus, we need to give our brothers the opportunity to respond appropriately while we learn from the male leaders that have been

wrong in the past. Whether it was out of ignorance, with intention, or for the sake of the church, we must do better.

Let me reiterate – family, medical doctors, immediate action, compassion, protection, and wisdom are just a few of the ways Southern Baptist men in leadership assisted me on my path towards healing.

May the brothers named above be an example for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention and the church.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Megan Lively, a wife, mom and victim advocate, is a member of Peace Church in Wilson. You can follow her @meganlively on Twitter.) **BR**

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Promise Keepers to add digital reach, local touch

(Baptist Press) Promise Keepers, the Christian men's ministry that peaked in the late 1990s, will launch a "new era" at a national gathering July 31-Aug. 1, 2020, at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas.

Registration for the conference is open at [promisekeepers.org](http://promisekeepers.org). Promise Keepers (PK) chairman and CEO Ken Harrison, in a May 21 email announcing the conference, said the men's ministry expects to fill AT&T Stadium with 80,000-plus men for the two-day event. The organization projects that up to 5 million more will participate via simulcast in as many as 30,000 locations worldwide, including local churches.

The 2020 PK event will include sessions on Friday night and Saturday, a Saturday night concert and an optional day of service on Sunday.

### Southwestern expands women's support initiatives

(SWBTS, Baptist Press) Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has launched multiple initiatives to further its equipping and empowering of women to answer the call to serve the Lord, President Adam W. Greenway announced June 6.

The initiatives include the establishment of the Southwestern Women's Center, new faculty titles and roles and an update and revision of the women's studies and women's ministry curricula.

To lead the women's center, Terri Stovall, formerly dean of women's programs, has been named dean of women.

The previous title was an academic dean who had oversight over the seminary's varied women-focused programs, Stovall said.

Sarah Spring has been appointed associate dean for student success in Scarborough College, a role that will see her investing in every member of the seminary's undergraduate student body.

### Couple establishes GWU scholarship with \$4-million gift

(Gardner-Webb University) Carolyn and Robert Tucker have given a \$4 million scholarship endowment to establish the "Tucker Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength Scholarship" at Gardner-Webb University (GWU).

The scholarship name is based on Mark 12:29-31, a scripture in which Jesus gives the two most important commandments: love God and love your neighbor.

The Tuckers are the owners of Shoe Show, Inc., which was founded in 1960 in Kannapolis, N.C.

When fully in place, the fund will provide for four Tucker Scholars, one in each class, every year in perpetuity. The first Tucker Scholar will be awarded Fall Semester 2020.

### Spurgeon College to launch basketball program

(Baptist Press & Midwestern Seminary) Beginning in the fall, Spurgeon College will launch a basketball program as its first step into intercollegiate sports.

In addition to men's basketball at Spurgeon College, there is the potential to add teams in other sports. Visit [spurgeoncollege.com/athletics](http://spurgeoncollege.com/athletics).

# SBC sex abuse study unveils ‘key findings’

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Executive Editor

**J**.D. Greear’s Sexual Abuse Advisory Group (SAAG) released its initial report June 8 as part of an ongoing process to assess current needs and develop recommendations for Southern Baptist churches regarding sexual abuse.

The 52-page report, described as a “first step,” includes first-hand accounts from survivors of sexual abuse, as well as calls to “illuminate the evil” and “lament the wrong that has been done.”

Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., worked with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in 2018 to launch a two-year study in response to revelations of sexual abuse in the SBC.

The group admits specific failures among Southern Baptist churches:

- “Failing to adequately train our staff and volunteers – on the national, state, and congregational levels – to be aware of and respond appropriately to abuse;
- “Using church autonomy improperly to avoid taking appropriate action;
- “Failing to care well for survivors of abuse;
- “Failing to take disclosure seriously and to believe the survivor;
- “Failing to report abuse to civil authorities;
- “Recommending suspected perpetrators to new employment;
- “Promoting political, institutional, and congregational leaders whose language and behavior glorifies mistreatment of women and children.”

The document highlights “key findings,” including

the need to place survivor care as the “top priority” and the value of best practices for recognizing and preventing sex abuse. It also addresses specific topics such as clergy abuse.

“Moving forward, we must determine to no longer allow our church structure or its leadership to hinder justice or healing for survivors of sexual abuse,” the report said. “We, instead, must utilize our Convention to encourage policies and practices that protect the vulnerable, ‘maintaining the witness of Christ in the holiness and safety of his church.’”

The SAAG urged all Southern Baptist congregations to participate in the “Caring Well Challenge, an eight-step program to equip churches to be environments that are “safe for survivors and safe from abuse.”

Download the full report at [caringwell.com/report/](http://caringwell.com/report/). **BR**

## Study: Putting faith into action lacking

By **AARON EARLS** | Baptist Press

**J**esus said He came not to be served but to serve, and told His disciples, “*The greatest among you will be your servant*” (Matthew 23:11, CSB). Despite Jesus’ admonition, according to a report released June 5, many Protestant churchgoers find it difficult to serve others.

The 2019 Discipleship Pathway Assessment study from LifeWay Research found few Protestant churchgoers say they strongly agree they are personally taking actions that indicate a life of service to God and others.

The survey, conducted Jan. 14–29, identifies serving God and others as one of eight signposts that consistently show up in the lives of growing Christians.

“Many churchgoers profess faith in Jesus Christ, but are not putting that faith into action,” said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. “Jesus set an example for His followers through both the beliefs He taught and the way He served others.”

### Intentional sacrifices

Fifteen percent of Protestant churchgoers strongly agree they intentionally give up certain purchases so they can use that money for others. Including those who somewhat agree, 41 percent say they practice that type of intentional generosity.

Younger churchgoers are more likely to take this step of service than older ones. Among 18- to 34-year-olds attending a Protestant church once a month or more, 22 percent strongly agree they give up purchases to use that money for others. The same is true for 18 percent of those age 35-49, 12 percent of 50- to 64-year-olds, and 8 percent of those 65 and older.

Hispanic churchgoers (25 percent) are

more likely to strongly agree than African American (17 percent) or white (12 percent) churchgoers.

Those who attend a worship service at least weekly are more likely to strongly agree than those who attend less frequently (16 percent to 11 percent).

Protestant churchgoers are slightly more likely to say they intentionally try to serve people outside of their church who have tangible needs. More than 6 in 10 agree (62 percent), with 25 percent strongly agreeing.

Those 65 and older are the age demographic least likely to strongly agree (19 percent).

Hispanic (38 percent) and African American (29 percent) churchgoers are more likely to strongly agree than white churchgoers (21 percent).

Again, those who attend church services more frequently are more likely to say they serve others in this way, with 26 percent of those who attend at least weekly strongly agreeing compared to 21 percent of those who attend less than four times a month.

“Contrary to a common use of the word among Christians, serving is not confined to having a job to do at church,” McConnell said. “Serving includes showing the love of Christ in tangible ways to our neighbors in need.”

### Beyond opportunities of service

Three-quarters of regular Protestant churchgoers (74 percent) see their acts of service as a way to also get to know others. A full third (33 percent) strongly agree that when they have the opportunity to serve someone, they also try to get to know the person better.

Women (35 percent) are more likely to strongly agree than men (30 percent), while Hispanic churchgoers (45 percent) are the ethnic group most likely to strongly agree.

Regular churchgoers with less than a college degree (36 percent) are more likely to strongly agree than those who have a bachelor’s degree or higher (29 percent).

Black Protestants (39 percent) and evangelical Protestants (34 percent) are

more likely to strongly agree than mainline Protestants (26 percent).

Those who attend worship services four times a month or more (35 percent) are more likely to strongly agree than those who attend less frequently (28 percent).

“It is easy to get a ‘fix-it’ mentality when serving,” McConnell said. “While there is most definitely a practical aspect to service, there is also a personal element. Without caring to know the person you are helping, a church’s service lacks the love that is at the heart of all Christian service.”

Serving God and others is one of eight signposts measured in the Discipleship Pathway Assessment and addressed in LifeWay’s Bible Studies for Life curriculum. For more information, visit [DiscipleshipPathwayAssessment.com](http://DiscipleshipPathwayAssessment.com).

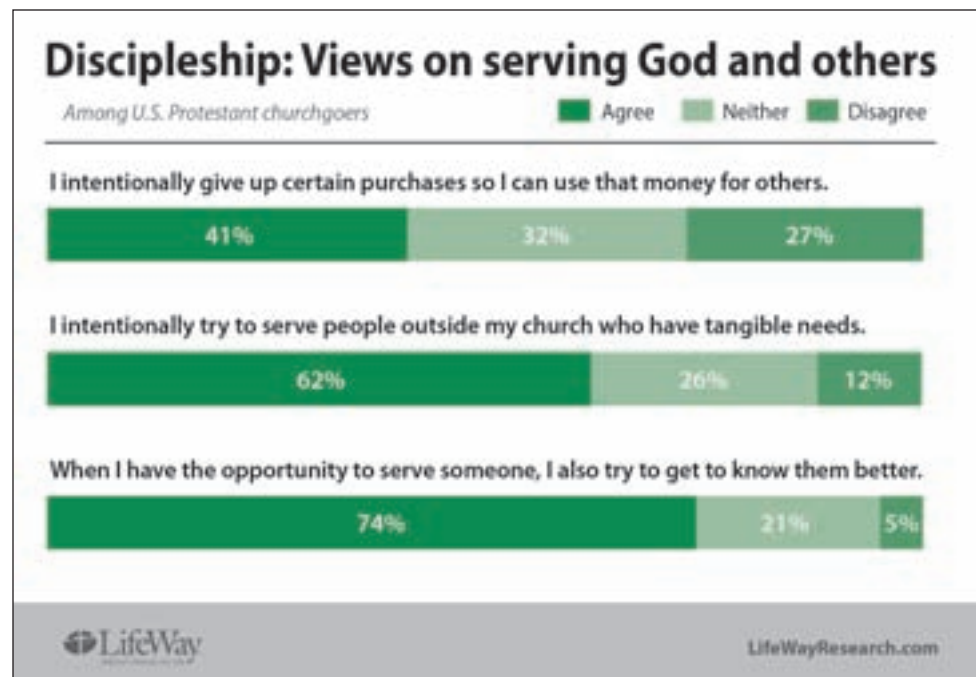
### Methodology

The online survey of 2,500 Protestant churchgoers was conducted Jan. 14–29. Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant or non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month.

Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, income and denominational affiliation. The completed sample is 2,500 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 2.0 percent.

Margins of error are higher in subgroups.

LifeWay Research is a Nashville-based evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches. For more information on the study, visit [LifeWayResearch.com](http://LifeWayResearch.com) or view the complete at [lifewayresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Discipleship-Pathway-2019-Serving-God-and-Others-Release.pdf](http://lifewayresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Discipleship-Pathway-2019-Serving-God-and-Others-Release.pdf). **BR**





# ‘Caring Well Challenge’ on abuse launched

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

The Southern Baptist effort to address sexual abuse in churches has taken another step with the launch of the “Caring Well Challenge,” a joint call for congregations to become equipped to prevent predatory behavior and to care for survivors.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and the Sexual Abuse Advisory Study announced the cost-free initiative June 6. They issued an invitation to all Southern Baptist churches to participate. All the convention’s entities, more than 35 Southern Baptist state conventions, and many Baptist associations and colleges have endorsed the “Caring Well Challenge,” according to an ERLC release.

The ERLC and the Sexual Abuse Advisory Study – which was named by South-

ern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear – also have collaborated with LifeWay Christian Resources to produce “Becoming a Church That Cares Well for the Abused.” The new, free multimedia resource is a comprehensive training curriculum that consists of a handbook with 12 video lessons from experts in a variety of areas.

Regarding the “Caring Well Challenge,” Greear makes an appeal to churches to participate in a video on the initiative’s website, [caringwell.com](http://caringwell.com).

“The ‘Caring Well Challenge’ provides your church with a pathway to start engaging the problem of abuse,” Greear says. “This is an opportunity for you to say, ‘Yes, yes, our church is ready

to do whatever it takes to confront the abuse crisis and to care for the abused.”

ERLC President Russell Moore acknowledged in a news release announcing the challenge, “There is no quick fix

for an issue as complex as church sexual abuse. But this initiative is an outstanding step designed to join our churches together in a common cause.

“Over the last year, I’ve spoken with hundreds of pastors and leaders who are determined to make this issue a priority in their churches, but are looking for tools and training,” Moore said.

“That’s exactly what this challenge is designed to provide. It has been a joy to partner with so many survivors and experts across many fields to design training that will give churches tools to act immediately.”

A commitment to the challenge means a church will take these eight steps during the next year:

- Commit to the “Caring Well Challenge.”
- Build a “Caring Well” team to lead the church’s effort.
- Launch the “Caring Well Challenge” on Aug. 25 or a similar date.
- Train your team at the 2019 ERLC National Conference, which is Oct. 3-5 in Grapevine, Texas. The conference theme is “Caring Well: Equipping the Church to Confront the Abuse Crisis.”
- Equip leaders through the “Becoming a Church That Cares Well for the Abused” curriculum.

## The commitment takes a year covering eight steps.

• Enhance church policies, procedures and practices related to abuse.

• Dedicate Sunday services on May 3, 2020, or a similar date to address abuse.

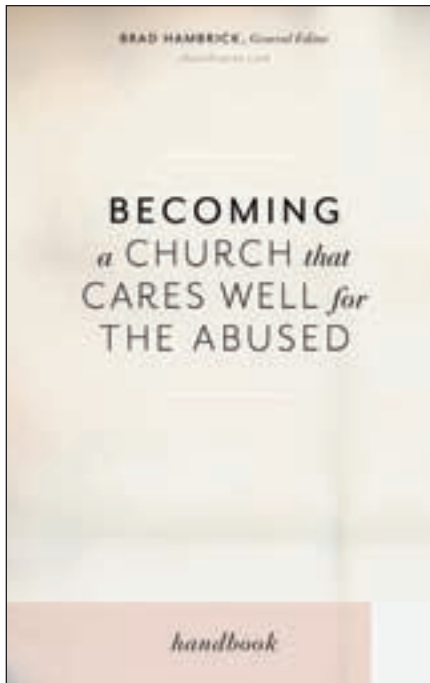
• Reflect on the “Caring Well Challenge” at the 2020 SBC annual meeting.

About a month after his 2018 election as SBC president, Greear announced in July the formation of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Study to address the problem. He is collaborating with the ERLC in the work of the advisory study.

Sexual abuse already was a significant issue in the SBC, but an ongoing investigative series by the *Houston Chronicle*, joined by the *San Antonio Express-News*, that began in February revealed further some of the extent of the problem in the convention and its churches.

The initial articles in the series found 220 pastors and other leaders in Southern Baptist churches who had been convicted of or taken plea deals in sex crimes involving more than 700 victims.

More abusers in churches, as well as some who served as missionaries with the International Mission Board, have been reported since then. **BR**



## 2020 VBS helps kids build on the love of Jesus

By AARON WILSON | Baptist Press

Next summer, kids will grab their hard hats and head to the construction site with “Concrete & Cranes,” the 2020 Vacation Bible School theme from LifeWay Christian Resources.

In “Concrete & Cranes,” kids will discover how towering skyscrapers are carefully constructed on a rock solid foundation.

And by studying five stories from the life of Jesus, kids will learn how they, too, can build their lives on a sure foundation – Christ and His gospel.

“As a self-proclaimed ‘power tool princess,’ I’m excited to have a theme of bulldozers and backhoes, rivets and rebar,” said Melita Thomas, VBS specialist for LifeWay.

“This isn’t your typical ‘birthday party construction theme.’ It’s skyscrapers and cranes popping up all over an almost futuristic-looking urban landscape that’s colorful and whimsical.”

While preparing for the 2020 VBS theme, Thomas said she’s watched a city skyline undergo transformation outside of LifeWay’s downtown office windows.

“God led us to this theme long before Nashville exploded into ‘construction central,’” she said. “But it’s been great for our research.

“One of the most striking things we’ve noticed is how deep workers have to dig before anything can be built up.

“There are spiritual parallels there,” she noted. “Kids must establish strong spiritual foundations in order to keep from tumbling when the storms of life come.”

In “Concrete and Cranes,” kids will learn how to build their lives on the foundations of God’s love, forgiveness, declaration of worth and His promises. They’ll then tie these lessons together by exploring the parable of the wise and foolish builders to learn how a foundation in Christ changes one’s life trajectory.

But kids won’t walk out of VBS as independent contractors, thinking they have to make a go at the Christian life alone.

Rather, they’ll learn God is intimately involved in the process of sanctification – a truth that comes from the 2020 VBS theme verse of Philippians 1:6.

“Our theme verse tells kids that when God starts a good work, He sees it through to completion,” Thomas said.

“That’s incredibly freeing because it means we don’t have to work everything out ourselves or be perfect. God is the master builder and will never leave us to fend for ourselves.”

VBS remains one of the most popular church programs in the U.S., LifeWay Research shows. Six in 10 Americans say they went to VBS growing up, and 95 percent of parents whose child attended VBS say it provided a positive experience.

VBS also continues to be a leading outreach event for churches.

“Last summer, more than 59,000 people made professions of faith as a direct result of VBS,” Thomas said.

“Concrete & Cranes” was revealed through a Facebook Live event June 5.



During the reveal, LifeWay also announced locations for 2020 VBS preview events:

- Ridgecrest, N.C., Jan. 10-11
- Houston, Texas, Jan. 17-18
- Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 24-25
- Hendersonville, Tenn., Jan. 30 – Feb. 1

For more information, visit [LifeWay.com/vbs2020](http://LifeWay.com/vbs2020). **BR**



June 23

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

June 30

## Abigail: Intervening Faith

**Focal passage: 1 Samuel 25:2-3, 14-17, 23-28, 32-35**

I remember well a spring afternoon in high school. Rumors had been flying about a fight that was going to happen after school. One guy had been talking with another's girlfriend and now he had to pay. The rumors proved true.

As the young man came out of the building, the boyfriend was waiting on him. What was about to happen was obvious, and we knew it was wrong. And yet, no one intervened. No one gave a warning or stepped in to talk the boyfriend down. As a result, one young man ended up in the hospital with a concussion, and the other faced criminal charges.

Those preventable outcomes happened because no one intervened.

This week's lesson is once again about faith. In this case, it is specifically about a faith that intervenes; intervenes in a way that is for our fellow mankind's good and for God's glory.

Nabal had lived up to his name, acting foolishly by withholding provisions from David and his men, despite the fact that

David and his men had protected Nabal's wealth and livelihood. David was about to take rash action – planning to kill Nabal and his men. Abigail's faith in God and love for others drove her to action – sparing the life of her foolish husband and sparing David from the life-long consequences of a foolish response.

When facing difficult situations that require confrontation, the easy response, in order to avoid personal conflict, is to do nothing. However, as is often the case, the easy response is not necessarily the right response.

Because we love God and His truth, we should desire what God desires. Because we love our fellow man as ourselves, we should desire what will be for his good and for God's glory. That will sometimes call on us to take intervening action, even at the personal risk of embarrassment, conflict or harm.

Does your faith in God sometimes drive you to intervene, for the good of others and the glory of God?



**RANDY MANN**  
Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Henderson

**Focal passage: Luke 12:13-21; 21:1-4**

In cultures of plenty, like ours, it is easy to forget key truths. First, we forget where all that we have comes from, acting like our material possessions have

come simply from our own hard work. Second, we forget what “needs” are, confusing them with “wants.” Third, we forget that material things are one day going to burn and will not last for eternity.

These “forgets” happen because we so easily take our eyes off of God and put them on material things.

When we do, we have a distorted view of God and material things. Such a distorted view will often result in us holding onto material things and using God, rather than holding onto God and using material things for His glory through sacrificial giving.

When we recognize that God is the giver of all we have, we don't mind giving away what He has given to us.

If He can provide what we need once,

He can and will do it again. Such was the faith response of the poor widow who “gave all she had.” She gave out of worship and obedience. God had enabled her to give because He had given her something to give.

This reminds me of the believers in Macedonia that Paul holds up as an example to the Corinthians – “...for in a severe test of affliction ... they gave ... beyond their means” (2 Corinthians 8:2-3).

Their faith had been tested by their own current hardship, but they demonstrated faith to give, in spite of that hardship. They gave because God had given to them, and they wanted God to use them to bless those who were lacking in Jerusalem.

A rightly ordered faith in God through Christ results in at least three key things: an eternal view of life; contentment in what He has provided; and, a readiness to give sacrificially as He has so richly given to us.

I have seen this lived out in many places around the world where believers have almost nothing. May God give us the grace to walk this way, and give this way, as well.

June 23

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

June 30

## Staying On Course

**Focal Passage: 1 Timothy 4:1-13**

Doctors receive a lot of education. Rightly so. They practice medicine with the aim of helping and treating diseases and ailments of the body and mind.

I want my doctors to be well-read, well-studied and diligent life-long learners. After all, they are to assess my health and well-being.

In other words, I would like them to have applied themselves well and studied very hard in medical school.

I don't want a doctor who had the typical study habits of a high school student.

I want my doctors to have advanced study skills.

Do your spiritual study habits and skills reflect the advanced study of doctors or the distracted study of a typical high school student?

Too many of us today are easily distracted. We are losing the ability to think deeply and concentrate intently.

With technology and social media controversies merely fingertips away deep concentration and application of God's Word is often neglected.

While the categories and controversies

might be different, Timothy's challenge was no less important.

Legalism and theological minutia were distracting the leaders of the church and tempting Timothy to be distracted.

Paul admonished his protégé to point out the truth, give attention to teaching the word and train others in the truth.

Paul taught that staying the course of Christian ministry was hard work that required discipline, effort and attention.

As Paul finished this thought to Timothy, he encouraged him to pay close attention to himself and to his teaching.

Paul's advice is astonishingly simple and powerful. If we are to stay the course in our ministries and callings, we will not do so by flirting with controversies, by succumbing to distractions or by getting too close to temptations. Rather, staying the course requires attentiveness to our theology and to our Christian living.

Many begin the Christian journey well. But those that end well are attentive to God's Word in study and application.



**CHRIS HEFNER**  
Pastor, Wilkesboro Baptist Church

**Focal Passage: 1 Timothy 5:1-8; 17-21**

On Sunday morning before our worship services, several deacons gather in my office to pray. Nearly every week, one particular deacon arrives in my office with an update and a prayer request from the church members he is responsible for. He's called them, prayed with them, visited them and is ready to share with us what is going on in their lives. He's fulfilling his calling as a deacon.

As Paul detailed to Timothy the care of widows and elders in the church, he brought attention to one of the pastor's key responsibilities. The pastor is the overseer of church ministry. Whether it involves music, ministry, pastoral care, preaching, the nursery, evangelism and so on, it is the pastor(s) or elder(s) who are responsible to make sure that church ministry happens and that people are cared for.

That doesn't mean that the pastor is the only one to do the ministry. Rather, he is to oversee the ministry of others within the congregation for the care of

the congregation.

Evidently, Timothy's church was experiencing some controversies regarding how widows were cared for. This type of conflict was also what led the first church to select deacons (see Acts 6:1-7). Being responsible for ministry means knowing what is going on, thinking through controversies, listening to others and developing solutions that reflect love and compassion.

Being responsible does not mean always being in control or having to have things your own way. For a pastor to be pleasing to Christ, he must make time for study and preparation in the preaching and teaching ministry (5:17-18). But he cannot neglect the oversight of other ministries.

Pastors who bear their responsibility well will lead others to serve and lean on servant leaders to minister to others. If you are pastor, heed Paul's advice here. If you are a church member, ask your pastor how you can help bear the burden of ministry in your church.

**“Being responsible does not mean always being in control ...”**

## Being Responsible



## AROUND THE STATE

### Staff changes

**OZZIE VATER** is serving as the Anson Baptist Association's interim director of missions. A graduate of Southwestern Seminary, Vater pastored for 35 years serving churches in Pennsylvania and Florida prior to retiring in 2017. He also served as the director of missions for the Florida Keys Baptist Association from 2013-17. Since arriving in North Carolina, he served as a supply pastor for 18 months prior to assuming this position. Vater and his wife Nancy have five children and three grandchildren.

First Baptist Church of Surfside Beach, S.C., has called **NATHAN SWEET** as lead pastor. Sweet earned both his master of divinity degree in Christian ministry and his doctoral degree in Christian leadership from Southeastern Seminary. He previously served as the student pastor at Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Raleigh, since 1989. Nathan and his wife Kelli have two children.

### Retirement

**STEVE JARVIS** has retired from Colonial Baptist Church, Trinity, after 21 years of ministry. He previously served for 15 years at Cottonville Baptist, Norwood; Cedar Lodge Baptist, Thomasville; and Gorman Baptist, Durham. He is available for full- or part-time ministry opportunities and revivals. You may contact Steve at (336) 688-4097 or (336) 475-0425.

### Submissions

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

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

Tucked away at the base of the South Mountains in Morganton, NC, Missionary Ridge Baptist Church is currently seeking our next **senior pastor** to lead our congregation into the future. Our church currently has 250-300 actively enrolled members on a normal Sunday morning between 2 services. We would like our applicant to have a degree or training in theological study and MUST agree to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Choir experience a plus. Please send résumés to [Bmason04@icloud.com](mailto:Bmason04@icloud.com).

Shady Grove Baptist Church, Staley, NC 27355, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time**, mission-minded, community-focused **pastor** who believes in the inerrancy of the Bible. We are a SB church in Eastern Randolph County with a parsonage and a family life center. Our Sunday average is 55. Church event attendance is 100+; pictures/info are on our Facebook page. Please send résumés/sermon samples to John Fields, III Smith St., Franklinville NC 27248, or to [sgbcstaleyncpastorsearch2019@gmail.com](mailto:sgbcstaleyncpastorsearch2019@gmail.com). Questions can be texted to 336-301-4278. Text response will be as time permits.

Stallings Memorial Baptist Church, Salisbury, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor**. Being a mission-minded Southern Baptist church, we are searching for the man God desires to lead His church into the future with an emphasis on evangelism and missions. Applicants should be SBC ordained with a seminary education from one of the SBC seminaries and affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. Send résumés to: [smbcpastorsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:smbcpastorsearchcommittee@gmail.com), or PO Box 438, Rockwell, NC 28138.

Clement Missionary Baptist Church, Autryville, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We are a conservative, mission minded, rural church with an average attendance of 105. Applicant should be licensed and ordained by a Southern Baptist church. Mail résumés to Jennifer Matthews, PSC 60 Waterwheel Ln., Godwin, NC 28344, or email to [Clementpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:Clementpastorsearch@gmail.com).

### Denominational

The Anson Baptist Association is seeking a **Director of Missions** to provide leadership in development and implementation of a mission strategy for this association. He will direct the work, ministries and personnel of the association, as well as support churches as they implement and continually discover the importance of evangelism. He will coordinate and assist the association in spreading the gospel through healthy growth of churches and ministries. As churches have varied personalities, he will need to possess good people skills. Feeling certain that God has already prepared that person, we invite résumés to be submitted to: Anson Baptist Association, PO Box 958, Wadesboro, NC 28170, by July 31, 2019.

The Pee Dee Baptist Association, located in Richmond/Scotland counties, is seeking the man that God has prepared to be our next **DOM**. This man will be one who is relational with our churches, people and pastors. He will possess integrity and be a leader to guide us to fulfill Jesus' Great Commandment and Great Commission. Please submit résumés before July 31 to [peedeebaptist@bellsouth.net](mailto:peedeebaptist@bellsouth.net).

### Church Staff

Rosemary Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids, NC, is looking for a **full-time Minister of Youth and Children**. This person will plan, organize and lead the youth and children's programming for the congregation. Preferred qualifications are a sense of calling to youth and children's ministry, significant experience and ministerial training. Please send a cover letter, résumé and a list of references to [Layne.wallace0627@yahoo.com](mailto:Layne.wallace0627@yahoo.com).

Lillington Baptist Church, Lillington, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **part-time Youth Ministry Leader** who is biblically grounded, mission minded, with visionary leadership and strong communication skills. Please send résumé to Youth Ministry Leader Search Committee, PO Box 614, Lillington, NC 27546, or [students@lillingtonbc.org](mailto:students@lillingtonbc.org). Résumés will be accepted until July 31st, 2019.

**Part-time Youth & Children's Director** at Arlington Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC. Design, coordinate, oversee youth & children programs. Email résumé to [personnel.arlington@gmail.com](mailto:personnel.arlington@gmail.com); (252) 937-7729; [www.abcsbc.com](http://www.abcsbc.com).

Glenn View Baptist Church (Winston-Salem) is seeking a **Part-Time Worship Leader** to disciple our congregation in the area of personal and corporate worship. Please send cover letter and résumé to: [search@glennview.org](mailto:search@glennview.org).

Seeking **Part-time Music Minister** who can develop and promote music/creative arts programs which aligns with the vision and mission of the church to make growing disciples of Jesus. Primary responsibilities include worship music selection, rehearsals and Sunday worship. Also responsible for directing age group choirs, holiday presentations and wedding/funeral services. For more information email: [paul@jilcpa.com](mailto:paul@jilcpa.com). To apply, send résumé to Pittsboro Baptist Church, PO Box 696, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

**Minister of Music.** This position is responsible for providing leadership to a comprehensive music ministry including choirs, orchestra, vocal groups, audio & video teams, etc. The preferred candidate would have experience directing a blended style (traditional & contemporary) of congregational worship. This position is part of the pastoral team of the church. Oxford Baptist Church adheres to the 2000 BF&M. Please email résumés to [pastorjoel@oxfordbaptist.com](mailto:pastorjoel@oxfordbaptist.com) or mail to Oxford Baptist Church, Attn: Senior Pastor, 5965 Springs Road, Conover, NC 28613. All résumés should include references, statement of faith, salvation testimony, and a DVD or URL of sample of candidate leading a worship service.

### Miscellaneous

Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC, is having a **special service** June 30, 2019, beginning at 5 PM with fellowship to follow to recognize the 20th anniversary of Senior Pastor Dr. Joe Giaritelli.

**Pastor candidate** prayerfully seeking a church. 15 yrs experience, ordained SBC, seminary trained with advanced degrees. I have a résumé package, video sermons, position statements and references from my last pastorate available to serious committees and churches. Email to [theinspiringword@gmail.com](mailto:theinspiringword@gmail.com).

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**Do you have staff changes at your church or association?** Or special news you would like to share (significant church or church staff anniversaries or a mission effort to reach your community)? Let the *Biblical Recorder* know by calling (919) 847-2127 or email [editor@BRnow.org](mailto:editor@BRnow.org).

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# Dew

Continued from page 1

in pastoral ministry from Southeastern and an undergraduate degree in biblical studies from Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa, Ga.

Elected to the SEBTS faculty in 2011, Dew was named dean of the College at Southeastern in 2013; his role was expanded in 2014 to his current vice presidential position, supervising the college, all aspects of distance learning, the prison programs and the writing center. Dew also teaches and mentors SEBTS undergraduate, master's and doctoral students in his role as associate professor of philosophy and the history of ideas.

Dew is the author of four books: *Philosophy: A Christian Introduction*, *God and the Problem of Evil: Five Views*, *How Do We Know? An Introduction to Epistemology* and *God and Evil: The Case for God in a World Filled with Pain*.

An extensive presidential search process was initiated after Chuck Kelley's October 2018 announcement that he planned to retire on July 31. Cox, chairman of the NOBTS trustee board at the time, selected a diverse committee to conduct the presidential search. Its 11 members, NOBTS noted, included male, female, Asian, African American and Caucasian members representing a wide range of backgrounds including educa-

tors, administrators, pastors, students and business leaders.

Bo Rice, search committee member and NOBTS dean of graduate studies, said the committee felt God's leading from their first meeting with Dew.

"From the outset, we heard [Dew's] passion for training ministers and missionaries who would be part of fulfilling the Great Commission," Rice said. "We were encouraged as he began to discuss an exciting vision for the future."

Married for 18 years, Dew and his wife Tara are the parents of two sets of twins – Natalie and Nathan, 11, and Samantha and Samuel, 8. Tara Dew holds a doctor of education degree from Southeastern focusing on the preparedness of pastors' wives.

Nine members of the board of trustees served on the search committee: Bryant Barnes (Miss.), Jack Bell (La.), Frank Cox (Ga.), John Foster (La.), Jackie Myers (La.), Gary Shows (Miss.), David Um (Mass.), Dan Wilson (Calif.) and David Leavell (Tenn.) Alternates Tony Lambert (Colo.) and Waylon Bailey (La.) joined the search committee this spring as Leavell and Bell stepped down for personal reasons. Bo Rice, NOBTS dean of graduate studies, represented the faculty on the committee. Michael Wang was the



Jamie Dew takes questions June 5 during a press conference following his election as the ninth president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. (NOBTS photo by Boyd Guy)

student representative. Tony Lambert (Colo.) was an alternate.

Rice said he was impressed that Dew had a clear vision for the seminary despite having "very little personal knowledge of the institution."

"It became apparent that the Lord was opening the eyes of Dr. Dew to see a bright future for our beloved New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary," Rice said.

Cox said the committee received many nominations from Southern Baptists including three African American nominees and one Hispanic nominee. In total, he noted, the committee carefully reviewed

20 candidates. The committee placed a high priority on church ministry experience from the beginning of the search process. Since 1996, Dew has engaged in a wide range of church ministries, including stints as youth minister, minister to adults, interim pastor and senior pastor. Dew served eight years as senior pastor of Stony Hill Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C., and currently serves as a care group leader, discipleship leader and AWANA leader at Open Door Church in Wake Forest.

Tony Lambert, chairman of the board of trustees, said, "I do believe our greatest days are ahead." **BR**

## SEMINARY STAFF CHANGES

### Seminary staff changes

#### Midwestern Seminary:

Historian Thomas S. Kidd has been named distinguished professor of church history. He will continue as distinguished professor of history at Baylor University, commuting to Kansas City, Mo., from Waco, Texas. He and his wife Ruby have two sons. They attend Highland Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, where Kidd teaches Sunday School.

#### Southern Seminary:

Andrew Walker of the Ethics & Religious Liberty

Commission (ERLC) has been named as assistant professor of Christian ethics and apologetics at Southern. Walker will continue to serve as the ERLC's director of research and senior fellow in Christian ethics. Walker is a member of Redemption City Church in Franklin, Tenn., where he teaches a weekly Sunday School class, leads a small group and teaches a men's theology group. He and his wife Christian have three daughters.

Matt Boswell, a widely respected hymn writer and worship leader, has been named to the faculty as assistant professor of church music and worship. Boswell, a graduate of Southern, currently is the founding pastor of the Trails Church in Prosper, Texas. Boswell and his wife Jamie have four children.

#### Southwestern Seminary:

Historian Gregory A. Wills, who has served 25 years at Southern Seminary, will be research professor of church history and Baptist heritage and founding director of the new B.H. Carroll Center for Baptist Heritage and Mission. Wills and his wife Cathy have four children.

North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary Travis S. Kerns, a church planter who has served as NAMB's Send City missionary in Salt Lake City, will be associate professor of apologetics and world religions. Kerns taught apologetics, world religions and philosophy at Southern for eight years before moving to Salt Lake City with his wife Staci and son Jeremiah in 2013.

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