

CHANGED LIVES  
FOR CHRIST MARK  
CROSSOVER 2014

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SERVICE

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# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

JUNE 21, 2014 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 180 NO. 13 • BRnow.org

## RONNIE FLOYD

WINS

### SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESIDENCY

By BARBARA DENMAN | Baptist Press

BP photo

In a year when the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) focused on “Restoration & Revival Through Prayer,” Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd, who has sought to encourage Southern Baptists to deepen their spiritual walk through books, Sunday School studies and pastor prayer meetings, has been elected as the Southern Baptist Convention’s president.

Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas for 27 years, topped fellow nominees Maryland pastor Dennis Manpoong Kim and Kentucky pastor Jared Moore to win the SBC post June 10 in Baltimore.

The new SBC president succeeds New Orleans pastor Fred Luter of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, who became the first African American to lead the SBC when he was elected in 2012.

With 5,001 registered messengers at the time of the vote and 3,553 ballots cast, Floyd received 1,834 votes, or 51.62

percent. Kim, pastor of Global Mission Church of Greater Washington in Silver Spring, Md., received 1,446 votes or 40.70 percent while Moore, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville, Ky., received 210 votes or 5.91 percent.

Moore is the current second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Floyd was nominated by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. Kim and Moore were placed in nomination, respectively, by Texas pastor Dwight McKissic of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, and Bennie Smith, a deacon at the Kentucky church where Moore is pastor.

Mohler, in his nomination speech, said Floyd, 58, has “the Great Commission in his heart” and has been a leader “with peerless experience in the Southern Baptist Convention.”

See Floyd page 11

## Pastors urged to seek God, share testimony

Baptist Press

The 2014 Southern Baptist Convention Pastors’ Conference, themed “Show Us Your Glory,” concluded much as it began with speakers calling attendees to live passionately for Christ and to lead others to make disciples.

The June 8-9 sessions in the Baltimore Convention Center preceded the June 10-11 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

J.D. Greear

“The greatest potential for the Kingdom of God is not in the pulpit, but in the congregation,” said J.D. Greear, lead pastor of The Summit Church in Durham. Greear focused on John 16:7, which reads, “But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” Greear also read John 14:12, in which Jesus told His disciples, “whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

See Pastors page 10

J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, shares at a June 9 “Find Your Place in God’s Story” program and dinner for the International Mission Board. (BR photo)



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# Pray for revival

**A**lmost 5,300 messengers went to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in Baltimore last week to elect a new president, to hear reports on ministries that span the world and to declare that our convictions have not changed. We still believe the Bible, which means we oppose sin, but we favor all that brings glory to God.

Our intensity to obey the Great Commission is greater. Our strategies to do so are more clearly defined than ever in our history. Now there is the need for churches to answer the call sacrificially with prayer, dollars and disciples.

The messenger count was an increase over the 2013 convention in Houston, where 5,103 Baptists gathered. North Carolina's representation (427) was the third largest of the state conventions, behind Virginia (497) and Maryland (429).

I heard sermons and reports about strategies for church planting and church revitalization. Both are high priorities and both are necessary. There is no need for tension between those whose focus is church planting and those who emphasize church revitalization.

Pre-convention reports of declining baptisms and low giving patterns in the ranks of Southern Baptist churches do not necessarily translate into the death of the convention. Before anyone considers funeral arrangements, they should hear the reports from SBC entities in Baltimore.

The tone of the Baltimore event was very upbeat. International Mission Board (IMB) president Tom Elliff reported the highest Lottie Moon offering in history. Frank Page, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee, reported that the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts was slightly up last year, after 30 years of decline. North American Mission Board president, Kevin Ezell, is optimistic about church planting movements in strategic cities, and Southern Baptists are responding positively to the mission op-

portunities on the home continent.

The theme of the convention was "Restoration and Revival through Prayer." It should not surprise anyone that much would be said about prayer. But a surprising note of perceived criticism surfaced through a very interesting Twitter rant.



**K. ALLAN BLUME**  
Editor

Typically outsiders weigh-in on some element of Southern Baptists' annual meeting. They tend to be confused about our theology, our convictions, our polity, our methodology or our vision. The strange twist this year was that the vocal outsider was Andy Stanley, a popular megachurch pastor in the Atlanta area and the son of a former president of the SBC.

Stanley tweeted, "Instead of praying for revival leaders of the SBC should go spend three weeks with @perrynoble Why pray for one when you can go watch one." Another tweet said, "Praying for revival equates to blaming God for the condition of your local church."

Two more tweets said, "Why not call the Church to pray for the things Jesus & New Testament writers prayed for? Why add Revival to the list?" and "Churches that need reviving most are the very churches that resist it most."

He halted his tweeting missive with, "In closing, congratulations to Ronnie Floyd whose fabulous church doesn't need reviving. It's led by a leader who follows the Spirit's lead." Not knowing how to interpret Stanley's views, confusion and criticism ran wild on Twitter.

Afterward in an interview with The Christian Post, the Atlanta pastor seemed to pull back from his initial comments. The report said "... the conversation spiraled beyond what he had intended it to be ...."

Stanley tweeted "Dr. Alvin Reid takes me behind the woodshed...and I deserve it," along with a link to Reid's blog post on *AlvinReid.com*. Reid, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, graciously chose not to pick

a fight or publicly criticize a brother, but wisely answered this question: "What should we think about praying for revival?"

Stanley's series of tweets was most unfortunate. It teaches yet another lesson on the troubles a mere 140 characters can launch.

In all of the talk about revival, let's not lose sight of the new president's emphasis.

At his first press conference Ronnie Floyd said he wants to "cast a clear, definable vision. ... I believe that the greatest need in the Southern Baptist Convention and, quite honestly, the greatest need in the United States of America is a great awakening. ... Just as Jonathan Edwards called for years ago before the First Great Awakening, its time for us to come together. It's time for us to have visible union and it's time for us to come together in extraordinary prayer."

He said he has given many hours to calling pastors and churches together to see revival, which he described as "the manifested presence of God in our lives."

The Arkansas pastor wants revival in the church, "so that America would be awakened with a powerful God con-

sciousness where great numbers come to faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."

He pointed out that it has been over 100 years since America has experienced a great revival movement. "We're overdue. It's past time," Floyd said.

"We must have that movement. ... for the purpose of the Great Commission elevated to its rightful priority in all we do as the church, so that we might see it accelerated to its completion in this generation."

When Floyd chaired the Great Commission Task Force in 2009-2010, one of the things God used to place him on a "different trajectory" was the extreme lostness he saw in the United States and in the entire world.

"We must get the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth," he said. Floyd called on every believer, every church and every Southern Baptist entity to "do everything we can to accelerate the gospel to its completion."

Without hesitation, Southern Baptists should heed the call. Programs, activities and big numbers are no substitute for spiritual awakening. Desperate prayer is needed. **BR**

## TAR HEEL VOICES

### Thank God for Gardner-Webb University

As a former student of Gardner-Webb University (GWU), I thank God for the love they showed me while I was there. Growing up in a legalistic Southern Baptist church and attending a conservative college in South Carolina who did not show the love of Jesus, GWU was a place where I was healed in many ways. The professors always had an open door where I could come and talk to them about anything and many times would take the time to pray with me. After my skiing accident, I went to the business office and the love they showed me there working with me to get my books and tuition was uplifting.

It showed me how beautiful the church can be. The [Southern Baptist Convention] needs to get over its obsession with homosexuality. Now that I am pastoring, I realize there are a lot more urgent issues that face the church.

As Christians, we need to let our light shine for Jesus by loving others no matter who they are. It is not our job to change people.

We simply need to love and pray for everyone.

I am thankful and always will be for Gardner-Webb University.

**Eddie Hall**  
Spartanburg, S.C.

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**(919) 847-2127**  
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**B3now.org**

**K. Allan Blume, Editor/President**  
editor@brnow.org

**Michael McEwen, Content Editor**  
michael@brnow.org

**Dianna L. Cagle, Production Editor**  
dianna@brnow.org

**Alison McKinney**  
Business and  
Advertising Manager  
(919) 459-5691  
alison@brnow.org

**Emily Blake**  
Editorial Aide

**Erin Gandy**  
Circulation Manager  
(919) 459-5693  
erin@brnow.org

**Kelly Hunter**  
Graphic Designer

### Board of Directors

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# Changed lives for Christ mark Crossover 2014

NAMB, Baptist Press

**D**ante Carter wanted Crossover Baltimore to communicate compassion to the hurting people he often encounters in the city.

“There’s a lot of hurt and pain...,” Carter, youth pastor at Northeast Baptist Church (NBC) in the heart of the Armistead Gardens community, said. “We want to give people an opportunity to hear the gospel preached and to experience the love of Christ through the people of our church.”

NBC was one of 36 Baltimore-area Baptist churches that joined arms with nearly 2,000 volunteers from 18 states and Canada to serve the Baltimore community and share Christ with its residents during Crossover. The event preceded the beginning of the 2014 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting taking place June 10-11 in the city.

Joined by volunteers from Clark-Venable Baptist Church in Decatur, Miss., First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va., and Baltimore’s Towne Baptist Church and Canton Baptist Church, NBC hosted a block party. The event included a presentation by a group of professional Christian athletes called the Strength Team and drew residents from the surrounding row houses.

One witness of the Strength Team and its evangelistic message had more than a passing interest. Cindy Irizarry, Crossover Baltimore mobilization and logistics director, was seated next to a mother and her young son.

“When he finished his testimony and gospel presentation, the Strength Team member asked anyone who wanted to receive Christ to raise a hand,” Irizarry said. “The mom raised her hand. I leaned over and said, ‘Are you asking Jesus to be your savior?’ She said, ‘Yes.’ She looked down at her son and he raised his hand, too.”

Mother and son joined six other people from the audience who came

forward as Northeast Baptist pastor Bill Higgins lead the group in prayer. During the church’s week of community outreach another nine people came to faith in Christ.

“It was glorious to see so many of our church members and pastors so enthusiastic,” Irizarry said. “You could see the hope and the excitement in their faces. To see volunteers, both local and from everywhere, come to serve – it was exciting.”

At many of the Crossover Baltimore sites seminary students were putting into practice what they had received training for earlier in the week – the “3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide.” The guide is a new resource from the North American Mission Board. An app version can be found at [sendnetwork.com](http://sendnetwork.com) or [namb.net/3circles](http://namb.net/3circles).

“It was a marvelous day on so many fronts,” Bob Mackey, Embrace Baltimore executive director, said. “One of my favorite highlights this week is having over 200 students from six seminaries volunteering the equivalent man hours of one person working 5.4 years full-time in Baltimore and sharing Christ with compassion, grace and determination.”

## Conversations about Christ

Alvin Reid, Bailey Smith Chair of Evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, led 3 Circles: Life Conversation evangelism training with the students earlier in the week. Crossover Baltimore provided the opportunity for application.

One of the venues where seminary students served was the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware’s Collegiate Ministry beach volleyball tournament held at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

John Kovacs, who pastors the 6-year-old The Light Church in Baltimore, said he hopes Crossover events like the volleyball tournament will provide visibility for local churches.

“I think the most significant thing this



Pastor Richard Smith of Reedy Creek Baptist Church in Macon, N.C., shares the gospel at a block party at Colonial Baptist Church in Randallstown, Md., June 7 as part of the annual Crossover evangelistic outreach preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Volunteers used surveys and EvangeCubes to share the gospel with local community members at various Crossover events across the city. (Photo by Adam Covington)

kind of ministry provides for us is presence,” Kovacs said. “To be out and meeting people is great. I just got to connect with two guys today who didn’t know about our church.”

Captivate Christian Church, a Southern Baptist church plant, hosted Community Day in Patterson Park drawing about 8,000 neighbors and netting 1,700 new perspective families for the church.

After being provided with everything from free groceries to free clothing, lunch and more, one particular Baltimore man had a natural next question – why? Pastor Hal Kitchings, who planted The Bridge Church in Memphis, Tenn., was ready with an answer.

“I had the new [3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide] in my pocket and I just pulled it out,” Kitchings said. “I went to

some of the verses, because I was basically at the end. He was ready to listen. He had come from a difficult background.”

Kitchings then prayed with the man and connected him to Captivate.

Community Day, staffed by more than 300 volunteers from Georgia and Baltimore, included gifts of groceries and clothing, light medical and dental care, entertainment and lunch. It is one of five such events that Southern Baptists from South Georgia are spearheading in major cities around North America. The first of those events – all designed to serve the community and aid new church plants – was held in Memphis in partnership with Kitching’s church in the spring.

Infinity Church Baltimore and Southeastern Baptist

Theological Seminary students hosted a community fair outreach at The League, a non-profit organization in the city. The event included everything from health screenings to job assistance to food for residents of the surrounding low-income community.

“Everything you learned in the classroom makes you aware of what you can face, but coming here showed me you have to let the Holy Spirit guide you,” said Danny Pilkington, an undergraduate student at Southeastern who led the team helping Infinity Church throughout the week.


“You can come up with all kinds of good arguments [for your faith], but sometimes all a person wants is a hug or a person to talk to, someone to cry with.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Full story online at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).)

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# ERLC honors heroic Christians at SBC

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

Members of two families who are standing heroically for the Christian faith received awards from the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and grateful affirmation from messengers to the 2014 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The ERLC honored the Greens, who own Hobby Lobby, and Saeed Abedini, a prisoner in Iran, June 11 during the SBC's annual meeting. ERLC President Russell D. Moore presented the John Leland Religious Liberty Award to Steve and Jackie Green for their family's refusal to abide by President Barack Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate, which requires employers to provide abortion-causing drugs to their workers.

Moore gave the Richard Land Distinguished Service Award to Naghmeh Abedini on behalf of her husband, Saeed, an American citizen imprisoned since 2012 by Iran's oppressive regime for his Christian service in that country. Messengers gave extended standing ovations to both the Greens and Abedini when they received the awards. At Moore's request, many messengers knelt on the floor as newly elected SBC President Ronnie Floyd led in prayer for both families.

The presentations preceded the ERLC's annual report to the convention. In his second appearance at the SBC as the ERLC's president, Moore introduced the awards presentations by reminding messengers of the Baptist heritage of standing for religious freedom – sometimes at great cost.

"We're living in a time right now in which religious liberty is imperiled at home and around the world, and it is time for us to remember that we have been here before," Moore said.

"The gospel came to us in letters being written out by apostles from jail cells. The gospel came to us through the centuries from people who were constantly under threat of their liberty to preach."

Hobby Lobby's legal challenge to the abortion/contraception mandate is expected to be resolved in a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court before it adjourns in late June or early July.

The justices' opinion "probably will determine the next 100 years of what it means for us to be a free people in this country," Moore told messengers.

The Green family's refusal to comply with the mandate, which is a regulation helping implement the 2010 health care law, has placed the entire business of more than 570 arts and crafts stores at risk. A court loss could result in fines totaling \$1.3 million a day.

"It would be really easy for the Green family simply to say, 'Let's just submit to that.' But because of their strong faith in Jesus Christ and because of their courage, the Greens have refused to comply" with the requirement, Moore said.

Steve Green, Hobby Lobby's president, is the son of David and Barbara Green, who founded the Oklahoma City-based company.

Steve and Jackie Green are members of a Southern Baptist church in Oklahoma City.

Saeed Abedini, an ordained minister of Iranian descent, was arrested nearly two years ago while visiting Iran to complete work on a government-approved orphanage and was given an eight-year prison sentence.

Saeed and Naghmeh, both Muslim converts to faith in Christ, helped in the growth of the Iranian house church movement before moving to the United States in 2005.

Reports of Saeed's condition indicate Iranian authorities have tortured him, placed him in solitary confinement and pressured him to deny Christ. Iranian prison officials have threatened to lengthen his sentence because he is leading fellow prisoners to faith in Jesus, Baptist Press reported May 30.

"And at every point, the Iranian government seems to think that Saeed Abedini will get tired of all of this treatment and renounce his faith in Jesus Christ," Moore told messengers, "and at every step no matter the beatings, no matter the imprisonment, no matter the exile, Saeed Abedini has confessed with that great cloud of witnesses that Jesus Christ is Lord."

In his report, Moore said the ERLC had worked in the last year on a variety of issues – including the defense of marriage, the liberty to pray without governmental supervision and the right to freedom of conscience against the abortion/contraception mandate for Hobby Lobby, the SBC's GuideStone Financial Resources, Baptist colleges and all others.

"We must equip those children in Vacation Bible School for a world where following Christ will be seen as strange, will be seen as possibly dangerous, will be seen as subversive. But that is no new situation," Moore said.

ERLC also hosted "Hobby Lobby and the future of religious liberty" June 9.

The panel brought together Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., and Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, as well as Moore and Phil Bethancourt, ERLC's executive vice



During the June 11 Ethics & Religious Liberty Committee presentation, ERLC president Russell D. Moore, left, presents an award to the wife of Saeed Abedini, an American pastor imprisoned for his Christian faith in Iran. Saeed received the Richard Land Award for Distinguished Service. Naghmeh Abedini, right, accepted the award on his behalf and received a standing ovation from messengers. Steve Green, CEO of Hobby Lobby, center, stands and applauds in honor of this recognition. (Photo by Van Payne)

president, who moderated the panel.

"The question is not only, 'Are we going to be persecuted?'" said Moore.

"The question is, 'Are we going to be persecutors?' And so if we shrug this off, what we're doing is we're consigning future generations, we're consigning people's consciences to a tyranny that we

are going to be held accountable for."

Bethancourt also peppered Moore and Matt Chandler, lead pastor of The Village Church in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area, with questions on June 10. Questions centered not only on ministry but on current issues such as divorce, pornography and homosexuality. **B3**



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# Cooperative Program advancing, Page reports

By ERIN ROACH | Baptist Press

**S**outhern Baptists are advancing, not retreating, as they rally to give more through the Cooperative Program to fuel the Great Commission task, Executive Committee President Frank Page told messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Baltimore June 10.

“We thank God that two years ago the Cooperative Program stopped its declination at 5.41 percent and last year rose for the first time in two decades to 5.50 percent,” Page said.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists’ way of combining resources to finance ministry worldwide.

“I like to say to pastors young and old, ‘If you know a better way, let me know. I’ll support it. I’ll drop the Cooperative Program if you can show me something else that long-term is effective and engages every church concurrently and consistently in an Acts 1:8 strategy. Show it to me, and I’ll support it. I’ll drop Cooperative Program,’” Page said. “But I haven’t found it yet.”

Page showed a Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a vulture stalking a Sudanese girl as she struggled to find sustenance at an aid station in 1994. When critics asked the photographer if he helped save the girl, he disclosed that he did not. Page said the photo has gripped him since he first saw it.

“Friends, I say to you today that I don’t really think we’ve done much better for that little girl. Have we done any better with our world? Have we helped the girl spiritually? Have we helped countless millions to die without hearing the Good News of our Lord Jesus?” Page asked.

Southern Baptists must reach the girl and those like her who are perishing without Christ, he said. The church has received a calling from Jesus in the Great Commission, and believers share the love of Jesus that is demonstrated as a powerful force throughout scripture. Page commended state convention partners that have joined national entities in streamlining their operations to devote more resources to reaching the nations for Christ. Ten years ago, state convention employees numbered 1,750. Now the figure is 1,350, he said.

“But you see, regardless of what happens at the national level or even the state level, what really matters is whether or not local churches understand what the Cooperative Program is and reengage in those ministries,” Page said.

A diverse group of pastors appeared in a video called “Count Me In,” expressing their support for the Cooperative Program as a key component in the missions task.

“We have a God who can make all this happen,” Page said. “... I say this to you because I ask you to join me in begging God like never before. Would you join me and pray for God to ‘show up’ like never before? I’m asking that across this convention we join in prayer like we’ve never prayed before.”

## Cooperative Program in action

Earlier in the day, in the first part of the Executive Committee’s report to messengers, Page welcomed to the stage Brian and Hannah Crane, who this year planted Progression Church on the campus of Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge. The Cranes were

influenced heavily by the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at LSU, which is supported by the Cooperative Program.

“It was through the BCM that I taught my first Bible study, that I preached my first sermon, that I led my first ministry event and the first time I ever led any ministry team,” Brian Crane said. “... The BCM taught me one thing, and they taught it well: They taught me how to make disciples.”

Because of Southern Baptist collegiate ministry, Crane said he recognizes that Jesus did not call him to be a passive participant in the church but to be a missionary. “Through the BCM I learned how to effectively share the gospel with lost people and see them put their faith in Christ,” Crane said, adding that as a church planter, he daily uses the skills he learned through the BCM. “Your giving through the Cooperative Program has fueled my call to ministry.”

Jacob Watts, an LSU student and member of Progression Church, joined the Cranes on stage to testify that because of Southern Baptists’ giving through the Cooperative Program, as a sophomore in college he helped start a church.

“Southern Baptist family, your investment is changing the lives of thousands upon thousands of college students every day just like me,” Watts said.

As another example of the Cooperative Program in action, Page introduced Terry and Vicki Lassiter, International Mission Board affinity group leaders based in Peru, to tell about God’s ongoing and special work in the Americas.

See Page page 7

# BCH launches multi-million dollar capital campaign

BCH Communications

**B**aptist Children's Homes (BCH) is taking steps to make sure North Carolina children and families can depend on the 128-year-old statewide organization well into the future. BCH publicly launched a multi-million dollar capital campaign during a kick-off event held June 10 at its oldest campus, Mills Home in Thomasville.

Dubbed "Sharing Hope ... Changing Lives," the initiative is BCH's first capital campaign since 1997. The funds will provide much-needed support for the nonprofit's locations in 19 North Carolina communities including Broyhill Home in Clyde.

"We intentionally named the campaign after our organizational vision statement," said BCH president Michael C. Blackwell. The campaign is the third in his 31-year tenure. "In only four words, this statement shares the powerful heart-beat of the campaign as well as the ministry of Baptist Children's Homes itself."

Baptist Children's Homes is the largest child care organization in the southeast. The nonprofit provides residential homes to North Carolina children who come from a variety of challenging circumstances ranging from family dysfunction to abuse, neglect and abandonment. BCH also offers services for adults with developmental disabilities, senior adults and single mothers.

The financial goal for "Sharing Hope... Changing Lives," which ends in January 2016, is \$21.3 million. The funding will allow BCH to meet a variety of immediate needs while strengthening its foundation for the future.

"Longevity is an integral part of the BCH legacy – a legacy that began in 1885 when Mills Home first opened its doors," Blackwell said. "It's the highest honor, and greatest responsibility, to ensure that the ministry will continue to be a haven of hope for children and families who turn to us now – and in generations to come."

Blackwell's campaign leadership team includes BCH's executive vice president, development and communications, Brenda Gray and Cargill Associates senior vice president Paul Blevins. Blevins was a



part of BCH's two previous capital campaigns. BCH trustee Jerry Jordan and his wife Evon from Oakboro are campaign co-chairs. Paul Broyhill, Chairman of the Broyhill Family Foundation in Lenoir, serves as honorary chair. The family founded Broyhill Furniture and provided the funding to establish BCH's Broyhill Home in Clyde.

"The Broyhill Family Foundation gives to many wonderful causes, but BCH is a favorite and primary interest," Broyhill said. "There are children in situations so difficult they are almost impossible for us to realize."

The campaign is focused on raising funds in three specific areas: renovations at BCH's statewide locations, ongoing operational support and building the organization's endowment. According to Gray, the campaign is vital to the nonprofit's future and the services it offers.

"Without this campaign, children will go unserved," Gray said. "We must sustain this ministry for the children of today and of tomorrow."

The silent phase of "Sharing Hope... Changing Lives" started in June 2013 with the approval of BCH's Board of Trustees. Nine divisions comprise the campaign. The state is sectioned into six geographical divisions. The final three include BCH alumni, staff members and trustees.

The staff and trustee campaigns were launched at the start of the silent phase. Other gifts were also solicited privately from corporations, foundations and other statewide supporters in preparation for the public launch.

"I'm excited to report that 100 percent of BCH's trustees have given to the campaign, and they have exceeded their \$4 million goal," Gray said. "Also, BCH staff members have more than doubled their \$100,000 goal by giving \$212,000."

Co-chair Jerry Jordan said the goal was to raise 60 percent of the total funds



Co-chair of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) capital campaign Evon Jordan, Michael C. Blackwell, BCH president, and Brenda Gray reveal the kick-off the amount raised to date. (BCH photo)

prior to the public phase. "We have raised 62 percent of our goal for a total of \$13,288,333.00," Jordan shared. "We can't believe we're at this point. We are so blessed. We're off to a good start."

Blackwell is energized by the initial swell of support, but recognizes that the hardest work lies ahead.

"The remainder of the campaign will take effort and participation from all our

statewide supporters," Blackwell said. "Not only are we charged with caring for the daily needs of our residents, but we have to maintain the homes we provide for them. As with any home, roofs need replacing and heating and air units must be repaired."

"We must be able to provide for our children, and by the grace of God we will." **B3**

## Taking responsibility

**O**ne day while I was sitting on the couch reading I looked out the window and saw five police cars pull up in front of my house. A SWAT team, along with five uniformed officers, ran through the yard with their weapons drawn and surrounded the house next door.

As the raid unfolded, I watched the officers go into the house and search the premises. The officers soon escorted one of the young adults away. The police were there all afternoon searching the home, vehicles and outside buildings. I felt really sad for the family and knew the days ahead would be difficult for them, especially the young man.

In an earlier conversation with my wife, the mother welcomed prayer for her family.

Even though we prayed for the family, I knew I could have done more to reach out to them. As I watched the events unfold next door, the Lord convicted me of my need to take more responsibility. I remember asking the Lord's forgiveness and for His compelling love to flood my life for my neighbors who were lost.

In 2 Corinthians 5:14 Paul bears witness to the driving force that moved him toward being a witness for Jesus. He said the agape love of Christ was the

motivating factor in his life. Christ's love "compelled" or "squeezed" him to outwardly live for Jesus because He died for him.

The phrase "compels us" is a picture of something or someone being pressed in on every side or being shot

out of a tube. Therefore, he had no excuses and needed only to live and share that love with others.

He took personal responsibility to be a disciple who was compelled and accountable to Jesus for the spiritual condition of others. What about you? What about

your church? When are we going to take responsibility for the increasing lostness in our communities, state, nation and world?

- Pray for the Lord to forgive your apathy toward the lostness around you.

- Pray for the Lord to awaken, revive and renew His church in America to its responsibility for the spiritual well being of this nation.

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



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# Volunteers provide way out through building ramp

By CAROL LAYTON | NCBAM

Connie Clark's home sits high above a peaceful tree-lined street in Lexington. Its broad and comfortable front porch is tidy and swept clean. Potted plants cozy up next to each of the old porch's posts – peace lilies, anemones and hydrangea cuttings each enjoying their own slice of shade. Clark and her daughter Barbara sit with their faces full in the sun looking down onto the street.

The steps of this old porch have witnessed many stages of this family's history – babes in blankets being carried carefully, toddlers climbing down backwards, and teenagers taking them two at a time. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren now continue the story when they visit.

Surprisingly, this mild morning does not contrast much to the years when Clark, now 87, and her husband Thomas raised nine children in this house. Four boys and five girls grew up here, attended nearby schools and walked to church services on Sunday. Another child, a daughter, died at birth.

When asked if raising a baseball team of children kept her and her husband busy, Clark chuckles – amused at the naiveté of the question. “No, we kept them busy! When they got big enough to work and help, we saw to it that they did.”

Daughter Barbara is also surprised by the assumption that a home with nine children means chaos. “It was always real peaceful. We weren't rowdy or loud. We were taught not to bother the neighbors. And it wasn't just the nine of us kids here; neighborhood kids played here, too. There's no one like our parents. They raised us right.”

Barbara is the fifth-born and now cares for her mother fulltime. Most of the surviving children live nearby and visit frequently. On this morning, two of Clark's children stopped by – first, a son with a few bags of groceries, and later, another daughter with lunch for everyone.

Clark and her husband Thomas met at church, wed after his military service in World War II and were married for 60 years. A stroke in 1998 left him in a



Building ramps takes a team effort in Lexington. Connie Clark, left, 87, was one of the recipients April 26 during Rampin' Up! as part of Operation Inasmuch, a two-day event focusing on building ramps through the N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry and N.C. Baptist Men. (NCBAM photos)



wheelchair. One of their sons built a ramp for him alongside the tall porch – the porch Thomas had bounded up for decades with all the stuff of life – groceries, mail, lunch bags for his workday at Coble Dairy, and many times with a baby or toddler.

Their son's well-made ramp served Clark's husband until he passed away in 2007.

When Connie Clark began using a wheelchair two years ago, the ramp was again put into use. However, 15 winters had weathered the boards and made the ramp difficult to maneuver.

Barbara explained the need for a new ramp, “After Mom took a spill on the old ramp, it made her not want to go out; she was scared of falling again. When we would push her over the big hump, she would hold on tight to the arms of the wheelchair, afraid it might

topple over. She got to where she wanted to just stay home.”

Connie Clark's social worker put her in touch with the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) for a needed ramp. NCBAM was able to connect Clark's family with Keith Mendenhall and his ramp-building team from First Baptist Church of Welcome.

On April 26, Rampin' Up! teams rose before the sun, loaded pickups with lumber and saws, and headed out to spend the day building wheelchair ramps. The biennial Rampin' Up! event sponsored by NCBAM and N.C. Baptist Men (or Baptists on Mission) impacted hundreds of lives as North Carolina Baptists served as the hands and feet of Jesus to make life better for church members, neighbors and strangers in need. One of the many to be blessed was Connie Clark.

The steep front yard and driveway at Clark's home posed unique challenges for Mendenhall's team. It wasn't possible to replace the existing ramp in the same location and meet current building codes. The new ramp exits the opposite side of the porch, slopes to a platform, turns 90 degrees, and then slopes to the sidewalk. Mendenhall and his team took care to provide a solution that would work well for Clark and her family.

Mendenhall appreciates the additional opportunities for ministry that Rampin' Up! provides. “We hope this ramp gives Ms. Clark and her family piece of mind to safely get her to vehicles or just beyond the front porch to enjoy being outside.”

Mendenhall's crew from FBC of Welcome included Tom Angell, Stan McCann, Jeremy Sweat and Chris Spaugh. A family – Danny and Christina Hutcherson and their children, Christopher, Nathan and Lauren – from Rich Fork Baptist Church in Thomasville also helped to complete the project.

Clark can now leave her home safely and without fear. The new ramp allows her to connect more frequently in her community – this pleasant neighborhood in which Clark for decades was a lively part. “I was a knockout in my day,” she laughs – the sparkle in her eyes shaming the morning's sun. As her laughter subsides, she takes a deep breath and softly closes her eyes – perhaps remembering the years she and Thomas spent living, loving and keeping nine children busy in their home high above the street. ■

## Page **Continued from page 5**

The Lassiters thanked Southern Baptists for their gifts, which have made a “tremendous impact” on their entire lives.

The cooperative giving of Southern Baptists contributed to the training of the youth pastors that led them to follow Christ and pursue vocational ministry, the couple reported. It also instilled in them a deep love for the Bible through state Bible drills, summer associational camps, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors. The couple also shared how they attended Baptist universities and a Southern Baptist seminary that trained them for service on the mission field.

Because of Southern Baptists' giving through the Cooperative Program, the Lassiters had transportation such as dugout canoes and prop planes to travel to unreached and unengaged people groups in remote jungles. Thirty-seven people groups in the Americas have learned of Jesus as a result of Cooperative Program giving, they said.

Page also recognized Matt Rogers, pastor of The Church at Cherrydale in Greenville, S.C., who through the Cooperative Program has been involved in church planting and church revitalization.

“Church planting and church revitalization, particularly in the Southeast, was not on my radar when my wife and I moved to Southeastern Seminary in 2005,” Rogers said.

But he was disciplined, prepared and encouraged to plant a church, and in the summer of 2009, with a team of seven people, he set out to plant a church in South Carolina, “where the church was increasingly losing ground in seemingly fertile soil.”

“The lackluster religious climate of the Southeast needed the energy that comes from new churches and revitalized existing churches that can multiply disciples and leaders and plant new churches,” Rogers said.

Increasingly Rogers felt a responsibility to “reboot the church planting conversation where for too long,

fear and skepticism and mutual distrust had caused those who should partner together to grow further apart.”

Recently the young church Rogers led, meeting in an elementary school, merged with an existing congregation to form a new church, “to forge a new paradigm for Kingdom partnership that would eclipse generations of church divisions and splits.”

The two churches voted to become The Church at Cherrydale. “We hope that this rewrites the scorecard in the Southeast to show that churches can work together,” Rogers said. “We have seen the lost saved, the weak in the faith matured and a disciple-making culture come alive. And you have played a significant role in that journey. Your giving through the Cooperative Program has been a primary conduit of God's grace for us.”

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Erin Roach is a writer in Nashville, Tenn. Tim Sweetman, director of communications at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, also contributed to this story.) ■

# Patterson apologizes for breaking policy

By KEITH COLLIER | SWBTS Communications

In his report to the convention Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) President Paige Patterson praised students and faculty members for their evangelistic zeal and answered a messenger's question regarding admission of a Muslim into the school's archaeology program.

After showing a seminary-produced video about alumni working to translate scripture among unreached people groups in China, Patterson praised students and faculty for fulfilling the seminary's motto, "Preach the Word, Reach the World." He described an atmosphere of evangelism that has spread on campus, as teams regularly go into the community to share Christ and students and professors practice personal evangelism everywhere they go. "I'm very grateful for the enthusiasm of our faculty and our students for the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ," Patterson said.

During a time for questions, Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) and a messenger from First Baptist Church of Keller, Texas, described a partnership between the seminary and SBTC to provide a bachelor's degree program to inmates in the Darrington Prison Unit near Houston. Richards then asked Patterson to explain why the seminary admits atheists and other non-Christians into such a program.

Patterson said Southwestern patterned the work after a similar program provided by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. "We have to admit [non-Christians] into the class, but the wonderful thing, of course, as you would guess, is that as they study in class, they are coming to know the Lord," he said.

He also noted that the program is privately funded through donors. For students who cannot get into the degree program, "we have Bible studies going on ... and we thank God for that," he said. "It shows the power of the gospel in any context."

William Blossch, a messenger from First Newark Baptist Church in Thomasville, Ga., asked Patterson for "a straightforward explanation as to why, at your direction, the seminary admitted a Muslim student on campus in violation of the seminary's charter and your admissions guidelines."

"I owe the convention an apology, particularly to all of you that I have caused

sorrow, heartache, disillusionment or any other kind of sorrow," Patterson said.

Patterson also apologized to his family, Southwestern's faculty and the school's board of trustees. He took full responsibility for the exception to the admissions policies, noting it was his decision alone.

Patterson then explained the circumstances of the exception. Southwestern leads two archaeological digs, one in Israel and one on the island of Cyprus.

Participants at the dig sites include Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other faith traditions that are interested in archaeology. The student who was admitted is a Palestinian from a Muslim background. Having observed Southwestern's students and faculty, the young man asked to be admitted into the Ph.D. program in archaeology, Patterson said.

"I fell in love with" the student, Patterson said, "because he was a remarkable young man, very open at this point to the gospel of Jesus Christ. I explained to him that it would be most unusual, but eventually I did make the exception to the rule. I made an exception to a rule that I assumed, probably wrongly, that the president has a right to make if he feels it is important. He was admitted as a special student in the Ph.D. program, and that is not with Cooperative Program assistance."

Patterson recounted two previous exceptions he made to admissions policies, one admitting an atheist to Criswell College and the other admitting a Syrian Orthodox Priest to seminary. Both students came to Christ during their studies, Patterson said.

"Well, what will I say to God?" Patterson asked. He then shared a passage from Ezekiel 3:17-18, concluding, "I believe that when I stand before the Lord God, I'm going to say, 'Dear God, I violated a policy, but I didn't want to stand before You with blood on my hands. Dear God, I did the best I knew how.'"

Steven James, chairman of Southwestern's board of trustees, concluded the report with a statement assuring messengers that the board's executive committee will meet in September and the full board will meet in October to address the issue.

"The trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, whom you have selected and elected, have heard you," James told messengers. "Your concerns are our concerns. We take them to heart, and we take the role and responsibility you have given to us very seriously." ■



PAIGE PATTERSON

## SEMINARY REPORTS

### Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is enjoying record enrollment, major financial gifts and academic expansion, President Jason Allen announced in his June 11 report to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Allen said Midwestern Seminary's primary commitment is not to seek the approval of the academic or the broader evangelical world, but to train pastors, ministers and missionaries to serve in Southern Baptist churches. Midwestern's spring enrollment was the largest spring enrollment in its history and interjected the student body with new vitality, Allen said. Midwestern Seminary's new \$12 million chapel complex was dedicated debt free this spring, thanks to a generous gift from Gene and Jo Downing of Oklahoma. The seminary received \$5 million in gifts and pledges over the past year, Allen said. Midwestern is aiming to double its master of divinity enrollment over the next five years and has increased its doctoral offerings, he said. The seminary has launched its Midwestern Training Network, a strategic partnership with churches to facilitate theological education within the local church, and has retooled its undergraduate program led by John Mark Yeats, the new dean of Midwestern Baptist College.

### Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

"Vast shifts" in American culture present an "unmistakably huge" task to future generations of pastors, missionaries and evangelists, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. said June 11 in his report to the SBC.

"We can no longer live with the illusion of what sociologists used to call 'American exceptionalism,'" said Mohler, who this summer begins the 22nd year of his presidency. "America, as it turns out, was not the exception to the trend of secularization; we were just behind Europe. And we are fast catching up."

He described the "vast shift" in "American society over the last 200 years," citing polls that indicate one-third of Americans younger than 30 claim no religious affiliation. Claiming that no one alive today has experienced "a time such as this," Mohler said Christians live "in a time morally when the world is turning on its axis."

The seminary will enroll this fall more than 4,600 students, more than at any other time in the school's history, Mohler said, including more than 1,700 master of divinity (M.Div.) students. He described three initiatives by which the seminary prepares students to speak to the challenges of the day: the Bevin Center for Missions Mobilization helps the seminary train students in evangelism, missions and church planting, and helps equip and send students and faculty on short-term missions trips globally; the Jenkins Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam exists to inform and train students and faculty to engage Muslims for the sake of the gospel; and the Mathena Center for Congregational Revitalization, an initiative to train ministers in reviving declining and dying churches.

### New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

With New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's centennial just three years away, President Chuck Kelley opened his SBC report June 11 with a glimpse of history. "In 1917, Southern Baptists did something they'd never done before in their history: they decided to give birth to a seminary," Kelley said, noting that there were then only five or six Southern Baptist churches in New Orleans. "Nearly a hundred years later, New Orleans is ground zero for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention," Kelley said.

NOBTS has dedicated the Doris Kelley Showers of Blessing Resource Center on its main campus. Named for Kelley's late mother, the center will house a home-school program and a campus community center. The seminary will launch in August the Leake Magee Center for Christian Counseling, which will offer counseling services for campus families and community families alike.

Last year, more than 3,800 students trained for ministry at NOBTS, which offers 10 degrees entirely online and non-residential doctoral programs. The seminary is expanding its extension center network. Kelley briefed messengers on the new Caskey Center for Church Excellence, a partnership with an anonymous donor who gave an initial \$1.5 million to provide free theological education for small church (less than 250 in attendance) and bi-vocational pastors and staff of Louisiana Southern Baptist churches. The goal is to provide up to \$6,000 per year, a full scholarship, for up to 100 students who qualify. The program targets the overwhelming majority of Louisiana churches, 91 percent of which have less than 250 in attendance each Sunday. Convention-wide, 89 percent of churches fit that category.

# Fred Luter: ‘Do you know His name?’

By DIANA CHANDLER | IMB/Baptist Press

**T**he gospel found only in the name of Jesus will change an America that has blown it with God and is quickly becoming more pagan than Christian, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Fred Luter told messengers on the eve of his last day in office.

Luter drew enthusiastic, soulful responses from worshipers at an evening revival service June 10 during the SBC annual meeting in Baltimore as he preached from Psalm 80:18–19, the meeting’s official theme scripture calling for “Restoration and Revival through Prayer.”

“As your president for the past two years, my heart’s desire has been that God would make us one and that God would send revival and renewal through the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention,” Luter said.

“Brothers and sisters, the only way that will happen in this nation, the only way that will happen in this convention, the only way that will happen in our churches is if the people of God cry out to God in prayer, if there is genuine repentance, if there is genuine remorse, and if we call on the name which is above every name.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we need to call on that name,” Luter said, “that name which is above the name of the Republicans, that name which is above the name of the Democrats, that name which is above the name of Congress, that name which is above every name of the U.S. Senate, that name which is above every name of those riding a donkey or those riding an elephant.”

Luter used a traditional Sub-Saharan African call-and-response communication style, saying to the audience, “Southern Baptists tell me, who can stand before us when we call on that great name? What’s His name, church?”

“Jesus,” they responded.

“What’s His name, church?”

“Jesus,” came the enthusiastic reply.

“I wonder if you know His name,” Luter said, reciting a round of many of the names that refer to Jesus.

“Jehovah Jirah. Jehovah Nissi. Jehovah Shalom. Jehovah Tsidkenu.

“I wonder Southern Baptists if you know His name,” Luter said, expanding his list.

“The Alpha and the Advocate. The Almighty and the Amen. The Author and Finisher of our Faith. The Captain of our Salvation. The Chief Shepherd. The Door. The Cornerstone. The Commander. The Creator. The Faithful Witness. The Good Shepherd. The Great High Priest.

“The Head of the Church. The Holy Child. The I Am that I Am. The Emmanuel. Jehovah. King of the Ages. The Lawgiver. The Lamb of God.”

Hundreds of Southern Baptists stood applauding, clapping and shouting Amen and other affirmations.

Jesus is “the Light of the World,” Luter continued, “the Lion of Judah. The Lord of all. The Son of God and the Son of man. The Resurrection and the Life. The True Life.”

“The Lord of Glory. The Mighty God. The Messiah. The Lord of Righteousness. The Rock. The Bright and Morning Star. The Prince of Peace.”



Lester Hoffman, who serves on the Committee on Order of Business, Glen McEwen and Fred Luter, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, pray together on the stage during the morning session June 11, the last day of the SBC annual meeting at the Baltimore Convention Center. Luter announced a spontaneous prayer meeting during the session. Luter delivered his presidential address June 10 during the evening service. (Photo by Van Payne)

America has erred as the biblical Israelites and will only enjoy a harvest of revival by repenting with remorse and submitting to God’s leadership as He revives the nation, Luter said.

“It is a difficult time in the life of America. It’s a painful time in the life of America,” Luter said, “because, just like Israel in Psalm 80, America has messed up with God.... America has blown it with God.... America has sinned against God.”

America has lowered its standards, Luter said, with sinful morals evident in sitcoms, movies, videos and video games, leading to crime, adultery, fornication, child molestation, racism, pornography and the abuse of drugs, alcohol and sex. “America is rapidly becoming and turning into a pagan nation,” Luter said.

The cure is in the name of Jesus, Luter said, a name that America must call on in prayer.

In Jesus, we have “that name that can change the heart of a racist, that name that can change the mind of a murderer, that name that can change the desire of a child molester,” Luter said.

Jesus is a name “that can change the crowd of a gang member ... the habit of a prostitute ... the desire of a drug addict ... the taste buds of an alcoholic ... the heart of a hypocrite ... the lifestyle of a homosexual ... the actions of an adulterer ... the thoughts of a thief and the desire of a lost sinner.

“Somebody know what I’m talking about, shout Hallelujah.”

“Hallelujah,” came the unmistakable response.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Diana Chandler is general assignment writer/editor for Baptist Press.) **BR**

# 9 resolutions garner SBC messengers’ OK

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

**M**essengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) adopted a resolution on transgender identity for the first time while returning to such issues as civil rights, gambling and world hunger for further statements.

All nine resolutions offered June 10 at the SBC’s 2014 meeting gained approval by unanimous or overwhelming votes. The messengers’ actions in about 30 minutes meant a second report scheduled for June 11 was not needed.

The resolution on transgender identity came in response to recent gains in state legislatures, the federal executive branch, public schools and the wider culture by advocates for recognizing a distinction between gender and biology.

In the resolution, messengers affirmed that “gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one’s self-perception.” It expressed love for transgender people and invited them to trust in Jesus.

Texas pastor David Dykes, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, said at a news conference after the vote, “To this point we had not spoken on this issue, so there was a need for clarity” on the SBC’s position.

At the same news conference, Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), described it as “a very good, wise resolution and a very hopeful sign of the Southern Baptist Convention saying to the outside world, ‘We’re standing with biblical conviction, and we also are making very clear that the gospel message goes to everybody.’”

In addressing some issues messengers had spoken to at various times in the past, the 2014 convention:

- commemorated the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act and reaffirmed the SBC’s 1965 call for “peaceful compliance with laws assuring equal rights for all.”

- reaffirmed its “long-standing opposition to government sponsorship of gambling.”

- urged Southern Baptists to support the newly rebranded Global Hunger Relief initiative.

In approving the civil rights resolution, the convention again acknowledged its grievous past. Messengers, the resolution said, “lament and repudiate this nation’s long history of racial segregation as well as the complicity of Southern Baptists who resisted or opposed the dismantling of the evil or racial hierarchy in our churches or society.” The measure also expressed gratitude for the increase in racial and ethnic diversity among Southern Baptists in the last 50 years.

The hunger resolution stemmed from the rebranding of the World Hunger Fund as Global Hunger Relief. The SBC-approved division of funds remains at 80 percent for overseas use and 20 percent for domestic use.

The resolution urged Southern Baptist entities, the Woman’s Missionary Union and other partners to act aggressively to increase awareness of the need of the hungry and encouraged churches to promote giving to Global Hunger Relief.

Leaders of some of the SBC entities involved in pro-

**‘It’s a painful time in the life of America because just like Israel in Psalm 80, America has messed up with God ... America has sinned against God.’**  
– Fred Luter

# Pastors

Continued from page 1

Sharing the gospel with people and seeing lives changed from death to life is ultimately greater than Jesus' earthly miracles, Greear said.

"When we preach the gospel and sinners believe, we are doing the greater work," he said. "We are doing the thing all of Jesus's miracles were trying to illustrate."

Much of church growth, Greear said, is based on "shuffling existing Christians around" while reaching lost people accounts for just a small percentage of growing churches.

Greear called churches to be more concerned with spreading the glory of God on earth instead of their own glory.

"Sending capacity and not just seating capacity ought to be the measure of any Kingdom-minded church's success," he said. Churches were called to sacrificially give away their best resources, leaders and opportunities in order to grow for God's glory. "Jesus' promises about the greatness of His church are tied to sending," Greear said.

## Ronnie Floyd

Southern Baptists must be known for the power and glory of God in their midst in order to fulfill their mission, Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd said in the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference opening session Sunday night.

Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas was elected SBC president, used Moses' frequent communication with God on Mount Sinai "as a man talks to his friend" to show how pastors must seek the glory of God on their lives. "Moses wanted nothing more than to ensure that the presence of God would come upon the people and that that would become the distinctive mark in their culture," Floyd said.

"Jesus is the glory of God, and anytime we want the gospel to be sent to the ends of the earth, we are saying we want the Lord Jesus and His glory to be absolutely felt by all the nations of the world."

## Johnny Hunt

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., and a former Southern Baptist Convention president, jumpstarted the second day of the conference with a message on personal evangelism drawn from Psalm 126. The North Carolina native first set forth statistics and frank statements regarding the state of evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Twenty-seven thousand of our 46,000 Southern Baptist churches baptized no teenagers last year," Hunt said. "Another 9,000 baptized one.

"Do the math. Thirty-six thousand of



Bruce Frank, lead pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville and president of the 2014 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, welcomes pastors and their families June 8 to the first session at the Baltimore Convention Center. The theme of the conference is "Show Us Your Glory." (Photo by Matt Miller)

the 46,000 Southern Baptist churches [baptized] no teenagers. Let that continue, and we'll see where the next generation lands. We've got to make much of the gospel."



JOHNNY HUNT

Hunt challenged ministers in the audience to recommit themselves to intentional personal evangelism. As an example to attendees, Hunt said one thing he did as a young minister to constantly remind him to pray for and witness to specific people in his life was to carry with him the names of people he was actively witnessing to.

"I've gone back to this and carry them in my Bible," Hunt said. "As a spiritual leader, who are you planting the gospel in

their life?"

Hunt shared that Southern Baptists baptized 4,600 less people last year despite having 91 more churches.

Hunt closed with a simple prayer: "God help us. God help us."

## Clayton King

When pastors feel discouraged and worn out, they should give up their ministry to God instead of quitting, said Clayton King, founder and president of Crossroads Camps and Clayton King Ministries.

King, in a message titled "God's Glory in Giving Up," preached from 1 Kings 19:1-9 when Elijah ran for his life from Queen Jezebel after securing victory against the false prophets of Baal. King said Elijah's experience serves as a guideline for pastors to surrender their ministries to God during times of anxiety and distress.

"When God calls you into ministry, there is a price to be paid and a burden to carry," said King, a teaching pastor at Newspring Church in Anderson, S.C., and campus pastor for Liberty University.

King emphasized the need for pastors to receive encouragement and honor from other ministers as well as seeking times of rest to avoid moral and spiritual failure.

"If you are a pastor of a church that is always on call and cannot ever turn off your phone, and everybody has to have access to you, then you have created a train wreck of your life and you are headed to destruction," King said, setting forth Elijah's example of escaping the source of his anxiety.



Clayton King, founder and president of Crossroads Camps, Crossroads Missions and Clayton King Ministries, speaks June 9 during the 2014 Pastors' Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center. King also serves as Liberty University campus pastor and teaching pastor at Newspring Church in Anderson, S.C. (Photo by Van Payne)

"Get honest with God about your limitations."

Recounting the story of a pastor who lost his family and ministry, King urged conference attendees to devote time to family, spend money on vacations, schedule regular alone time, and find rest and nourishment. "If we will give up now," King said, "we won't have to quit later."

## Francis Chan

In an emotional conclusion to the Pastors' Conference, Francis Chan, author, speaker and former pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Simi Valley, Calif., passionately called attendees to "not be content to hear Moses" instead of going up the mountaintop themselves.

His plea referenced Exodus 32-33, which describe Moses going up to meet with God on the mountain.

Chan urged attendees to develop a hunger to really know and love God, rather than "taking selfies with Moses and writing about it. Movements start when founders really know God, but movements die when the followers only know the founder," Chan said.

Referencing Mark 14 - which tells of Jesus, in the depths of His sorrow, falling to the ground and asking for the cup to be passed from Him - Chan pressed the pastors to keep their eyes on the cross where Christ gave His all.

"Are you resting in the cross right now? Is your joy and salvation coming from Jesus?" he asked.

Chan concluded by saying he felt many of the conference participants are bound by rituals and patterns instead of "dying in their hearts to really know God." In the midst of their devotion to those rituals, "people groups and people are going to hell" without Christ, he said.

Other notable speakers included Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., James MacDonald, pastor of Harvest Bible Church in Chicago, H.B. Charles, pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., and Alex Himaya, pastor of theChurch.at in Tulsa, Okla., who was filling in for Tony Evans, founder and pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas.

## 2015 Pastors' Conference officers

Attendees elected the following officers to lead the 2015 Pastors' Conference in Columbus, Ohio: Willie Rice, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., president; Jeremy Westbrook, pastor of Living Hope Church in Marysville, Ohio, vice president; and Drew Landry, pastor of Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Va., treasurer. **BR**

# Floyd

Continued from page 1

Mohler noted Floyd's service as president of the Pastors' Conference; chairman of the SBC Executive Committee; participation on the denomination's Program and Structure Committee; and, "most importantly," as chairman of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force (2009-10), which set forth wide-ranging recommendations for expanding the SBC's missions outreach.

"He is a unifier and a denominational statesman. He knows the Southern Baptist Convention at every level, and he has served and led at every level," Mohler said.

While chairman of the task force, Mohler said Floyd "bridged generations and institutional boundaries to forge a new commitment to reaching the world for Christ. As an immediate result of that leadership experience, Ronnie Floyd became convinced of the need to direct ever greater financial support to the world missions task."

After his experience on the task force, Floyd steered his church to be one of the convention's leading contributors through the Cooperative Program, "even leading his church to give more to the Cooperative Program during a time of national recession, contributing more than \$700,000 last year alone," Mohler said.

"We need a man of that commitment and leadership now as president of our beloved convention – a man who models the message."

Mohler said Floyd "will lead all Southern Baptists, and he will lead us well. He is a bridge-builder who unites us theologically and stands in a direct line of noble leaders who have defended the inerrancy of Scripture and every doctrine of our Baptist Faith & Message."

"At this crucial hour, we Southern Baptists desperately need a leader who can model convictional compassion and compassionate conviction – who can articulate our message in the midst of most trying times – and represent us all as the world around us turns upside down.... He will stand without compromise, articulate with clarity, and lead us with confidence."

McKissic, in his nomination speech, described Kim as "a rare find among Southern Baptists."

Kim has a heart for prayer, McKissic said, and has leaders praying at his church almost continually during the day.

McKissic also said Southern Baptists should elect Kim because he would be the convention's first president who is pastor of a multicultural church that is "wholly committed to cross-cultural evangelism and discipleship."

"The world needs to see such cross-cultural, discipleship-driven churches, trained in evangelism and saturated in prayer," McKissic said.

McKissic further recommended Kim because of his heart for inclusion and cooperation. Kim has led 40 international mission trips and would have been the SBC's first president not from the traditional South.

"The election of Dr. Kim would speak volumes to the nation and to the world that the Southern Baptist family is global, intergenerational, multiracial and culturally diverse," McKissic said.

"The election of Dr. Kim would signal our future, which is gospel-driven, gospel-centered and reflective of the Kingdom of God for such a time as this."

Moore has led New Salem for the past four years, serving previously as a pastor and youth pastor in Tennessee.

He also has served as a teaching assistant at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and an



Newly elected 2014 officers of the Southern Baptist Convention are: (left to right) Jim Wells, registration secretary; John L. Yeats, recording secretary; Ronnie Floyd, president; Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., first vice president; and Hance Dilbeck, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., second vice president. (Photo by Adam Covington and Matt Miller)

online adjunct professor at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, Ky.

In "trying to speak for smaller churches," Smith said, "I believe that Brother Jared's voice would be valuable because he is an average Southern Baptist, and he has preached and led in many small churches, like our church, for 14 years."

New Salem, a rural congregation in Lincoln County, is comprised of about 60 people, Smith said.

Calling Moore an "intelligent and loving person," who is "dedicated to serving Jesus Christ," Smith added that Moore has been "especially good at reaching the unchurched" in the community.

"He is also a pastor who is very missions-minded and leads us to be a missions-minded church," Smith said, noting that New Salem gives approximately 16 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program.

Floyd has been a key organizer of two pastor/leader prayer gatherings that each drew participants from nearly 30 states during the past year – a Jan. 13-14 meeting in Atlanta attended by 400 pastors and leaders and a Sept. 30-Oct. 1 meeting in the Dallas-Fort Worth area attended by 175-plus pastors.

Floyd also has served as general editor for the updated version of Bible Studies for Life, the popular Bible study curriculum produced by LifeWay Christian Resources.

He led an advisory team of pastors and ministry leaders to help design the new material from a church perspective.

Floyd also serves as lead pastor and strategist with the North American Mission Board for its Send North America church planting strategy. He is the author of 10 books, including *Our Last Great Hope: Awakening the Great Commission* (2011) and *The Power of Prayer and Fasting* (2010).

As the pastor of Cross Church, Floyd led the congregation to start campuses in Springdale, Rogers and Fayetteville.

He holds doctor of ministry and master of divinity degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas and an undergraduate degree from Howard Payne University, also in Texas.

Floyd and his wife Jeana have been married 37 years and have two married sons and six grandchildren.

Other SBC officers elected were:

- Clint Pressley, pastor of the Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., elected as first vice president, nominated by Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.

Pressley is "willing and qualified" to serve, having held several SBC leadership positions, Traylor said.

- Hance Dilbeck, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., elected second vice

president. He was nominated by James Merritt, pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga., who called Dilbeck a leader in Hispanic church planting and Great Commission giving.

- John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, re-elected recording secretary, a role he has served in since 1997. He was nominated by Jason Allen, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

- Jim Wells, strategic partners team leader, Missouri Baptist Convention, nominated by re-elected registration secretary, a role he has served in since 2002.

None of the other officers faced opposition.

Eddie Bumpers, pastor of Crossway Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., was elected to deliver the convention sermon during the 2015 SBC meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Michael Allen of Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago was elected alternate; and Julio Arriola was elected music director.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Barbara Denman is the Florida Baptist Convention's director of communications. Tim Ellsworth of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Todd Deaton of Kentucky Baptists' Western Recorder contributed to this article.) BR



Gary Chapman, left, senior associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, and Rob Peters, center, Calvary's senior pastor, talk with Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, in the Baltimore Convention Center. The Southern Baptist Convention draws leaders from all across the country including more than 420 messengers from North Carolina. (BR photo by K. Allan Blume)

# Resolutions

Continued from page 9

moting the initiative greeted the resolution with statements commending Global Hunger Relief and its part in spreading the gospel.

Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board, said Global Hunger Relief “paves the way for the seed of the gospel to be sown by Southern Baptists. Demonstration leads to proclamation among some of the least reached peoples in our world.”

Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, said, “We live in a day when we must find ways to demonstrate God’s love by meeting significant human need while sharing Christ.”

Moore said the initiative “is not just an issue of charity, and not just an issue of compassion, but is also an act of spiritual warfare – as faithful men and women all across our churches labor to be a gospel witness and reflect the attitude of our Lord who shows compassion to the needy and destitute as He points them to the Bread of Life.”

The other resolutions:

- condemned “predatory payday lending” and urged churches to offer financial stewardship instruction and skills training for people inside and outside their congregations.

- reaffirmed “the sufficiency of biblical revelation over subjective experiential explanations to guide one’s understanding of the truth about heaven and hell” in an apparent response to the recently released movie “Heaven Is for Real” and similar books and films.

- encouraged Southern Baptists to back the creation of Christ-centered elementary and secondary schools and Christian homeschooling systems, supported those who follow God’s direction by taking part in public schools and urged policies that “maximize parental choice.”

- affirmed “the calling of pastors who revitalize churches as needful as the calling of pastors to plant churches.”

- thanked God and all those who helped with this year’s meeting.

In response to a question, Dykes said he did not understand the education resolution’s parental choice language to

be placing Southern Baptists in support of vouchers for Christian schools. “In fact that’s why we used the ambiguous language,” he said at the news conference. “We did not mention vouchers. We just said that we favor any kind of legislation that helps parents decide where they want their children educated.”

Joining Dykes, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, on the Resolutions Committee, were Whitney Alexander, member, First Baptist Church, Gadsden, Ala.; Matthew Arbo, member, Redeemer Fellowship, Kansas City, Mo., and assistant professor of Christian ethics, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Greg Belser, pastor, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss.; Roger Freeman, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Nashville; Matthew Hall, member, Clifton Baptist Church, Louisville, and vice president of academic services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Chris Osborne, senior pastor, Central Baptist Church, College Station, Texas; Ramon Osorio, member, First Redeemer Church, Cumming, Ga., and national church mobilizer, NAMB; Jay Shell, member, West Baptist Church, Batesville, Ark.; and Kevin Smith, teaching pastor, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, and assistant professor of Christian preaching, Southern Seminary.

Twelve resolutions were submitted to the committee. Messengers defeated efforts to bring two of those resolutions to the floor for consideration.

Dwight McKissic Sr., pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, tried to make a motion to revive his submitted resolution denouncing the Washington Redskins mascot as racially insensitive and racism in professional sports management.

A Native American and North Carolina pastor, Charlie Martin, spoke against bringing the resolution before messengers. Martin, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, called himself “a very dedicated Redskins fan” and admitted he had been a fan since childhood.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Tom Strobe is the Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press.) BR

Duane Kuykendall, left, Catawba Valley Baptist Association director of missions, and Rick Speas, pastor of Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, talk in the exhibit hall. (BR photo by K. Allan Blume)



Daniel Akin, center, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, receives the Herschel H. Hobbs Award for Distinguished Denominational Service June 11 from Oklahoma Baptist University President David Whitlock, right, and Stan Norman, left, provost and executive vice president for campus life. (BR photo by Michael McEwen)

## Southeastern gives, receives at Baltimore

By MICHAEL MCEWEN | BR Content Editor

During the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in Baltimore, the Charles Haddon Spurgeon Center for Pastoral Leadership and Preaching sponsored a breakfast June 10 for pastors and church leaders.

The Spurgeon Center, located at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, equips and encourages pastors to lead healthy, disciple-making churches, and represents an intentional bridge between the seminary and local churches.

John H. Ewart, director of the Spurgeon Center and associate vice president for global theological initiatives, said, “Our goal is to see Southeastern as both the Great Commission seminary ... and also as the pastor seminary.”

Ronnie Floyd, newly elected president of the SBC, spoke on the topic of the pastor and the spiritual life.

He said, “If you put everything into your stock or weight or value or charisma or smile, then we don’t have much. That’s why I believe deeply in my heart that the greatest need in our lives as Southern Baptists is to move into a major season of extraordinary prayer.”

Floyd reminded pastors that no one else could determine whether they are going after God. “I want to extend His glory to the nations of the world,” he said, “and I hope you will give your best to Him. God can do more in a moment than you can do in a lifetime.”

Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) presented Southeastern seminary president Danny Akin with its Herschel H. Hobbs Award for Distinguished Denomi-

national Service June 11 at the Southeastern alumni luncheon.

Hobbs was one of the SBC’s leading theologians and the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla.

In 2013, former Union University President, David Dockery, received the award.

The luncheon featured a panel consisting of Akin; Bruce Ashford, provost of SEBTS; Nathan Finn, associate professor of historical theology and Baptist studies at SEBTS; Thom Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources; and Trillia Newbell, blogger and author of *United: Captured by God’s Vision for Diversity*. Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research Division, moderated the event.

J.D. Greear, a Southeastern alumnus and pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, announced The Summit will be giving \$500,000 to the seminary over the next five years.

Director of financial development at SEBTS, Daniel Palmer said, “I think the tears ... in Dr. Akin’s eyes said it all. This gift is huge.

“We don’t raise money for the sake of raising money; we do it to graduate well-prepared champions for Christ who are financially free to go serve wherever God calls them.

“Every gift to Southeastern is multiplied through the future ministries of thousands of students. This historic gift from the generous people of The Summit Church will help us keep world-class preparation affordable for students until Christ returns.”

Nearing the end of the SBC annual

See Southeastern page 15



Dewey and Inas Briscoe have Mission:Dignity to thank for helping them stay in their home. They receive a monthly grant from the ministry provided through GuideStone Financial Resources and donations from Southern Baptists. (GuideStone photo)

## What would Jesus do?

GuideStone Financial Resources

**T**he actions of Jesus were always uppermost in Dewey Briscoe's mind during his 42 years of ministering to others.

"What did Jesus do all of his life? He ministered to the needs of the people. So if Jesus is living in us and we don't do that, we're not practicing what Jesus told us to do. We have got to minister to the needs of people," Briscoe said.

Saved at the age of 12, Briscoe couldn't sit still when he felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit during a Sunday School lesson. Baptized a short time later by his father, who was a pastor for more than 50 years, Briscoe hadn't planned on becoming a pastor too.

For more than a decade, he fought God's call. Like Jonah, he thought he could run from the challenge the Lord set before him. At the age of 38, Briscoe finally accepted his call to preach God's Word.

"In September 1965, I went forward and told the church that God wanted me to preach His word. In two weeks, I preached my first message from 1 John 4:7-11 called 'God is Love,'" he remembered.

With his wife, Inas, at his side, Dewey preached more than 30 messages the first year at different churches around Cullman County in Alabama. The next year he was called to his first pastorate at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church – the church his father pastored when Briscoe made his profession of faith 27 years before.

"I've enjoyed pastoring all eight churches that I've pastored, and I believe God put me in every one," he said. Briscoe recalled a special day when his secretary informed him of a hospitalized church member who had asked him to visit her.

"A deacon and I drove over to see her and when we walked in the room, she began to cry. She said, 'Brother Dewey, I don't want to die – I have never been saved.' I took my Bible and began reading the scriptures on how to be saved. She was gloriously saved and the next day, she died. That was worth my going to Michigan [to pastor a church]," Briscoe said.

During his ministry, he and Inas faced some difficult times when they could barely make ends meet for even basic necessities.

See Mission page 20



**S**ince 1918, GuideStone Financial Resources has been on a "Mission" to provide "Dignity" to retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers or their widows.

These are men and women who have faithfully served God's people and now find themselves struggling to meet even basic needs.

Many served small, rural churches that paid only modest salaries and couldn't afford to contribute to their pastors' retirement.

Often, these loyal soldiers of the cross had to work extra jobs just to make ends meet.

Mission:Dignity currently helps more than 2,000 people with extra money needed for housing, food and vital medications. It has also ensured a well-deserved dignity, independence and, often, the ability to continue serving.

The Mission:Dignity ministry relies on the support of churches and individuals to provide this vital assistance.

You can participate in this ministry by sending a gift, funding a Charitable Gift Annuity, designating the ministry as the beneficiary of your life insurance, will or estate plan, or requesting materials to share with others.

Mission:Dignity Sunday is June 22.

Mail gifts to: Mission:Dignity, GuideStone Financial Resources SBC, 2401 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, TX 75201-1498.

Visit [missiondignitybc.org](http://missiondignitybc.org).

All gifts to Mission:Dignity go to help those in need with nothing taken out for administrative expenses and are tax-deductible to the maximum amount allowed by law. See more stories about this ministry online at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org). **BR**

## SEMINARY/DIVINITY GRADUATES

### Campbell University

**Master of arts in Christian education** – Jean Faith Brown-Williams, Fayetteville; Lydia Maxine Robinson Moore, Fayetteville; and Susan Russell Lackey, Dover.

**Master of arts in Christian ministry** – Mary LaVenie Bowie, Apex; and Phillip Tyson Pope, Charlotte.

**Master of divinity** – Daniel Abe, Fayetteville; Amy Elise Adams, Huntersville; Rebecca Thomas Aikens, LaGrange; Joshua Earl Allen, Dunn; Alicia Turner Beard, Raleigh; Krystal Leann Bell, Buies Creek; Jennifer Dowridge-Blair, Hope Mills; Glenda Beasley Bohannon, Wilmington; Amanda Kie Crump Borchik, Apex; James Hans Christian Brown, Dunn; Cathy Spence Daniels, Selma; Daniel Stephen Fairchild, Goldsboro; Wayne Oliver Farrah III, Rockingham; Kyle Mark Fishbaugh, Hope Mills; Lawrence Barrett Freeman, Chapel Hill; Melva Christine Green, Farmville; Lisa Stover Grissom, Raleigh; Daniel Franklin Heath, Wilson; Andrew Steven Hoots, Yadkinville; Joe Anthony Jackson, Goldsboro; Amber Hope Johnson, Lumberton; Colene Shevonda Kelly, Chadbourn; Jonathan Earl Lazenby, Raleigh; Veronica Martinez-Gallegos, Charlotte; Trent Stephen Matthews, Hampstead; Amy Marie McPherson, Raleigh; Sarah Gordon Mears, Durham; Louisa Alexandra Monroe, Fayetteville; Doris Ann Moore-Russell, Hope Mills; Nathan Todd Morton, Burgaw; Stephen Thomas Owen, Lenoir; Joshua Kyle Owens, Roseboro; Johnny R. Pearson, Greensboro; David Wayne Priddy, Buies Creek; Karen W. Pruette, Plymouth; Sandra Stillman-Alvin, Raleigh; James Robert Thomson, Cary; Meagan Lorraine Vizard, Greenville; Kimberly Pigford Walker, Wallace; Maurice Webb, Raleigh; Kimberly Anne Whitted, Lillington; and Tyler Guy Wood, Smithfield.

**Doctor of ministry** – Robert Neal Cox, Cove City; Christopher Sherrill Dawson, Monroe; and Greg Allen Robertson, Reidsville.

### The College at Southeastern

**Master of arts in intercultural studies** – Robert Matthew Boyd, Raleigh; Alexandra Knight Somerville, Indian Trail; Justin Michael Walters III, Laurel Hill; Heather Marie Wester, Fayetteville.

### Gardner-Webb University

**Master of divinity w/pastoral care and counseling** – William R. Allen, Ellenboro; Cora Sharice Chambers, Greensboro; Toni Aldrich Church, Kings Mountain; Leah Trent Crowley, Pine Bluff; Janet Marie Graeper, Rutherfordton; Michael Todd Johnson, Taylorsville; Christopher Bryan Lanham, Shelby; Maxie Catherine McRae, Charlotte; Terry Roach, Marion; and Jill Marlowe Simmons, Rutherfordton.

**Master of divinity w/Christian education** – Allison Elizabeth Benfield, Morganton; Leon Keith Lassiter, Cameron; Stephen Dwayne Sellers, Mooresville; and Patsy Wray Stephens, Kings Mountain.

**Master of divinity w/biblical studies** – Howard Jamaal Edwards, Cherryville.

**Master of divinity w/pastoral ministries** – Kimberly Denise Moore, Gastonia; and William Jefferson Waugh, Statesville.

**Master of divinity and religion** – Evan Matthew Weinzierl, Charlotte.  
**Doctor of ministry** – Bruce Caldwell, Spindale; Brian Gerard Fite, Charlotte; Roger Hensley, Marion; and Linda M. Jones, Clemmons.

### Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

**Master of divinity w/history and theology**– Melissa Ellen Sutton Seng, Castle Hayne.

### Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Doctor of ministry** – James White Jr., Sanford.

### Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Master of arts in biblical languages** – Bradley Ross Johnson, Taylorsville; and Christopher Alan Russell, Wake Forest.

**Master of arts in Christian studies** – Phillip Eugene Bunton II, Hickory; Whitney Quinn Kiker, Marshville; Teesa Klear, Boone; Christopher Bryan Presson, Greensboro; Matthew Ivan Clinard, Roxboro; Michelle Dawson Clinard, Roxboro; and Adrian B. Early, Roxboro.

**Master of arts in ethics, theology & culture** – Grayson Thomas Greco, Wilmington.

See Graduates page 20

# SBC messengers adopt updated qualifications

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | Baptist Press

**A**n update to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) constitution regarding qualifications for churches to send messengers to the annual meeting was adopted during the Executive Committee's (EC) report to the convention June 11 in Baltimore.

Describing the recommendation as "small church friendly," EC chairman Ernest Easley said the proposal to revise Article III is a response to a motion from last year's annual meeting in Houston that requested updating messenger qualifications. It was the 16th motion in the past 35 years to call for a reevaluation of Article III.

Messengers adopted the recommendation without debate or questions from the floor. In order to officially revise Article III, the recommendation will need to be approved by messengers a second time during the 2015 annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

"The Executive Committee floated the recommendation out across the convention the last several months in order to build consensus which has really proved beneficial in the current recommendation that we have today," Easley said just before messengers voted to adopt the revision. Easley addressed initial concerns with the recommendation that involved the perception by some that it negatively impacted smaller churches. He noted that most of these congregations "give proportionately to the Cooperative Program (CP)" and that the recommendation now includes a reference to CP support.

The recommendation also addressed concerns that earlier proposed Article III revisions could have been interpreted to "impose a confession of faith upon a church," Easley, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., said. That perception "was never our intent," he added.

Easley said the wording in the first part of the recommendation – No. 1, (1) of Article III – was adjusted. It now reads, "Has a faith in practice which closely identifies with the churches' adopted statement of faith." Easley said the words "closely identifies" were taken directly from the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

Article III currently states that churches in friendly cooperation with the convention can send one additional messenger for every 250 members or for each \$250 per year "paid to the work of the Convention." The \$250 amount dates back to 1888. Under the new proposal approved by messengers, each cooperating church that contributed to convention causes during the preceding fiscal year would automatically qualify for two



Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) chairman Ernest Easley gives recommendations from the EC to messengers during the first day of the two-day SBC annual meeting June 10-11 at the Baltimore Convention Center. (Photo by Van Payne)

messengers. "In the years where records have been kept, most churches send two messengers," Easley said in a question-and-answer session carried by Baptist Press (BP) in March 4. According to a Feb. 19 BP report, a cooperating church would be able to send additional messengers by one of two options, whichever allows them to send the greater number of messengers:

- One additional messenger for each full percent of the church's undesignated receipts through any combination of gifts through the Cooperative Program, designated gifts through the Executive Committee for convention causes or to any SBC entity, the report said.

- One additional messenger for each \$6,000 the church contributes in the preceding year through the same combination of the Cooperative Program, designated gifts through the Executive Committee for convention causes or to any SBC entity.

The \$6,000 figure was selected by adjusting for inflation and other factors since 1888, the report said. The amount is meant to be comparable to the \$250 figure adopted 126 years ago.

## Other business

During the Executive Committee's report, messengers:

- adopted the 2014-15 SBC Operating Budget in the amount of \$7.2 million, with \$5.6 million through the Cooperative Program. A total of \$2.1 million is budgeted for SBC administration expenses and \$5 million is allocated toward operating expenses for the Executive Committee.

- approved Birmingham, Ala., as the site of the 2019 SBC annual meeting, to be held June 11-12.

- approved Orlando, Fla., for the SBC 2020 annual meeting, to be held June 9-10.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Shawn Hendricks is managing editor of Baptist Press.) ■

## Text of Proposed Article III

Following is the text of the proposed Article III that was slated for consideration by the Southern Baptist Convention during its June 10 opening session in Baltimore:

Article III. Composition: The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist churches in cooperation with the Convention. The following subparagraphs describe the Convention's current standards and method of determining the maximum number of messengers the Convention will recognize from each cooperating church to attend the Convention's annual meeting.

1. The Convention will only deem a church to be in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and sympathetic with its purposes and work (i.e., a "cooperating" church as that descriptive term is used in the Convention's governing documents) which:
  - (1) Has a faith and practice which closely identifies with the Convention's adopted statement of faith. (By way of example, churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the Convention.)
  - (2) Has formally approved its intention to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. (By way of example, the regular filing of the annual report requested by the Convention would be one indication of such cooperation.)
  - (3) Has made undesignated, financial contribution(s) through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity during the fiscal year preceding.
2. Under the terms above, the Convention will recognize to participate in its annual meeting two (2) messengers from each cooperating church, and such additional messengers as are permitted below.
3. The Convention will recognize additional messengers from a cooperating church under one of the options described below. Whichever method allows the church the greater number of messengers shall apply:
  - (1) One additional messenger for each full percent of the church's undesignated receipts which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity; or
  - (2) One additional messenger for each \$6,000 which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity.
4. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by their church to the Convention, but the Convention will not recognize more than twelve (12) from any cooperating church.
5. Each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he or she is appointed.
6. If a church experiences a natural disaster or calamitous event and, as a result, the church is not qualified to appoint as many messengers as the church could appoint for the Convention's annual meeting immediately before the event, the church's pastor or an authorized church representative may, for no more than the three (3) annual meetings after the event, certify the facts to the registration secretary and obtain the same number of messengers it could have certified for the Convention's annual meeting immediately before the event.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Senate OKs prayer plaque for WWII monument

(RNS) Just in time for the 70th anniversary of D-Day June 6, the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent passed a bill to include a prayer plaque at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The prayer to be included on the plaque was delivered over the radio to millions of Americans by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the morning of the D-Day invasion, the Allied push into Europe that eventually led to the end of the conflict.

"O Lord, give us Faith," the prayer reads in part. "Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade." It concludes: "Thy will be done, Almighty God."

The U.S. House will have to approve the bill, known as the World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013, before it heads to President Obama's desk for his signature. But political pundits say there is little doubt the House will approve the measure.

It passed a similar version of the bill last year. See full story at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).

### Baptists set record with Lottie Moon giving

Southern Baptists gave an unprecedented \$154 million to the 2013 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, breaking the record for the largest total in the offering's 125-year history.

The 2013 offering reached \$154,057,852.36. The total represents an increase of nearly \$4.8 million over 2012, or 3.2 percent.

It tops the previous record, \$150.4 million in 2007, by more than \$3.6 million, and marks the fourth increase since 2008. See full story at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).

# 96 missionaries commissioned at rare joint service

By SHANNON BAKER | BCMMD

A rare joint commissioning service June 8 brought together 96 missionaries from the International Mission Board (IMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) sponsored the event at the Baltimore Convention Center during the organization's two-day meeting June 8-9.

In an emotional service marked by prayer and praise, many were commissioned to serve as church planters, evangelism catalysts, collegiate ministers, refugee workers, chaplains and ministers to people groups in difficult areas of the world.

A capacity crowd listened to numerous testimonies of how God called individuals to Himself and into His service.

Charles, 71, and Jan C., 69, after years of serving in various countries, now will work with South Asian refugees. "Why do we go? Why not retire and just take it easy?" Charles asked. "Because God's called us, and we cannot say, 'No,'" Jan answered. Charles agreed, "Missions is for life! Don't let your age keep you from doing what God wants you to do!"

Through an interpreter, Gilmer and Ethel Mauricio, who had pastored several churches across South America, shared how they came to serve as church planters in Iowa. Because they could not find a Spanish language church, the couple visited Immanuel Baptist Church, a congregation that had prayed for four years for God to send a Hispanic planter. Five days later, the Mauricios started a Spanish language church there with 24 people. The church now has around 60 worshippers.

Jose Nater, along with his wife Mayra, shared how he serves as a bivocational pastor of three simultaneous church plants on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Kirk and Tamra Overstreet, church planting catalysts in California, have seen thousands come to know Christ. Kirk said he grew up as a pastor's kid and had made a lot of bad choices, but 18 years ago, he repented and put his trust in Jesus. The couple has planted churches for the past 14 years.

Some missionaries said they heard God's call to mission service while serving on short-term mission trips. Five of them had been involved in Girls in Action when they were younger.

Tom Elliff, IMB president, challenged the missionaries to spread the gospel with urgency. He shared his experience with a young man who once asked him about God. Feeling exhausted at the time, Elliff agreed to meet him at a later date. Sadly, the man committed suicide



Roger Wall, left, embraces Dante and Schenita Randolph during a time of prayer for the 96 International Mission Board and North American Mission Board missionaries commissioned during a Woman's Missionary Union Celebration June 8 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Wall, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Pageland, S.C., served in Durham, N.C., where the Randolphs serve as missionaries at Grace Park Church. (Photo by Bill Bangham)

before Elliff had the opportunity to share the gospel.

"That event radically changed my life," Elliff said. He encouraged the missionaries to follow the Apostle Paul's admonition in Colossians 4:17, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

Pointing to Acts 18, Kevin Ezell, NAMB president, encouraged the missionaries and their families not to be afraid of the mission assignments.

"It's a lot easier to talk about missions to your kids at VBS than it is at a commissioning service," he acknowledged, noting God's presence, protection and

perspective would provide for each of them.

Frank S. Page, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and Debby Akerman, WMU president, offered prayers for the missionaries. Native Praise, a musical group composed of Native Americans from Oklahoma, shared praise music in English, and three languages which represent the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma. Wanda Lee, WMU's executive director/treasurer, led participants to consider committing to pray, give or go in support of missions.

The last joint commissioning service

**"Why do we go? Because God's called us ..."**  
— Jan C.

between IMB and NAMB is believed to have been conducted 25 years ago, said Lee, who organized the event as a prelude to this year's WMU annual meeting and missions celebration. The event marks the culmination of a yearlong celebration of WMU's 125th anniversary.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Shannon Baker is director of communications for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.) **BR**

## Southeastern Continued from page 12

meeting June 11, Akin presented the seminary report to convention messengers.

He said the school has experienced many blessings, and if the numbers hold SEBTS will jump to a six-year record enrollment. The seminary also recently endowed the sixth and seventh chairs where individuals gave at least a million dollars to those endowed chairs.

"This year on my 10th anniversary, our seminary family gave me a gift," Akin said. "In one night, they collected and presented a gift of almost \$300,000 for scholarships to be given to those who are coming from ethnic minorities so that we might enable them to be well-trained to build strong, vibrant churches across our convention."

One of the things that excited Akin about the SBC was the "growing heart and passion to have churches that look like the church in heaven from every tribe, every tongue, every people and every nation. It is my prayer that God might be so kind in my lifetime that we would not see just an increase of ethnic mi-

norities in our convention and churches, I am looking forward ... to the day when ... [minorities] are at the head of the table and giving us direction and to guide us in leadership."

Southeastern has seven degrees completely online. Akin said that we have to recognize the technological age in which we live. He said SEBTS has been "proactive in taking theological education to where you are, and we are seeing this more and more with great success without compromising one whit of quality of the education we're delivering but by simply making it more accessible to more Southern Baptist across America and around the world."

Akin closed, "The students you are sending to our six seminaries inspire me and encourage me. I've never been more positive and more optimistic than what I believe the future holds for Southern Baptists and Bible-believing Christians; because our God's kingdom is marching on. He is going to accomplish His saving purpose, and isn't it amazing that He gives you and me the opportunity to be a part of what He is doing?" **BR**

# Measuring the Resurgence after 35 years

I remember traveling to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meetings during key battleground years of the Conservative Resurgence. In New Orleans, I rode a riverboat. In San Antonio, I visited the Alamo. And in Houston, I went to a water park and an Astros game. It's not that I was apathetic and skipped the sessions. I was just a child who knew nothing about Baptist life tagging along on a family trip.

With the beginning of the Resurgence now 35 years past, there are countless Southern Baptists like me who are too young to remember the struggle to make belief in the Bible's inerrancy a bedrock conviction of all convention entities. On this anniversary, let's recap some of the tangible differences that the Conservative Resurgence made, thankful for the courageous Baptists who struggled a generation ago:

- Thanks to the Conservative Resurgence, the SBC defends unborn life. Not so before. A 1971 convention resolution advocated "legislation that will allow the possibility of abortion under such conditions as rape, incest, clear evidence of severe fetal deformity, and carefully ascertained evidence of the likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental, and physical health of the mother."

Following the Supreme Court's infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision two years later, a Baptist Press (BP) article cheerfully announced, "The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision that overturned a Texas law which denied a woman the right of abortion except to save her life, has advanced the cause of religious liberty, human equality and justice." You won't find such celebrations of abortion in BP today, and SBC resolutions consistently decry the stamping out of unborn life.

- Thanks to the Resurgence, we can trust the orthodoxy of books published by our denominational publishing house, LifeWay Christian Resources. But Southern Baptists have not always enjoyed such trust. For example, a 1969 commentary on Genesis published by the Baptist Sunday School Board (LifeWay's predecessor organization) stated that factual errors in Genesis

cause "occasional embarrassment." Regarding Noah's flood, the commentary argued, "To imagine the world covered by water to a depth of five miles, or that Noah could have gathered pairs of all the animals from all over the world in the time mentioned, or housed them in the ark, calls for belief beyond reason."

- Thanks to the Conservative Resurgence, ministry students at Southern Baptist seminaries study Greek and Hebrew in order to understand the Bible in its original languages.

After Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary came under conservative control, a master of divinity (M.Div.) track that required only a two-hour language appreciation course was abolished, replaced with a minimum requirement of one semester each of Greek and Hebrew. Today the minimum amount of language study for an M.Div. student at Southwestern is a full year of each language.

Similarly at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, a student could earn the base pastoral degree in 1959 without completing any Greek or Hebrew classes. President Olin Binkley wrote that increasing the requirements "would add considerably to the strain upon at least a few of the students and upon the teachers of the biblical languages." After Paige Patterson became president of Southeastern, a note was added to the catalog that "students preparing for pastoral ministry, or for any Christian vocation that includes an emphasis upon the regular exposition of God's Word" should "begin course work in the biblical languages during their first year."

Today Southeastern's M.Div. curriculum includes a full year each of Hebrew and Greek. There may be exceptions, but in general the Resurgence seems to have increased Southern Baptist pastors' conversance with biblical languages.

- Thanks to the Resurgence, much Southern Baptist preaching is expository. I have attended enough SBC annual meetings and Pastors' Conferences to know that most preachers there read a Bible passage, explain

what it means and apply it to modern life. I have also attended enough moderate Baptist meetings as a BP correspondent to know that many preachers there do not follow the same pattern, opting instead for narrative preaching or a series of meditations. Of course, there are exceptions. One of the best illustrations I've ever heard of a believer's union with Christ was given by a preacher at a moderate Baptist meeting. But by and large, the difference is obvious between preaching at the SBC and preaching at meetings led by those who formerly controlled the convention.

- Thanks to the Resurgence, Southern Baptist seminary students study theology textbooks that teach the inerrancy of scripture and develop a system of doctrine based on the Bible – books like the systematic theologies of Millard Erickson and Wayne Grudem. In contrast, in the 1980s one Southern Seminary theology professor assigned students to read Paul Tillich's systematic theology – a book that dismisses a traditional Christian reading of the Bible and attempts to correlate Christian doctrines with existential philosophy. Some evangelicals regard Tillich's theology as a form of pantheism or even atheism.

- Thanks to the Resurgence, the SBC has leaders who support traditional marriage. On the other hand, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship – a group composed largely of those who opposed the conservative movement in the SBC – elected as moderator an Arkansas pastor and judge, Wendell Griffen, who performed same-sex weddings earlier this year when gay marriage was ruled legal in his state. Clearly, many moderate Baptists defend traditional sexual morality but their willingness to elect to top leadership a man who deviates from the traditional view shows where the SBC might have ended up.

The monumental battles may be finished. But Southern Baptists like me, who weren't around 35 years ago, can still measure the Conservative Resurgence's effects. To do so makes us stop and say thank you to all who worked to change the direction of our convention.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service.) **BR**



DAVID ROACH  
Guest Column

## Help your child stay in church

The Word of God admonishes parents in Proverbs 22:6 and Deuteronomy 11:22 to prepare their children for life by training them to obey God's commands and to walk in His ways. Parents should begin this process of discipleship when children are young and impressionable and continue this spiritual training until their children are grown and move away from home.

According to an article written by Mark Kelly of LifeWay Christian Resources, "Teens who at age 17 have parents as authentic examples of Christian faith – proactive and consistent in living out their faith – are more likely to keep attending (church) as young adults." The

article also states that 20 percent more of those who continued attending church indicated they had parents or family members who invested in them by discussing spiritual things, giving spiritual guidance and praying with them.

Family vacations can provide opportunities to invest spiritually in your children with some meaningful evangelism and discipleship conversations. I encourage you take a family vacation this summer and enjoy hanging out with your children and grandchildren in a more relaxed setting. Do fun things together! This is a great way

to strengthen family relationships and create memories to be enjoyed in future years.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.  
BSC executive  
director-treasurer

You may have a child or grandchild leaving home this fall to attend their first semester in college. What are the most important topics you need to discuss with them as you prepare to send them into an environment that is completely different from what they have known in their home and church community? Have you prepared them to expect a different life environment? What are some foundational Christian truths this individual needs to be grounded in before they leave your home? The next few weeks will provide some final opportunities for you to have some important conversations with this young college student. Be a responsible parent or grandparent and make the best of this opportunity.

Encourage your freshman to connect with the local Baptist Campus Ministry representative at their new school.

It is very important that you help your student locate a good church near their college campus and become actively involved. Research indicates that approximately 85 percent of students who leave home to attend college never return to church – I think this occurs in many cases because students often lose contact with a local church during this time in their lives. Even great para-church ministries on campus are not an acceptable substitute for a church life with a local body of believers. Consider doing some research on the Internet about churches in the area or contact the Baptist State Convention to help your student find some churches to visit. It is important that they get involved in a local church during their college years and that you do everything you can to help your child remain in church! **BR**

## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

### Women needed for Habitat project

The Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is partnering with Habitat for Humanity Oct. 18-25 to allow women to help at a construction site in Forsyth County. Each day the site is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and volunteers can sign up for as many days they would like to participate. No experience is required. Volunteers must be 16 or older, and each person under 18 must work with an adult. For more details or to register contact Margaret Harding at [mharding@wmunc.org](mailto:mharding@wmunc.org) or (866) 210-8602, ext. 209.



### 2014 State Bible Drill finals

The 2014 State Bible Drill finals were held on April 26, hosted by Abbotts Creek Missionary Baptist Church, High Point. State Finals are for youth and high school drillers and speakers tournament. The top scorer from each drill section at each of the regional drills, progresses to the state finals where the top scorer in youth, high school and speakers will represent North Carolina at the National Invitational Tournament on June 20 in Helen, Ga. The three winners of the state finals are also awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to the college of their choice. This scholarship is made possible by contributions to the Cooperative Program. Our winners for 2014 are:

• **YOUTH** – 1) Alaiya Feliciano, Berea Baptist Church, Pembroke; 2) Destiny Demery, Mt. Airy Baptist Church, Pembroke; 3) Emily Griffith, Wilkies Grove Baptist Church, Hickory.

• **HIGH SCHOOL** – 1) Micaela Robson, Parkwood Baptist Church, Concord; 2) Jeremy Taylor, Burkemont Baptist Church, Morganton; 3) Paige Sweeney, Berea Baptist; and Cody Beasley, Coats Baptist Church, Coats.

• **SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT** – 1) Elaine Kearney, Aberdeen First Baptist Church; 2) Sydney Bryant, Abbotts Creek Baptist; 3) Jeremy Taylor, Burkemont Baptist.

Because of a scheduling the first place winner for the speaker's tournament will not be able to compete, so the second place speaker will compete at the national tournament. If your church is interested in beginning a Bible Drill ministry, you may contact Deborah Robson at [drobson@ncbaptist.org](mailto:drobson@ncbaptist.org) or visit [www.ncbibleddrill.org](http://www.ncbibleddrill.org).

## Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Submissions will be edited.

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

## NORTH CAROLINA AUTHORS AND THEIR PUBLICATIONS

### Are you a published author?

The *Biblical Recorder* will print a list of books published by North Carolina Baptists in the July 19 edition. We invite you to tell us about your published work. Whether the writer is a pastor, director of missions or member of a North Carolina Baptist church, we welcome your submission. We believe your work may be an encouragement to others, so tell us about your book.

#### Who can participate?

- The author must be a member of a Baptist church in friendly cooperation with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.
- The book must have content related to Christian ministry, biblical theology or Christian growth.
- The book must have a print date of 2012, 2013 or 2014.
- All submissions must be received by July 1.

The author must submit the following information:

- What is the title of the book?
- What is the author's name?
- Where is your church membership?
- What is the publication date?
- Who is the publisher? (Self-published companies are allowed)
- Is the book fiction or non-fiction?
- What is the purchase price of the book?
- Where can the book be purchased?
- Is the book available in e-book format? If so, where?
- Please provide a summary of the book in 325 characters (not words) or less (including spaces).

Please send all information by email in a Word document attachment to [editor@brnow.org](mailto:editor@brnow.org). Include your contact information in case we have a question.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – If a significant number of submissions are received, the BR reserves the right to extend the list to other issues.) **BR**

## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituaries

**NANCY NELL SIMPSON JACUMIN**, 78, of Connelly Springs, died June 9.

A Burke County native, Jacumin was a graduate of Appalachian State University and taught in North Carolina public schools for more than 16 years.

She served with the women's auxiliary of The Gideons International and board of visitors with Southeastern Seminary. She volunteered with American Red Cross and East Burke Christian Ministries. Jacumin was a long-time member at First Baptist Church Icard, Connelly Springs, where she served in many capacities including organist and pianist for more than 40 years, Sunday School teacher, and Woman's Missionary Union leader. For the last 10 years she has been an active member of East Valdese Baptist Church, Valdese.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, former Sen. Jimmy Ray Jacumin; daughter, Mitzi Jacumin Lane of Hickory; son, Marty Jacumin of Raleigh; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a sister, Linda Simpson Thompson.

Memorials to: Waldensian Trail of Faith, P.O. Box 1256, Valdese, NC 28690, or Gideons International, P.O. Box 326, Valdese, NC 28690.

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LOWE JR.**, 78, died April 26 at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

A native of Rock Hill, S.C., Lowe graduated at Furman University and received a degree from Southeastern Seminary and a doctorate degree from Emory University.

An ordained minister, Lowe served numerous churches as a supply pastor and Murfreesboro Baptist Church as a longtime Sunday School teacher and deacon. He also joined and became an active leader to the Rotary Club of Murfreesboro. Rotarians established the B. Franklin Lowe Rotarian of the Year Award.

Lowe was the academic dean of Chowan College (now University) from 1968 to 2001, a period of enormous change for the institution, including its transition from a two-year to a four-year institution. He was professor of religion from 1964 until his retirement in 2001. After his retirement, he continued to serve the university as an adjunct in the department of religion and philosophy until 2013 bringing his total years of service to Chowan to 49.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Peggy W. Lowe; daughter, Lori Lynn Lowe; son, Gregg Franklin Lowe of Greenville; and sisters, Sylvia Lowe Todd of Ormond Beach, Fla., and Joanne Lowe Edwards of Lawrenceville.

Memorials to: B. Franklin Lowe Jr. Endowment for Faculty Development, Office of Development, Chowan University, Jones Drive, Murfreesboro, NC 27855.

June 29

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

July 6

## God is Wise

**Focal Passages: Proverbs 2:1-6; 3:5-7**

In 1 Kings 3, we read about Solomon's dream at Gibeon where the Lord appeared and said, "Ask what I shall give you" (v. 5). It was an open-ended question. God did not ask whether Solomon would prefer to have riches or wisdom or check (a) long life or (b) discernment or (c) revenge on your enemies. God profoundly said, "Ask..."

Solomon recognized that God is the source of wisdom. He recounted God's faithfulness to his father, David, and knew the great task that lay ahead of governing God's people. So how did he respond to God's open-ended question? Solomon requested wisdom so that he may discern between good and evil.

Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." Solomon counsels his son to also pursue wisdom; to seek it as silver and search for it like hidden treasures (v. 4). When someone is searching for something of value, it is an intentional, persistent search. Recently my husband and I were serving with a team in the Himalayas. We had been training local

believers in a village and at the end of the day had gone down to the river for a swim. One of the missionaries lost his dental crown in the flowing water. We watched from the shore as he and others diligently combed the river bed.

From our perspective, it seemed hopeless. The current in the river was strong and the large pebbles that littered the river bed served as an even greater barrier. Yet, the missionary petitioned us to pray and so, obediently, we sought the Lord. Minutes later, one of the nationals found the crown.

If we had leaned on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5), then we may have thought it was an impossible task. But the missionary exemplified diligence and persistence. Do we demonstrate that same resolve when seeking God's wisdom? Scripture says that only then will we understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God (Proverbs 2:5). In what ways will you forsake your own understanding and diligently pursue the wisdom of God?



**HILARY RATCHFORD**  
Writer, Carmel Baptist Church, Matthews

**Focal Passages: Hebrews 6:17-20; 10:19-23**

Each day I am reminded of my faithlessness. It is ever before me, represented in my sin against God. As the hymn goes, I am "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love." My unfaithfulness is magnified when contrasted with the faithfulness of God. Over and over again, God's steadfast commitment to His people is displayed. He calls them to remember His wonderful deeds because – just like me – all too often, they would fail to recall His faithfulness.

In Genesis 15, God establishes a covenant with Abraham. The covenant was one-sided. It did not depend on Abraham at all. The Lord, represented by the smoking fire pot and flaming torch, passed between the animal halves alone. Verse 18 says, "On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram." God was the initiator. In our Hebrews 6 passage, we are reminded of God's promise

to Abraham (Hebrews 6:13). The blood of Jesus shed on the cross symbolizes the new covenant. Just like God's covenant with Abraham, it was a covenant that He made alone. God took on flesh and became obedient to death on a cross so that through the shedding of His blood, we may find forgiveness for our sins and be reconciled to God. We have access to God whose character is unchangeable and whose faithfulness is never ending.

Thus, we may take hope in the promise and the new covenant He has given us in Christ. It is "a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19). We may have an unwavering confidence because, "He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

Do you find yourself doubting the faithfulness of God? First, take a moment to remember His faithfulness to His promise with Abraham. Then reflect and ponder three moments in your own life when God has proved Himself faithful. Write them down and recall them to mind when your hope begins to waver. Most importantly, know that His faithfulness does not depend on you for He alone is the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

June 29

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

July 6

## When Pride Turns to Greed

**Focal Passages: Ezekiel 28:1-5, 11-13a, 14-19**

Pride. If you have been in a church more than a proverbial five minutes, you know pride is a bad thing. It led to Lucifer's downfall. It led Adam and Eve astray. It plunged humanity into sin. And when someone has messed up bad and needs to get it right, we tell them to swallow their pride. It's clear: pride is bad.

But, then, we tell our children to take pride in their work. When they bring home a great report card we tell our Facebook world that we are bursting with pride over how well they have done. We talk about our new granddaughter as our pride and joy. Seems confusing. Is pride bad or not? Ezekiel 28 gives us several clues.

In Ezekiel 28:1-5 we see the king of Tyre taken to task for his pride. The Word of the Lord comes to Ezekiel and describes the king's pride as selfish, arrogant and driven by a distorted view of himself. The king thinks himself a god. But he is reminded that he is but a mere man. Indeed, far from being a god, he is not even wiser than all other men (i.e.

Daniel). This section reminds me of Paul's words to the Philippians to not think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Remembering who we are is key to preventing selfish, sinful pride from taking hold in our lives.

Later in Ezekiel 28 (v. 11-15) the Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel in the form of a lament concerning the king of Tyre. A lament was a way to express deep sorrow. In this particular passage the sorrow is driven by the great blessings possessed by the king and his terrible misuse of them. Rather than recognizing God as his source, the king foolishly acted as if these blessings were his own doing. So foolish is his pride that Ezekiel compares him to the ultimate example of sinful, selfish pride: Satan.

In Ezekiel 28:16-19 we discover the result of such pride: destruction. Just as God has brought Satan low, He would make the king a spectacle. Such is always the result of sinful, selfish pride; the kind of pride that takes credit for blessings that belong to God alone.



**ROB POCHEK**  
Senior Pastor, Raleigh Road Baptist Church, Wilson

**Focal Passages: Ezekiel 34:2b-6, 11-16, 22-24**

The first time I travelled internationally with my son, I remember pointing to our blue passports and saying, "There are people all over the world that would love to have one of those." It was not my intention to be ethno-centric or to display an over-the-top patriotism. I was pointing out the simple fact that we, as Americans, enjoy a freedom not known in much of the world – a freedom that is often envied and a freedom that is sought after by many.

Too often, our precious freedom is taken for granted. But there is another kind of freedom that is even more precious. And it too is sadly taken for granted much of the time.

Ezekiel 33 contains an explanation of Jerusalem's fall into Babylonian captivity. Many of the people in Israel misunderstood the warnings. Indeed, they heard the words, but did not put them into practice (Ezekiel 33:31). Some

## Hope of New Freedom

of the worst offenders were those who were supposed to serve and protect the people. Ezekiel 34:2-6 refers to them as "shepherds." Rather than guarding the flock entrusted to their care, they worried only about themselves. When the shepherds are negligent, the sheep suffer. They are exposed to ravenous wolves. The sheep need to be rescued.

What will God do, since the shepherds have abdicated their responsibility? God promises He will be the Shepherd for His people (Ezekiel 34:11). He will be the one searching for the lost sheep. He will bring them into good pasture and make sure they are fed well. He will make sure they get the rest they need. He will be the one to rescue the sheep.

How will God do that? He promises to provide a faithful shepherd in his servant David (Ezekiel 34:23). Not king David, but the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – Jesus. It is Jesus who rescues the sheep. It is Jesus who sets them free from bondage. It is a joy to experience the political freedom found in America. But, how much more to enjoy the spiritual freedom found in trusting Christ alone! That freedom that goes with you wherever you are.

# Christian mother's death sentence condemned

Baptist Press

**T**he U.S. Senate has unanimously condemned the death sentence of a Sudanese Christian woman and called for the immediate release from prison of her children and her.

Senators voted by unanimous consent June 3 for a resolution in support of Meriam Yahia Ibrahim, who was convicted under Sharia law for “apostasy” (leaving Islam) by refusing to renounce her Christian faith.

A Khartoum court sentenced her to death by hanging. She also received a sentence of 100 lashes for adultery on the basis of her marriage to a Christian, Daniel Wani, a South Sudanese-born citizen of the United States.

The Senate resolution gained approval a week after Ibrahim gave birth to the couple's second child, a

daughter, Maya, in the Omdurman Federal Prison for Women. Martin, their 20-month-old son, also is imprisoned with his mother.

Rep. Trent Franks, R.-Ariz., has introduced a similar resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives, but a floor vote has yet to take place.

Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, applauded the Senate action and called Ibrahim “a living picture of Jesus keeping his promise, made to us at Caesarea Philippi.

“Jesus said that He would build His church, and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it,” Moore said in a statement for Baptist Press.

“As we thank God for the gospel to which she clings,

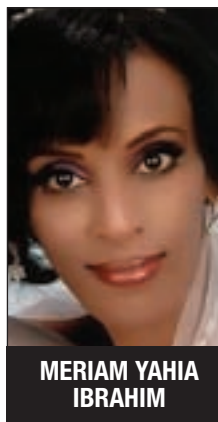
let's continue to pray that these actions by our officials will be the catalyst for [her] release.”

Moore also commended a June 2 letter from Sen. James Inhofe, R.-Okla., urgently requesting Secretary of State John Kerry to “use all official and personal channels” to seek Ibrahim's release.

In his letter to Kerry, Inhofe asked the State Department to explore providing political asylum to Ibrahim and her family.

So far, the response from Kerry and the State Department to Ibrahim's plight has failed to match the requests from religious freedom advocates inside and outside Congress.

If the Sudanese court refuses to relent, Ibrahim's death sentence reportedly would be carried out after she nurses her daughter to age 2. **BR**



MERIAM YAHIA IBRAHIM

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

New Prospect Baptist Church of Statesville, NC, is seeking the person that God has chosen for our next **full-time pastor**. We are looking for a leader that can help us grow, feed the body from the pulpit, and minister to the needs of the congregation. Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o New Prospect Baptist Church, 509 Prospect Rd, Statesville, NC 28625.

Lakewood Baptist Church, Kannapolis, NC, is prayerfully seeking our next **Pastor**. We are a small conservative Southern Baptist church affiliated with the SBC. We are in a growing community near the NC Research Campus. We are looking for a Pastor who is biblically grounded and mission-minded to provide us pastoral leadership, clear vision, and understanding on how to grow a church. Applicant should have or be working toward MDiv from an accredited seminary or divinity school. Send resume (and CD if available) to Pastor Search Committee, 806 Kluttz Street, Kannapolis, NC 28081, or [annspry@carolina.rr.com](mailto:annspry@carolina.rr.com).

Corinth Baptist Church, 1107 Cornwallis Road Rose Hill, NC 28458, is seeking a **full-time Pastor/Teacher** to serve our congregation and community. Must be SBC aligned and should be Kingdom focused and stand firm in the Word of God. Please send resumes to Nancy Smith, 309 2nd St., Wallace, NC 28466, or email [CorinthSecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:CorinthSecretary@yahoo.com); Attn: Search Committee.

**Full-Time Pastor.** Sandy Plains Baptist Church in Gastonia, NC, is prayerfully seeking the man whom God has chosen to lead and shepherd our congregation as our Pastor. We are a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching Southern Baptist church located 20 miles SW of Charlotte, NC. Experience and seminary preferred. Looking for a Pastor who is biblically grounded and mission minded. Send Resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Chairman David Lynn, 4211 Beaty Rd., Gastonia, NC 28056; 704-962-4403; [davidlynn2014@outlook.com](mailto:davidlynn2014@outlook.com).

In search of **PASTOR**: We are a small rural church with average attendance of about 50 in Sunday School and 50-75 in worship service; we desire a community-minded pastor whose goal is to help grow our church by helping us spread the gospel of JESUS Christ. Submit resume and/or sample sermon links to [david.clay.freeman@gmail.com](mailto:david.clay.freeman@gmail.com) at Hog Swamp Baptist Church, Lumberton, NC 28358.

Trinity Baptist Church in Trinity, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor** for our SBC affiliated church. We prefer college/seminary with not less than five years experience. Send resumes to: Trinity Baptist Church, PO Box 9, Trinity, NC 27370.

### Church Staff

Oak Grove Baptist Church is seeking candidates for our **Director of Music** position. This is a part-time position that would be responsible for leading the congregation in singing as well as working with our choir and musicians. You can find out more about our church at [www.oakgrovebc.com](http://www.oakgrovebc.com).

Flemings Chapel Baptist Church is seeking a **Part-Time Worship Leader**. This position will create an inviting, worshipful atmosphere, a space in which people can meet with God. We have two worship services (classic and modern) and lead the congregation in growing their own relationships with the Lord through worship. Please send resumes by email to: [pastorscott@flemingschapel.org](mailto:pastorscott@flemingschapel.org) or mail to 4430 Littlejohn Church Rd., Lenoir, NC 28645, Attention Dr. Scott Shoffner, Senior Pastor.

First Baptist Church of Blowing Rock is currently seeking a **full-time Minister to Students** (youth and college). Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree and have previous ministry experience working with college and/or youth on a church staff. For a detailed job description and requirements visit our website at: [firstbaptistblowingrock.com](http://firstbaptistblowingrock.com). Serious candidates please submit a resume with references to [office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com](mailto:office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com) or mail to “Student Minister Search Team,” P.O. Box 3, Blowing Rock, NC 28605.

**Part-time Youth Minister** position at Mount Gilead Baptist Church Pittsboro, NC. Resume may be sent to [mtgilead@embarqmail.com](mailto:mtgilead@embarqmail.com) or mailed to 1785 Mt. Gilead Church Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312. Church information may be viewed at [www.mountgileadbaptist.org](http://www.mountgileadbaptist.org).

**FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER.** Covenant Baptist seeks Minister of Students and Families for comprehensive ministry grades 6-12. Multi-staff, 20 year-old church located in metro Charlotte. BA and three years church experience required. Send resume to [Staff@cbclancaster.org](mailto:Staff@cbclancaster.org) or PO Box 578, Lancaster, SC 29721.

**Minister of Children.** Springfield Baptist Church is 30-miles north of Nashville, Tenn. Average 400 in worship with an active children's ministry. Candidates should have a minimum of two years experience and a seminary degree is preferred. Please send resumes to [bethbohler05@gmail.com](mailto:bethbohler05@gmail.com). The deadline for resumes is June 30.

Antioch Baptist Church in Lumberton, NC, is seeking a **full-time Children's Minister** in charge of the ministry to preschoolers through sixth grade. Submit resumes to Search Committee, 5089 Old Whiteville Road, Lumberton, NC 28358, or email Kevin Davis at [kevindaviscreations@gmail.com](mailto:kevindaviscreations@gmail.com).

### Miscellaneous

**NCBAM will conduct Leadership Training** at Caswell's Summer Fest in August. Senior adult leaders will be encouraged and trained to provide effective ministry for the coming “age wave.” Call (877) 506-2226 for more information.

**Share the Biblical Recorder – FREE.** Order a three-month free subscription. Contact Erin Gandy at (919) 459-5693 or [erin@BRnow.org](mailto:erin@BRnow.org) to make arrangements.

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- Send e-mail to: [alison@BRnow.org](mailto:alison@BRnow.org).
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).
- Send a Fax to (919) 469-1674.

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

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

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## September Embrace retreat scheduled

BSC Communications

**S**ept. 5-6 Embrace Women's Missions and Ministries and Women's Evangelism and Discipleship (Embrace) will welcome Mary Jo Sharp as the main speaker for "Be BOLD: A Women's Prayer and Evangelism Retreat" at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Sharp, an assistant professor of apologetics at Houston Baptist University and Bible study author with LifeWay Christian Resources, grew up in the Pacific Northwest as an atheist and believed religion was for the weak-minded. After reading a Bible given to her by a high school coach, she came to faith in Christ at 20 years of age. Since then she has earned a master's degree in Christian apologetics and is the first female certified in apologetics' instruction by the North American Mission Board.

In addition to Sharp's teaching during plenary sessions, breakout sessions will provide hands-on teaching in the areas of sharing the gospel with neighbors; how to share one's testimony within the larger picture of God's story; spiritual warfare; impacting lostness through disciple-making; understanding the "nones" and how to reach them; and how to be discerning of messages in social media and culture among others. "Our hope and desire for this year's retreat is for women to gain not only skills for sharing the gospel, but to also leave feeling confident in sharing and having a better understanding of the state of lostness in North Carolina," said Ashley Allen, consultant for Embrace.

The retreat is open for any lady college-aged and older to attend. Rates include lodging and three meals and begin at \$155.75. Visit [ncbaptist.org/wper](http://ncbaptist.org/wper) or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5561, or email [embracenc@ncbaptist.org](mailto:embracenc@ncbaptist.org). **BR**

## Mission Continued from page 13

"We were only making \$125 a week and had two boys starting in high school. We went broke, just living for a long time with no meat on the table. On one visit to Birmingham to visit one of my members that was in the hospital, we stopped in a grocery store and I went to the meat counter to see if I could find some meat at a cheap price. Fatback was 79 cents a pound and I had to pass it up," Briscoe said.

Through it all, their faith never wavered. "I knew we'd get by," Inas Briscoe said.

"I have had so many prayers answered when we were down and almost out," Dewey Briscoe said.

"It was tough, but God always took care of us. I have never made more than \$300 a week as a full-time pastor. Never had \$1,000 in the bank at any time in 42 years. We managed to get by - God is a great supplier but he doesn't oversupply. He gives us our needs day by day."

Dewey and Inas recalled one year when they didn't have money during Christmas.

"I didn't know what we were going to do," Dewey Briscoe said. "I went the next morning to my office and got down on my knees. I prayed and cried to the Lord to help us."

Two weeks later, a check for \$100 arrived from Dallas, Texas. A couple of weeks after that, a Christmas card arrived with a \$100 bill tucked inside. Then, a \$50 check from the last church his father pastored.

"Jesus said if you keep my commandments and do those things that are pleasing to me, you can ask anything in

my name and I can give it to you. That is a positive statement from our heavenly Father and I've lived on this all my ministry," he said.

When health issues finally forced him into retirement, Dewey turned to Mission:Dignity for help.

"I have never been paid very much - just enough to get by. That's OK because I was doing the Lord's work that He called me to do, not knowing I would live to be 80 years old. I hate to ask for help, it's not my cup of tea, but it would be so nice if you could," he noted on his application.

Last year, Dewey and Inas began getting a monthly grant from Mission:Dignity. Without it, Dewey feared they would have to sell their home.

Now, he and Inas have enough to cover their monthly bills.

"Thanks is not enough to say for what Mission:Dignity is doing to help retired pastors. The money we get will be used wisely. It means so much to us. My prayer is to God for Him to really bless Mission:Dignity and all who give to make this happen," he said.

"We've done without in order to help someone. But God called us into His ministry - His ministry to minister to people - and whether it be a physical need or a spiritual need, that's what we've always tried to do," Dewey said.

Just what Jesus would do?

Mission:Dignity Sunday is June 22. Mail gifts to: Mission:Dignity, GuidStone Financial Resources SBC, 2401 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, TX 75201-1498. Visit [missiondignitybc.org](http://missiondignitybc.org). **BR**

## Graduates Continued from page 13

**Master of arts in biblical counseling** - Andrea Marie Bojanski, Durham; Stefanie A. Friend, Statesville; Beverly Ann Headen, Siler City; Leonard Keith Moore II, Jacksonville; Sheila Prince-Mizelle, Raleigh; and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, Buies Creek.

**Master of arts in Christian education and biblical counseling** - Hyunsoo Kim, Wake Forest.

**Master of arts in ministry leadership** - Jennifer Noelle Springs Parker, Wake Forest; and Nathaniel Christian Parker, Wake Forest.

**Master of church music** - Gail Louise Lyle, Rougemont; and Timothy Kayl Whitaker, Mocksville.

**Advanced master of divinity** - Colby Reid Hufftalen, Wake Forest; Harry Wallace Kelly IV, Stanley; and Garry Lloyd Medford Jr., Rocky Mount.

**Master of divinity w/biblical counseling** - Faye Taylor Dunbar, Castalia.

**Master of divinity w/ Christian apologetics** - Calun Dianne Reece, Fayetteville.

**Master of divinity w/ Christian education** - Nicole R. Young, Clayton.

**Master of divinity with Christian ministry** - Eric Curtis Bass, Louisburg; Philip D. Bramblet, Youngsville; Justin Allen Cunningham, Morganton; Jonathan Christian Edwards, Rocky Mount; Jennifer J. Evans, Burlington; Jonathan Tyler Going, Greensboro; Jeremiah Mark Gude, Statesville; Benjamin Daniel Holden, Charlotte; Micah J. Houck, Wake Forest; William Boyd Jackson, Ramseur; Alicia Marie Jones, Raleigh; Archie Valejo Jones Sr., Mocksville; Christopher Alan

Leader, Raleigh; John Ray Miller, Oakboro; Roger Alan Neely, Creedmoor; Matthew Price, Elizabeth City; Mi-Ran Shin-Hwang, Chapel Hill; Jonathan Robert Smith, Mebane; Patrick Smith, Mebane; Cameron Wesley Wagner, Charlotte; Christopher Robert Walker, Youngsville; and Steven Neil Woodcock, Rocky Mount.

**Master of divinity w/International church planting** - Robert Matthew Boyd, Raleigh; Allison G. Sizemore, Morganton; and T. Elliot Welch, Wake Forest.

**Master of divinity w/missiology** - Dustin Scott Conner, Winston-Salem.

**Master of divinity w/pastoral ministry** - Eric A. Rimmer, Hurdle Mills; and Mathew Gordan Wyatt, Cary.

**Master of divinity w/student ministry** - Caleb Burke Baldwin, Burlington.

**Master of theology** - James B. Sineath Jr., Raleigh.

**Doctor of ministry** - Rodney Duane Navey, Greensboro; Timothy A. Shaw, Apex.

### Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Master of arts w/biblical counseling** - Lauren J. Mathers, Greensboro.

**Master of divinity** - Michael A. Sutton, Franklin; Nicholas Majors, Gastonia; Matthew Price, Gastonia; and Eric Sams, Raleigh.

**Doctor of ministry** - David Thompson.

### Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Master of arts w/marriage and family counseling** - Jennie Bower Kologe, Charlotte. **BR**

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