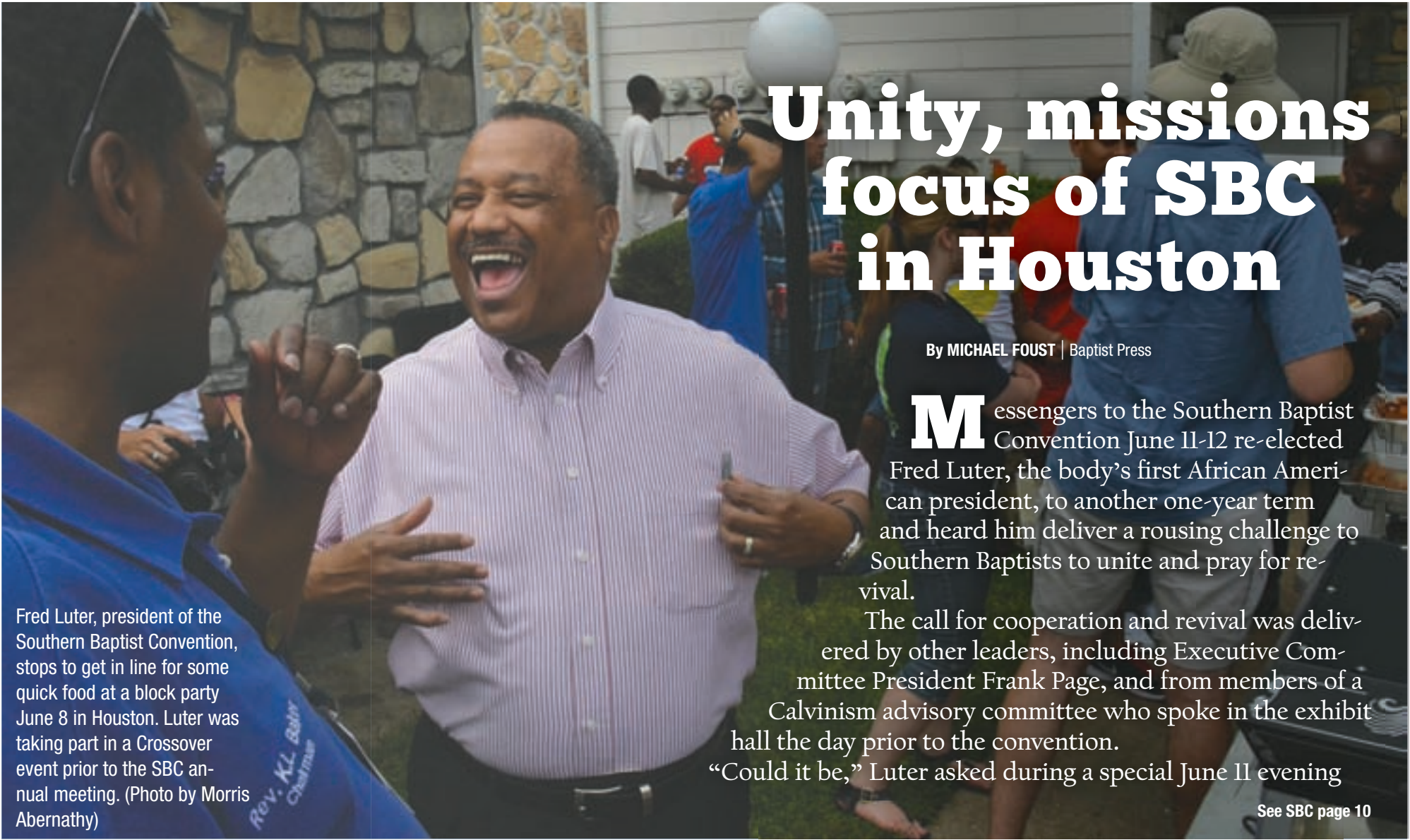


BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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Unity, missions focus of SBC in Houston

By MICHAEL FOUST | Baptist Press

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention June 11-12 re-elected Fred Luter, the body's first African American president, to another one-year term and heard him deliver a rousing challenge to Southern Baptists to unite and pray for revival.

The call for cooperation and revival was delivered by other leaders, including Executive Committee President Frank Page, and from members of a Calvinism advisory committee who spoke in the exhibit hall the day prior to the convention.

"Could it be," Luter asked during a special June 11 evening

Fred Luter, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, stops to get in line for some quick food at a block party June 8 in Houston. Luter was taking part in a Crossover event prior to the SBC annual meeting. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

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2013 SBC meeting

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N.C. missions giving draws attention

BR staff and Baptist Press

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

North Carolina Baptists led the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in their support for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in 2012.

The churches of the Baptist State Convention of N.C. (BSC) led all state conventions in gifts to this special offering that supports international missionaries.

International Mission Board (IMB) president Tom Elliff recognized Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer, and Mark Harris, BSC president, during an International Mission Board (IMB) hosted breakfast in conjunction with the June 11-12 SBC meeting in Houston, Texas.

Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem was

See Missions page 12



North Carolina was the top state in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for 2012. Here, Ken Winter, International Mission Board vice president for Church and Partner Services, poses with Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Baptist State Convention of N.C. (BSC), executive director-treasurer; Mark Harris, BSC president and senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte; Ryan Pack, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, and his wife, Heather. (BR photo by K. Allan Blume)

Summit brings together Moldovan camps, leaders

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

During the Soviet Union days camps were not usually viewed positively, as these “Pioneer” camps sought to indoctrinate children with Soviet Union beliefs and systems.

Now, years after the Union’s fall, an interest in camps – especially summer camps – is on the rise as a way to provide a fun, meaningful experience for children and youth. In particular, churches throughout the Eastern European country of Moldova are seeking to step up their camping outreach.

“Camps are a major tool they can use. The Baptist Union sees this as a very effective way to reach children and youth with the gospel,” said Jimmy Huffman, director of Caraway Conference Center and Camp near Asheboro, N.C.

In May Huffman organized a team of five to lead a three-day summit for camping leaders in Moldova. About 95 percent of the 100 participants were volunteers, many of whom were church leaders or young adults who coordinate their church’s camping ministry.

The Baptist State Convention of N.C. (BSC) began a partnership two years ago with the Baptist Union of Moldova. The BSC Office of Great Commission Partnerships coordinates the partnership with Moldova, which is the poorest county in Eastern Europe and has an evangelical population of less than two percent. More than 1,000 villages in Moldova are still without an evangelical presence.

The Office of Great Commission Partnerships funded the camping summit and the participants’ cost to attend.

“I am very grateful to Jimmy and his staff for leading this training,” said Michael Sowers, who leads the Office of Great Commission Partnerships. “The Caraway staff wants to be a partner with and equip churches as they seek to fulfill the Great Commission. I believe the impact of this training will be the gospel impacting many villages where Jesus is not yet known.”



Participants in a three-day camping summit learned various games and activities to help build relationships and teach biblical truths. (Contributed photo)

Last year Huffman joined 10 BSC staff members on a mission trip to Moldova, and while there met with Baptist Union president John Miron who shared his desire for the Moldovan Christian camping community to become more effective in ministry.

A few months later in 2012, Huffman returned to Moldova and met with 20 leaders and visited six camps.

“Every person I met asked for practical training,” Huffman said. “They understood the theory of camp, and the potential for reaching children and youth, but they needed hands-on training.”

This year, Huffman and the team trained leaders in how to structure a camp experience using games, team building, crafts, age-appropriate Bible studies, object lessons and environmental education, all for the purpose of teaching biblical truths. They also taught them how to plan and prepare for camp with basic camp administration principles.

“It was a wonderful experience and tremendous blessing for us to teach what we do every day to energetic, eager and committed Moldovan Christians,” Huffman said.

Huffman knew that while many principles were

transferable, the training needed to look different in Moldova than in N.C. Many camps in Moldova are held in villages, without a specific building or camp facility.

“It needed to be Moldovan,” he said. “If we taught them everything the American way, they couldn’t have done it because of resources. We wanted to help equip them. All the training in the world wouldn’t matter if it weren’t relevant. The team worked really hard to make this ‘Moldovan training’ because resources and materials are in short supply.”

During the camping summit, the team focused on low cost or no cost activities, and used materials readily available in Moldova. The summit marked the first gathering for the Baptist camping community in Moldova. “They learned from each other, which was a really positive outcome,” Huffman said.

Jeff Kohns, Caraway associate director, said many people shared with him that the ideas they learned during the summit were ideas they heard for the first time; everything was new to them.

“The people were so receptive to what we were doing. We prayed that what we prepared would be what they needed, and it was,” he said.

The team taught the leaders how to create a camp experience that encourages relationship building and friendships.

“You want the youth to let their guard down and open up. If they see their leaders being more open, they will return that,” Huffman said.

Huffman has served at Caraway 14 years, and seven years as director. He worked at Caraway in college and never thought he would have the opportunity to work at a camp full time. “I love the hospitality of camp,” he said. “It’s not church. But it’s a place where you can hear God’s voice.”

Huffman and the Caraway staff are available to assist N.C. Baptist churches interested in partnering with churches in Moldova and using camps as a means of outreach. For more information, call (336) 629-2374 or email jhuffman@caraway.org. **B3**

CHURCH NEWS

Eastern Baptist Association

A team of eight people representing five churches in the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) and two other area churches went to Haiti May 22-31, to work with a group of church planters. The Haitian church planting team of eight men is led by Romil Rene, who worked with N.C. Baptist Men in 2010-

2011 after the earthquake. The Haitian team has started seven schools and six churches. The EBA team was able to leave funds to pay the teachers at five schools for the past two months through the Hearts for Haiti ink pen ministry, which sells ink pens made of wood, antler and acrylic and hand-turned on a wood lathe. Above, team members pose outside the Grace Mission House in Bon Repose, Haiti, with members of the Haitian church planning team. Team members included: Paul Langston, director of missions, Eastern Baptist Association; Ethan Driskill, The Vine, Clinton; Gerald Stancil, Serenity Baptist, Clinton; Bryan Jackson, Mintz Baptist, Roseboro (New South River Baptist Association); Tammy Weeks, Piney Grove Baptist, Faison; Caitlin Parrish, The Vine; Madeline Worley, Mount Gilead Baptist, Clinton; and Jessica Broadwell, Long Branch Baptist, Lumberton (Robeson Baptist Association).



Dublin First Baptist Church

On May 29, Dublin First Baptist Church solidified its partnership with The Baptist Church of Vadul Lui Isac, Moldova. Andrei Ciobanu, senior pastor of the Moldovan Church, along with his wife and son, were in attendance for the event. Ciobanu, right, meets with Cameron McGill, FBC Dublin pastor. About 200 members of FBC Dublin welcomed the Ciobanu family with dinner on the grounds and a worship service. A group of 12 people will be travelling to Moldova in October to lead a week-long crusade and Bible school. This partnership is the second for the church. The other partnership is with Nueva Vida Church, Queens, N.Y.



AROUND THE STATE

Obituaries

JOHN A. "JACK" BRACEY, 88, died May 22 at his home in Elkin, N.C.

After high school, Bracey entered the U.S. Army in 1943. He was honorably discharged after being wounded in Germany in 1945. He received two Bronze Battle Stars and the Purple Heart. He graduated from Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary.

His ministry included First Baptist Church, Maxton (1952-55), Double Springs Baptist Church, Shelby (1955-62), First Baptist Church, Spring Hope (1962-68), Immanuel Chapel, Pfafftown (1968-74) and Weldon Baptist Church, Weldon (1974-90).

He joined Veterans for Peace at its organization in 1984 and became a dedicated advocate for peace.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Wilhelmina Wallace Bracey, their five children, Alice Bracey Hodges of Raleigh, John A. Bracey III of Dobson, Bill Bracey of Chapel Hill, David Bracey of Decatur, Ga., and Mary Bracey of Raleigh; sister, Mary Edna Turbeville of Lake View, S.C.; and three grandchildren.

Memorials to: Smile Train, Veterans for Peace or the charity of choice.

TIMOTHY "TIM" FLINT, 63, of Wilmington, died May 29 at the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Center.

He was in the U.S. Navy after high school and worked in his father's auto parts store in Maryland before coming to Christ in 1978. He worked in the auto parts business until he finished an associate's degree in biblical studies. He was ordained and became an associate minister to adults at Upper Seneca Baptist Church in Maryland.

In North Carolina, Flint led Watha

Baptist in Watha; Silver Lake Baptist in Wilmington; Lakeview Baptist in Linwood; Gibson Avenue Baptist, Wilmington. Following retirement he served as pastoral assistant to Pastor Danny Hawkins at Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church. During the course of his ministry he traveled to Brazil, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

He continued teaching Bible classes at Wrightsboro Baptist until weeks before his death.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Mary; stepson Jack Hogan, III; and three brothers.

Memorials to: Lower Cape Fear Hospice, 1414 Physicians Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401; or Wrightsboro Baptist Church Building Fund, 2736 Castle Hayne Rd., Wilmington, NC 28401.

RALPH PHILMORE GOUGE died June 3 in Marion.

Ordained in 1961, Gouge graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. From 1963 until 2006, he served Southern Baptist churches as senior minister beginning with Stone Mountain Baptist Church in Buncombe County and retired from Calvin Heights Baptist Church, Morganton, in 1984. He then served as an interim pastor for three churches completing his ministry at High Peak Baptist Church, Valdese, in 2006.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Bernice England Gouge, of Clinton, S.C.; one sister, Doris Gouge Leonard, and one brother, Barry Wayne Gouge of Marion; two sons, Edward Gouge of Clinton, S.C., and Joseph Gouge of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; five grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Memorials to: Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, 1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

JACK RICKS NOFFSINGER, 95, of Winston-Salem died June 4 at Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home.



TIM FLINT

A graduate of the University of Richmond and Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary, Noffsinger was pastor of First Baptist Church of East Aurora, N.Y.

He was a commissioned chaplain in the U.S. Navy and joined the Third Marine Division at Guadalcanal and went through the Guam and Iwo Jima campaigns. He was instructor in New Testament and director of Religious Activities at the University of Richmond from 1945-1948. He also pastored First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Fla., (1951-'57) before becoming pastor for the newly formed Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, in 1957. He retired from Knollwood Baptist in the late 1980s. He was named pastor emeritus of the church.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Noffsinger was active in the civil rights movement. He served on the Urban Coalition, a group that worked to ease racial tensions in the city.

He also was on the Board of Trustees for Wake Forest University, and Mars Hill and Meredith colleges. He wrote *The Spirit of Jesus, It's Your Turn Now* and *Heralds of Christ*.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley W. Noffsinger; his daughters, Judy Noffsinger of Columbia, S.C., and Lynda Noffsinger of Winston-Salem; his son, Tom Noffsinger of Raleigh; one granddaughter; five grandsons; two great-grandsons; step-daughters Kimberly Marshall of Phoenix, Ariz., and Lara Marshall of Boone; and four step-grandsons.

Memorials to: Knollwood Baptist Church or anyone in need.

Staff changes

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Mount Airy, welcomed new minister of children and youth, **WESLEY MCGARRY**. McGarry was previously an intern at Westfield Baptist Church, Westfield.

DAVID COLE has been called as minister of music at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Raleigh. He previously served Grace Baptist Church, Durham.

Ruffin Stacey Baptist Church, Ruffin, has called **B.L. COOKSEY** as pastor. He previously served First Baptist Church, Pelham, Ga., as pastor.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Impact Challenge focuses on teens

An Impact Challenge weekend is set for July 26-28 at Norris Creek Outdoor Entertainment Complex, 751 Old Halifax Road, Louisburg. The film "Jackson's Run," which debuts the last weekend in June, will screen in North Carolina during the July event. Three N.C. cast members were also in "Courageous": Rusty Martin Jr., Russell Martin Sr., and T.C. Stallings. Producers of the movie (Chris Robinson and Ollie Balley) will be there along with Second Perception, the writers and performers of the soundtrack, and some cast members.

Teresa Curry Boyd and former NFL star Byron Williams, co-founders of the TimeOut Guys and Denise Taylor, founder of the We Get To program will also be participating in the event.

"Jackson's Run," a faith-based movie filmed in Indiana, follows the story of a teenage boy who rejects faith and the church as he blames God for everything unsatisfying in his life.

Admission armbands are \$5 per person and are valid all three days. Group campsites are available. Organizers are looking for volunteers from area churches as well as businesses who want to participate through sponsorship or as vendors.

Visit www.impactchallengenc.org or contact Cindy Privette at (919) 269-8359 or jafarm@earthlink.net.

WMU-NC plans western training

The Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) will be hosting an Inspiration and Training event for regions west of Asheville, on Sat., Aug. 3 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Murphy. Women of all ages are invited to attend and hear Ruby Fulbright, retired executive director-treasurer of WMU-NC, speak about missionaries, human trafficking, assisting the elderly and resort ministry. Cost is \$10, including lunch. To download the registration form, visit www.wmunc.org. Register by July 15. For more information, contact Janice Burnette at (828) 421-6589 or email jburnette@jackson.main.nc.us.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

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Fighting for Christian values, N.C.’s ‘well-kept secret’ asks for help

By L.A. WILLIAMS | Christian Action League

Name a topic, – alcohol and drugs, sex education, gambling, human trafficking, marriage and parenting, religious freedom, sanctity of human life – and rest assured that a bill has been filed on it in your state government. More than 1,700 have been filed this year.

Without camping out at the General Assembly, how can Christians hope to keep pace with what’s proposed, much less influence the legislative landscape?

Enter the Christian Action League of North Carolina (CAL).

Formed in 1937 by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), this non-profit organization is proclaiming the gospel in the state capital to lawmakers and bringing the Christian worldview to bear on the legislation they consider.

Initially formed by the BSC to address alcohol policy, the Interdenominational Allied Church League broadened its focus to become CAL in 1958. Since then it has addressed virtually every critical social issue imaginable.

For Mark Creech, an ordained Southern Baptist minister and the organization’s executive director for the past 14 years, the challenge is often about making connections.

“We research issues to connect lawmakers with information that will help them make better decisions,” he said. “At the same time, we help believers across the state connect with those who represent them to make sure their voices are heard.”

“Our nation is in peril today because there is a disconnect between the principles of Christianity and the principles of civil government,” he added, lamenting that some Christians have abandoned the public square, mistakenly believing that they shouldn’t be involved in politics.

He said believers should neglect neither the call to evangelize nor the admonition to be “salt” in the culture as the commands go hand in hand.

In addition to monitoring bills that are filed, – researching potential positive or negative effects and measuring how proposed laws line up with biblical principles – CAL produces informational handouts for lawmakers, and Creech testifies before committees in both the N.C. House and Senate, as well as working one-on-one with lawmakers about the merits of a bill.

“I call on [CAL] regularly for background information on bills and issues that come before the House,” said Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Paul Stam

(R-Wake). “CAL’s expertise is helpful in identifying the issues and the players.”

A typical day may find Creech racing from one committee meeting to another to promote a pro-life bill or to squelch the latest proposal to expand gambling. In between, he’s likely penning a newspaper editorial, networking with another non-profit on an issue of mutual concern or putting together a weekly email update to make sure Christians know what’s happening in their state capital and how they can have an impact.

In the midst of it all, he’s still ministering, making connections that he hopes lead lawmakers and others at the Capitol building closer to Christ.

“Rev. Creech seems to arrive just when we need him most,” said Rep. Craig Horn (R-Union). “Sometimes he stops by the office, but most often I see him in the hallways, traversing the bridge between the two legislative buildings, or he stops to chat in one of the atrium lobbies – always with a smile, a warm handshake and a much-needed friendly look.

Financial challenges

While the halls of the legislative buildings are full of highly-paid lobbyists from the gambling and alcohol industries, abortion promoters and other businesses all trying to bend the ears of lawmakers, CAL provides a unique voice calling for decisions to be made based on God’s Word. Governed by a volunteer board of directors and with just two full-time staff members, CAL relies on some part-time and contract help to accomplish its goals.

Although the organization receives \$10,000 a year from the BSC, the majority of funding comes through donations from churches and individuals, and CAL struggles to meet its monthly budget.

“The challenge is that we can’t be at the Legislature making a real difference and out soliciting financial help at the same time,” said Creech.

“We try to balance these duties as best we can, but sometimes we feel like [CAL] is a well-kept secret. It’s time people knew what we’re about and why we exist.

“We’re your lobbyist, your public policy organization, advocating for those eternal values that are important to you.”

He said if each Baptist church in N.C. would give just \$100 a year, it would more than fund CAL’s current needs and secure its future. “In this difficult economy, we are now suffering for funds and deep in debt by more than \$17,000 and need that \$100 contribution right away.

“Otherwise, God forbid, this great work could fail. There is nowhere else we can cut our budget. We’re at a tipping

What bills/issues are being discussed?

- ALCOHOL and DRUGS**
H-532 No drinking in EMS and law enforcement vehicles
In addition to prohibiting alcohol use in these vehicles, CAL reports, the bill would make it a crime to drive one of these vehicles while alcohol remains in the driver’s system.
- GAMBLING**
H-809 Game nights/nonprofit fundraisers
Under this bill organizations could have casino nights, CAL reports. These casino nights could include both gambling and alcohol, as long as the ultimate goal of the event was to raise funds for a non-profit.
- SEXUALITY & SEX EDUCATION**
H-694 Clarify input on reproductive health/character education
CAL reports this bill would require parental signatures before certain instruction in reproductive health and safety could be taught. It would also call for character education throughout the curriculum.
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
H-221 Increase penalties for human trafficking
Among other provisions, this bill would make trafficking a Class E felony.
- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**
S-370 Respect for student prayer
This legislation would clarify student rights to pray in school, prohibit prayer officially sanctioned by schools (in accordance with the United States Constitution). It would require school employees to show respect for student led prayer.
- SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**
S-691 Unlawful to assist another to commit suicide
This bill would make it illegal to help someone kill himself by providing the means, participating in the act or helping plan the event.
- (EDITOR’S NOTE – This is a brief sampling of some of the issues and bills being monitored, supported or opposed by the Christian Action League of North Carolina (CAL). CAL provided this information. The complete list will be posted with this story on brnow.org.)*

point and it’s either we hear from our friends or we sink,” Creech said.

“Sending that \$100 check and then putting the CAL in your budget for just the same amount the next year would certainly make us much more effective because we wouldn’t have to spend so much time fundraising. Our efforts could be focused entirely on impacting legislators and legislation for Christ, while also engaging the public from a strong Christian worldview about the significant social issues of our time.” he added.

To find out more about the Christian Action League and how you can make an impact in Raleigh and beyond, log onto www.christianactionleague.org. Donations can also be made via the organization’s website. You may also reach them at (919) 787-0606 or email office@thechristianactionleague.org. To write or send a contribution to CAL by mail, write to: Christian Action League of North Carolina, 809 Spring Forest Road, Suite 1000, Raleigh, NC 27609.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – L.A. Williams is a correspondent for CAL.) **BR**

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New births emerge from Crossover witness

Baptist Press

As Southern Baptists gathered in Houston to conduct the business of the convention, the power of believers working together to intentionally share the gospel is being felt in the SBC host city, with nearly 400 new believers recording faith decisions.

The annual “Crossover” event featured 25 block parties on Saturday (June 8) and had reported more than 200 professions of faith as of Monday afternoon. In addition, 182 salvation decisions were recorded through door-to-door contact by local churches.

For the previous week, David Mills was guiding a group of students from several campuses of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) and The College at Southwestern to share their faith door to door and on the streets of Houston.

The SWBTS evangelism professor encouraged the students to make prayer a priority as they set out across the city, sharing their faith in very diverse settings.

“We have found where there has been intense and fervent prayer there is an openness to the Holy Spirit with humility and repentance,” Mills said. “Otherwise, it’s almost a hostility to the gospel.”

Students Benjamin Smith and Harrison Chow saw the results of prayer as they welcomed Jose and his son Fernando who had followed signs to a block party hosted by Northeast Houston Baptist Church.

“One student led that same dad I had prayed for to the Lord while the other student led the son,” Mills said, noting his awe in the way God had directed them to the home where he had seen them earlier that wasn’t even near the neighborhood.

Lazybrook Baptist Church sponsored two block parties as part of the outreach. The first was held at Colo-



Hudson Lee, 8, celebrates after sliding down an inflatable water slide June 8 at a block party at First Outreach Baptist Church in Houston. About 20 churches in Houston participated in Crossover 2013, an evangelistic outreach held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston. (Photo by Adam Covington)

nial Apartments, a largely Hispanic low-income apartment complex. Pastor John Neesley said residents were surprised to see the church there.

One resident told Neesley, “I can’t believe you came here because it’s kind of dangerous. That’s why most people don’t want to come here.”

The willingness of Lazybrook members and volunteers from Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida as well as seminary students led 13 people to

profess faith in Christ.

Neesley recounted leading a boy to Christ who went back to his apartment and returned with his brother, who also prayed to receive Christ. They went back home and brought back a third brother who also was saved.

In door-to-door outreach, church members and volunteers at First Baptist Church in Pearland handed out more than 10,000 door hangers advertising their block party and shared the gospel as they went.

Worship Pastor John Godby shared with a mother and son on their front porch. He asked if they wanted to pray to receive Christ and they said yes but also asked if a friend who had been listening from inside the house could also pray. “I said, ‘Of course she can.’”

“God has been moving in amazing ways,” said James Jordan, a member of Northeast Houston Baptist Church who coordinated four block parties and the participation of the Southwestern students. “Our pastor’s focus in 2013 has been on prayer,” Jordan noted, describing hour-long sessions on Sunday evening and corporate prayer during morning worship.

Longtime Crossover’s visionary Darrell Robinson said the prevailing attitude that door-to-door outreach no longer works is false. What is needed, he said, are pastors who not only exemplify personal evangelism but convince laypeople it is their job to win souls and then equip them to do it. As with any evangelistic endeavor, fervent prayer and a humble spirit must precede door-to-door evangelism, he added.

A come-hear-my-preacher approach isn’t enough, Robinson said, adding, “We must convince the people that it is their job” to evangelize as they go about their daily business.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Compiled from reports by Tammi Reed Ledbetter and Stephanie Heading of the Southern Baptist TEXAN newsjournal.) **BR**

Baptists share how CP fuels missions, ministries

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Missionary testimonies during the June 11-12 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in Houston, Texas, challenged messengers to do more to advance the gospel through the Cooperative Program.

“Unapologetically we promote the Cooperative Program. We believe it fuels and advances SBC ministries in a powerful way,” said Frank Page, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

Page shared that this year the Executive Committee, as it did last year, reduced its Cooperative Program funding allocations so that more can be given to missions and ministries.

“We want to lower bureaucratic overhead so that more goes to reach the nations for Christ. When you talk about us giving to missions and ministries, we mean it with all our heart,” he said.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) leadership has joined Page in support of the 1% Challenge and

is asking all N.C. Baptist churches to increase Cooperative Program giving by one percent.

Since 2006 the BSC Cooperative Program budget has shifted a greater percentage of ministry dollars to the SBC for international missions, North American missions and equipping leaders through SBC seminaries.

If all 4,300 BSC churches accept the 1% Challenge the result would be \$3.9 million additional for N.C. ministries and \$2.1 million for SBC ministries.

The BSC would be able to help churches start 26 more churches each year across the state.

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute would be able to train 41 more pastors and leaders each year. And each month 155 more children would be loved and cared for by the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina.

“We have seen firsthand the benefit of the Cooperative Program and we want to do our part to give back so that other churches can be blessed as we have been blessed,” said Patrick Fuller, pastor of



Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee (EC), leads Rosalia Razo to Christ at a block party June 8 during Crossover 2013. Page told messengers the EC reduced its Cooperative Program funding allocation again so more money can go toward missions. (Photo by Matt Miller)

Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro and chairman of the BSC Board of Directors Congregational Services Committee. “It is our job as leaders to put the Cooperative Program before our people.”

Leland Kerr has also led his congregation, Eastside Baptist Church in Shelby, to accept the 1% Challenge.

Kerr grew up a pastor’s son, graduated from a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and has family serving overseas as missionaries. He knows the impact and value of the Cooperative Program.

“One percent is doable for even a

See CP page 6

Akin challenges 'Great Commission Baptists' to step forward

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Delivering the Convention sermon during this year's Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston, Texas, Daniel Akin urged Southern Baptists to never lose sight of the centrality of Jesus Christ. An issue at stake, he shared, is whether or not Southern Baptists will truly live as Great Commission Baptists.

"Will we, as we move forward in the 21st century, be a Convention of churches that bear the marks of a Great Commission people, serving faithfully King Jesus as He reclaims that which rightly belongs to Him?" asked Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. "Or, we will find ourselves sitting on the sidelines, fading off the scene in distraction, division and disobedience?"

With Romans 15:14-24 as his text, Akin shared different characteristics, or marks, of people who live out the Great Commission; for example, Great Commission people keep their focus on what is most important while still pursuing many

good things. Paul knew that the church in Rome was doing many good things, yet he reminded the church that good things are not better than the best thing – which is sharing the gospel.

"There are places in the world where you and I could be dropped by helicopter or parachute and we could walk days, weeks and months, and we would never encounter a church and we would never meet a Christian," Akin said. "Southern Baptists must keep their focus on lands filled with darkness."

Southern Baptists must also keep their focus on the gospel. One reason more people in churches are not focused on the gospel is because they do not truly know the gospel.

"The gospel is the good news that King Jesus died and paid the full penalty of sin, rose from the dead and saves all

who repent of sin and trust Him," Akin said. "There is no excuse for Southern Baptists to be confused about the gospel. The gospel is the good news that God killed His son so He wouldn't have to kill you."

Great Commission people also view missions and bringing people to Jesus as worship unto God. "World missions is God's work and it is our worship. Missionary service is like priests bringing offerings to God in worship all for His glory," Akin said.

In Romans 15 Paul referenced "Christ" 15 times; Paul only spoke of what God accomplished through him and his missionary service was never about himself.

Akin shared that believers must have a biblical theology in order to be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission. Good theology should give birth to missions just as missions should give birth to good theology.

"Keeping missions and theology together will help us see that the proper motivation for doing missions is 'gospel gratitude' and not 'legalistic guilt,'" Akin said. Only gratitude, Akin said, will keep believers motivated to

press on until the day they meet Jesus.

Great Commission believers press on because they are motivated to get the gospel to people who have never before heard the gospel. "The issue is access to the gospel. There is not access to the gospel everywhere," Akin said.

Southern Baptists must take the gospel to the "elsewhere;" the places void of any gospel witness. Southern Baptists must be committed to doing their part in taking the gospel to the unreached areas of the world, whether that means going, praying or giving sacrificially so that others can go and serve. While God has not called every believer to the international mission field, He has called every believer to help fulfill the Great Commission.

"Let us not forget: the Great Commission is not an option to be considered. It is a command to be obeyed," Akin said. **BR**



"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered," said Daniel Akin, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary president, during the convention sermon June 12. (Photo by Matt Miller)

CP

Continued from page 5

church with a small budget; the one percent is still part of them moving forward to help support the Cooperative Program."

During the SBC meeting, Page called on different individuals to give testimony to the Cooperative Program at work. For example, Gregg and Donna Fort, International Mission Board missionaries who have served in Zimbabwe for 26 years, are supported through the Cooperative Program. "The Cooperative Program has assured that we are cared for and can focus on missions in Zimbabwe," Gregg said.

The Forts have witnessed God do great things among the people of Zimbabwe, and urged Southern Baptists to send more missionaries to the international mission field. "As Jesus Christ was incarnated among us, incarnational missions is still by far the very best way to carry the message of Jesus Christ into this world," he said.

As Southern Baptists support the Cooperative Program they support collegiate church planters like Keith and Page Wieser, who started collegiate churches on the campuses of Washington State University and the University of Idaho. What began as seven college students

meeting in a coffee shop turned into 850 students meeting at two locations for worship services.

In addition to international missions and collegiate ministry, through the Cooperative Program Southern Baptists also support North American Mission Board missionaries and church planters such as Jeremy Westbrook.

Earlier this year Westbrook celebrated the four-year anniversary of Living Hope Church in Marysville, Ohio. This church baptized more than 100 people during that time.

"When you think about the Cooperative Program, I urge you, I plead with you, to think about guys like me who want to plant churches in Ohio, and across the Midwest, and from nation to nation," he said.

Marysville is included in the greater metro area of Columbus, Ohio, which is the 15th largest city in the country.

"While I will not forget the rural and small places, we know that most people have moved to North American cities," Page said. To learn more about the Cooperative Program and the 1% Challenge visit www.ncbaptist.org/cp.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Buddy Overman, BSC Communications, contributed to this report.) **BR**

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Calvinism team addresses question: What's next?

By MICHAEL FOUST | Baptist Press

Members of an advisory committee on Calvinism say that with their report now issued, the “next step” in cooperation and unity is up to individual Southern Baptists.

Twelve of the 19 members of the committee appeared together Monday (June 10) in the exhibit hall’s Cooperative Program booth, answering questions from messengers. The 3,200-word report, which urged Southern Baptists to “grant one another liberty” and “stand together” for the Great Commission, was unanimously approved and released in late May.

“It’s really up to all of you as to what happens with this,” committee member Tammi Ledbetter told an audience gathered around the CP booth. “We can talk it to death, and I think we probably have. What matters is what you do with your life in the way you relate to other people. And every time you have a conversation about this document or you have a conversation about a fellow believer ... how you handle yourself will make the whole difference.”

The hope, Ledbetter added, is that both sides will put the focus “back on

winning people to Jesus.”

Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and a committee member, agreed.

“So much of this comes back to what Tammi said – our own personal attitudes and dispositions,” Akin said, adding that Southern Baptists need to be “men and women of honesty and integrity.

“If we will pursue those types of agendas in the days ahead, I believe we can come together for the very purpose on which we fought the conservative resurgence – that is, standing on an inerrant Bible to get the Gospel to every person on the planet.”

The advisory team – not an official committee of the convention – was assembled by Executive Committee President Frank Page in August 2012 to advise him on developing “a strategy whereby people of various theological persuasions can purposely work together in missions and evangelism.” The committee was composed of Calvinists and non-Calvinists from different walks of life in the convention.

“There has been a lot of talking about one another, and I decided it was time to talk to each other,” Page said during the

panel discussion, acknowledging he “had doubts” about whether the committee could come to an agreement on a report. “I am not naive. I know there are still differences,” Page said. “There are people on this group that have strong wills, strong opinions. I am among that group. But I just want to see us work together so men, women, boys and girls can be won to Jesus.”

The writing committee consisted of Eric Hankins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Oxford, Miss., and R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Mohler is a Calvinist; Hankins is not. There were “several drafts” written before the final report was released, said Union University President David Dockery, the committee chair.

“Everyone had an opportunity to participate in the final document,” Dockery said. “Everyone had an opportunity to make suggestions.”

Hankins said he wants Southern Baptists to “grant one another liberty” and “cut out the meanness.”

“We sought to have something that would call all Southern Baptists together around the Gospel,” Hankins said. “We sought to have something that would

clearly express that there were real differences [while recognizing] we still want to partner together for the cause of Christ and the announcement of the Gospel all around the world.

“We hoped to have a document that would ... return us to a time period that we were in not so long ago in which we shared theological differences, but the rhetoric wasn’t so harsh,” Hankins said. Said Mohler, referencing the year of the Southern Baptist Convention’s formation,

“If you go back to 1845, there were people like me in the room, and there were people like Eric Hankins in the room. And they wanted to be in the same room together, because they wanted to send missionaries together, and they wanted to do great things for the Great Commission together.”

Page said he sees a level of “anti-Calvinism” in the convention “that frightens me.” On the flip side, he said, a Calvinist friend recently told him that the “extreme Calvinists” were driving the friend “crazy.” There is “vitriol” on both sides, Page said.

“It was my opinion that we need to deal with this because I think we’ve come to the point where trust is hitting a new

See Calvinism page 13

SBC adopts Scout resolution

By TIM ELLSWORTH | Baptist Press

Southern Baptists expressed their “opposition to and disappointment in” the membership policy of the Boy Scouts of America but affirmed the freedom of local churches to determine their own relationships with the national Scouting organization.

The action came in a resolution drafted by the convention’s Resolutions Committee and approved by messengers June 12 during the SBC’s annual meeting in Houston.

Southern Baptists have tracked the BSA membership controversy closely in recent months, as many churches either sponsor or are affiliated with local Scouting troops.

Steve Lemke, provost at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary who chaired the Resolutions Committee, said the committee felt compelled to address the matter.

“We think we did so in a balanced way,” Lemke said.

The lengthy resolution detailed the sequence of events that led to the BSA’s May 23 vote to approve new membership guidelines stating that “no youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of

America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone.”

The resolution says the Boy Scouts decision is “viewed by many homosexual activists as merely the first step in a process that will fundamentally change the BSA,” putting “the Scouts at odds with a consistent biblical worldview on matters of human sexuality.”

It further says the decision “has the potential to complicate basic understandings of male friendships, needlessly politicize human sexuality, and heighten sexual tensions within the Boy Scouts.”

The Southern Baptist Convention’s statement of faith, the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, states that “Christians should oppose ... all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography,” the resolution noted, adding that Southern Baptists “consistently have expressed their opposition to the normalization of homosexual behavior in American culture through more than a dozen resolutions over the past thirty years.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – For full story and copy of the resolution as well as other stories from the SBC annual meeting, visit the Biblical Recorder online at <http://www.brnow.org/Resources/SBC-2013>.) **BR**

Want worship renewal in your church?

IT STARTS HERE

I often have opportunities to speak with worship leaders and pastors with a goal of helping churches renew – to impart new life and vigor to – their times of corporate worship. There are many things we as worship leaders can do to hinder worship and many things we can do to create an environment that promotes great worship. But there is one thing we cannot do to provide worship renewal. In fact this one thing is the most important piece of the puzzle: spiritual renewal. This is something only the Holy Spirit can do in our lives and the lives of those in our churches.

As Betty Grit of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship said so well: “Worship renewal cannot be produced or engineered by human ingenuity, but is a gift of God’s Spirit.”

In my teaching around the state, I lift up the importance of personal worship – spending time worshipping

God on a daily basis. You see, we cannot lead people to a place we have not gone ourselves. Corporate worship is an outgrowth of personal worship. When the people of our churches come to church hungry to be in God’s presence, when they have truly experienced revival in their lives, our times of corporate worship will become truly magnificent.

It might be that your church is putting too much weight on getting the music right when the focus needs to be on getting our personal relationships with God right. Great worship will overflow from lives that are encountering God every day.



Kenny Lamm

EDITOR’S NOTE – Kenny Lamm is a worship & music consultant. For more information you can reach him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5638, or klamm@ncbaptist.org. Visit his blog at blog.ncbaptist.org/renewingworship/.

engaging NC Baptists in worship

renewing worship

Not done yet: Blackwell celebrates 30 years with Baptist Children's Homes

By **SHAWN HENDRICKS** | *BR* Managing Editor

On July 1, Michael Blackwell will celebrate 30 years as head of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH). With his booming voice, quirky sense of humor, wit and charisma, it doesn't take long to discover why people are naturally drawn to this man.

If asked about Blackwell, many would agree he is among today's most respected N.C. Baptists. For those who are new to the state, the list of his achievements since he took the reigns of BCH at age 41 can seem a little overwhelming.

As president, Blackwell has cut through many ribbons to dedicate new facilities. He's helped lead the organization through the daunting accreditation process. He's written four books. He's spearheaded major capitol campaigns and initiatives, which include the organization's increased focus on families and efforts to help single mothers raise their children in godly homes.

Under Blackwell's leadership, BCH has also expanded to 19 communities throughout the state.

In addition to ministering to children, today BCH cares for developmentally

disabled adults, and assists the elderly through North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM).

“[Blackwell’s] passion to help children and families is truly remarkable,” said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

“[He] inspires and encourages churches all across this state to have fulfilled our biblical mandate to reach out to the least.”

Hollifield shared his comments this spring during the North Carolina Baptist Heritage Award ceremony in Greensboro, where Blackwell delivered the keynote address.

Few institutional leaders in N.C. Baptist history have reached the 30-year milestone, Hollifield said.

Hollifield, who shares the same birthday as Blackwell (May 3), went on to describe the BCH leader – who he and others refer to as “Mickey” – as a great friend, innovative, “creative in an ever-changing world,” “forward thinking” and a “true statesman.”

“Highly relational” are the words Blake Ragsdale, BCH director of communica-



MICHAEL BLACKWELL HAS SPENT 30 YEARS
LEADING THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME
THE CHILDREN A PRIORITY, NOT P

Images and information below provided by Baptist Children's Homes.

JULY 1, 1983
N.C. native Michael
C. Blackwell becomes
president of BCH

NOV. 1989
Noel Home and Care
House (for teen mothers/
babies) dedicated

2000
Thanksgiving Offering goal exceeds \$1,000,000
(\$1,032,550) – a record amount for any N.C. Baptist entity

SEPT. 7, 2000
Winifred Lindsay Office
Annex dedicated at Broyhill

MAY 1987
Moody Home dedicated

MAY 1991
Dedication of Cameron Boys
Camp expansion project

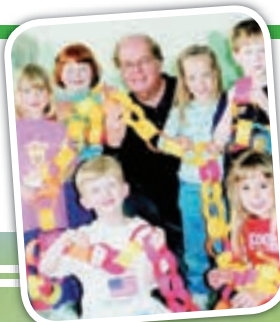
**1994
BCH adopts
“Child
Centered-
Family
Focused”**

FEB. 2000
Blackwell releases book
New Millennium Families

SEP
Dedicatio
Blackwell
Home Famil

DEC. 1990
Partnership with Brazilian
Baptist Children's Homes

JULY 2, 2000
Dedication of Michael C. and Catherine Kani
Blackwell Cottage, the Yeager Office Annex, and
Spilman Family Duplex at Kennedy Home



tions, used when asked to describe his boss. “I’ll get a text message out of the blue from [Blackwell], ‘Have you gone to see this movie? What did you think about that?’” Ragsdale said. “He allows himself to be that way with staff.”

“People not only respond well to him, but he responds so well to others,” Ragsdale added. “It’s a lot of the reason why the Children’s Homes has been so successful. ... That trickles right down to internal relationships as well, too.”

But for Blackwell, all of his successes comes down to his “burning desire to make a difference.” “At the end of the day, what have I done to make life better? I ask myself that almost every day. ... Sometimes I go, ‘not a whole lot,’” said Blackwell.

Blackwell flipped through images on his phone of some developmentally disabled adults who visited him the previous day. One of them was grinning ear to ear as he sat in Blackwell’s office chair.

“Sometimes ... like yesterday, I go, ‘Well, I made life better for 12 people, I think,’” he said. “They made my life happier.”

Building strong relationships, trust and respect takes many years. “That doesn’t come in the first five years; It took a long time,” he said.

A former chair of the trustees once described Blackwell as having “unique talents, personality and commitments” that fit well with the president position.

Blackwell, a native of Gastonia, graduated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill with a degree in journalism in 1964. He’d written for *The Charlotte Observer*, the *Raleigh Times* and *The Durham Morning Herald*. He also worked as a disc jockey and director of a radio station.

But Blackwell felt God pulling him toward ministry.

He went on to receive a master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served as a youth leader and associate pastor for Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh and pastor of First Baptist Church Carthage and Monument Heights Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

See Not done page 11



0 YEARS
ES. HE MAKES
OLITICS.



2002
Blackwell releases
A Place for Miracles

SEP. 19, 2000
on of the Michael C.
Cottage and the Mills
y Duplex at Mills Home

MAR. 26, 2002
BCH dedicates first Developmental
Disabilities Ministry homes in
Winston-Salem (Davis House and
Hinkle Ho

OCT. 6, 2004
Stegall Home opens doors to Developmental
Disabilities Ministry residents

2003
Blackwell releases
UpsideDown Leadership

NOV. 11, 2009
BCH establishes North
Carolina Baptist Aging
Ministry (NCBAM)

2010
BCH celebrates
125 years of
ministry

JUNE 1, 2011
BCH begins Family
Care program, which
offers children and
their single mothers
a home.

NOV. 2004
Blackwell releases
Riches Beyond Measure

FEB. 28, 2011
Camp Duncan in Aberdeen
accepts first group of girls.



SBC

Continued from page 1

service focused on revival, “that the reason that lost friend, that lost relative, that lost co-worker, that lost neighbor, that lost classmate, have not yet turned from darkness to light is because they don’t see us as the body of Christ getting along? Friend, how is it that we say we love God, whom we’ve never seen, yet don’t speak to our brother and sister that we see every day?”

Messengers also passed 12 resolutions that covered a variety of issues, including one that expressed “our continued opposition to and disappointment in” the Boy Scouts’ decision to allow homosexual members. The resolution affirmed the right of churches to determine their affiliation with the Scouts.

Another resolution that garnered significant attention addressed mental health, calling on Southern Baptists to fight the “stigmatization and prejudice” of those with mental health concerns and to “love and minister to” them. It passed in light of the suicidal death of Rick Warren’s youngest son and the publication of a new book by Frank Page about the suicide of his daughter Melissa.

Luter was elected unopposed, getting a standing ovation from the messengers when Registration Secretary Jim Wells cast the ceremonial ballot for the convention.

The overwhelming majority of the 5,100 registered messengers came to a special revival-focused service June 11 – the annual meeting hadn’t had night sessions the previous two years – where Charles Billingsley of Thomas Road Baptist Church (Lynchburg, Va.) led congregational worship in music for more than 45 minutes, likely a record in recent SBC history.

For revival to fall on the SBC, Luter said in his message from John 13:34-35, Southern Baptists must have a love for the scripture, the Savior and the saints (fellow Christians). Luter gave the most attention to the final point – the need for Southern Baptists to love one another.

The roadblock to a revival, Luter said, may be that the lost world does not see Christians loving one another with unconditional love.

Southern Baptists “will never see revival in the world until we first see revival in the church,” Luter said. It must begin with pastors and leaders, he added.

“... Those saints who love contemporary music, do you really love them? Those saints who love traditional music, do you really love them? Those saints who love praise songs, do you really love them? Those saints who are Calvinist, do you really love them? Those saints who are not Calvinist, do you really love them? Those saints who love just a King James Version of the Bible ... do you love them? Those saints who love the Holman Christian Standard Bible, do you love them? Those saints whose churches ... have Baptist in their name, do you love them? Those churches that don’t have Baptist in their name, do you love them?”

“The question of the hour my brothers and my sisters, [is] do we really love the saints of God,” Luter said. “Do you love the saints of God enough to work together to impact lostness in America? Jesus says we should love each other like He loved us, and He loved us so much that he died for us”

Calvinism

On Tuesday night (June 11) and Wednesday afternoon (June 12) – before the meeting was gaveled to a close – Luter led messengers in saying, in unison multiple times, “Lord, send a revival, and let it begin with me.”



Newly elected officers of the Southern Baptist Convention include (clockwise from bottom left): Bart Barber, first vice president, pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas; John Yeats, re-elected recording secretary, executive director of Missouri Baptist Convention; Jim Wells, re-elected registration secretary, strategic partners team leader for the Missouri Baptist Convention; Jared Moore, second vice president, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville, Ky.; and Fred Luter, re-elected president, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. (Photo by Adam Covington)

During his report, Page mentioned one barrier to unity – the debate over Calvinism – that led him to form a 19-member advisory committee. It issued its report in late May. (See Calvinism story on page 7.)

“I am not naïve,” Page said of the differences over Calvinism. “I know there will continue to be problems and difficulties but I am convinced that if we will talk to each other together we will see a unity that will allow us to win more men, women, boys and girls to Christ than ever before.”

The Great Commission, and not Calvinism, should be the focus, Page said. The report by the Calvinism team – not an official convention committee – urged Southern Baptists to “grant one another liberty” on the issue and “stand together” for the Great Commission.

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

Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts resolution – overwhelmingly approved – said the Scouts’ decision to allow gay-identifying youth is “viewed by many homosexual activists as merely the first step in a process that will fundamentally change the BSA,” putting “the Scouts at odds with a consistent biblical worldview on matters of human sexuality.” It further said the decision “has the potential to complicate basic understandings of male friendships, needlessly politicize human sexuality, and heighten sexual tensions within the Boy Scouts.” (See Boy Scout story on page 7.)

Churches that choose to sever ties with the Boy Scouts should not abandon their ministry to boys, the resolution stated, but should consider expanding their Royal Ambassadors ministry (www.wmu.com/ra), “a distinctively Southern Baptist missions organization to develop godly young men.” It urged churches and families that remain in the Boy Scouts “to seek to impact as many boys as possible with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ, to work toward the reversal of this new membership policy, and to advocate against any future change in leadership and membership policy that normalizes sexual conduct opposed to the biblical standard.”

Mental health

The resolution on mental health, also overwhelmingly approved, identified such mental health issues as autism disorders, intellectual disability, mental health conditions like schizophrenia, clinical depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorders and diseases of the aged including dementia and Alzheimer’s. The resolution expressed support for “the wise use of medical interventions” and supported research and treatment “when undertaken in a manner consistent with a biblical worldview.”

“We call on all Southern Baptists and our churches to look for and create opportunities to love and minister to, and develop methods and resources to care for, those who struggle with mental health concerns and their families,” the resolution said.

The subject of mental health was further spotlighted when Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in Springdale, Ark., made a motion that called on SBC entities to work cooperatively to create and identify resources available to individuals and churches that minister to those who suffer from mental health challenges. The motion was referred to the Executive Committee and other entities.

Floyd cited statistics that 58 million Americans and 450 million persons worldwide suffer from mental disorders and 1 million die from suicide annually. He said churches and communities are filled with people who need Southern Baptists to minister to them and their families. “It’s time for the SBC to be on the front lines of mental health challenges,” he said.

Messengers also passed a resolution calling on churches to protect children from sexual abuse and to pray for abuse victims.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Michael Foust is associate editor of Baptist Press. With reporting by Diana Chandler, BP staff writer; Barbara Denman, director of communications for the Florida Baptist Convention; and Erin Roach, assistant editor of Baptist Press. For full coverage of the SBC, visit <http://www.brnow.org/Resources/SBC-2013>.) **BR**

“The question of the hour my brothers and my sisters, [is] do we really love the saints of God. Do you love the saints of God enough to work together to impact lostness in America?”
– Fred Luter

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FOR THE LATEST N.C. BAPTIST
NEWS AND INFORMATION



Not done

Continued from page 9

All of those experiences, Blackwell said, helped equip him for his role at BCH. Blackwell has also completed post-graduate work in management, business and theology.

Blackwell said he wants to be remembered for running a “steady ship” and an organization that is stronger today than it has ever been.

A lot has changed in residential care since Blackwell took the reigns as president in 1983. One major difference, he said, has involved the “higher degree of trauma” that children encounter in homes today.

“That can be trauma from ... a drug addicted parent, parents who pimp out their daughter to get drug money,” he said.

“We’ve had that happen. ... They’ve witnessed their father shooting their mother. The level of trauma ... is higher, or at least more open and known, than it was.”

Blackwell recalled when much of the media didn’t address sexual abuse issues.

“They wouldn’t use it,” he said. “That was in 1983. Now you read it all over the place.”

In addition to awareness, reaching out to families has made a big difference in the organization’s effectiveness, Blackwell said.

“When I came it was basically just [about] the child,” Blackwell said. “The family was kind of over here, sort of a nebulous figure. ... Now they’ve got to be a part of [the process].”

Staying focused

Blackwell also has worked hard to steer BCH clear of politics – especially Baptist politics.

“Keep it about the children,” he said. “... You keep it about the mission, the vision, sharing hope, changing lives, and then everybody can resonate to that.”

“[BCH is for] all North Carolina Baptists,” Blackwell added. “I am friends with a lot of pastors.”

“Half the time I don’t know if they are moderate, conservative, arch-conservative. It’s got to be about the children. And our staff understands that. ... If they get invited to a church, they go. ...

“The churches are our lifeline.”

Blackwell, whose favorite verse is Philip-
pians 4:13, said his faith keeps him focused and grounded.

“I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me,” Blackwell said. “That was my favorite verse when [my wife and I] were dating. ... It’s still that [verse].”

Looking ahead

For now the 71-year-old shrugs off talk about retirement.

A year ago Blackwell began shifting more responsibility over to his chief operating officer Keith Henry. But Blackwell said he isn’t going anywhere – at least for now.

He still has plenty of work in front of him.

This year BCH will begin a “big” three-year statewide campaign to increase financial support for the organization.

“I have to be here for that; that’s going to be



MICHAEL BLACKWELL, RIGHT, TIES DOWN A COVERING FOR A STRUCTURE AT CAMERON BOYS CAMP.

something that’s going to consume the bulk of my energy for the next several years,” he said.

“When I get through that, successfully, then I will be able to say, ‘OK, now what do we need to do?’”

And when he’s not working, Blackwell said he enjoys simply spending time with his wife Catherine and their two adult children – Julie and Michael – and two grandchildren.

“Outside of that, I try to take care of myself. I try to eat right, get some exercise,” he said. “As far as refinishing furniture or going out here to the golf course or taking up lacrosse or learning Chinese, no thank you.”

“If I can still stay excited and my health stays the way it is, I’ve got a few more years left.”

For more information, visit bchfamily.org. **BR**

Land honored on retirement for courage as ERLC head

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

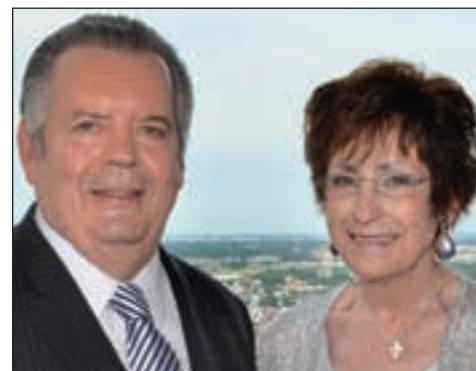
The current president, as well as former presidents, of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) commended Richard Land for his courage and faithfulness as head of the denomination’s ethics entity for a quarter of a century in a dinner in his honor.

Current SBC President Fred Luter and the former presidents joined others – including seminary presidents, entity heads and state Baptist leaders – in celebrating June 8 Land’s 25 years of leadership of and retirement from the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). The dinner, sponsored by the ERLC’s trustees, occurred as Southern Baptists began gathering in Houston for the convention’s 2013 meeting June 11-12.

Having announced last year his intention to retire from the ERLC, Land, 66, became the commission’s president emeritus June 1, when Russell Moore moved into the president’s role. The ERLC trustees elected Moore as president in late March. On July 1, Land will become president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, N.C.

Elected as president in 1988, Land led the transformation of the ethics entity during the SBC’s conservative resurgence. He directed the commission as it became a stalwart advocate for the sanctity of human life and religious freedom while it maintained its biblical stances on such issues as racial reconciliation and marriage.

Jimmy Draper, the keynote speaker and a former SBC president, said, “No



Richard Land and his wife, Rebekah, were honored June 8 for serving the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission for 25 years. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

one in our lifetime has had a greater impact on the social and ethical attitudes and actions of Southern Baptists than Richard Land.”

Land said it has been “the blessing of

a lifetime” to serve Southern Baptists.

The dinner came not only in a year marking Land’s 25th anniversary as head of the SBC’s ethics entity but his 50th anniversary in vocational Christian ministry and the 60th anniversary of his conversion to Christ. It also took place in the city where he grew up and became a Christian.

During the dinner, the ERLC’s trustees presented a check for \$250,000 to representatives of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to go toward the Richard Land Center for Cultural Engagement. The seminary is the center’s home.

The ERLC trustees also presented gifts to Land and his wife, Rebekah.

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

Missions

Continued from page 1

recognized as the top giving church among all SBC churches. In 2012, N.C. Baptists gave \$13,498,146.88 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, up \$905,000 from the previous year. All total, Southern Baptist churches gave \$149,276,303.72 to the 2012 Offering, up more than \$2 million from last year. That amount, however, did fall short of the \$175 million goal.

Elliff expressed appreciation to all the churches that sacrificially give so that missionaries can be sent out to share the gospel around the world. "Working together you see a greater work than you ever could apart," he said.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering helps support missionaries serving in some of the hardest areas of the world. Although many lost people live in countries that are not open to the gospel and do not allow individuals to enter the country on a missionary visa, people are hungry for truth, he said.

"The IMB long ago made a decision that because a person was born in those hard places they should not be denied the opportunity to hear the gospel," Elliff said. "Satan has gotten us to believe that the world's basic response to the gospel is resistance. The reality is that the world is filled with broken-hearted people wondering when someone is going to tell them the truth; something that will change their life."

Nearly one billion people in the world are likely to live and die without ever hearing the gospel.

Two years ago the IMB introduced "Embrace," an effort to help churches engage unreached, unengaged people groups with the gospel. In addition to sending out IMB missionaries to live



Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem was the top giving church for the 2012 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Gary Chapman, senior associate pastor, and Guy Hipp, senior associate pastor/coordination and accountability, were in Houston for the special recognition. (BR photo by K. Allan Blume)

overseas, church members actually become the missionaries as their churches embrace an unreached people group and commit to work among those people for the sake of the gospel.

Two years ago, the world was home to 3,800 unreached, unengaged people groups. Now, through the work of Southern Baptist churches, that number is 3,047. "That is the greatest reduction in unreached, unengaged people groups in the history of the Christian faith," Elliff said. "This is the opportunity for the greatest advancement of the gospel."

Believers must continue to remain faithful to penetrating lostness and sharing the gospel.

"Missions ought to cause you to weep," Elliff said. "I pray you will pray desperately for the kind of revival among Southern Baptists that will bring forth laborers for the harvest."

To learn more about embracing unreached, unengaged people groups visit www.imb.org. **BR**

Twenty ways to be part of VBS

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a significant way your church can open the door to the surrounding community. You may think VBS is only for children and not for you, but VBS is most successful when the church embraces it as a total church ministry. Here are ways you can help in sharing the work of VBS:

- Pray before VBS for the leaders, children and families they represent.
- Pray for good weather and health for teachers and their families.
- Pray for receptive hearts for the children who may be hearing the gospel for the first time.
- Distribute flyers and posters in your neighborhood.
- Transport children to VBS.
- Offer to drive the church van to pick up children whose parents may be working.
- Donate children's snacks or sponsor a special treat for the teachers' lounge. This is a great ministry for a Sunday School class.
- If your church orders VBS T-shirts, manage the order and distribution of the shirts.
- Cut out materials for leaders.



CHERYL MARKLAND
Guest Column

- Shop for VBS supplies.
- Help with decorating the classroom.
- Be an escort for VBS guests who need to find classrooms.
- Collect and maintain VBS attendance records.
- Be a department runner, helping teachers with last-minute supplies or copies.
- Help plan or clean up after a teacher training event or parent night.
- Invite unchurched families to Sunday School or a small group meeting.
- Add your name to the substitute teacher list.
- Pray for children who made professions of faith.

● Pray for the families who need to hear the message of Christ and those from your church who will make this happen.

● Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue His work in the life of your church and children's ministry.

Think VBS is not for you? Think again! God has a place for you in this wonderful ministry. Just pick one of the listed items above and get started!

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Cheryl Markland is the childhood ministry consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.) **BR**

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Each submission will be subject to style, length and clarity adjustments. Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127. Like the *Biblical Recorder* fan page on facebook and follow us on Twitter: [#biblicalrecord](https://twitter.com/biblicalrecord).

July 4 is reason to celebrate and to pray

Our nation's capital, Washington, D.C., is home to many monuments and memorials that help us honor and remember those brave Americans throughout our history who fought for the freedoms we now enjoy in these United States.

If you have visited the 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site in New York City, you know this is also an important place. This memorial includes the names of those who died during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. On this day, when our freedom was under attack in America, there were those who gave up their life in order to save the lives of others.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

As we look to celebrate America's Independence Day in about two weeks, I hope you are reminded to pray for the citizens of this great country that has been so blessed by God. I love this land and I believe we live in a great nation. I am proud of the American spirit and the way our citizens rush to care for people in need. However, I need to ask how burdened you are about the spiritual condition present in our land today? I fear we are destined for moral ruin and spiritual destruction apart from a supernatural intervention by God, an intervention that can alter our present course. How can we expect God to bless this nation if we

continue on our present course where sin is rampant, the Bible is ignored and the existence of the only true God is denied by so many?

The Bible admonishes us to pray for those in authority so we must pray for our governmental leadership. Pray that these leaders will make decisions pleasing to God. We should pray for our teachers, who are in key leadership roles as they equip and influence our country's future leaders. Pray for the salvation of many who serve in our armed forces and pray that God would provide them with wisdom, courage and protection.

Systems of government can change and government leaders can change. Yet, Christ's rule and reign will never change. The leadership and authority of our Savior is the only thing in this world that is

constant and that will never fail.

Do you recognize that a spiritual revival must occur within the church of Jesus Christ before we can hope to see a great harvest of the lost? Pray that our pastors will be passionate in their preaching about real freedom in Christ. Pray that North Carolina Baptists will be bold in our witness for Christ, and that our lives will be radiant examples of what it means to know and love God.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, let us be grateful to God for all the blessings He so freely gives, but let us also celebrate the ultimate freedom and deliverance we know in Christ. Let that freedom ring so that others may hear and many will come to know Him.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." *Psalm 33:12* **BR**

Give me liberty

One of the most famous speeches of the revolutionary war was delivered in a packed church building. The windows were wide open to allow those gathered outside the church to hear. On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry spoke the famous words, “Give me liberty or give me death,” to colonial delegates and concerned citizens gathered at St. Johns Church near Richmond in the colony of Virginia. Among those who sat in awe of the compelling speech were Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

Henry recounted the many appeals the colonists had offered to the throne of England and its parliament to “arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and parliament.” Their appeals were “slighted,” producing only “additional violence and insult” and “contempt” from the throne of England. He said, “If we wish to be free – if we wish to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long engaged, ... we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight!”

England called the colonists weak, particularly in contrast to the superior British military resources. Henry’s famous speech stated, “Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power.” He added, “we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a

just God Who presides over the destinies of nations, and Who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us.”

With passion and conviction Henry closed his persuasive speech with, “I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

The colonists fought and won against all odds. Since then the United States of America has basked in the freedoms purchased by their courage, their convictions, their blood and their prayers.

In a few days Americans will celebrate another Independence Day. July 4th will mark the 237th anniversary of our forefathers’ decision to establish a country committed to the values of “...life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” We enjoy the liberties of this celebration only because biblical values dominated the minds and hearts of colonial patriots.

Freedom is not an endemic value of paganism, atheism or liberalism. These worldviews peddle the theories of “license,” all the while believing they are advancing liberty. There is a vast difference between license and liberty. License is a self-indulgent lifestyle. It produces bondage, not liberty.

Freedom is conceived in truth – biblical truth. Therefore it is only through the exercise of truth that freedom can prosper. It advances on the tracks of sacrifice and humility.

Jesus said it this way, “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32, NKJV). He expanded our understanding of freedom with an additional statement, “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free

indeed” (John 8:36, NKJV).

The apostle Paul wrote, “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2, NKJV). In other words, the only time and the only way I am free to do the right thing is when I am set free from the bondage of sin. As long as an individual or a nation is enslaved to sin, it is never free.

America needs the truth of the gospel if we are to remain free. America also needs bold voices of biblical conviction who value freedom. The preaching of biblical truth gave birth to America through the voices of George Whitefield, Jonathan Mayhew, Samuel Cooper, James Caldwell and many others. President John Adams stated that godly preachers were most influential in the “awakening and revival of American principles” that led to our independence.

If we want to “let freedom ring” again in America, the pulpit must be known for the heralding of truth. Silence is not an option.

I recently purchased a book titled, *Tyrants: History’s 100 Most Evil Despots and Dictators*. As you would expect, it tells the story of Herod the Great, Nero, At-

tilla the Hun, Mary I of England, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Adolph Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Muammar al-Gaddafi and others. Without exception, not one of the one hundred tyrannical rulers led by biblical truth. Not one permitted freedom to exist under their rule.

Ours is a corrupt land where voices of humanism scream louder than voices of truth.

The hypocritical cries for “tolerance” have given birth to the exercise of tyranny toward voices of dissent. Christians are being pressured into silence in unprecedented attacks on Christianity and the Bible.

The “scandal de jour” headlining the news should cause grave concerns for every Christian. Each scandal is exposing the threat to personal freedoms and to the general principles of a free nation. We are dangerously close to the extinction of freedom in America. Are we paying attention, or do we somehow find selfish solace in blindly following political pied pipers?

Christians are the salt that prevents decay and corruption. If we do not speak up now, it will soon be too late. If we do not speak up, no one else will. **BR**

Calvinism Continued from page 7

low,” Page said. “We need to act on this to say, ‘We’ve co-existed for a long time, but it will only work when we do what we’ve said [we should do] – talk to [one another], not at, not about.’”

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a committee member, said, going in, he wanted to see the document reflect the strong belief that both sides are responsible for and “involved in winning people to Christ.” He also wanted it to urge “honesty” on the part of potential pastors for church leadership roles. The report met his goals, he said.

“Just be honest. Be forthright, up front [about beliefs on Calvinism],” Patterson said, speaking to those who submit resumes for church positions. “The document calls for that. All of us agree to that. We have tried to model that to the best of our ability.”

David Allen, dean of Southwestern’s school of theology and a member of the committee, said that when discussing the subject of Calvinism, it’s important that neither side “misrepresent one another’s positions.”

“It’s very important that we respect what someone says they believe and allow them to define what they say they believe,” Allen said.

Mark Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and a committee member, said one way to have dialogue with “someone you disagree with” is to get together and “try to state things [you think] the other person agrees with you on.”

“You come around to having to understand what the other person says,” Dever said.

During a question-and-answer time, the panel was asked if both strands of theology can exist in the same church or whether a church needs to take a stand on one particular side.

Steve Lemke, provost and director of the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, noted that both Calvinists and non-Calvinists teach at NOBTS. Lemke served on the committee.

“There is a natural tendency for people who are likeminded to share together, Lemke said.

“So probably the direction and interest and theology of the pastor is going to affect the sort of persons that join that church.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Michael Foust is associate editor of Baptist Press. Visit <http://www.brnow.org/Resources/SBC-2013> for full story as well as complete coverage of the annual meeting.) **BR**

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June 30

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

July 7

God Dwells Among His People

Focal Passages: Exodus 26:30-33; 29:43-46; 40:34-38

You've heard it said, "The devil is in the details." If you're a guy you've probably tried to assemble a toy or piece of furniture by skipping those wordy directions and simply going by the picture. Unfortunately, the picture is one-dimensional. When you begin to read through the Bible, you may be tempted to skip all that detailed stuff that begins in the latter chapters of Exodus. Although we find there a lot of unfamiliar details, we must remember that God is in the details. God was not only giving Moses details for the tabernacle based on the heavenly reality (Hebrews 8:5); He was also pointing toward greater things to come.

In addition to providing the details for the construction of the tabernacle, God also promised that He would meet with His people there and set apart as holy the tabernacle, its altar and its priests. As a result the people of Israel would know He was the God who delivered them from Egypt. God provided this place of divine revelation so His people would

focus on His glory. Ultimately, God would reveal His glory through His Son: "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt (literally, "tabernacled") among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Through the finished work of Jesus we have become temples of the Holy Spirit, experiencing His constant presence with us. Consequently, we are called to glorify God in our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).

I've known two types of hunters: those who see the target and then shoot, and those who fire away hoping to hit a desirable target. The children of Israel were given clear manifestations of God's presence with a cloud by day and fire by night. They knew better than to try and manufacture God's work, yet they fell into idolatry. Do you hold your position until the Spirit of God leads you, or are you asking Him to follow your lead?



TROY RUST
Senior pastor,
Somerset Baptist Church,
Roxboro

God Establishes a Kingdom for His People

Focal Passages: 2 Samuel 7:8-17, 22-24

Several years ago I began to research my family's genealogy. In addition to learning the names and places of my ancestors, I have thought about how little they knew about the coming generations. Many of them could not imagine a new country, a new language or a new culture. David certainly could not have imagined how God ultimately would make his descendants a blessing to all nations. Only the Son of David would eternally occupy the throne, give His people an eternally great name, and give them eternal rest from all their enemies (even death).

Have you ever desired to do something great for God? What if God plans to make you a link in the chain to doing something great through someone else? If God's glory remains your greatest desire, you'll be OK just knowing you've been used by God. If your glory becomes the goal you'll be

nothing less than the hook of the chain, the front man for God's work. David wanted to build a temple, but God chose Solomon. While David was by no means obscure, his life was a memory when Solomon's temple was built. The front man is transient; God's glory remains unchanged in every generation.

My 2-year-old son has become a professional pouter. He knows how to lower his head, fold his arms, and roll out his bottom lip when he doesn't get his way. This response is cute for now but will become increasingly irritating with time. Certainly no one enjoys a grown-up pouter.

Imagine how David could have responded to being passed over for building the temple. Instead he chose to worship God, declaring His greatness, and asked, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?" (2 Samuel 7:18). May we be like Dave Roever, the injured Vietnam veteran who prayed concerning his physical scars, "Lord, You're the Potter, I'm the clay. Whatever You make of me will be just fine, as long as it's You who does the making."

June 30

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

July 7

What Do I Do Now?

Focal Passages: Job 31:5-6, 9-10, 13-17, 24-30, 33-34

Captain Scott Smiley has climbed Mt. Ranier, completed a triathlon, and earned an MBA, all after losing his eyesight in Iraq. What happened? Receiving news that potential suicide bombers might be in the area, he ordered a suspicious driver to get out of his vehicle; instead, the terrorist blew up his car leaving dead and injured American soldiers in the wake. Scott Smiley lost both his eyes. He would be transported to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for rehabilitation and to receive his prosthetic eyes. Life for him was very Job-like.

He attributes his recovery to his Christian faith and his wife and loved ones: "It was my wife, Tiffany, my family and friends who were in my hospital room singing songs and reading the Bible that gave me the strength during my recovery. ... It was all of this which allowed me to put one foot in front of the other and has allowed me to accomplish everything that I have done to get to where I am today." Discouragement did not derail

Scotty Smiley's life. In 2009 he started teaching leadership courses at his alma mater, West Point, and in 2010 accepted command of their U.S. Army Warrior transition unit. He is also the first blind active-duty officer in the U.S. Army and the author of *Hope Unseen*.

As Job looked upon his life, he was convinced that when God weighed out his life, he would be found to be a man of integrity.

He was not guilty of any sexual impropriety. Furthermore, he had treated slaves, widows, the poor and orphans with compassion and generosity. He hadn't cursed or harmed his enemies, nor had he put his confidence in gold or other riches. Unlike the Chaldeans, he had refrained from worshipping the sun, moon, or other objects. Job was convinced that he was totally honest with himself and with God. The question "What do I do now?" begins with an honest appraisal of the present. Like Scott Smiley, Job's future was also "hope unseen."



WAYNE PROCTOR
Pastor, Eure
Baptist Church

Am I on the Right Path?

Focal Passages: Job 33:13-22; 36:8-12

Chuck Colson was desperate. In an attempt to make sense out of his life he visited a friend, Tom Phillips, who at that time was chairman and CEO of Raytheon, a major player in missile defense systems.

Colson would become embroiled in the Watergate scandal fallout in a few months, but now he wanted some peace of mind and spirit, qualities he saw in his friend. Phillips explained that until the last few years his life was also getting out of control.

At the age of 40 he had become the head of a major U.S. company, and by all appearances was successful.

He had a wonderful family, plenty of money, but the non-stop work was getting to him. He would often pace the floor of his study all night long because he could not sleep.

Then while in New York City, Phillips noticed that Billy Graham was preach-

ing in Madison Square Garden. He went, and exited a changed man. He accepted Christ in his life, and he encouraged Colson to do likewise.

Later that night, alone in his car, Colson committed his life to God as best as he knew how. Today we know of Chuck Colson as one of the most significant Christian leaders of the past three decades. He found the right path for his life, and until his death last year, was uncompromising in his faith.

At this point in Job's life, his three friends had given their best efforts to convince Job of his guilt. They had failed. Now a younger observer, Elihu, confronts Job with a passionate and angry response. Here is a summary of Elihu's argument: God speaks and sometimes we don't notice. He warns us to turn away from evil actions and pride.

When there is repentance, God spares one's soul from the pit, from crossing the "river of death."

The implication is that Job is on the wrong path, that he has somehow missed God's rebuke. Happiness and prosperity come to those who are right with God (36:11).

Harvest America stretches to N.C.

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

North Carolina Baptists can bring Greg Laurie into their homes or churches in September.

Laurie, senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif., and Harvest Orange County in Irvine, Calif., was recently part of the lineup at the Pastor's Conference prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston.

But in September he could be streaming live to a venue near you. Laurie will be in Philadelphia Sept. 28-29 for his Harvest America crusade.

Area churches brought Laurie to Raleigh via Internet in 2012, and the screen didn't seem to distract those who watched.



(c2athisweek.org/CMS/) on FM/AM radio in North Carolina's major cities, serves as Harvest's director of East Coast mobilization.

A member of Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh, Noble helped organize efforts when Raleigh hosted Laurie for a Harvest event in 2007. Noble's radio show – on Monday through Friday – provides a regular platform

“Once he's preaching, it didn't matter,” said Steve Noble about last year's event. “It's just the Word of God and the message.”

Noble, host of Called2Action Today

for him to share about Harvest and other ministries promoting the gospel.

The Harvest event is a few weeks before My Hope with Billy Graham (myhopewithbillygraham.org). Noble said the two could be paired together since both are evangelistic outreach opportunities.

New believers, who make decisions during the crusade, could use the My Hope opportunity in November to share their faith with others, Noble said.

'Hope is on the Way'

Throughout the summer, an 18-wheel mobile theater – emblazoned with “Hope is on the Way” on the side – is promoting Harvest America.

See Harvest page 16

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Conservative Baptist church located near Fort Bragg seeking a **Pastor** who is evangelistic minded, Bible believing and has a servant spirit to minister to a congregation with a vision toward the future. We are seeking Southern Baptist applicants who have ministry experience. Divinity degree is required. Resumes may be submitted to: Pulpit Chairman, 4575 Ray Rd., Spring Lake, NC 28390. (Or PSCGS@yahoo.com).

Corinth Baptist Church, 1107 Cornwallis Road, Rose Hill, NC 28458, is seeking a **full-time Pastor/Teacher** to serve our congregation and community. SBC-aligned. Ideal candidate should be Kingdom focused and stand firm in the Word of God. Please send resumes to CorinthSecretary@yahoo.com or mail to church office at address above, Attention Pastor Search Committee. Resumes will be accepted until July 31, 2013.

Bethel Baptist Church in Dublin, North Carolina, seeks **full-time Pastor** to live in parsonage. We are a SBC church and member of the Bladen Baptist Association. Average attendance is 140 in Sunday School and 180 in worship service. For more information email me at mbrisson@embarqmail.com or call Bobby Roberts at 910-633-2073.

LOOKING FOR CHURCH PLANTER/PASTOR Paradigm Church, Box Elder South Dakota Established Mission, Averaging 70 weekly; Next door to Elsworth AFB and five schools. Huge potential for growth. A heart for people to know Christ a must. Already has building on over 4 acres. To submit resume call Justin Dancer 605-863-1569; email Justin@hillsofgrace.com.

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

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

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

Church Staff

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

Trinity Baptist Church, a large multi-generational church established in 1954 and located in mid-town Raleigh, NC, is seeking a **Preschool Ministry Associate** for the purpose of administrating well-rounded Christian education for preschoolers and their families. Candidate should have a college degree and theological education from an appropriate institution or willingness to attend. For full job description go to www.tbcraleigh.com. Please send resumes to jroberts@tbcraleigh.com by July 7, 2013.

Bible Missionary Baptist Church is searching for an **associate minister** with a focus on youth and small group ministries. Responsibilities will include but are not limited to leading Sunday contemporary service, youth ministry outreach and small groups. Full-time compensation package is available. Please send resumes to: Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Attn: Pastoral Search Committee, 2833 Tilghman Road, Wilson, NC 27896, or bmbc@nc.rr.com.

Piney Grove Baptist Church of Swansboro, NC, is seeking a **full-time Youth and Children's Minister** to develop and lead our youth ministry and to direct our children's program. We are seeking someone spiritually mature, energetic and on fire for Jesus with related education, sound biblical theology, sufficient experience and skills, and a passion for reaching and nurturing children, teens and their families. Resumes may be submitted to Aubrey Riggs, 3777 Freedom Way, Hubert, NC 28539, or e-mailed to the4edwards@hotmail.com.

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

Catawba Valley Baptist Church, located in Morganton, NC, is seeking a **Minister of Music and Worship**. This position is one that involves working and leading the worship choir, praise team and instrumental ensemble. This position is part-time and could potentially lead to a full-time staff member. We are seeking a person that has a heart to serve the Lord, desire to reach people through music and one that will lead worship in a blended format. A musical background is preferred. Interested candidates should submit resumes to Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 1580, Morganton, NC 28680, or via email to cvbcsecretary@att.net.

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

Miscellaneous

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- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at BRnow.org
- Send a Fax to (919) 847-6939

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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Harvest

Continued from page 15

The truck was parked at the SBC annual meeting and in Charlotte a few weeks ago for a couple of races.

A 27-seat theater allows participants to feel like they are attending a crusade. People can sign up to host or for more information at the truck, which will be stopping at bookstores, radio rallies and concerts. Harvest crusades began in 1990 in Orange County, Calif. Since then, Laurie has preached to nearly 5 million people.

“It is however you want to use it,” Noble said, indicating people can participate via Internet, satellite television or a Roku device. The latter was what Noble used at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium last year.

These Harvest events offer people a “cost-effective way to reach a boatload of people,” Noble said.

The two-night event includes one night geared to a more urban audience. Sept. 28, the musical guests will be Kirk Franklin, LeCrae and Needtobreathe. The next night, MercyMe and Jeremy Camp will perform. The ministry’s Anaheim crusades drew almost 125,000 people. But the number of people viewing it online has continued to grow and in recent crusades has surpassed the physical attendance.



Steve Noble uses his radio show Called2Action Today as a platform to spread information about ministry opportunities, including Harvest America. (Contributed photo)

College site

One of the places Laurie was streamed in 2012 was at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs.

Part of a multi-denominational, multi-ethnic effort with the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, the event drew around 2,000 people. More than 40 decisions were made.

“I think it’s going to be a wave of the future,” said Keith Dixon, asso-

ciational missionary. “It was a good thing for the churches to get together.”

Part of the draw of using the streaming event was the versatility. Churches, organizations and even individuals can build an event around Laurie’s message, using the included music or providing your own.

For Greater Cleveland’s association, they utilized a combined choir. More than 100 people sang in the choir leading up to Laurie’s message.

Get the word out

Smaller and more rural churches have been more apt to use the streaming option because a crusade of this magnitude is unlikely to be held in their areas. “It’s not going to happen,” Noble said, indicating that Laurie or Billy Graham would not hold a crusade in a smaller city because there wouldn’t be a large enough venue. “They’d have to drive to a big city to get it.”

But he encourages those churches to go to the site and sign up to host the September event. The crusade is easy to stream live at a variety of locations – from someone’s living room, a church or a concert hall – and for a relatively low cost. Gardner-Webb’s facility was offered to the organizers for use.

Noble’s vision for Harvest America is not just for the crusade this year. He’s strategically planning a long-term campaign.

He has already communicated with many of the state offices for Baptist conventions in the south and plans to visit them to share about opportunities available to them through the ministry.

If he doesn’t recruit them this year, he wants them to come on board in 2014 or 2015. The ministry usually hosts two or three big events each year that can be simulcast. “I like these things because they get people thinking in terms of the Kingdom,” Noble said. “It gets you outside of my church, my Sunday School class and my friends to say ‘look what’s happening all over the nation.’”

Once someone signs up, they will be walked through simple steps on Harvest’s website (harvestamerica.com) to ensure they have what they need. **B**

Watch for information coming to your church in early June.
Promotional packets will be automatically mailed to the churches who have ordered NCMO materials in 2011 or 2012. For more information, please call 1-800-395-5102, x 5547.

www.NCMissionsOffering.org

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NCMO keeps two mobile medical/dental units on the road. These volunteer-operated clinics provided free medical and dental care to more than 3,500 patients in 131 locations across North Carolina last year.

NCMO also provides a third of the church planting ministry of the Baptist State Convention, helping start 101 new churches during 2012. These new churches helped lead 3,036 people to faith in Christ last year — and these churches will continue to minister for years to come.

Start preparing your church to support this important offering this September.