



# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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## 26 new missionaries obey God’s call to the nations

By JULIE MCGOWAN | IMB

**D**avid and Zoey Lee know they can go as Southern Baptist missionaries today because Christian believers in the past sacrificed to get the gospel to their homeland – a truth they shared June 11 during a Sending Celebration to honor the appointment of 26 new Southern Baptist international missionaries.

“Many missionaries came to Korea and laid down their lives for our people,” said David Lee. “We would not be able to stand here without their obedience to God’s call.”

“Twenty years ago, I never imagined sharing the gospel with people from other cultures,” added his wife Zoey Lee. “In the past 10 years, I’ve shared the gospel of Christ with 30 different people groups in America. I’ve learned it’s the power of God that works in us and through us.”

The Lees, including their three children, are sent by Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, to share the gospel among Sub-Saharan African people in Madagascar. The International Mission Board (IMB) service honoring the appointees illuminated a dark Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center arena with colorful banners and praise music during the SBC annual meeting’s Tuesday session.

Moments earlier, IMB President Paul Chitwood had reported that Southern Baptists continue working toward seeing the vision of Revelation 7:9 fulfilled. He noted fulfilling that vision will require cross-cultural missionaries from many nations.

“And one of the ways God will accomplish a great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before His throne and

[See Call page 3](#)



## SBC SUPPORTS SURVIVORS, EMBRACES DIVERSITY

By ERIN ROACH | Baptist Press

**S**outhern Baptists acted in support of sexual abuse survivors, embraced ethnic and gender diversity and rallied around the Great Commission at their annual meeting June 11-12 in Birmingham, Ala.

Messengers strengthened their stance against sexual abuse and racism by overwhelmingly approving two amendments to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Constitution specifically stating that sexual abuse and discrimination based on ethnicity are grounds for a church to be deemed “not in friendly cooperation” with the convention.

Also approved was an amendment to the SBC’s Bylaws to repurpose the convention’s Credentials Committee into a standing committee to make inquiries and recommendations for action regarding instances of

sexual abuse, racism or other issues that call a church’s relationship with the SBC into question.

The constitutional amendments will require a second two-thirds messenger vote at next year’s SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. The repurposing of the Credentials Committee required only a two-thirds vote this year as an amendment to the convention’s Bylaws.

The annual meeting drew 8,183 messengers, SBC registration secretary Don Currence said in releasing the unofficial total. The total attendance was close to 12,000.

### Sexual abuse prevention

Three days before the annual meeting, the Sexual Abuse Advisory Study issued a report after 10 months

[See Diversity page 8](#)

## LifeWay camp staffer charged with child molestation

*Biblical Recorder*

**A** staffer at CentriKid Camp was charged with multiple counts of child molestation recently in Overgaard, Ariz., according to a statement by Brad Waggoner, acting CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Noah Paradis, 19, worked at the camp, a LifeWay ministry, the week of June 10-14. LifeWay immediately terminated his employment and alerted the six churches that attended the camp at Bison Ranch Retreat Center.

Camp leaders immediately notified state and county authorities and the victims’ parents when they learned of the incident that involved two minors.

“We are heartbroken for the victims and the victims’ families,” Waggoner said.

“I commend the victims for their bravery in disclosing the abuse. Our primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of all our camp participants. We are grieved that someone representing LifeWay would behave in

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# Southern Baptists won't tolerate abuse, racism

In a moving moment during this year's Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting, SBC President J.D. Greear invited victims of sexual abuse to stand as he and others led in a prayer of lament, repentance and sorrow over the instances of abuse that have taken place within our convention.

As many women and men stood courageously, a spirit of brokenness and repentance filled the arena of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center. One day earlier, messengers in attendance overwhelmingly approved proposed changes to the SBC's constitution and bylaws that would deem sexual abuse and racial discrimination as grounds for a church to be declared not in friendly cooperation with our convention.

In Birmingham, Southern Baptists took a strong stand and made a definitive statement that said to the world that we are not going to tolerate any form of abuse or racism. While we acknowledge what has taken place and repent over what has happened, we are not going to let it continue. Southern Baptists, the greater Christian community and the world at large has a right to expect and demand better from individuals in leadership positions. Most importantly, scripture demands we take these actions.

I'm thankful for the work of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group that was appointed by President Greear last year. The group, along with the SBC's Ethics & Reli-

gious Liberty Commission, has developed a resource titled *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused* that is now available to every church at no cost. You can access the resource at [churchcares.com](http://churchcares.com).



**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**  
SBC executive  
director-treasurer

During this year's meeting, SBC leaders encouraged every church to take the "Caring Well Challenge" by committing to work through the resource as a church. You can learn more at [caringwell.com](http://caringwell.com). The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina also has dedicated resources to assist our local churches to recognize, report and respond to cases of abuse. You can learn more about these resources by contacting state convention staff member Cheryl Markland at [cmarkland@ncbaptist.org](mailto:cmarkland@ncbaptist.org).

As President Greear noted, issues of abuse and racism are gospel issues and aligned well with this year's meeting theme of "Gospel Above All."

Our Lord Jesus Christ cared for the weak and the vulnerable, and He warned against those who would cause them to stumble.

Every single person possesses infinite worth because they are made in the image of God. There is no place for discrimination on the basis of gender or ethnicity within the body of Christ. Also, we must do all that we can do to equip and encourage our brothers and sisters to serve the Lord in places of leadership that are affirmed by scripture.

Among the highlights of the SBC annual meeting for me each year are the reports from the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the International Mission



Board (IMB). NAMB reported on progress being made in church planting and baptisms in some challenging places for ministry. Once again, the IMB, under the leadership of the new president, Paul Chitwood, held a moving celebration for missionaries who are being commissioned and sent to the mission field. These things remind us as Southern Baptists of our commitment to get the gospel to the nations.

Although I am deeply troubled that the number of baptisms showed another year of decline across the SBC, I celebrate every new convert who has come to faith in Christ. I pray that every Southern Baptist will wake up to the condition of lostness in our state and nation and prioritize personal evangelism and discipling new believers.

As our convention continues to emphasize the "Who's Your One?" evangelism initiative, I challenge every North Carolina Baptist to begin praying for, spending time with and having gospel conversations with someone they know who does not know Christ.

During the NAMB report, Johnny Hunt shared that if just 10 percent of all Southern Baptists led one person to Christ in the next year, we would see the highest number of baptisms in the history of the SBC.

May we all prioritize our lives so that the gospel is supremely above all we do.

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures" – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV). **BR**



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr., center, participated in a panel discussion June 10 on the importance of the Cooperative Program for state conventions along with Gary Hollingsworth, right, executive director-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. "I'm thankful for how people in our churches give to support missions through the Cooperative Program and through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering," Hollifield said. "When they give, they are saying, 'We want to get the gospel to the nations.'" The panel was moderated by Nathan Finn, provost and dean of the faculty at North Greenville University, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala. (BSC photo by Chad Austin)

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# Resolutions contend for vulnerable, gospel

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

**M**essengers to the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) advocated for the vulnerable against abortion, sexual abuse and religious persecution in approving 13 resolutions June 12.

The resolutions also addressed a variety of other noteworthy issues in the convention and the world, including local church autonomy, same-sex attraction, justice, women in the military draft and gene editing.

On abortion, the messengers applauded the recent enactment of state laws to restrict or prohibit abortion and called for the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized the lethal procedure. In a meeting that made the sexual abuse crisis in the SBC a priority, messengers passed a resolution that condemned and lamented all such abuse and called on churches and institutions to establish a safe culture for survivors and to guard against and confront abuse.

Messengers also approved a measure in which they pledged to pray for the end of persecution in China and North Korea and called on the United States and the international community to make religious freedom a “top priority.”

Curtis Woods, chairman of the 10-member Resolutions Committee, told



Curtis Woods, left, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, answers questions at a press conference after the committee's report June 12 at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission was also available for questions. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

reporters the “overarching theme” of the panel’s report “would have been protection – protection of the unborn as well as protection of those who could find themselves vulnerable to sexual abuse, as well as just keeping the gospel of Jesus Christ first, advancing the gospel, being concerned about the Great Commission.”

The Great Commission of Jesus Christ is vertical, horizontal and cosmological, he said in a news conference.

“God will make all things new in Christ Jesus. And all things will be summed up in Christ. The gospel pushes

us to protect and to love our neighbors well.”

Woods is co-interim executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and a member of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), commended the committee’s work in the news conference, saying it gave the messengers a group of “carefully thought-through resolutions that Southern Baptists could speak through, to speak to ourselves and to the larger

world.”

All the resolutions except one passed in unanimous or near-unanimous votes. A resolution on critical race theory and intersectionality still gained passage with a strong majority.

The resolution affirmed the Bible as “the first, last, and sufficient authority” regarding how the church tries to amend social evils and said critical race theory and intersectionality should only be used in submission to scripture.

The resolution described critical race theory as a set of tools to explain how race functions in society and intersectionality as the study of how various characteristics overlap.

Tom Ascol, senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Fla., sought to amend the resolution, including with language to say critical race theory and intersectionality are “rooted in ideologies that are incompatible with Christianity.”

Woods told the messengers in response, “What we are saying is that this can be utilized simply as an analytical tool, not a transcendent worldview above the authority of scripture, and we stand by the strength of this resolution.”

Messengers also approved resolutions in which they:

- Reaffirmed the doctrine of local church autonomy under Christ’s lordship

See Resolutions page 8

## Help share the ‘Word’ on the opioid epidemic

By ROBERT E. JORDAN | Guest Column

**I** need a sermon occasionally for a special emphasis in the church I serve. Even after 40-plus years of preaching, I enjoy an outline that sparks my interest and provides me with the basis for a special sermon.

Thankfully our mission organizations and many other collateral agencies provide these special sermons. I am always thankful for their assistance and seek to make the provided sermon my own.

However, there is one type of sermon that I just don’t seem to find and feel so inadequate to pen myself. It is a sermon that deals with the issues of addiction from the perspective of scripture.

As you may know, we are in crisis conditions with addiction and substance abuse. We have long watched the issue of alcoholism in our churches and now opioid issues are fast becoming the epidemic that we fear.

As ministers of God’s Word, I feel that we are duty bound to give a redemptive word from the Bible about the issues of addiction. Also, once we have crafted a word, it is so helpful to share our work with others who can re-use our effort and add theirs. If we did not believe this, we would only preach our feelings and never source the Holy Word.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee has been addressing the impact of opioid poisoning this year. We began by studying the effect of this epidemic in our own

neighborhoods. I ask each of you to do the same investigation in your community.

We are now in the process of requesting and collecting sermons that can be used by other ministers across our state. Our goal is to have an electronic site in the future for anyone who wants a sermon, but we need your help and participation.

We are seeking a variety of sermons to publish and make available for pastors. As you prayerfully prepare your sermon, consider what needs to be said to the addict.

What needs to be said to the enablers of those addicts? What needs to be said to the sleeping church about this issue?

After you have completed your sermon outlines and related thoughts, you may submit them to the committee through the online form available at [ncbaptist.org/clpasubmit](http://ncbaptist.org/clpasubmit). A member of our committee will then edit and make them ready for publication.

In addition to sermons, the committee also plans to provide pastors and churches with the names of agencies across our state that provide counseling and treatment.

Again, I need a sermon, and I need it from you. I know you can do this to help fellow ministers of the gospel.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Robert Jordan is chair of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee.) **BR**



### Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

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



# NAMB reports on ‘Who’s Your One?’, church planting

By **BRANDON ELROD** | NAMB

If 10 percent of church attenders in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) decided to pray for and see one person come to Christ over the next year, Southern Baptists would record the highest number of baptisms in the history of the SBC.

Johnny Hunt shared that statistic during the North American Mission Board’s (NAMB) presentation at the SBC’s annual meeting to underscore the importance of the “Who’s Your One?” evangelism initiative. Hunt serves as senior vice president of evangelism and leadership at NAMB.

Who’s Your One headlined NAMB’s time on stage June 11 during the annual meeting of the SBC in Birmingham, Ala.

“We’ve got to get our focus back on the ‘ones,’” Hunt said. “Whatever is important to us, pastors, as the leaders, is what becomes important to our people.”

Hunt joined NAMB president Kevin Ezell and SBC President J.D. Greear for a discussion about the importance of evangelism in turning around declining baptism numbers.

“God, help Southern Baptists. God, lay on our heart what’s on Yours. He came to seek and to save that which was lost,” Hunt said. “We can do it. I’m telling you, under God, we can do it. So, we’ve got to lead our people and trust God.”

Greear described the role that every Southern Baptist plays in seeing more

people come to Christ.

“When you study church history, you see that every great awakening and massive spread of the gospel always happened through so-called ‘ordinary’ people, not through people that are in fulltime ministry,” Greear said. “We serve the movement, but we’re not the tip of the spear of the movement.”

Across the SBC, there are different methods and strategies for reaching the unreached that fit different contexts, the report noted. Greear said that Who’s Your One is broad enough to include the various strategies and narrow enough for every Southern Baptist to rally around.

“We are going to turn that number [of baptisms] around,” Greear said, “when every Southern Baptist says ‘the Great Commission is my responsibility, and I’m the one who’s got to cross that relational bridge to bring somebody to faith in Christ.’”

Greear detailed how implementing Who’s Your One in his church, The Summit Church in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., area, changed the culture to a focus on bringing individuals in the community to Christ. More people are praying for their “ones” and seeing people come to faith, Greear said.

Hunt also shared about the upcoming Who’s Your One Tour which will bring evangelism events across North America to equip and encourage churches to commit to sharing their faith. The events will begin with a Sunday evening of inspira-

The Who’s Your One? tour begins Aug. 11-12 at Temple Baptist Church in Fayetteville. There will be a Sunday night rally at 6 p.m. Johnny Hunt will preach. There will also be an evangelism workshop Monday morning at 8 a.m. There will be another N.C. training March 8-9, 2020, at First Baptist Church in Indian Trail. Charles Billingsley is leading music.



Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, gives a report to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala. (BP photo by Adam Covington)

tion and encouragement followed by training the following morning.

“I wish every pastor, every staff person and their spouses and your key lay leaders would join us on those evenings,” Hunt said.

## NAMB ministries feature prominently

Ahead of the presentation, NAMB ministries played a role in the SBC’s opening session. Greear presented a \$250,000 check from Send Relief, NAMB’s compassion ministry arm, to Birmingham’s mayor, Randall Woodfin. The money will go toward school supplies for students in need.

Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, NAMB’s executive director of chaplaincy, delivered an opening message ahead of a time of prayer for the United States and its leaders.

## Ezell presents ministry report

Immediately before NAMB’s presentation, Ezell delivered his official report to the messengers at the SBC annual meeting.

The report focused on NAMB’s primary ministry areas of evangelism, Send Relief and Send Network.

“At NAMB, we are all about the gospel,” Ezell began. “Everything we do is to help Southern Baptists take the gospel to North America.”

Hunt has focused on catalyzing evangelism within SBC churches. Ezell pointed to the first major evangelism initiative, Who’s Your One, and the effect it has had across the convention.

“Already we have distributed more than 20,000 Who’s Your One evangelism church kits, 155,000 prayer guides and

1.4 million bookmarks,” Ezell reported. NAMB provides those resources to churches free of charge.

Ezell also highlighted GenSend and GO2, initiatives that engage college students and recent graduates to live on mission across North America and around the world through a partnership with the International Mission Board.

Send Relief continued to send resources and volunteers to Puerto Rico where Hurricane Maria struck in 2017, Ezell said.

In 2020, Send Relief will finalize the development on a new Ministry Center capable of housing up to 100 volunteers weekly to serve the island.

“Through Send Relief, we remain committed to changing lives with the hope of the gospel while delivering the help people so desperately need,” Ezell said.

“Nowhere is this on better display right now than in Puerto Rico.”

Along with the compassion ministry emphasis, NAMB also built up its church planting infrastructure on the island.

“Currently there are 12 active plants on the island, more than there have been in at least 30 years. In just one year, reported baptisms among Southern Baptist churches on the island increased by 113 percent,” Ezell reported.

Ezell underscored a few other states and regions where baptisms increased in 2018 and tied some of that success to the longevity new church starts are having.

“We have the gold standard in planter assessments, training, coaching and care. The four-year survival rate for our church plants now stands at 80 percent,” Ezell said, which compares to 68 percent in 2006.

More than 27 percent of Southern Baptist congregations outside the South have been started since 2010, Ezell said, and they account for 11 percent of all churches across the SBC. Of churches planted in 2018, 62 percent were non-Anglo or multi-ethnic.

While baptisms continue to be an issue in the SBC, baptism numbers increased in several states and regions outside the South where NAMB’s work is focused. Ezell also stated that more than 18 percent of all reported baptisms in the SBC came from churches started since 2010.

“We are sending planters to the field better prepared,” Ezell said.

“We are starting churches that are having staying power. And most importantly they are proclaiming the gospel, and we are seeing Kingdom results.” **BR**

Brian Davis, left, associate executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, joined a panel June 11 for the Filipino International Mission Board. Davis, along with Kyle Phillip, right, of GuideStone Financial Resources, and two other leaders answered questions on a variety of topics, including sexual abuse and retirement. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

who’s your  
**1ONE?**





# LifeWay search team nominates Ben Mandrell

*Biblical Recorder*

**T**he presidential search team for LifeWay Christian Resources announced June 21 that it is recommending Ben Mandrell as the new president and CEO.

Mandrell, 42, is currently the lead pastor at Storyline Fellowship in Arvada, Colo.

He would succeed Thom Rainer, who retired earlier this year. Brad Waggoner has been the acting president and CEO since March 1.

LifeWay's board of trustees is scheduled to meet June 28, when they will vote on Mandrell's nomination.

"I am so humbled by this incredible opportunity and grateful to be joining the amazing team of creatives at LifeWay," Mandrell said in a press release. "I can hardly wait to see what God has in store for these coming years."

Kent Dacus, chairman of the presidential search committee, said the unanimous recommendation followed a 10-month search, during which the team considered a diverse group of candidates. Dacus said Mandrell "has an in-



Ben Mandrell, seen here with his family, has been nominated by the search committee to be president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. The vote is scheduled for June 28 during a specially called meeting of the board. (LifeWay photo)

credible passion for the local church and for how LifeWay can help meet its needs. We found a leader who has a focused and compelling vision for the future of LifeWay."

Mandrell previously served as a col-

legiate minister and senior pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn. He moved to Colorado in 2014 to start Storyline Fellowship in partnership with Englewood and First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla. He was featured

as a church planter in the North American Mission Board's 2017 week of prayer, which coincides with the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions.

Chuck Lawless, vice president for spiritual formation and ministry centers at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, "Ben loves the lord, his family and the local church. He understands the importance of both strong theology and practical relevance. I see him as one of God's gifts to the SBC, and I could not be more thrilled for the future of LifeWay."

Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., said Mandrell "is the kind of visionary, disruptive leader that LifeWay needs just at this moment."

Mandrell received a bachelor's degree from Anderson University in Indiana, a master's degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and a doctoral degree from Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He and his wife, Lynley, have four children.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Check BRnow.org for updates on this story.) **BR**

## High court upholds cross on public land

By **TOM STRODE** | Baptist Press

**T**he U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 20 that a 40-foot cross on public land that serves as a memorial to World War I soldiers does not defy the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion.

In a 7-2 decision, the justices reversed

the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' opinion that a Latin cross in Bladensburg, Md., violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment under a nearly 50-year-old test by promoting Christianity. The American Humanist Association challenged the constitutionality of the cross, which was completed in 1925 to memorialize 49 soldiers from Prince

George's County, Md.

In its opinion, the high court did not go as far as some supporters of the memorial cross hoped it would. The justices declined to overturn what is known as the Lemon test, but they also refused to rely on it in their opinion. That three-prong test presented in the court's 1971 *Lemon v. Kurtzman* opinion says a law must have a secular purpose, not primarily promote or restrict religion and "not foster an excessive entanglement with religion" to avoid a violation of the Establishment Clause.

Many religious freedom advocates have criticized the Lemon test, saying it calls for a purge of religion from the public square that the U.S. Constitution does

not require. Nevertheless, defenders of the Bladensburg cross' constitutionality applauded the high court's ruling.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called it "a good, common sense decision from the court to uphold religious freedom and a nearly century-old memorial. I am thankful the justices saw through this attempt to amend the Establishment Clause to mean what [James] Madison did not write."

The case, however, split the normally liberal wing of the court. Associate Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan joined the majority, while Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissented. **BR**

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# Akin celebrates growth at Southeastern

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS

**S**outheastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Danny Akin celebrated the growth that has occurred in its enrollment and announced new partnerships, degree programs and staff changes within the seminary.

“If you ever walk on the campus of Southeastern Seminary, you will immediately catch the DNA of our institution, which is the Great Commission,” Akin said.

Southeastern Seminary and The College at Southeastern have seen significant growth with a current non-duplicating headcount of 4,700 students.

Akin also celebrated the recently announced partnership between Church Answers and the Revitalize Network to offer an M.A. in church revitalization, which will be taught by professors such as Thom Rainer, founder and CEO of Church Answers, executive director of the Revitalize Network and former president of LifeWay Christian Resources, and Sam Rainer, president of the Revitalize Network and Church Answers, co-founder and co-owner of Rainer Publishing and pastor of West Bradenton Baptist Church in Bradenton, Fla.

Southeastern’s Global Theological Initiative (GTI) office has seen significant development in its Hispanic, East Asian and Persian leadership development programs, Akin reported.

GTI works with strategic partners on six continents to create cohorts of selected leaders from their seminaries, mission boards, denominations and key churches.

GTI’s goal is to equip these national leaders so they may train local pastors and missionaries within their various contexts.

Through this initiative, Southeastern is training faculty and administrators from more than 40 seminaries in Brazil, the third leading country in sending missionaries.

Southeastern also is working to train faculty and administrators from seven schools across Ukraine and working to create a partnership with more than 40 theological training entities from 20 separate countries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

“In all of this we are training leaders who we pray will also go out and train leaders as well,” Akin said.

Akin honored Jamie Dew, former dean of The College at Southeastern who has been elected as president of NOBTS.

Under Dew’s leadership, the college more than doubled its enrollment to more than 1,200 students.

Akin said he counted it a joy to see Dew’s appointment to lead NOBTS in the days ahead.

“We are sorrowful in losing him, but we delight in God’s call upon his life to go to New Orleans Seminary,” Akin said.

“He has done a phenomenal job and served us with faithfulness and dedication.”

Akin reported that Scott Pace has been appointed to succeed Dew as dean of the college. Pace previously served as director of the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership as well as assistant professor of preaching at Southeastern.

As a part of The College at Southeastern, Akin celebrated the Hunt Scholar Program’s growth, which has doubled

since its inception and saw its first two graduates in May 2019.

The program is designed to provide both a bachelor of arts and master of divinity in pastoral ministry in as little as five years.

Akin also highlighted the continuation and growth of the North Carolina Field Minister Program, which allows long-term inmates in the North Carolina prison system to receive a bachelor of arts in pastoral ministry through The College at Southeastern.

In its third year, enrollment has risen to 80 students with a 91 percent retention rate.

Through partnership with Joe Gibbs Racing and Game Plan for Life, the program is fully funded to date.

The Kingdom Diversity Initiative at Southeastern, likewise, has grown since its inception in 2013, with the non-white student population increasing by 50 percent and the female student population increasing by 40 percent.

“We have more women studying today at our six seminaries than at any time in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention,” said Akin, which was followed by applause from messengers across the area.

With so much growth occurring within the institution, Akin announced Southeastern’s launch of a For the Mission campaign, a four-year campaign addressing four strategic initiatives for Great Commission effectiveness to be strengthened among Southeastern’s students, faculty and staff.

In closing, Akin, who is celebrating his 15th year as president of Southeastern, thanked Southern Baptists for their prayers, love and support for the semi-



Daniel L. Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., gives a report to messengers June 12 during the last day of the two-day 2019 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Ala. (BP photos by Adam Covington)



Jamie Dew, newly elected president of New Orleans Seminary, tells messengers at the 2019 annual meeting that “everything I am is because of ... the faithful work of Southern Baptists.”

nary.

“We continue to be consumed with a passion that allows us and drives us to be focused outward on the nation,” said Akin, explaining that this is coupled with deep conviction of belief “flowing from a non-negotiable commitment to an infallible and inerrant Bible.” **BR**



Author Mary DeMuth, right, speaks during a panel discussion called “Resourcing the Local Church to Deal with Abuse” June 10 in the exhibit hall of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Ala. Brad Hambrick, left, pastor of counseling at The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., was part of the panel, along with Nathan Lino, pastor at Northeast Houston Baptist Church, and Samantha Kilpatrick, lawyer. Phillip Bethancourt, executive vice president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, moderated the panel. (BP photo by Adam Covington)



J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), leads a prayer for the SBC annual meeting June 11-12 during the last session of the two-day 2019 SBC Pastors’ Conference June 10 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Ala. Groups of attendees gathered together to pray in small groups. (BP photo by Matt Miller)





### SEBTS women's breakfast

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) hosted the fifth Women's Leadership Breakfast June 12. At left, Missie Branch, director of graduate life and assistant dean of students to women at SEBTS, moderates the panel which consisted of Lesley Hildreth, second from left, women's discipleship director at The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Becky Gardner, third from left, chairwoman of the Board of Trustees for SEBTS and superintendent of Peoria Christian School in East Peoria, Ill.; Elizabeth Graham, right, director of events for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and owner of Yellow Brick Events in Nashville, Tenn.; and (not pictured) Betsy Gomez, writer and speaker for Revive Our Hearts ministries. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

## Panelists assess SBC on sexual abuse

Baptist Press

**S**peakers at a panel on sexual abuse in Southern Baptist churches shared June 10 their assessment of where the convention and its cooperating congregations stand regarding an increasingly obvious problem in the country's largest Protestant denomination.

More than 1,250 people registered for "Sexual Abuse and the Southern Baptist Convention," a conversation co-hosted by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and the Sexual Abuse Advisory Study at an exhibit hall in the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

"One of the things that I feel is relief that we really

are talking about it," Bible teacher Beth Moore said.

Rachael Denhollander – lawyer, advocate and abuse survivor – told the audience, "By and large the survivor community loves the church; they love Jesus; they love the gospel," she said. "And our desire is to see the church do this better so that it becomes the refuge it was intended to be. There is a lot of skepticism, and I think some of it is justified, because the survivor community is used to hearing a lot of words," Denhollander said.

Susan Codone, senior associate dean of academic affairs at Mercer University School of Medicine, shared her personal story of being abused by two pastors as a girl at a Birmingham-area church. **BR**



### Woman's Missionary Union

At left, Ruby Fulbright thanks the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) for the 2019 Delanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development June 9 at the WMU's two-day meeting prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Fulbright received the award from WMU Foundation. At right, DeeDee Moody, center, joins other state WMU presidents on stage during the WMU event. (BP photo by Van Payne, BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

## FoNAC highlights N.C. association

Baptist Press

**I**n his executive director's report for the Fellowship of Native American Christians (FoNAC), Gary Hawkins highlighted Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in North Carolina.

The association consists entirely of Native congregations, does "a lot of things," Hawkins noted, including mission trips across America and internationally, such as the Philippines, Africa and Australia, in addition to local disaster relief ministry in hurricane-ravaged areas of North Carolina.

"Burnt Swamp is the most mission-minded group of churches that I've ever had the privilege of associating with," Hawkins said. "I'm thankful to God that they are one of FoNAC's partners, and have been from the point of our origination."

In 2018, FoNAC partnered with Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, Morning Star Ministry of North Carolina and Centerville Baptist Church in Nunnally, Tenn., to provide more than 500 stuffed gift boxes (similar to Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes) and backpacks for children in at least 15 Native churches and communities in Oklahoma.

"These were used as evangelism tools in sharing the gospel with many of our people," Hawkins said. Treasurer Tim Chavis is pastor of Bear Swamp Baptist Church in Pembroke. FoNAC's budget has grown to nearly \$79,000 from its initial budget of \$3,000, Chavis said. With contributions from supporting churches expected to reach \$80,000 over the next year, expenses are budgeted at \$78,652. **BR**

## B21: Protecting abuse victims central to mission

Baptist Press

**P**rotecting sexual abuse victims is central to the mission of the church, said a group of denominational leaders during the Baptist21 panel on June 11 in Birmingham, Ala.

The panel was held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, June 11-12.

The panel featured Danny Akin, Albert Mohler, J.D. Greear, Jen Wilkin, Russell Moore, and Dharti Lewis, and was moderated by Nate Akin, the director of Baptist21. The six panelists addressed a broad range of issues, from sexual abuse in the church to complementarianism and racial reconciliation. B21 is a pastor-led network that focuses on addressing issues relevant to Southern Baptists in the 21st century.

J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said he is often told that emphasizing the protection of abuse victims distracts from the mission of the gospel. This mindset is "foolish," he said.

"This is the mission," said Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., area. "The mission as a shepherd is presenting the church and the Gospel and everything that is attached to it as a safe place for the vulnerable."

Small churches tend to be looser about abuse allegations because the accused are often beloved members of their communities, Akin said. "We are going to be the haven for the hurting that we should have been all along," Akin said. **BR**



# Diversity

Continued from page 1

of work with the hope that God will use it to “spark a movement of healing and reform.” The 52-page report was produced by a fluid study group formed last July by SBC President J.D. Greear.

In three sections, the report calls for the education of Southern Baptist churches to understand abuse, its prevalence, its effects, its underlying issues and the failures of churches; the equipping of Southern Baptist churches to care for abuse survivors; and the preparation of Southern Baptist churches to prevent abuse.

## Diversity

Diversity among Southern Baptists was conveyed in two key committee reports approved in Birmingham.

“The conversation about diversity is starting to yield a culture of diversity,” said Bucky Kennedy, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, which recommends the trustees for the SBC’s entities and members of its standing committees, including the newly repurposed Credentials Committee.

Kennedy reported that 32 percent of the new trustees and committee members are female or non-Caucasian.

Sky Pratt, chairman of this year’s Committee on Committees, which nominated members of the coming year’s 68-member Committee on Nominations, said great strides were made to ensure SBC entities are governed by men and women who reflect the ethnic diversity of the convention, and he called the results “truly historic.”

The Committee on Nominations for 2020 will be 62 percent female or non-Caucasian, Pratt told messengers. By gender, the committee will have 41 men and 27 women.

## New officers

Kathy Litton, director of planter spouse development for the North American Mission Board, was elected registration secretary, becoming the first woman to serve in the position.

Greear was reelected by acclamation to a second term as president and will lead a diverse slate of officers including Marshal Ausberry, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax, Va., first vice president; Noe Garcia, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, second vice president; John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, recording secretary; and Litton.

## President’s address

During his president’s address, Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., area, gave three defining values he believes should shape the future of the SBC: prioritize the gospel above all, be willing to do whatever it takes to reach all people and commit to sending every member.

“The power to ‘do’ in the Christian life comes only from being soaked in the fuel of what has been done,” Greear said.

“That’s why [the gospel] has to be above all,” he said, referencing the annual meeting’s theme. “A church without the gospel at the center is a church without power.”

## Floyd’s first EC report

In his first report to messengers as president of the Executive Committee, Ronnie Floyd said he refuses “to accept doom, gloom and despair. I refuse to believe that division, strife and disengagement is the will of God.”



Newly elected Southern Baptist Convention 2019 officers, left to right: John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, recording secretary; Marshal Ausberry, senior pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax, Va., first vice president; J.D. Greear, president of the SBC and pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C.; Kathy Litton, director of planter spouse development for the North American Mission Board, registration secretary; and Noe Garcia, senior pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, second vice president. (BP photo by Adam Covington)

Rather, God wants to set Southern Baptists “on a course with a future that He has for us,” Floyd said, noting, “One of our greatest needs is to create a new culture within our convention family” – one that is “healthy, life-giving and Christ-honoring in every way, the kind of culture that will help us flourish and be fruitful ... [in] our work cooperatively to reach the world for Jesus Christ.”

In other news:

- One-third of the SBC’s entities had new presidents at this year’s meeting. In addition to Ronnie Floyd at the Executive Committee, it was the first annual meeting as president for Paul Chitwood at the IMB, Adam Greenway at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Jamie Dew at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

- Four of 23 motions presented by messengers this year related to sexual abuse, including one to request that entities report next year about their efforts at preventing abuse and one to consider developing a way for smaller churches to request funding for investigations of sexual abuse allegations.

- Messengers approved 13 resolutions, including ones on the evil of sexual abuse, on pro-life legislation, on biblical justice and on political engagement.

- Unity marked the first national Southern Baptist Hispanic Leaders and Pastors’ Celebration. “Truly unity is on the rampage among Hispanic Southern Baptists,” said Bobby Sena, Hispanic relations consultant for the SBC Executive Committee.

The night included a dinner and various presentations by Hispanic SBC leaders, and Floyd pledged his support to Hispanic pastors and leaders.

- More than 1,250 people registered for “Sexual Abuse and the Southern Baptist Convention,” a panel discussion co-hosted by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and the Sexual Abuse Advisory Study the night before the annual meeting.

Panelists included Bible teacher Beth Moore and advocate Rachael Denhollander, among others. The sexual abuse crisis in the Southern Baptist Convention calls for lament, honesty, unity and action, panelists said.

- Greear hosted three panel discussions at the annual meeting. One addressed racial reconciliation, another addressed how to keep secondary doctrinal issues secondary and a third addressed the value of women in God’s mission.

- In their annual Crossover evangelism outreach, Southern Baptists knocked on the doors of 10,409 homes, had 1,817 gospel conversations, prayed with 2,251 people and saw 364 people place their faith in Jesus, according to organizers. **BR**

# Resolutions

Continued from page 3

and rejected its use as a way to conceal the sins of pastors and others in the church who are guilty of abuse.

- Urged Christians who battle same-sex attraction “to forsake any self-conception or personal identity that is contrary to God’s good and holy purposes in creation and redemption” and commended the “faithful witness” of such disciples who walk in obedience to Jesus.

- Promised to oppose “a divisive spirit” and to develop a “cooperative culture” for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

- Committed to respond to injustices by gospel proclamation, advocacy for oppressed people, acting with justice personally and demanding that “spheres of society” function righteously, truthfully and lovingly.

- Renewed their commitment to the Great Commission and encouraged the convention’s seminaries, entities and churches to enable pastors to understand “how culture and contexts shape ministry methods and strategies.”

- Called for the president and Congress to refuse to extend the military draft to include women.

- Denounced human germline editing and called on Congress and international policy makers to make it unfundable and illegal.

- Confirmed their commitment to Christ over a political party and acknowledged the various political affiliations and viewpoints in the convention’s churches.

- Expressed gratitude to God, as well as Southern Baptists in the Birmingham area and all others who helped with this year’s meeting.

Messengers approved two extensions of time for a total of 15 minutes in order to complete action on the resolutions.

The committee chose not to act on proposals submitted on the moral character of government officials, reconciliation with Jewish people because of a lack of concern by the SBC during the Holocaust period, peace between the United States and Iran, and the freedom of conscience of whistleblowers in the SBC.

Keith Whitfield, vice president for academic administration at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., served as vice chair of the committee. He is a member of Faith Baptist Church in Youngsville, N.C.

In addition to Woods and Whitfield, the committee members, in alphabetical order, were: Tremayne Manson, associate pastor for community development and outreach, The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Adron Robinson, senior pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Country Club Hills, Ill.; Walter Strickland, associate vice president for diversity, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., and member of Imago Dei Church, Raleigh, N.C.; Angela Suh Um, founder and chief consultant, Boston Academic Consulting Group, Cambridge, Mass., and member of Antioch Baptist Church, Cambridge; Trevin Wax, Bible and reference publisher, B&H Academic Group, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, and teaching pastor, Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Jared Wellman, pastor, Tate Springs Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas; Rick Wheeler, lead missional strategist, Jacksonville Baptist Association, Jacksonville, Fla., and member of Mandarin Baptist Church, Jacksonville; and Alicia Wong, director of women’s programs, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, Calif., and member of Rosena Church, San Bernardino, Calif. **BR**



## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituary

**ROBERT HENRY “BOB” WAINWRIGHT**, 87, a longtime resident of Oxford, died June 14.

A native of Hampton, Va., Wainwright was a graduate of Chowan College, University of Richmond and Southeastern Seminary. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He was minister of education at Smithfield Baptist Church, Smithfield, Va. (three years), and First Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro (seven years). He served as director of missions for the Flat River Baptist Association (22 years) and was a member of Oxford Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Betty Portwood Wainwright; three sons, Robert Bruce Wainwright, Morris DeWitt Wainwright and Brian Neal Wainwright; a brother, Lee Wainwright; and two granddaughters.

Memorials to: Oxford Baptist Church, P.O. Box 398, Oxford, NC 27565, or North Carolina Baptists on Mission Disaster Relief, 205 Convention Dr., Cary, NC 27511, or to the charity of choice.

### Minister’s housing allowance case over for now; remains constitutional

GuideStone Financial Services

Litigation challenging the constitutionality of the minister’s housing allowance has formally ended after the Freedom From Religion Foundation chose not to appeal a Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals decision to the

### Staff changes

**JOSHUA SIZEMORE** has been called to New Century Church, Roanoke, Va., as pastor of discipleship for adults and youth. Joshua previously served as associate pastor for children and families at Burkemont Baptist Church, Morganton, N.C., for five years. He earned his master of divinity degree in international church planning at Southeastern Seminary. Joshua and his wife Allison have two children.

### Retirement

**CHARLES JOHNSON** has retired from full time pastoral duties. He served Samaria Baptist Church, Raleigh, 2009-2019; Temple Baptist Church, Raleigh from 1980-2009; and Durham Memorial Baptist Church while at SEBTS. Charles is available for supply/short term interim and can be reached at [charlesjohnson@embarqmail.com](mailto:charlesjohnson@embarqmail.com).

### Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Send to [dianna@BRnow.org](mailto:dianna@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512.

## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

The Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina invites you to one of their leadership training events at either Fairview Baptist Church, Statesville, on July 27 or at First Baptist Church of Swannanoa on Aug. 10. Each Abound conference runs from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A \$25 registration fee includes the 2019-20 WMU Leader Planning Guide and lunch. Hear from guest speakers Amanda Martinsen, Paula Mathis, Kristen Tucker and Clara Huff and choose from more than 10 workshop sessions during this event: [wmunc.org/training](http://wmunc.org/training).

The Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina invites you to a quarterly leadership luncheon July 18 at the WMU-NC office conference room in Raleigh at 11:30 a.m. The \$15 registration cost covers lunch and workshop materials. The featured speaker is Lisa Jacobs, a Certified Christian Life Coach and Vision Strategist. To register for this time of fellowship, networking and renewal, visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egbxu6vz73802e1f&oseq=Cc=Cch=> or contact Amanda Martinsen at [amartinsen@wmunc.org](mailto:amartinsen@wmunc.org).

The Strengthen the Church Conference, hosted by The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will be held Aug. 13 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Durham, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Conference speakers include Mark Hearn, author of *Technicolor: Inspiring Your Church to Embrace Multicultural Ministry*, and Walter Strickland, a contributor to Canon & Culture as an associate research fellow of the ERLC. Cost is \$15, including lunch. Register at <https://ncbaptist.wufoo.com/forms/2019-strengthen-the-church-conference/>.

## Call

Continued from page 1

before the Lamb, will be through those who go on to share what they have heard from us,” Chitwood said. “Since 1845, Southern Baptists have been making disciples among the nations. And now, in an unprecedented season of the globalization of missions, those who Southern Baptists have reached are now taking the gospel to the nations themselves.”

### ‘I saw lostness’

New missionary Jason Davis said his father’s job required their family to travel the world, yet in all his childhood moving, his parents’ love for the gospel and for the church remained constant. During his university years, God called Davis to serve in full-time missions.

“I have traveled to the jungles of Southeast Asia on a short-term mission trip with Highview Baptist Church and spent five years in the urban cities of Europe where I saw lostness and a lack of gospel presence,” he said.

Sent by Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., Davis is returning to Europe to take the gospel to Italian people.

After 34 years of serving overseas with the IMB, John and Patricia Gordy re-

turned to the United States. He served on staff at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and she worked as a geriatric registered nurse.

“We built our first home and loved our new jobs,” Patricia Gordy said. “But we still felt called to missions. The gap between the millions who have never heard the gospel of Jesus, and those of us who have, burdened our hearts.”

After much prayer, the Gordys are being sent back to Sub-Saharan Africa by Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

North Carolina churches are sending four families to the field. Two families are going to high security areas. Blake and Amber Bowman of Christ Community Church are being sent, along with their two children, to serve indigenous people in Mexico.

### To the nations

“Look around this room,” Chitwood told the Southern Baptist messengers in attendance.

“You are a part of sending people, families, who have committed their lives to take the name of Jesus to the nations



John Gordy, right, is surrounded by people coming to pray as he was being commissioned during the International Mission Board’s report at the Southern Baptist Convention. (BR photo by Seth Brown)

and proclaim that there is salvation in no other name.

“Missionaries, look around the room. You are surrounded by churches who love you. They covenant together at this moment to pray for you.”

“Isn’t this awesome?” he added. “Isn’t it inspiring to be a part of what God is doing among the nations?”

The next IMB Sending Celebration is planned for Sept. 25 in Richmond, Va. **BR**

## Camp

Continued from page 1

this manner and abuse their position of authority with a child. LifeWay is working with local law enforcement as the investigation is ongoing and will continue to follow their lead in the case.”

The alleged abuse occurred the week Southern Baptists met for their annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala., where messengers voted to strengthen and affirm their stance against sexual abuse. During the June 11-12 meeting, J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, gave an update on the Sexual Abuse Advisory Study he initiated with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). Messengers also received a multimedia resource, *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused*, which LifeWay developed with the ERLC and the advisory group.

“We are grieved our safeguards did not prevent this from happening,” Waggoner said. “We are committed to continually evaluating and updating our policies and procedures to ensure we are doing everything we can to prevent this type of event in the future. LifeWay will continue to be vigilant about the security and safety of the children and teens who attend LifeWay camps and events.” **BR**



July 7

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

July 14

## The Samaritan Woman: Faith Worth Sharing

**Focal passage: John 4:10-18, 28-30**

There are few things more exciting than watching new life shine forth from a new follower of Jesus. I had the privilege of leading a man to Christ just a couple of months ago. I met him the next evening to begin discipling him and was encouraging him to begin to tell others about how Jesus had changed his life.

He quickly replied, “I just did that last night!”

He then proceeded to tell me about a guy he saw who was sitting alone and who seemed to be really down. He said, “I just went over and started talking to him. I told him about what my life had been like and how it was different now. I even gave him the little booklet [3 Circles tract] that you gave me.”

No one had yet told my new brother that he should share Jesus with others. I didn’t have to. He encountered the living Lord, received life in Christ and couldn’t help but talk about it.

Such was the case with the Samaritan woman.

In the midst of her sin, which sepa-

rated her from God and others, she encountered Jesus Christ. She came to draw physical water from a well, but instead received living water from Jesus and received new life in Him. What happened next? She ran back to her village and said, “*You’ve got to come meet this One that I have come to know.*”

Jesus had not taught her any evangelism strategies, methods or programs. He just gave her new life, and she had to share it.

That’s how God’s Kingdom growth plan works. He transforms lives as people repent, believe the gospel and then He sends them to carry this gospel message of a life-giving Lord to others.

I don’t mean to suggest that evangelism training is unimportant. It is very important.

However, we should never use “I need more training” as an excuse for not sharing what we already know.

Has Jesus changed your life? Are you being intentional about sharing Him with others?



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

**Focal passage: 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 3:10-17**

I was a Registered Nurse before I was a pastor. In my final semester of nursing school, I had to do a preceptorship. I came alongside a particular practicing nurse.

He trained me using a specific set of standards – standard nursing practice and hospital specific standards. He would show me what to do. Then, he would let me do it while he watched.

Finally, he would release me to do it on my own. In a sense, I was his disciple – learning, watching, growing and doing.

Paul did the same for Timothy, his son in the faith.

After leading him to Christ, he walked with him, taught him and sent him to go and do the same thing with others.

Paul and Timothy weren’t just “hanging out.” They were “hanging out with a purpose.”

Paul brought Timothy close, in the context of relationship, for the purpose of helping him to grow in Jesus and to

then be sent out to serve Jesus by making future generations of disciples.

Notice at least four generations of disciples in 2 Timothy 2:2 – Paul, Timothy, those Timothy will teach and those they will then go and teach.

Paul’s discipling of Timothy was not based on Paul’s ideas or preferences, but rather on the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Paul was discipling Timothy by teaching him to “*observe all that [Christ] commanded*” (Matthew 28:19). Timothy would then go and do the same.

There is no room in following Jesus for spiritual “Lone Rangers.” We all need others to help us grow. We need to help others grow as well.

Do you have someone discipling/mentoring you toward following Jesus? If not, pray for God to help you find someone.

Watch for someone whose life speaks, “*Follow me as I follow Christ*” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Ask them if they would walk along with you and help you to grow in knowing and obeying Jesus. Then, ask God to show you someone for whom you can do the same, for His glory and the advance of His Kingdom.

July 7

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

July 14

## Lasting Investments

**Focal Passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-19**

Contentment is a biblical expectation, but contentment is not the driving force in contemporary economics. The driving force in our economic system is to get people to spend money.

Commercials, advertisements and companies promise that the next car, phone, tablet or item will make your life easier, better or more fruitful.

I imagine that your experience is like mine.

The next, the new, the better is good for a little while, but it eventually slows down, breaks or loses its novelty. Then we are tempted to try the next new thing.

Paul warned the young pastor Timothy against discontentment, envy and the pursuit of more. One of the signs of personal godliness is the willingness to be content with whatever God has given us and not be driven to pursue more and more and more.

Why does Paul give these warnings and commendations? He wants Timothy

and the readers of this letter to know what truly lasts.

Wealth and luxury are fleeting. At best they last a lifetime.

Only what we do with what we have and how we live our lives will last eternally. When we “*pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness,*” we focus on character traits that invest in heavenly rewards.

But let’s not misquote Paul here. Money is not the root of all evil.

Rather, “*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.*” If we let money drive us and use us, it becomes our idol. And we don’t have to be super-wealthy for money to become an idol.

Yet, if we use the money (things) God has blessed us with for the pursuit of godliness and God’s glory, then we are making an investment that will last.

Don’t be used by your wealth or desires. Rather, use them for the glory of Christ.



**CHRIS HEFNER**  
Pastor,  
Wilkesboro Baptist  
Church

**Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 1:3-14**

From the confines of a small, dark, damp prison cell in the heart of Rome, Paul penned the words of what is likely his last letter before his death. Considering the context, Paul’s letter is a beautiful testimony to God’s provision as well as a glorious challenge to its readers.

Paul invested time, effort, energy, lessons, encouragement, example, teaching and suffering into his young protégé, Timothy. Paul wrote to Timothy to secure the young pastor’s confidence in God’s Word and to emphasize the blessing and the burden of the entrusted gospel.

The gospel is a glorious burden. We have it – not to hoard – but to share. The gospel is an unimaginable blessing – life, hope, peace, eternity and privilege. The gospel provides us confidence in our spiritual lives.

Following are just a few of the reasons

## Confidence

we can have confidence in God and His gospel drawn from the text:

- Because the gospel is shared relationally (Timothy’s grandmother, mother and Paul), our confidence grows from interdependence not self-sufficiency. Because God gifts us and empowers us, our confidence develops from God, not ourselves. Because God strengthens in suffering, our confidence does not have to be shattered by our circumstances.

- Because the gospel comes by grace, our confidence does not rest in our own works or own level of righteousness. Because we have the Holy Spirit, our confidence comes directly from God.

Essentially, Paul reminds young Timothy of the difficult times, worries, insecurities and challenges that are sure to come. Yet those hindrances pale in comparison to the promises and hope we have in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, when you are tempted to be uncertain or fearful, don’t look inward (at your own imperfections) or outward (at the difficulty of the circumstances) but rather look upward (at the God of the gospel) who grants us confidence.



# What's the link between worship and discipleship?

BSC Communications

**M**ike Harland has served as the director of worship at LifeWay Christian Resources since 2005. He is a Dove Award winning songwriter, a published author and a worship leader who sings and speaks nationally and internationally.

Harland will provide equipping and encouragement for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Renewing Worship Expo (*renewingworshipexpo.com*), scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 2-3 at Calvary Baptist Church's West Campus in Advance, N.C. The expo will feature training for anyone involved in any aspect of worship ministry all in one place.

Harland recently took time to answer some questions about worship in the local church, why worship leaders should view themselves as disciple-makers, and what he plans to share at the expo.

**Q:** You've spent a lot of time around worship ministries in churches of different backgrounds, contexts and sizes. What are some things you've learned about worship in the local church over the course of your 30-plus years in ministry?

**A:** One size doesn't fit all; each context has its own challenges and opportunities. And because that is true, what works down the street or in your last

church, or what worked 10 years ago may not be what you should do now. Worship leadership is spiritual in nature – the music piece is a significant part of the work, but does not encompass it. The role is one of a shepherd – an artistic one for sure, but the leader has to be far more than an artist.

**Q:** You've noted that perhaps no subject in the local church produces more opinions and passions than the subject of worship. Why is that so?

**A:** My mother used to say, "Opinions are like noses – everybody has one, and they are all different."

See Worship page 12

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

Amity Baptist Church, Denver, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time pastor**. We are affiliated with and support the SBC, BSCNC and South Fork Association. We adhere to the 2000 BF&M. Minimum of five years pastoral experience and Bible college and/or seminary training. Send résumés to: Amity Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, 881 Amity Church Road, Denver NC 28037, or *AmityPastorSearch@gmail.com*.

Shady Grove Baptist Church, Staley, NC 27355, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time**, mission-minded, community-focused **pastor** who believes in the inerrancy of the Bible. We are a SB church in Eastern Randolph County with a parsonage and a family life center. Our Sunday average is 55. Church event attendance is 100+; pictures/info are on our Facebook page. Please send résumés/sermon samples to John Fields, III Smith St., Franklinville NC 27248, or to *sgbcsstaleynpcpastorsearch2019@gmail.com*. Questions can be texted to 336-301-4278. Text response will be as time permits.

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

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

### Denominational

South Mountain Baptist Association, Vale, NC, is seeking a **part-time Associational Missionary**. The association's office is on the southwestern edge of Catawba County. There are 28 churches in our association that span Catawba, Lincoln, Cleveland, Burke counties. Submit résumé to South Mountain Baptist Association, 3639 NC 18 Hwy., Vale, NC 28168, or *smba@ncwireless.net*. Résumé deadline: July 31.

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

### Church Staff

Mauldin First Baptist Church, Mauldin SC, is seeking to hire a **Full-Time Student Pastor**. Primary duties include overseeing the ministries of students and their families from 6th grade through college. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree and 3 years of experience is preferred. Please submit résumés and/or questions to *wleonard@fbcmauldin.org*.

First Baptist Church, Wadesboro, NC, is seeking a **part-time Interim Minister of Music** to oversee a comprehensive music program encompassing all areas of music, adult choir, youth & children's choirs. Organ and experience in a church setting preferred. Candidates should be willing to embrace a blended style of worship, including traditional, contemporary and praise music. Duties consist of all worship services, special services and any church related events where music is needed. Includes assisting the pastor in planning worship services, plan, organize and promote camps, programs, etc. for various choirs. Salary & hours negotiable. Send résumé with cover letter to: Personnel/FBC, PO Box 423, Wadesboro, NC 28170, or email to: *officefbc@windstream.net*.

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

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

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

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

### Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

#### Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: *alison@BRnow.org*.
- Purchase ads at *BRnow.org/Advertise*.
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

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

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.25 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.45 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

## ADVERTISE

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### Miscellaneous

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# Worship

Continued from page 11

Music is a subjective art form with a wide range of nuances and styles.

As the centuries have rolled on, more and more diversity in the art form has developed, and that diversity is certainly present in our churches. When you combine that with the wide range of spiritual maturity present in our congregations, it fosters opinion and passion over styles in churches.

We should never be surprised when this happens. This reality is why it is so vital that we lead spiritually around principles that transcend the stylistic preferences of the people we lead.

**Q:** In your recent book *Worship Essentials*, you discuss the role of a worship leader as one who doesn't just make music, but makes disciples. How are worship and discipleship intertwined?

**A:** The commission Jesus gave us was to "go and make disciples." As far as I can tell, the music ministries of our churches are not exempt from this directive.

That means the music ministry leader needs to constantly ask the question, "How is what we are doing in worship contributing to the mission of the church?"

Worship and discipleship link up in at least three ways – organizationally, instructionally and inspirationally. The organization we lead (choirs, bands, teams) give us direct access to people in a ministry setting. We contribute to disciple-making when we lead those people spiritually through teaching God's Word, praying

together, practicing spiritual disciplines as a group and by modeling those disciplines as we grow ourselves. The content of the songs we sing and lead instruct the congregant in biblical truth, doctrines and confessions, while at the same time, equipping the person to carry out a vital spiritual discipline – praise. Finally, the worship ministry inspires the believer by fostering a community experience of worship that emboldens the heart, holds each one accountable to our beliefs and encourages the spirit of the worshipper.

**Q:** We're looking forward to having you join us at our upcoming Renewing Worship Expo training event. This event is designed to offer comprehensive training for anyone involved in any capacity of their church's worship ministry. What would you say to those who might be thinking about attending a training event such as this one?

**A:** Conferences like this are an important aspect of any leader's experience in ministry. Jesus modeled the discipline of pulling aside with His leaders to equip, encourage and refresh their spirits. Conferences like this inform, but they also inspire and refresh the leader.

When we gather with other leaders, we learn from each other and encourage each other in the race. I love a quote attributed to Abraham Lincoln – "If I had four hours to cut wood, I'd spend the first three sharpening my ax." That's what conferences like this do – they help us sharpen our ax.

**Q:** What do you plan to share in order to encourage and equip attendees, and what do you hope they will take away from the event?



Mike Harland, director of worship at LifeWay Christian Resources, will provide equipping and encouragement for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Renewing Worship Expo Aug. 2-3 in Advance, N.C.

**A:** I love to spend time with people who lead and serve in worship ministry. They are my favorite people!

It would be my hope that our time together will help each one look deeply at their work and gain a fresh perspective of what God has called us to do and how we can be more effective in our leadership. I want the Word of God to challenge all of us as we look at the essentials of worship together. **BR**

**ABIDE**  
2019 NC Baptist Women's Retreat

A RETREAT FOR ALL WOMEN | OCT. 25-26, 2019  
CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER AND CAMP | SOPHIA, N.C.

**JESUS TELLS** His followers to abide in Him. Abide, which can also mean stay or remain, has the idea that Jesus wants believers to rest in Him. How is this done practically in a world where we are on-the-go with deadlines to meet, families to care for, and things to do? Yet, Jesus promises when His followers rest in Him, they bear much fruit because apart from Him they can do nothing. His goal is for His followers to be completely dependent on Him in every aspect of life. Is that your goal, too?

REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 31

Early-bird rates (through Sept. 6) begin at \$140 | Regular rates\* (through Oct. 4) begin at \$165  
\*As space is available



**BETSY BOLICK**  
Worship Speaker



**MEG BARNES**  
Worship Leader

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**Fanning the Flames PRAYER SUMMIT**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 2019 | 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.**  
TRUETT CONFERENCE CENTER & CAMP | 346 TRUETT CAMP RD. | HAYESVILLE, N.C. 28904

**MARVIN GREEN**, pastor, retired DOM, Sandy Run Baptist Association, Forest City, N.C.

**DAVID HORTON**, president, Fruitland Baptist Bible College, Hendersonville, N.C.

**FRED LUNSFORD**, pastor, retired DOM, Truett Baptist Association, Marble, N.C.

**J. CHRIS SCHOFIELD**, director, Office of Prayer, Baptist State Convention, Cary, N.C.

**THIS PRAYER SUMMIT WILL PROVIDE A RICH ENVIRONMENT FOR GOD TO SPEAK, AS WE GATHER TO SEEK HIM FOR REVIVAL AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** and includes lunch. A love offering will be received. Contact Truett Baptist Association at [TBAnc@frontier.com](mailto:TBAnc@frontier.com) or (828) 837-5401 to register.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Please contact Fatima Roma, [froma@ncbaptist.org](mailto:froma@ncbaptist.org) (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513 or visit [www.praync.org](http://www.praync.org).

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