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In this issue of the *Biblical Recorder*, we begin to examine the first of seven pillars of ministry that are part of the vision of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The first pillar — Practice Fervent Prayer — of the *Seven Pillars for Ministry: Biblical Concepts for a Christ-Centered Vision*, highlights the importance of prayer.

Several churches and ministries are highlighted in regards to prayer. See pages 5-9, 12-13.

Pillar 1

Practice Fervent Prayer

Prayer is the key indicator of the passion of a redeemed heart to worship God and work for His harvest. The call to pray for a fresh movement of God that will usher in a season of spiritual awakening and evangelization establishes direction for ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Such prayer will precipitate a burden in the hearts of God's people to pray toward His passion for a spiritual movement to sweep across this state and nation. Kingdom focused prayer that glorifies God must become a priority in the life, home and church of God's people.

"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

"By God's Grace, We will become the strongest force in the history of this convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

— **Milton A. Hollifield Jr.**

Have story ideas to highlight the next six pillars? Email dianna@biblicalrecorder.org. See page 9 for more information about the pillars.



EXCITING — Camp Caraway staff members, in orange, try to get some noise going as the boys, ages 7-9, get ready to share what they've learned at camp with their parents. See photos at BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."

Lasting legacy

Former camper works his way up to director

By **Dianna L. Cagle**
BR Asst. Managing Editor

When Mark Moore, 27, talks about his favorite things, Camp Caraway for Boys ranks at the top. "My favorite thing about camp is to hear the laughter of the campers through the woods," he said. An infectious sound like that will instantly wipe away the winter doldrums.

Since the age of 7, Moore has been coming to the camp near Asheboro.

It started at father-son camp and progressed to camper and camp staff. Camp is in his blood. His father served on the staff as did a brother and a cousin.

"Caraway has always been a vital part of my Christian growth," Moore said.

He lives at the camp year-round dividing time between the

(See Lasting Legacy Page 16)



LEADING — Mark Moore, far right, leads a Camp Caraway for Boys debriefing after a recent camp. The staff members discuss what worked and what didn't and talk about preparations for the next group. Moore, 27, serves as director of the camp and also works for North Carolina Baptist Men.

Bivocational pastors learn about conflict

By **Dianna L. Cagle**
BR Asst. Managing Editor

For any minister, conflict is inevitable.

While there are many words — anger, warfare, hurt — that come to mind when conflict is mentioned, M. Wayne Oakes encouraged ministers recently to consider the word opportunity.

"Not everyone experiences the world the way you do," said Oakes, who retired from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina several years

ago. Oakes was part of a two-day North Carolina Baptist Bivocational Ministries Conference July 8-9 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro.

The theme — "Conflict Resolution: Strong Anchors for Stormy Times" — challenged participants to use even the negative experiences to build bridges to healthy relationships.

Part of building bridges is setting goals "that stretch us," said Oakes.

"I just don't think we engage people enough," he said.

(See Bivocational Page 11)



PRAYER REQUESTS — A group of bivocational ministers and spouses swap prayer requests during a meeting July 8-9 at the North Carolina Bivocational Ministries Conference. The event, held at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro, dealt with "Conflict Resolution: Strong Anchors for Stormy Times." More photos are available at BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."

Church aims to refresh community with grant

By Laura Moore
BR Editorial Aide

Within a 10-mile radius in Middlesex, there is no playground and no secure place that children can gather outdoors for play.

Seeking to meet this need for their town, Rocky Cross Baptist Church is in the race to win a 25,000 dollar grant from Pepsi.

The Pepsi Refresh Project is giving millions away to projects that will "refresh our world."

People must simply vote for the project that they want to win. The top 15 projects in the 25,000 grant category will all receive a full grant.

If voting continues to go well for Rocky Cross Baptist, they will soon have a new playground and security fence for the entire community.

"God can really work if you have faith," Melissa Fields said as she praised Him for how He's working in her community.

"Something that was just a dream is becoming a reality.

"We have people that have never really been involved at church (before), but they're working at this and getting excited about it."

Some people from the community even go dumpster diving to find more Pepsi bottle caps. The caps have a code inside that voters can use to "power vote."

A power vote is worth multiple votes. However, anyone can vote for free with or without a Pepsi bottle.

Fields confirmed, "It has grown us as a church and community." And it really is a community-wide effort to raise the support for a community playground. The local gas stations and restaurants have even gotten involved by saving bottle caps to give to the effort.

"It's such a blessing to see everyone coming together and unite," she said.

Not only has the Pepsi Refresh project built unity within the Rocky Cross Baptist community and their entire town, but it has helped many people to visit the church for the first time.

Voting for the grant ends July 31. Visit refresheverything.com/rockycross-playground to see their video and vote.

As this is an ongoing project for Pepsi, there are still many chances to submit your own idea for a project grant.

There is a new contest each month through December. The last submissions will be accepted Nov. 1-5. Visit refresheverything.com for more information on how to enter. Grants are offered for \$5-, \$10-, \$25- and \$50-thousand dollars.

To celebrate and thank the community, Rocky Cross Baptist plans to throw a fall festival after the construction. Whether they win or lose, the church still plans on going forward with the project, albeit on a smaller scale. They also want it to be handicap accessible, which is an extra expense.

Project submissions for a grant are selected by Pepsi to be in the contest.

Then, people vote on the different projects, and voting lasts for the month.

New country: Republic of South Sudan

By Charles Braddix & Zoe Allen
International Mission Board

JUBA, South Sudan (BP) — After enduring two decades of warfare and the deaths of 2-million people, the Republic of South Sudan saw its day of independence July 9.

Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Juba, the new nation's capital, as they heard their president, Salva Kiir, declare the southern region of Sudan free and independent of the north.

"Never again shall South Sudanese be oppressed for their political beliefs," Kiir said. "Never again shall our people be discriminated (against) on account of race or religion. Never again shall we roam the world as sojourners and refugees."

The division between the north and the south is sharp. The north is arid, Arab and Muslim, while the south has many varieties of vegetation, is black African and is predominantly Christian and animistic.

"We have reclaimed our permanent home given to us by God as our birthright," Kiir said. "As we bask in the glory of nationhood, I call upon all South Sudanese to put the long and sad history of war, hardship and loss behind them and open a new chapter of peace and reconciliation in our lives."

With elaborate ceremony, the flag of Sudan was lowered and the new flag of South Sudan was raised. South Sudan is now the world's newest nation, raising the global number to 196, and the African continent's 54th nation-state.

Among the many dignitaries on hand were former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who played a key role in the 2005 peace agreement to end Sudan's



Photo by Charles Braddix

PAINTING — This young South Sudanese man celebrates the day of independence from Sudan.

civil war, and Susan Rice, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations.

"Independence is not a gift that you were given," Rice said. "Independence is a prize that you have won."

The official ceremonies began with the singing of the country's new national anthem. "Oh God, we praise and glorify you for your grace on South Sudan," the opening lines say.

In preparation for South Sudan's independence, government officials urged citizens to attend churches and other houses of worship to pray for peace and thank God for their newfound freedom. Many churches held special services Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The U.N. Security Council continues working to stabilize several areas in Sudan and South Sudan; however, U.N. troops assigned to Sudan since 2005 are being removed by Sudan President Omar Al-Bashir, despite disapproval from the U.S. The troops are expected to remain in the Darfur region and to occupy South Sudan during the early years of independence.

*The next day
He purposed
to go into
Galilee, and
He found
Philip and
Jesus said
to him,
"Follow Me."
John 1:43*

Follow Me

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Jaye Martin
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
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BSC's Executive Committee approves 2012 budget

By Melissa Lilley
BSC Communications

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) met July 14, to hear the proposed 2012 Cooperative Program (CP) budget and other reports.

The proposed budget presented by the Budget Committee is the first budget since 2008 that reflects an increase in ministry dollars. The \$33.5-million budget is a 2.5 percent increase from the 2011 budget, according to Stan Welch, chairman of the Budget Committee.

The budget includes an additional one-half percent increase in the dollars that are sent to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). This is the seventh year in a row that the BSC has increased this percentage by one-half percent. The proposed allocation to the SBC is 35.5 percent.

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer, shared with the committee that he is committed to continue increasing the funds that are sent to the SBC because he believes in the SBC's efforts to be involved in missions and taking the gospel to the unreached and unengaged people groups of the world. However, he also shared that because state conventions are not mirrors of the SBC, meaning there are distinctive ministries to which state conventions are committed in which the SBC is not involved, he is also committed to making sure that North Carolina ministries and missions efforts have the funds needed to be effective.

Welch pointed out that the proposed 2012 budget includes an increase for

evangelism efforts and church planting. This is the sixth year in a row that the budget for church planting has increased.

Other ministries and agencies reflecting an increase in allocated funds include the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, the *Biblical Recorder* and North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry.

One of the areas with the most significant percentage increase, 7.4 percent, is the allocation for GuideStone known as "Retirement, Protection, and Care for NC Church staff." About 10 years ago GuideStone began phasing out its contributions to state conventions to help pay for the retirement and protection benefits for North Carolina Baptist church staff, thus BSC contributions must increase.

In 2009, the EC began to follow a reduction plan approved by the Convention for direct funding of affiliated educational institutions, specifically Campbell University, Chowan University, Gardner-Webb University, Mars Hill College and Wingate University. The new relationship with the affiliated educational institutions was established with the agreement that the BSC would reduce unrestricted direct funding by 25 percent each year beginning in 2009. Therefore, the 2012 budget will be the first in decades to no longer allocate direct funding to these schools.

The EC approved the budget as presented. If the budget is approved by the Board of Directors at its September meeting, the Board will then present the budget to messengers at this year's annual meeting in November for final approval.

Other reports

The EC approved the following recommendations from the Committee on Nominations related to appointments on the BSC Board of Directors: Gary Carroll, Newport Baptist Church, Newport, to fill the 2012 unexpired term of Steve Weaver; Daniel Justice, Ogden Baptist Church, Wilmington, to fill the 2013 unexpired term of Mike Pittman; Steve Jarvis, Colonial Baptist Church, Thomasville, to fill the 2014 unexpired term of Perry Comer; Andy Atkins, Fairview Baptist Church, Dobson, to fill the unexpired term of Elizabeth Billings; Katie Harris, Eastside Baptist Church, Shelby, to fill the 2012 unexpired term of Lynn Sherrill; Branton Burleson, Christ Covenant Community Baptist Church, Hendersonville, to fill the 2012 unexpired term of Ed Lowder; and Wade Harding, West Burnsville Baptist Church, Burnsville, to fill the 2014 unexpired term of Stan Willet.

The EC heard a request from Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) to obtain mailing address information for the wives of new BSC pastors in order to mail them information about their annual new ministers' wives retreat. The EC approved the BSC Administration and Convention Relations Office to mail the information on behalf of WMU-NC.

In committee reports, the Church Planting and Missions Development Committee shared that spots are still open for pastors and leaders on the two upcoming vision trips to Toronto and New York City through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships (GCP). GCP also has spots open in the

Next Generation Missional Leadership Journey. For more information contact Michael Sowers at msowers@ncbaptist.org.

Dana Hall, N.C. Baptist Men president, gave an update on disaster relief efforts. So far this year, NC Baptist Men has responded to 13 disasters and 1,500 North Carolina Baptists have participated in disaster relief training. Since N.C. Baptist Men began its work in Haiti last year, they have ministered to more than 91,000 people in the medical clinics and seen more than 1,000 salvations. They have also helped build 15 permanent houses, 10 church buildings and several orphanages.

Baptist Men is also working in India, and to date have built 657 new drinking wells and sponsored 37 church planters.

Randy Godwin, president of the N.C. Baptist Associational Missionaries Conference, reported on a recent semi-annual gathering of the state's directors of missions. Among the topics being explored by the group is the future of local associations.

Beverly Volz, BSC senior accountant, brought the financial report. Volz reported that through the first week in July, Cooperative Program funds are \$16,138,324.42, a total that is 4.91 percent behind last year at this time. When compared to last year this time, the BSC is ahead in both the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong missions offerings.

The next Executive Committee meeting is August 11 at Caraway Conference Center.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — *Biblical Recorder* Editor K. Allan Blume contributed to this report.)

Iran tells Christian pastor: recant or face execution

WASHINGTON (BP) — Iranian pastor Yousef Nadarkhani faces execution unless he renounces his faith in Christ, a written verdict from the country's supreme court has confirmed.

Baptist Press reported July 8 that Christians in Iran were challenging news reports that Nadarkhani's death penalty had been annulled. The Chris-

tian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) human rights organization reported July 14 that the court's written verdict had been released, confirming that the pastor faces execution unless he renounces his faith.

The original verdict on charges of apostasy was based on "fatwas" by Iran's most powerful religious leaders — Ayatollahs Khomeini, Khamenei and Makarem Shirazi — meaning the Supreme Court may have been reluctant to overturn the verdict, CSW advocacy director Andrew Johnston said in a press statement. Following reports of the verdict, the U.S. State Department issued a statement expressing "dismay" over the situation, according to Fox News. Human rights advocates, however, say apostasy isn't even identified as a crime under Iranian law.

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Staff changes

NOLAN RUMBLE has been called by Central Baptist Church, Wendell, as youth minister. Rumble was student minister of Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn.

Salem Baptist Church, Sneads Ferry, has called **CHRIS PARKER** as youth minister. Parker was student pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Cambridge, Ohio.

BAILEY NELSON has been called as pastor to Flat Rock Baptist Church, Mount Airy. Nelson was associate pastor of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Troutman Baptist Church has called **STEVE KRAMM** as their pastor.

Around the state

KRAMM was pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, State Road.

DARRELL WEBB has been called as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Canton. Webb was pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Connelly Springs.

Grassy Creek Baptist Church, Bullock, has called **WOODROW FREEZE** as pastor. Freeze was a pastor in eastern North Carolina.

JOHN LEWIS has been called to First Baptist Church, Maysville, as pastor. Lewis was an associate pastor in Knoxville, Tenn.



Opportunity Corner

2011 Carolinas Evangelism Conference

The 2011 Carolinas Evangelism Conference is set July 27-29 at Salem Baptist Church in Lincolnton. Speakers include Fred Luter, Jeff Laborg, Hank Williams, Ernie Perkins, Bob Pitman,

Mark Harris, and Phil Hoskins. Contact host pastor Andy Royals at Salem Baptist for more information: (704) 732-1131 or andyroyals@salem-baptist.org.

WMU holds Operation Christmas Child's Day

Come help the WMU make a difference in children's lives all over the world Nov. 23-Dec. 12 at the Charlotte Processing Center. Contact Operation

Christmas Child at (800) 442-9120 or occarolinas@samaritan.org for more information and to register. Registration opens Aug. 1; first come first serve.

54th annual Lay Witnessing Conference

Adults, youth and children who love evangelism are invited to Caraway Conference Center in Sophia Aug. 12-13 at the 54th Annual Lay Witnessing Conference named "Find it Here: Making Transformed Disciples."

Leaders include Chris Schofield on

prayer evangelism, Ed Yount, Jonathan Lotz, and others.

Visit ncbaptist.org for registration and cost information.

Contact Lynn Tharrington at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5599; ltharrington@ncbaptist.org.

Hispanic youth to retreat at Caswell

Join in a youth celebration of worship, fellowship, sports, Bible studies, new friends and more at "My Secret" Hispanic Youth Retreat September 2-5 at Caswell Conference Center, Oak Island. Workshops will be designed for youth on sexuality, the power of

prayer and God's will. Ages 12-18 are welcome; \$140 by Aug. 22. Each church group must have a counselor for every eight youth. Visit ncbaptist.org to register. Contact Guillermo Soriano at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5564; gsoriano@ncbaptist.org.

Worship Arts Technology Summit

In-depth worship arts and technology training is available to church technicians, musicians and vocalists at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, Sept. 9-10 at the Worship Arts Technology Summit. Training will be presented in technology tracks for

instrumentalists, vocalists, audio techs, lighting techs and media techs. Early registration through Aug 7 is \$99, and group rates are offered. Visit gotowats.com; or contact Kenny Lamm at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5638; klamm@ncbaptist.org.

International Orality group hosts communicators

International Orality Network Annual Conference for Oral Communicators will be September 12-15 at Ridgecrest Retreat Center near Asheville. The focus will be working with unreached people groups as well as the literate who choose to communicate by oral means. Meet others who share your

passion for oral methods of evangelism, discipleship and church planting through workshops, break out sessions, seminars, and a ministry fair. Registration is \$225 by Sept. 5. On-site housing can be offered for various rates. Visit intre.org for more information and to register.

Retreat for deaf pastors

Sept 15-17 at the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, deaf pastors are invited for a retreat. For more

information, contact Donny Wiltshire at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5630; dwiltshire@ncbaptist.org.

Prayer conference set for southwest N.C.

A Southwest North Carolina Prayer Conference, "Return to Me," will be on September 16-18 at Crestview Baptist Church, Forest City. Speakers include Larry McDonald, Alvin Reid, and Richard Owen Roberts.

Join in worship, panel discussions and a regional prayer rally. It is free; register at the door. Contact Marvin Green at the Sandy Run Baptist Association at (828) 245-2613 with questions; visit praync.org.

Church News



Contributed photo

► Five volunteers from **Oak Grove Baptist Church**, Youngsville, helped a new church start in downtown Phoenix during the Crossover prior to the annual Southern Baptist Convention in June. Pastor Tom Ravan, Ronnie Harris, Danny Evans, Jeanette Gettings and Joanne Brown were among 25 total volunteers from seven churches in four states. They helped Symbiotic Church as they served hamburgers, hotdogs and veggie burgers, played games with children, and even served treats to pets. The guests were also given door prizes from local places of business.

► **Lake Norman Baptist Church**, Huntersville, partnered with North Carolina Baptist Men and Alabama Disaster Relief to deliver bottled water to tornado victims in Alabama. More than 1,500 cases of water were sent, enough to fill a tractor-trailer.



Contributed photo

► **Glady Baptist Church**, Candler, recognized its pastor of 60 years at his retirement ceremony in June. Charles Sprinkle, center, along with his wife of 70 years, Lois, pose with Craig Bailey, director of missions for Buncombe Baptist Association. During Sprinkle's ministry he conducted 104 revivals, 104 weddings and preached 419 funerals. His church family gave him a golf cart called "Tater House Express" named after his tater house, where Sprinkle likes to go to pray.

To submit items:

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For e-mail submissions or questions: dianna@biblicalrecorder.org.

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Women's conference to celebrate 10th anniversary

By Melissa Lilley
BSC Communications

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., has a God-given vision for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) that he continues to keep before Convention staff and North Carolina Baptists: "By God's grace, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is a vision God was beginning to place on Hollifield's heart before he became executive director-treasurer of the Convention five years ago. Prior to that time Hollifield served with the BSC as executive leader for the mission growth evangelism group, and even then he sensed God wanting to do a great work through the Convention and North Carolina Baptists.

Hollifield knew that a certain group of people would play a key role if that vision was to become reality: women. "I believed that an army of women existed in North Carolina who could help North Carolina Baptists become the strongest force we have ever seen for getting the gospel to those who need to hear it," he said. "I believed that if these women were trained in leading their husbands, their children and their neighbors to Christ, if they were properly discipled and if they were motivated to pray and witness, they would become a strong force in helping evangelize this state."

As Hollifield prayed about what to



do he began talking with Sandra Harrison, a women's conference speaker whose husband is director of missions in the South Yadkin Association. Hollifield learned that Harrison had been praying for some time for a conference to be started in North Carolina to help equip women for evangelism.

"Working with Sandra and a committee of women, we began to pray and plan our first conference for women," Hollifield said. "My desire was to combine the emphases of personal evangelism and prayer in order to help draw women closer to Christ and help them see how they could be instrumental in leading relatives and friends to Jesus."

This year marks the 10th anniversary of that first women's prayer and evangelism conference.

For the last 10 years the conference has taught women how to be intentional in evangelism and how to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer.

This year's conference, themed "Follow Me," will be held Sept. 16-17 at First Baptist Church in Charlotte. The theme is based on John 1:43.

"Following Jesus begins when you accept Him as your Savior, but it is a continual process of following Him all the days of our lives," said Ashley

Allen, director of Embrace Women's Missions and Ministries. "For some of Jesus' disciples that meant leaving everything they knew behind, and we want women to understand that there is a modern-day application. When Jesus calls us to follow Him, we are called to follow with a whole-hearted commitment, which means we follow Him in our everyday lives. As we are in our homes, in our workplaces and in our communities, we are to follow Him."

Embrace is sponsoring the women's prayer and evangelism conference.

This year's keynote speaker is Jaye Martin, President of the Jaye Martin Group and Director of Women's Leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Leading worship is Jami Smith of Spring Rain Ministries.

Break out sessions include topics such as: Praying through the tough times; Evangelism in your neighborhood; Praying for your children; Called! Prepare for missions; Evangelism in the workplace; Ministry wives in prayer; Passing on a legacy of faith; and Mentoring another believer.

Allen said the breakout sessions are based on feedback from ladies attending previous conferences. "We try to make the sessions as practical as possible," she said. "We want women to not only learn how to pray for lost people, but to learn how to start building bridges so they can share the gospel."

Preparing in Prayer

Barbara Braswell has participated often in the conference, as well as other Embrace events. This year, in addition to leading a core prayer team of four

ladies, she organized a group of ladies to commit to praying every single week for the September conference. Nearly 80 women from all across the state began praying in March not only for the conference, but also for women and their families who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior.

Braswell calls her team prayer warriors, and said God has tremendously blessed their efforts. "We have heard testimonies all across the state from women. It's magnificent what's going on now," she said.

As this group of women has prayed, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to be more intentional in evangelism. As a result, these women have led other women in their communities to faith in Jesus Christ.

Braswell and members of her prayer team will be at the conference and will sponsor the break out session, "Calling all prayer warriors." Each woman who registers for the conference must submit the name of one person they know who needs to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Braswell and her team will spend time during the conference praying over every name.

Relying on God

Worship leader Jami Smith has traveled the world for more than 15 years sharing the gospel truth through her music. But growing up, she had something different in mind.

"I was aspiring to be the next Amy Grant or someone like that. Sometimes we want to imitate what we see and we

(See Women's Page 9)

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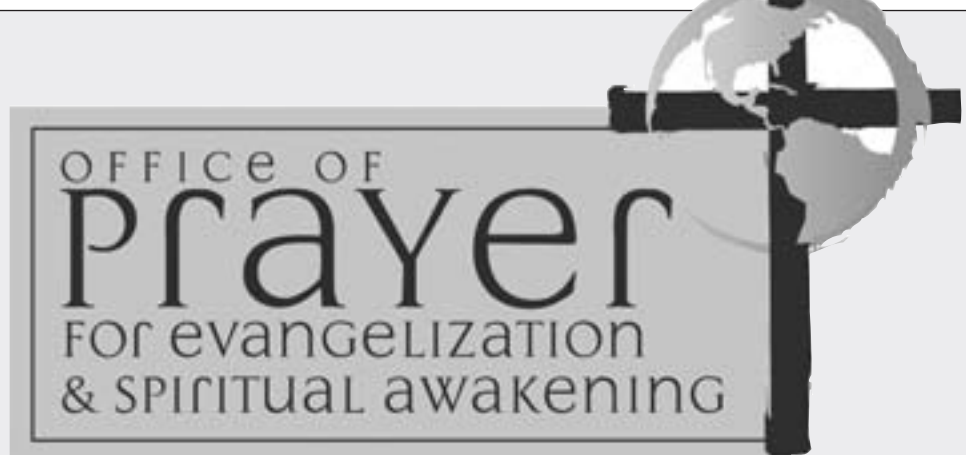
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Resources

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has multiple prayer resources available. Most are available as free downloads but there are also some priced resources as well. Visit ncbaptist.org.

PowerPoint downloads:

- Prayerwalking Made Simple
- Praying for Revival & Spiritual Awakening
- Praying Toward His Passion
- Creating Prayer Culture in Local Church
- Praying Your Friends to Christ
- Prayer and the Small Church
- Missional Prayer

Other downloads:

- 15 Ways to Lead Group Prayer
- How to Have a Quiet Time
- Developing a Prayer Ministry
- Missional Prayer Patterns from John 17
- Kingdom Prayer for Kingdom People
- Spiritual Awakenings Then and Now

Priced items

• Praying Your Friends to Christ-\$7/pk of 10
This booklet will help you make an evangelistic impact on your community as you learn how to talk to God about people and talk to people about God.

• PrayerWalking Made Simple-\$7/pk of 10
Designed to assist pastors, prayer leaders, and prayerwalkers as they walk with Jesus in their world.

• Prayer Prompts for Prayer Groups-\$6/pk of 10
The booklet includes 15 ways to lead directed prayer sessions and practical ideas on how to facilitate large and small group prayer efforts.

• Praying Toward His Passion Bookmark-\$7/pk of 50
Prayer prompts are given for praying for the lost, prayer for Christian witnesses, prayer for evangelism and mission efforts, and prayer for personal spiritual preparation.

• Biblical Prayer Prompts for Revival & Awakening Bookmark-\$7/pk of 50
An easy tool to teach Christians to pray biblically and passionately for Revival and Spiritual Awakening.

CD/DVD resources from previous conferences and events are also available.

Helpful links, contacts

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

- praync.org; click on virtual prayer room

Southern Baptist Convention

- inallthingspray.net
- sbc.net/ChurchesPrayingForChurches/intro.asp
- pray4sbc.com/
- pray4gcr.com/

International Mission Board

- imb.org/main/pray/default.asp
- The PrayerLine: (800) 395-PRAY
- Other resources on site:
 - Kids On Mission pray: kidsonmission.org/prayer/
 - PRAYERthreads
 - Virtual prayerwalks
 - Prayer products

North American Mission Board

- namb.net/prayer/
- Other resources on site:
 - Great Commission Prayer Ministry Booklet
 - Praying Your Friends to Christ
 - Taking Prayer to the Streets
 - Prayer Walking Tips
 - This Week's Prayer Focus
 - Prayer Help

What sites have you found useful? Send to dianna@biblicalrecorder.org.

Edenton church develops, grows prayer ministries

Ricky Browder likes to think of Rocky Hock Baptist Church's ministry as intentional when it comes to prayer.

"I like to use an over simplification of the definition of prayer when I teach," said Browder, prayer and discipleship pastor at the Edenton church. "Man's definition of prayer: A means to an end. God's definition: Develop a personal intimate relationship with me. This applies not only to us as individuals but also to the corporate body as well. Many times we only pray to ask for something instead of developing a relationship with God in order to find out what it is He wants for our life.

"This is the essence of effectual prayer. E.M. Bounds said it this way, 'When we talk of moving God, it does not mean that God's mind was changed by prayer, or that His disposition or character is changed. Effectual prayer actually changes us in such a way that it makes us more consistent with God.'"

Browder has seen the prayer emphasis grow at his church over the last several years. The church added a Tuesday night House of Prayer service.

That idea came almost two years ago from Jim Cymbala, pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle, who encouraged people to make churches houses of prayer based on Mark 11:17. Cymbala was speaking to participants of a pastor's conference at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

Browder said the Tuesday prayer time is used specifically to pray for the unsaved and spiritual awakening within the church.

There is a list of unsaved friends, relatives and acquaintances for every person in attendance to review each Tuesday.

They are given an opportunity to report on any decisions from the previous week, and the list is updated.

"We have seen five people trust

Prayer Resources

- *Prayer, the Great Adventure* by David Jeremiah
- *Power, Passion & Prayer* by Charles G. Finney
- *The Essentials of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

Christ as a direct result of this prayer time, praise be to God," Browder said. "We have also seen the Holy Spirit move greatly within our services which I believe can also be attributed to this prayer time."

The service usually draws anywhere from 15 to 25 people.

The church also holds a New Year's Eve service with a prayer theme and verse. The web site — rockyhock-baptistchurch.org/ — allows users to submit prayer requests and also draws attention daily to pray for an unreached people group.

The women of the church have a prayer shawl ministry that began in 2006. It started with prayer scarves for orphans in Ukraine. As the ministry grew in members and talents, they began to knit and crochet prayer shawls.

The creations are prayed for while they are being made, and the church has an opportunity to pray over the items

"We have also seen the Holy Spirit move greatly within our services which I believe can also be attributed to this prayer time."

— Ricky Browder

before they are distributed. That group meets once a month.

There is also time for prayer on Sunday mornings to pray for the services and activities

taking place on the campus, including Sunday School, teachers, visitors and members, songs, message, invitation, practices etc.

There is an Intentional Prayer Team that prays twice daily for specific concerns within the church, state and country. A National Day of Prayer Service is conducted to coincide with the national observance as well.

The church also continues to have corporate prayer times on Sunday and Wednesday nights.

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Pinetops wants more people in PEW

By Dianna L. Cagle
BR Asst. Managing Editor

Seeing a bank manager surrounded by five prayer warriors is not a normal sight when you enter a bank. But Brenda Boberg said it encouraged her heart to know the effects of challenging Pinetops Baptist Church members to pray. “It’s like with anything else in our lives,” said Boberg, missions coordinator for the church. “Prayer takes different focus depending on what’s going on in our lives.”

Part of Pinetops journey deeper into prayer has been a result of the Bobergs’ — Brenda and husband Tom — involvement in church renewal as eastern regional coordinators for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. “It had to do a lot with how our church has grown in their faith,” Boberg said. Pastor John Melancon has been praying for 17 years that “this church would become mission minded.” Three years ago, 36 people went on the church’s first mission trip. “People have seen it’s more than coming to church,” Boberg said. “It’s living your faith outside your church walls, outside of your family.” The church has since been on two other mission trips, including a recent trip to Red Springs. Members prayer walked around Red Springs, going into businesses like banks and visiting emergency personnel (fire, police, etc.). They asked if they could pray and how they could pray for the people.



PRAYER — Members of Pinetops Baptist Church and Red Springs First Baptist Church pray at a Red Springs business. Pinetops was taking part in a mission trip in the area.

“They had a great response as it opened the door for many people to hear the gospel as well,” Boberg said. Preparing for the trip, the church held a 24-hour prayer vigil and brought Chris Schofield, director of the office of prayer at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), to teach about Kingdom-focused prayer. Boberg said she has used much of the material available from Schofield and the BSC to share with her church members. The church went through 30 days of prayer before holding a solemn assembly a week before its Prayer Empowerment Weekend (PEW). “We spent a lot of time looking at our own lives,” said Boberg. “We had weaknesses as a church.” “We had personal weaknesses.”

One night there was a specified time where families came together in their homes for a time of prayer and devotion. The members at Pinetops had always prayed during services but Boberg said the church has added a prayer room with a large cross and a place to kneel. “It’s not an individual or a committee but God alone who is working in the church body,” Boberg said. Two of the Royal Ambassador boys at church saw the room and started asking questions. As a result both boys have accepted Christ as Savior. One of the areas Pinetops has been exploring is reaching beyond the boundaries in their diverse small town.

Some of the members were prayer walking by a church and asked if they could come in to pray. There was a choral group practicing for the next day’s services. “We’re seeing God work,” Boberg said, because of that experience, that church is now wanting to participate in prayer walking the community with Pinetops. “It’s powerful what He is doing.” Boberg said the attitude used to be to say “I’ll pray for you” but now members are taking time to stop and pray at the moment a request is made. “Prayer has taken on a whole new focus at our church,” Boberg said. “The exciting thing is that it’s come outside the doors of our church.” On the recent Red Springs trip Bo-

berg said they visited everyone of the schools and went room to room praying. Members also helped with home repairs and led Bible school at a local apartment complex. “God was definitely working,” Boberg said. A couple of years ago Boberg lost a daughter to a nine-year illness. She said she cried out in distress to God as well as questioned Him. She sees now that through that difficult time God would lay her on someone’s heart to give her a call or provide a verse to encourage her. She was with a group that included a 14-year-old that went into a business to pray. Boberg said the youth’s prayer was “one of the sweetest” as each specific area that the men had mentioned was lifted up to the Father. “I could see so clearly how God took my daughter’s death and placed me in a ministry position,” as one of the men shared that he had lost not only his mother but his daughter too. “Do I like that she died? No,” stressed Boberg, “but do I see how her death can be used to be Kingdom-focused? No matter the pain, the hardship, God can make it absolutely beautiful.”

Prayer Resources

- *Handle with Prayer* by Charles F. Stanley
- *Praying God’s Word* by Beth Moore
- *Prayer* by Billy Graham
- *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers

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Gastonia women hem clothing in prayer

By Laura Moore
BR Editorial Aide

What difference does two truckloads of fabric make for children in La Chureca, Nicaragua? They live in a dump where they scavenge for food.

The difference is new clothes that have been sewn with hands and hearts full of prayer from North Carolina women.

The women of Unity Baptist Church in Gastonia have a passion to serve Christ with the gifts that He has given them: sewing.

Through Children Hemmed in Prayer, a national sewing program focused on clothing needy children all over the world, Unity Baptist's women formed their own group in 2007 to serve with their skills and their prayers. In 2007, the women were able to ship 174 sewn items, including dresses and undergarments. The ministry has grown so much that they are shipping 430 boys' and girls' outfits this year.

In 2011, garments go to a village in Nicaragua called La Chureca, also known as the "Managua Dump," where the children are only provided with one meal a day and no running water or electricity. Some will also go to Brazil. In the past, clothing has gone to the Dominican Republic, Honduras, China and Haiti.

Unity Baptist has not forgotten about the needs of children at home either. They will donate clothing in August to the Greater Gaston Baptist Association that will reach out to children preparing for school as well as to babies.

Children Hemmed in Prayer attests to how the Lord continues to provide materials, resources, equipment, and sewing hands. One of Unity Baptist's leaders, Brenda Stone, said, "Some women who can't do a lot out of the home can still do this." The oldest participant from Unity Baptist is Lucy Weaver, 88.

Juanita Lay Lewis, 90, who was ready to retire her sewing needle, donated two truckloads of her fabric to the mission this past February allowing a substantial increase in the amount of clothing available to ship to Nicaragua.

The women find joy in knowing that they are not only helping clothe children, but they are also opening doors for them to hear the gospel.



SHARING — Children at Unity Baptist Church sing "How Great is Our God" during a special time of dedication for clothing being sent to Nicaragua. Women of the church have tapped into the national Children Hemmed in Prayer ministry.

Stone said, "As you sew the garments you pray for the children who will receive them ... and specifically that they will receive Christ. The focus is prayer for the children."

Roger Mathis, pastor of Unity, said in a submission to the *Biblical Recorder*, "As a pastor I meet too many people who think they cannot do anything for the Lord. This shows that anyone can make a difference with their time, talent, and treasure."

There was a dedication service at the church June 5 for the clothing shipment. The dedication was "to celebrate how God had used our women and others to prepare the clothing," Stone said.

The children of Unity Baptist sang at the dedication, and the clothing was prayed over once more by the community that made it. Children Hemmed in Prayers' director Mary Beth Turberville, located in Phenix City, Ala., coordinates for mission teams and volunteers to deliver the clothing to children overseas. Visit hemmedinprayer.org.



LEADING — Brenda Stone, left, and Nancy Deaton show examples of the outfits being sent to Nicaragua. The women started sewing in 2007 and made 174 items. This year, 430 boys' and girls' outfits are being shipped to La Chureca, Nicaragua, which is literally a dump. The children there are given one meal a day but have no running water or electricity.

Biltmore Baptist Church raises up God's 1,300

Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden stays very active in prayer.

Three times a year, the church distributes prayer guides directing individuals and groups on what to pray for such as outreach events that are coming up over the next four months, as well as all the inner-workings of the church.

"It's a proactive prayer ministry," said Carolyn Fuqua, prayer director for Biltmore. "It encompasses the whole church."

Fuqua said the guides are Kingdom focused and include prayer for the nation's leaders, all of Biltmore's missionary partnerships, and the lost. Prayer guides include praying over each component of Biltmore Baptist's focus: reaching up, reaching in, and reaching out. "The enemy is very active," Fuqua said. "We want to make sure we are praying for His power, protection, and provision over what He has called Biltmore Baptist to do."

The church receives a number of personal requests that are prayed about by individuals as well as groups within the church.

There is a crisis prayer team and a website prayer team; Biltmore's services are viewable over simulcast via its website.

They also have a team called Power Point, a group committed to prayer during the worship service. They try to have at least 10 people praying during each service. They are praying for everything going on at the church at that time whether it's youth group meeting, new visitors, the pastor's message, the worship team, etc.

Fuqua said the church's prayer warriors are aware that Satan does not want their ministry to be successful, so a focus of prayer is guarding against the enemy. "There is a desperate need that we be praying for our pastors," Fuqua said. "What a responsibility we have to lift them up."

A small group of prayer warriors began in 1994 praying for the church, which had less than 200 members, for "focus, purpose, strategy and that God would move supernaturally to use this body." The group grew from God's 300 to today's 1,300. The church has also grown to around 8,000 members.

One of the highlights on the church's website — biltmorebaptist.org — draws attention to the connection of fasting and prayer.

The site uses Psalm 35:13 and Ezra 8:21 as Old Testament references. "When people faced important issues and needed God's intervention, the fast helped them focus on their dependence on God and calling out to God for His power, protection and provision," the site said.

Fasting also gets mention in the New Testament. Matthew 6:16-18 broaches the topic. In this passage, Jesus is encouraging people to fast with the right motives. Fasting is abstaining from something, usually food — either entirely or partially. In the spiritual context, fasting helps one have a greater sensitivity toward God, and calls attention to one's dependence on God to meet needs. Fasting also draws one into a closer intimacy with Him.

Ways to fast: "Total Fast" means consuming no liquids or food; "Liquid Fast" allows only drinking water and/or juices; often people may eliminate certain meals throughout the week.

Providence prayer warrior enjoys growing ministry

By Dianna L. Cagle
BR Asst. Managing Editor

When Judith Gilson moved from Florida to Raleigh 28 years ago she was looking for a church that not only “had a strong teaching of the Word,” but a strong youth ministry as well.

She and her family found themselves at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh and haven’t left since.

Gilson works with Providence to promote prayer at the church. While the church doesn’t have a 24-hour prayer room, its suite is open during the daytime hours — 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. — and then other volunteers pray in their homes the other slots of the day.

“Our mission here in the prayer ministry is to lead the people of Providence Baptist Church to pray,” Gilson said.

Within the prayer suite, there are three rooms available to reserve for groups or individuals.

Gilson gave the example of a missionary team to Uganda reserving one of the rooms to have focused prayer time for their trip.

The church prints a monthly prayer guide leading members to pray for un-

reached people groups, the persecuted church, missionaries from church and various ministries of the church.

“I love being involved in the prayer ministry,” she said.

“Prayer is right at the center of my heart. I am encouraged that we are seeing some growth.”

Personally Gilson says she tries to get up at 5:30 a.m. each day to have at least an hour of prayer and Bible reading. She prays for two of the church’s pastors as part of their shield team.

“It’s hard sometimes to get all that

“Prayer is right at the center of my heart. I am encouraged that we are seeing some growth.”
— Judith Gilson

prayer time in in a meaningful way,” she said.

Each night as she goes to sleep she says she tries to count her blessings God gives her.

“I always fall asleep before I get to the end,” she said.

Six-fold vision
Providence has developed a six-fold

- vision for its prayer ministry.
1. Pursue relationship with Christ through prayer.
 2. Through prayer they plead for the expansion of Christ’s Kingdom.
 3. Undergirding Providence’s ministries through prayer.
 4. Shielding pastors and leaders through prayer.
- Each pastor is asked to recruit a team of prayer warriors to pray five minutes a day five days a week for that particular pastor. The elders of the church are also asked to form a prayer team. Their goal is to start one for each of the life class leaders.
5. Bear one another’s burdens through prayer.
 6. Train the next generation in prayer.



Prayer Resources

- *Love to Pray: A 40-Day Devotional for Deepening Your Prayer Life* by Alvin VanderGriend
- *When Heaven Invades Earth* by Bill Johnson
- *Disciples Prayer Life* by T.W. Hunt and Catherine Walker



Over the next few months, the *BR* staff, with help from key Baptist State Convention leaders and churches, will highlight each of the pillars adopted as the focus for the Convention.

1. Practice Fervent Prayer — This issue
2. Promote evangelism & church growth
3. Strengthen existing churches
4. Plant new multiplication churches
5. Increase work with the international community
6. Escalate technology improvements & update the web site
7. Reclaim the younger generation of church leaders

Has your church benefitted in any of these areas from the Convention? What resources have you found useful? Email dianna@biblicalrecorder.org or call (919) 847-2127.

Women’s conference to celebrate 10th anniv.

(Continued from Page 5)

don’t allow God to be creative with our lives,” she said.

Smith watched as God opened doors and made way the path for her to serve as a worship leader. “God started it. I didn’t pursue it. It was so fun to watch God unfold it,” she said.

Smith is encouraged that a conference would be devoted to prayer and evangelism because she knows the importance both have in her life.

“When we don’t pray we get self-sufficient. When we pray, we remember that everything is not up to us. I like to pray out loud; it helps me to declare my own dependence on Him,” she said.

When it comes to evangelism, Smith has learned one of the ways she can be most effective is to just be transparent with others about how and why she relies on God. “I’ve been challenged to be honest with others about my journey with God. I’m trying to live out my need for God,” she said.

Overcoming fears

While serving with the North American Mission Board, Jaye Martin worked with Hollifield to start the first women’s prayer and evangelism conference in North Carolina. Ten years later, the importance of such a conference is just as great.

One of the greatest challenges Martin has seen for women to overcome in order to evangelize effectively is fear. They are afraid they won’t be able to share clearly or won’t know the answers to questions people ask.

Martin said this often happens because women have yet to understand their place in God’s plan. “They don’t understand that God has planned for them, with their story, to share with someone else. When a woman understands that God has placed her where He has for a purpose, then she starts to realize that God wants her to tell her story with the people she is around,” Martin said.

Martin said conferences like this are valuable because they help women overcome personal inadequacies. Women learn that they can truly make a difference in their church and community.

Women also learn about the important role of the Holy Spirit in transforming lives.

“The Holy Spirit speaks through us, testifies to the truth, and puts opportunities before us. If we feel that tap on the shoulder to share with someone, He has already gone before us and is putting that together,” Martin said.

For more information about the conference or to register, visit ncbaptist.org/wpec.

10 ways to pray for disaster relief

1. Pray that the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the people affected by these disasters will be met in a timely way by all appropriate means.
2. Pray that the governments of foreign countries will work with international relief organizations to restore basic services to their people.
3. Pray for the thousands of volunteers who are serving at the sites of these disasters as the hands and feet of Christ. Pray that their stamina will be unflagging, and that their compassionate service will point to the saving power and presence of Jesus Christ.
4. Pray for the physical and spiritual well-being of the Christ followers in these various areas.
5. Rejoice that our disaster relief volunteers are ready, willing, and able to react quickly to meet the needs in affected areas.
6. Pray that the Lord will vindicate the motives of these volunteers in the eyes of a watching world. Ask the Lord to sustain them with His tender mercies as they return home and attempt to regain some semblance of normalcy.
7. Pray that donors will continue to contribute to the ongoing relief needs of these devastated communities.
8. Pray that these disasters will heighten the awareness of all volunteer groups of the need for adequate training, orientation, and preparation prior to embarking on ministry trips at home or abroad.
9. Pray that doors of opportunity remain open for our trained disaster relief volunteers to assist those placed in need whenever and wherever a natural disaster may occur.
10. Pray that these disasters will serve as a catalyst for a new generation of volunteers to enlist for training through Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief for effective deployment and service for both present and future needs.

Source: inallthingspray.net/urgentprayer.asp

Five-finger prayer

1. Thumb. Closest to you, pray for your parents, siblings, spouse or children.
2. Index finger. Pray for those who point you in the right direction like your pastor, teachers, etc.
3. Middle finger. The tallest finger, pray for the president and other leaders in our government and those who are leaders in our town.
4. Ring finger. The weakest of the fingers, remember to pray for those who are sick.
5. Use the smallest finger to remember to pray for yourself.

Bivocational ministry not just a 'rural' issue

BARRE, Vt. (BP) — Though I grew up in a city, the Lord moved me to rural Vermont in 1993 to minister in small valley towns and mountain villages. I have had to adjust my thinking in many areas in order to relate to a more rural culture.

One of the first challenges I had to overcome was the concept that all "good" pastors are fully funded by their congregations and have the luxury of only serving the church as their vocation. I quickly realized that ministry in a rural area was most often going to be a bivocational experience.

I realized that just because a pastor had to be bivocational did not mean he had to be a second-class pastor. He could be just as trained and just as talented as his more urban peers. I even wrote a book to help provide some of that training. As I have promoted the book across the nation in a variety of venues, I have come to the realization that my thinking needs to be adjusted once again.

It has become obvious to me in the past 12 months that bivocational ministry is not just a rural issue. There are many small churches in urban areas that are also served capably by bivocational pastors. This might surprise some people because urban areas typically have better jobs and more financial resources than rural areas. Since this is the case, why would urban pastors need to be bivocational?

The simple answer is that though urban areas may have more financial resources, they are also much more expensive to live in than rural areas. Pastors have the same cost of living as everyone else; if they are serving urban areas they will need to make significantly more money than their rural counterparts. While a church of 75 committed

adults with an average middle-class income may well be able to fully fund a pastor in a rural area, it is unlikely that the same size congregation in an urban area would be able to fully fund a pastor even though the church budget might be significantly higher. This is especially true if the rural church has a parsonage for the pastor to live in (as is often the case) but the urban church does not (which is also often the case).

This issue was reinforced in my mind earlier this month when I met with a denominational leader who serves 150 churches in the Philadelphia area. He

told me that 70 percent of the pastors in those churches were bivocational. These are not rural churches. These are urban churches. Many of them are historic and have fine facilities in great locations.

But they are no longer able to fully fund a pastor's salary. Fortunately, many men are willing to serve small churches because of their calling to ministry and their love for the saints. Pastors who serve small churches are not in it for the money, and most are not trying to "build a career." They are just trying faithfully to serve the Lord and grow His church.

Bivocational ministry is growing in America, and this is an issue that is not going away.

The church must accept the reality of this and adapt to it so that all bivocational pastors can be resourced adequately — whether they serve in a rural or urban area.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Dorsett is director of the Green Mountain Baptist Association and the author of "Developing Leadership Teams in the Bivocational Church." For information, visit VermontBaptist.org. Visit his blog at TerryDorsett.com.)



Guest Column

Terry Dorsett

Online tool aids small church, bivo pastors

By Jon D. Wilke
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gary Mitchell spent 20 years as a pastor in small, rural congregations. Like many church leaders across the country, Mitchell held a full-time job to support his ministry.

"I've been bivocational my whole life," said Mitchell, who is 68 and "retired." He now trains, equips and networks with the nearly 1,000 bivocational pastors in the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

"The vast majority of churches are led by a bivocational pastor," Mitchell noted. Nationwide, the Bivocational Small Church Leadership Network estimates there are about 37,000 smaller church pastors, most of whom are bivocational, within the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Most bivocational pastors are looking for affordable study tools to assist them in their sermon preparation," Mitchell said. "They are starved for information and resources. I constantly search for study materials that are easy to use and not overwhelming. Bivocational pastors have limited time and resources."

One of the main tools Mitchell tells pastors about is *MyStudyBible.com*, a robust online Bible study tool launched in 2010 by LifeWay Christian Resources

of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I love the format of *MyStudyBible.com*," Mitchell said. "All the tools are in one spot." In June, LifeWay updated *MyStudyBible.com* with some key features to help meet the growing needs of bivocational pastors, seminary students and other Bible lovers. In addition to the HCSB Study Bible as well as select content from books like the Holman New Testament Commentary and references from Strong's Bible concordance, *MyStudyBible* now includes access to new free content including the English Standard Version (ESV), American Standard Version (ASV) and the Reina-Valera 1960 (RVR60) Spanish translation of the Bible.

LifeWay also introduced an online store where users can purchase access to additional content such as "The Apologetics Study Bible," "The Holman Illustrated Study Bible," "The Teacher's Bible Commentary," "Word Pictures in the New Testament," "The Holman Bible Atlas" and "Experiencing God."

Users also can purchase access to content on an as-needed basis with three time frames — 24 hours, 30 days, or unlimited. Some 24-hour access costs 99 cents. "*MyStudyBible.com* makes the Bible and some of the best biblical reference materials in the world accessible," said Paul Mikos, LifeWay's executive editor of digital publishing.

"Now people don't have to spend \$400 for commentary sets or Bible software. They can dive as deep as they need when they need for as long as they need."

"Expense is the biggest obstacle (for bivocational pastors)," Mitchell said. "Most bivocational pastors can't afford expensive commentaries or the fees for the websites with all the bells and whistles. But they will invest in these types of tools. These price ranges put invaluable tools within their reach."

Aaron Linne, executive producer of digital marketing for LifeWay's B&H publishing division, describes *MyStudyBible.com* as "continuing LifeWay's path to utilizing the biblical text in new ways, presenting products and ideas where the Bible itself becomes the basis for our digital publishing efforts."

"The Bible is central to the Christian experience," Linne said. "*MyStudyBible.com* is all built around the Bible. We are trying to deliver the best digital Bible reading and studying experience to the people we serve."

Mikos said, "It is our prayer that this site is a blessing to those around the world seeking to know the Lord and His Word more intimately."

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Wilke is media relations manager for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.)



PRAY for those students serving at Camp Caraway this summer.

Camp staff: Aaron Adams, Brack Ballard, Kolton Black, Tyler Brock, Christian Ehrlich, Britt Fleming, Joseph Foy, Daniel Godfrey, Adam Godwin, Garrett Heffner, Micah Honeycutt, John Hubbard, Cameron Hunt, Matthew Johnson, Dustin Langley, Calvin Lindsey, Chris McKethan, Danny Mendenhall, Samuel Poindexter, Josh Poitras, Adam Rehm, Zane Robinson, Favio Ruiz, Isaac Shular, Jordan Shular, Andrew Snipes, BJ Weeks, and Kevin Whited. **Camp director and family:** Mark, Ashley, Balin and Karis Moore.

Bivocational pastors learn about conflict

(Continued from Page 1)

“We have a real ministry opportunity to put our arm around somebody and offer a listening ear.

“We cannot save anybody. I think we can come alongside people and say ‘I can tell you’re hurting.’”

Oakes said many ministers fall into the trap of trying to rescue their church members but instead the members need to be encouraged to confront people with their concerns.

“I’ve learned that I can’t solve anyone else’s problem,” Oakes said.

“A lot of negative language in church life would disappear if we didn’t fan it.”

Oakes compared conflict to a virus.

“The single purpose of a virus is to replicate itself,” Oakes said, but was quick to stress that conflict, much like a virus, cannot multiply in isolation.

Change is never easy.

“They will feel awkward and ill at ease,” he said.

“They will feel alone even when everybody else is going through the same process of change. They can handle only so much change at one time.”

Three anchors

During some of the devotional time, Phyllis Elvington, a well-known N.C. Baptist speaker and member of Tabor City Baptist Church, focused on the subtitle of the event: “Strong Anchors for Stormy Times.”

She encouraged the ministers and their wives to abide in the vine as a spiritual anchor.

“Satan wants you to settle for less than God’s best,” Elvington said.

Believers also need a mental and physical anchor.

Contact Lester Evans at levans@ncbaptist.org or (877) 224-5615.

Deepwater Horizon saga: a ‘backdoor blessing’

By Diana Chandler
 Baptist Press

LAFITTE, La. — It’s been more than a year since the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, leased by oil giant British Petroleum, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, just 41 miles off the Louisiana coast, killing 11 workers and contaminating waters that are home to the state’s large fishing industry.

Once oil began washing ashore, federal officials for a season prohibited fishing in the once-prolific waters.

Remarkably, area pastors say their congregations are stable, if not thriving, as the largest marine oil spill in history became a blessing in disguise for the local economy. Still, they express concern about the spill’s potential long-term effects on the Gulf of Mexico’s ecosystem and human health.

“There’s definitely concern about how this is going to play out in the long run and the unknown,” said Eddie Painter, a then-commercial fisherman who now pastors Barataria Baptist Church in Lafitte. “It was a backdoor blessing for us. It provided some tremendous ministry opportunities.”

The cleanup effort allowed Painter’s church the chance to minister to the community in a unique way. On most days during the cleanup, the church delivered some 200 meals to area senior

citizens and missions centers as far away as New Orleans, using excess food prepared for British Petroleum cleanup workers.

“The hours were long for the ministry,” Painter said of the church’s efforts. “It was seven days a week, 12 to 15 hours a day.”

But he and leaders of other Baptist churches along the Louisiana coast say their ministries have been blessed despite the upheaval.

“From all the reports I’m getting, everything is looking pretty good,” said Lynn Rodrigue, who leads Port Sulphur Baptist Church, where about 60 worship on Sundays. “I would say basically, now everything is back to normal. (The spill) really turned things upside down for a while.

“The giving is back to normal and the attendance is back up. I think actually the oil spill was a blessing to many people financially. I know some people who made \$300,000 or \$400,000 in six months.”

Fishermen were able to make money by leasing their boats to British Petroleum during cleanup efforts and, to Rodrigue’s knowledge, there were no reports of related health concerns in his congregation of more than 100. While litigation attorneys have been calling, Rodrigue said he’s had no need to respond.

Bivocational Resources

- **Bivocational & Small Church Leadership Network** — bivosmallchurch.net; national coordinator: Ray Gilder, rgilder@tnbaptist.org; (615) 371-7907; this site offers a large number of resources and links for helpful information for small church or bivocational ministers
- **Bivocational Beacon** — newsletter produced by North Carolina Bivocational Minister’s Association. Contact levans@ncbaptist.org.

News Briefs

LifeWay acquires WORDsearch, QuickVerse

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources has acquired WORDsearch and QuickVerse, the Southern Baptist entity announced July 11. “The addition of these two powerful Bible software resources is another vital step in LifeWay’s overall digital strategy to serve churches and individuals,” a LifeWay news release stated.

WORDsearch Corp., (WORDsearchBible.com), based in Austin, Texas, has been producing software and electronic books for the Christian market since 1987. The company offers more than 4,200 volumes of electronic books for Christian pastors, teachers and laypeople through its WORDsearch, Bible Explorer, LESSONmaker, WORDsearchToGo and InstaVerse

software products. Software by WORDsearch and QuickVerse (QuickVerse.com), based in Omaha, Neb., simplifies biblical research, allowing a user to view multiple reference materials including Bibles, dictionaries, commentaries and encyclopedias side-by-side on the user’s computer screen.

Additional QuickVerse software products include SermonBuilder, which provides quick access to thousands of Bible-related stories, quotes and anecdotes and various biblical language tools, sermons and stories.

Red Ink Named 2011 Golden Novel of the Year

New Hope Publishers announced *Red Ink* by Kathi Macias has been named 2011 Golden Scroll Book

Awards Novel of the Year. *Red Ink* (978-1-59669-279-4, \$14.99, N114127) tells the riveting story of Zhen-Li and her incarceration and separation from her family in a Chinese prison. There she continues to minister to other prisoners and even to her sinister guards.

“I am so honored to receive this award, particularly because *Red Ink* was inspired by the true life of Li Ying, currently serving a 15-year prison term in China for the crime of printing/distributing non-State-approved Christian literature, particularly to children,” says Kathi Macias. “Not only do I dedicate this book to her, but the award as well. I pray this book/award will heighten recognition of persecuted Christians around the world, and reaffirm our commitment as believers to pray for and support them in any way we can.”

Red Ink is the third novel in the “Extreme Devotion” series, which focuses on the persecuted church.

Classified Advertisements

Pastor

Second Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is seeking God’s man for **full-time pastor** position. Resumes will be accepted through August 2011. Please send resume to Second Baptist Church Search Committee, 1114 South Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church located in a rural setting outside of Shelby, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor** for approximately 150 active members. An accredited seminary or divinity school graduate with at least 5 years pastoral experience required. Pleasant Grove is a mission minded, family oriented assembly looking for a strong proclaimer who enjoys hospital & shut-in visitations. To apply, submit a letter of interest and a resume that includes both a Statement of Faith and a Call to Ministry to: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee, 3932 Pleasant Grove Church Rd., Shelby, NC 28150.

Duke Memorial Baptist Church, a small rural church, is seeking a **full-time pastor** to provide leadership to our congregation, encourage the development of leaders (both men and women), present Jesus Christ to the world and meet the needs of our community. Duke Memorial is affiliated with the Tar River Association, the NC Baptist Convention and SBC. Please submit resume and CD/DVD to DMBC, Pastor Search Committee, 3976 NC Hwy 581 North, Spring Hope, NC 27882.

Stoneville First Baptist Church in Stoneville, NC, has a vacancy for **pastor**. Interested parties should email resumes to stonevillefbc@yahoo.com or mail to Stoneville First Baptist Church, PO Box 274, Stoneville, NC 27048, ATTENTION: Ricky Craddock. For other information, contact via email or call Doug Joyce at 336-573-9575.

Poplar Springs Baptist in State Road, NC, is seeking **full-time pastor**. Send resumes to psbc@embarq.com or PSBC 193 Fellowship Way, State Road, NC 28676.

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

Church Staff

Wallburg Baptist Church seeks part-time **Youth Director** for small, energetic youth group with growth potential. Responsibilities include planning and organizing weekly meetings with committee assistance. Send resume with references to: Wallburg Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, PO Box 595, Wallburg, NC 27373.

Part Time Minister to Children. First Baptist Church, Lumberton, NC, is seeking a part-time minister to children. The minister should have a bachelor’s degree in religion, early childhood education, human services or related field, a personal call to ministry and strong communication and interpersonal skills. Send resumes to FBC Personnel Committee, PO Box 938, Lumberton, NC 28359.

First Baptist Church, Troy, seeks **Minister of Children & Youth**. Masters degree preferred. Send resume to: ATTN: Rosemary Huntley, FBC, PO Box 442, Troy, NC 27371, or email firstbaptisttroy@embarqmail.com.

Clover Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a **Part Time Worship Leader/Music Director**. Experience preferred. Submit resumes to CBC Personnel Committee, 100 Pinewood Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630.

Miscellaneous

Special offers for Christian families at resorts in Myrtle Beach or Pigeon Forge. Check out property #58586 on vrbo.com. Prime weeks available for summer 2011.

NCBAM needs servant volunteers to transport aging adults to appointments at the VA Medical Center, Baptist Hospital, Duke Medical Center, and other North Carolina locations. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

NCBAM needs teams of 2-4 servant volunteers to “adopt” an aging adult and provide friendly visits 1-2 hours a week. All counties needed; training provided. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

Share the Biblical Recorder — FREE. Order a three-month free subscription for your family and friends. Contact Daphne Woodall at (919) 847-2127 or daphne@biblicalrecorder.org to make arrangements.

How to place a classified ad in the Biblical Recorder

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@biblicalrecorder.org
- Submit the information via the Recorder’s web site at www.BRnow.org
- Send a Fax to (919) 847-6939

For more information, call the office at (919) 847-2127.

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



Are Your Prayers God-Centered?

Kingdom prayer perspectives from John 17:1

One day while preparing to speak at a conference I went into a small Sunday School classroom to pray. As I sat in a chair and prayed I scanned the room and noticed that numerous prayer requests were listed on a white board. I thought it was interesting that all the prayer requests on the white board were focused on upcoming health tests and various physical needs in people's lives. In fact, none were focused on spiritual issues and what the Father was doing in these people's lives.

Through the years I have observed that we often spend most of our time praying toward temporal concerns related to our circumstances and desires.

Although it is not wrong to pray toward the concerns that we have (1 Peter 5:7), the challenge is always to move beyond them to the Kingdom issues that are *always* present. Therefore, if the unreached peoples in North Carolina and the world are going to hear the good news concerning Jesus, our prayers need to focus more on our Father and His purposes and desires. In essence, our prayers need to be God-centered not self-centered. Jesus shows us how to pray in a God-centered way in John 17:1.

John 17:1 — Focusing on the Father and His Desires

The "high priestly" prayer of John 17 takes place in Jesus' passion during the last week of His earthly life. Despite these intense circumstances, His prayer was focused on the Father and His mission being fulfilled.

The God-centeredness of Jesus' prayer is first seen with the use of the term "Father" in verse 1.¹

Jesus shows us that prayer is relational and is not just something we do, like a ritual or task. He is modeling a life of prayer where intimacy with the

Guest Column



J. Chris Schofield

Father is real and essential.

The phrase "the hour has come," points to Jesus' awareness of the significant times that were near. He was sensitive to the Father's hour. Jesus was praying with a view toward what the Father was accomplishing in His world.

Are we praying toward the Father's hour in our world? How is God's activity in our world affecting the way we pray?

Jesus' prayer "Glorify the Son, that the Son may glorify Thee" demonstrates selfless praying. His desire is that all would recognize who the Father was through His own glorification.² His act of obedience in surrendering to the cross allows for the completion of the work of Christ beyond that event. As Jesus is glorified, redemption is provided for the lost world, and the Father is ultimately exalted. This takes place as His followers tell the story of the Christ down through the ages (see John 17:20). Warren Wiersby correctly comments, "We glorify our Father in heaven by being what Jesus told us to be: salt in a decaying world and light in a dark world (Matt. 5:13-16)."³

God-centered praying produces passionate and effective witnesses — It did then and it will now!

How then shall we pray?

I believe the Lord is calling his church in North America to pray earnestly toward the Kingdom—to pray with our hearts set on glorifying the Father. Prayer for revival and spiritual

awakening is a necessary step in that direction, especially for the North American church. I think we can all agree that the existing church needs to return to the Father in brokenness and repentance that leads to renewal and revival.

We also need to re-focus our prayer gatherings on impacting lostness. This will only take place as we cry out to the Lord on behalf of mission endeavors, Christian witnesses, new church plants and the unreached peoples of the world.

This kind of Kingdom prayer focus is what we are committed to through the office of prayer for evangelization and spiritual awakening at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). That is, in essence, where we are headed. Come partner with us in this effort!

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Schofield is director of the office of prayer at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. This is part of a series of stories relating to the BSC's "7 Pillars." See stories page 5-9, 13.)

1. The term "Father" or some form (e.g., "Holy Father") of this intimate address is used 6 times in John 17: verses, 1, 5, 11, 21, 24, and 25. All Biblical terms/phrases are from the NASB translation.

2. The glorification/exaltation of Jesus is linked to the three "lifted up" sayings in John (John 3:14-15; John 8:28; John 12:32). The Father is glorified as the Son is lifted up on the cross, out of the grave and to the right hand of the Father — where he lives to make intercession for those who believe (see Hebrews 7:25). The Father is thus made known (glorified) as Jesus obeys and is lifted up.

3. Warren Wiersby, *On Earth As it is in Heaven* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010), 27.

A return to fervent prayer

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

The first statement in the Westminster Catechism reads: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."



I appreciate that statement because it is a good reminder of our purpose in this life. God wants us to know Him and to experience much joy in our relationship with Him. Then, out of our love for God, we will want to serve Him and glorify Him.

You will love God more and enjoy Him more when you begin to understand who He is.

I have learned that one of the best ways to do this is through prayer. When I pray, God speaks to my heart. He teaches me truth from His Word and teaches me about His desires and purposes. Prayer is how God unleashes His power into our lives.

As often as I can, whether through these columns, sermons, special messages or just in conversations, I enjoy sharing with North Carolina Baptists the importance of prayer because prayer is such an important part of my life. I have experienced its great impact and seen God do many wonderful things as a result of prayer.

Prayer is the first of the *Seven Pillars for Ministry*, which includes seven biblical concepts I believe to be a Christ-centered vision for our Convention.

I believe these seven core values are to guide the work of our Convention for this time in my administration as your leader.

As important as the other six pillars are, I believe everything we do must begin with prayer. We cannot accomplish anything for the Kingdom if we do not first begin with prayer.

As you have noticed, this issue of the *Biblical Recorder* has a special emphasis on prayer.

I am very encouraged to know that over the next few months the *Biblical Recorder* will focus one issue on each of the seven pillars.

I am encouraged because this means more North Carolina Baptists will have an opportunity to know the heart of our Convention. I appreciate the desire of editor Allan Blume to help share this vision with churches across our state.

I am firmly convinced that God gave me a vision statement I have shared with many of you: "By God's grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

I believe that as we continue to focus our prayers, our attention and our energies on the seven pillars, we are truly on our way to seeing this vision accomplished.

However, we must continue to be faithful in praying. As I have said before, and believe with all my heart, prayer is the "key indicator of the passion of a redeemed heart to worship God and work for His harvest."

Let's pray that we are known as people passionate about worshiping and serving God.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers." 1 Peter 3:12

Recommended books, resources

- *Praying Hyde: A Man of Prayer* by Basil Miller
- *The Awakening that Must Come* by Lewis Drummond
- *Prayer: The Cry for the Kingdom* by Stanley J. Grenz and Eugene H. Peterson
- *Teach us To Pray: Prayer in the Bible and the World* by D.A. Carson
- *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray
- Priced and free resources available at www.PrayNC.org. Click on "Ministry Resources" on left-hand menu.



Tar Heel Voices

Mary Frances Center ladies in Tarboro will be missed

Reduce speed, watch for the sign, Mary Frances Center, and slowly enter the curving drive of a beautiful campus. Its gently sloping green grounds with a back drop of pines is home to an often visible family of deer. The chorus of birds and the pond with ducks parading their young ducklings adds to a setting that reflects a place of tranquility and a promise of renewal.

Since this facility was established in Tarboro, it has truly enriched our community, offering opportunities to the local churches, organizations and individuals to minister to the personal needs of residents there. During the devastation of Hurricane Floyd (September 1999), they diligently worked with us at the Distribution Center.

The talents displayed in the choirs and worship and praise teams are amazing. During women's retreat, birth-

day parties, luncheons, etc., their participation and testimonies warmed our hearts and we shall sorely miss them and all the personnel there.

One of the greatest experiences we have had is witnessing the changes in their lives. During the month of June, 25 women were baptized at the First Baptist Church of Tarboro after extended Bible study with the volunteer chaplain of the Mary Frances Center. To the residents there; those who have met you and loved you shall not forget you for you have enriched our lives.

Lilli Thomas
Tarboro

(EDITOR'S NOTE — The Mary Frances Center, that received state funding to house incarcerated women with substance abuse issues, was part of the budget cutbacks recently in North Carolina. Thomas is a member of First Baptist Church, Tarboro, which sent volunteers to the center.)

Tar Heel Voices is your forum

- Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for style, length and clarity. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. One letter from a

writer will be published in a 90-day period.

- **E-mail** editor@biblicalrecorder.org, or **mail to:** Editor, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Prayer is the Foundation

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Five years ago Milton A. Hollifield Jr. was elected to the top position of leadership in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Wasting no time, he presented to us “Seven Pillars for Ministry: Biblical Concepts for a Christ-Centered Vision.” These seven vision statements became the foundation for your convention staff and the ministries they lead across North Carolina. I believe these pillars need to be known, understood and embraced. With this issue of the Biblical Recorder, we begin a seven part series to communicate this vision. It is our hope that this series will be the catalyst to strengthen our churches in fellowship, vision and partnership, as we fulfill the Great Commission.)

What would the Bible look like if every reference to prayer were removed from it? It would probably look like our lives — empty, powerless, aimless. Men and women in scripture depended on prayer to be in touch with God and His purpose. That is why there are so many references to the practice of prayer in the Bible. It was not optional.

Even the Savior could not make it on this earth without prayer. Mark’s gospel records Jesus’ prayer life for us, “Now in the morning, having risen a long



while before day-light, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35, NKJ). Someone has said, “If Jesus, who needed prayer so little, prayed so much, why do we, who need prayer so much, pray so little?”

My purpose is not to take you on a walk down the road of guilt, but to invite believers to take stock of our prayer habits, and the lack of the same. While on trial for heresy, Socrates said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” If this is true, we should value this life enough to evaluate our spiritual disciplines, especially prayer.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray and how to pray. He modeled prayer and he instructed us with an outline of what prayer should look like. We call it the “Lord’s Prayer,” but it is more appropriately labeled, the “model prayer” (Matt. 6:9-13). Every preacher worth his salt has preached the passage more times than we can count. Preaching about it is easy. Practicing it is not as easy. Prayer becomes real to us

when it becomes as natural as breathing. I have never awakened in the morning with a commitment to breathe more. I breathe because I cannot live without it, and my body is programmed to breathe naturally. Can prayer not become just as important and just as normal to me? Yes, it can.

When I am thankful, I pray with gratitude. When I am hurting, I pray with pleading. When I am dependent on God, I pray with faith and hope. When others whom I love are in need, I pray with desperation. While prayer should be practiced in times reserved for solitude, it should be part of all I am, every moment of the day. This is what “pray without ceasing” is all about (1 Thes. 5:17)

I have a greater concern about the diluting of prayer among believers. Have you noticed how we are afraid to say, “I am praying for you”? The new choice of words is, “I have been thinking about you.” Some say, “Our thoughts and prayers are with you.” I honestly do not know what that means. I understand it when the words come from the lips of an unsaved person. But I am bewildered when Christians equate praying with “thinking.”

I cannot count the number of times

when church members have said, “I’ll be thinking about you as you have surgery this week.” I want to ask, “What good will that do?” Thinking never leaves one’s head, but prayer reaches heaven. They are not the same! Is it absurd to believe that we will soon be asking brother Smith to come lead us in a “moment of thinking” in the worship service? Perhaps we will change Wednesday night services to a “Thinking Meeting.”

This may seem to be extreme “thinking” on my part. But I want to know what is wrong with letting people know that we pray, we believe in prayer, and we will be intentional about praying for them? There should be no shame in that. I call for a revival of the words, “I am PRAYING for you.” Let’s tell others, “I have been PRAYING for you.”

Let’s not diminish prayer’s meaning or power. Let’s not minimize the extreme value of prayer. Let’s not depreciate the absolute necessity of prayer in every aspect of life. Let’s not be ashamed to acknowledge the power of Almighty God in response to the prayers of finite man. This is the foundational pillar for believers if we are to fulfill God’s assignment for us — the Great Commission. Let’s pray!

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
— Acts 2:42, NASB

Editor’s Picks — Resources on Prayer

<i>A House of Prayer: Prayer Ministries in Your Church</i> John Franklin (LifeWay Select) A <i>House of Prayer</i> is a ministry manual for any church that desires a praying heart. Pastors, staff, prayer committees, or interested laypersons will find a solid biblical process for teaching the foundations for prayer.	<i>And the Place Was Shaken, How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting</i> John Franklin (LifeWay Select) In <i>And the Place Was Shaken</i> , John Franklin highlights not only the theology behind powerful corporate prayer times but also the effective habits and practices of a praying church.	<i>No Easy Road: Discover the Extraordinary Power of Personal Prayer</i> Dick Eastman (Baker Book House, 1971) This short classic walks the believer through every road of hindrance and the paths of difficulties on the journey of prayer. Through the obstacles, you reach the joyful results of walking with God in prayer.
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Prayer Planner


Our daily prayer time can sometimes get crowded out with our daily lives. You may feel that you’re too busy or that your life is too hectic to take the time out to pray. But no matter how busy you are, God is always there, waiting patiently for you to come to Him.

One way to make your prayer life more manageable is to have a daily plan.

If you designate certain days of the week to pray for certain topics, you can spend more concentrated time on each topic rather than “skimming the surface,” never really allowing yourself the time to delve into a subject.

This suggested list was found at inallthingspray.net/. Of course, you can add your own topics and specifics to each day.

Day	Pray for ...	Day	Pray for ...
Sunday	Your home church Your pastor Your church staff The lost, who are hearing the gospel message around the world _____	Wednesday	Your parents Your extended family People in service jobs (police, fire, paramedics, etc.) _____
Monday	Your national denominational leaders Your boss(es) Your co-workers School teachers _____	Thursday	Your friends Your national political leaders Your local political leaders _____
Tuesday	Your spouse Your children Home-based missionaries State denominational leaders Our educational system _____	Friday	Foreign missionaries World political leaders Children around the world _____
		Saturday	World peace Revival among God’s people The spreading of the gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ _____



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Lesson for July 31

Formations

Lesson for August 7

He Will Bring Forth Justice

Focal Passage: Isaiah 42:1-9

Oh, to be chosen! As a kid I remember agonizing over whether I would be chosen to play on the all-star baseball team.

In high school, I wondered what senior superlative I would be chosen to receive. Preparing college applications, I hoped to be chosen by my school of choice.

When building up the courage to ask my wife to marry me, I prayed that she would choose to say "yes" to my proposal.

Today's Old Testament lesson reports an act of choosing someone for a task. God announces that a servant has been chosen for God's task.

The name of the chosen one is not mentioned, nor are any personal qualifications given.

The servant could be a nation, a ruler, or a religious leader, but in God's good time it came to its ultimate expression in the person of Jesus Christ and His mission to the whole wide world.

For us today, however, what matters is the character of servanthood and how it shapes a sense of who we are and what our lives ought to be about.

In the text, the servant comes upon the human scene as one whose purpose is to set things right.

Listen to these lines: "He will not cry or lift up his voice ... a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice."



He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth" (v. 2-4).

What a wonderful combination of means and ends!

The servant has a high purpose, but he knows that the character of the means will determine the character of the ends.

The servant's intention is to heal and repair whatever and whoever is hurting and broken, but it will not be done through a rough-and-ready style.

The servant brings justice to the nations.

The servant manifests God's love and grace to all people. In feeding the hungry, in acts of healing, in setting the prisoner free, this called servant is mediating God's love to all the earth.

In Jesus, we have the ultimate realization of Isaiah's vision of the Servant of the Lord.

Now, as His people in the world today, working to establish God's justice on earth is not merely an alternative we might consider as part of our call; it is our call.

Ruth and Boaz: Partners in Providence

Focal Passage: Ruth 3:1-18

This lesson begins a new unit entitled "Partners in Marriage."

In this unit we will study the relationships of four couples and explore what God's Word has to say about our closest relationships.

We begin with Ruth and Boaz.

The Book of Ruth is a story about a family in trouble.

The story begins with Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons fleeing famine-ravished Judah and going to Moab because they heard things were better there.

Soon after their arrival, Elimelech died, leaving Naomi with two sons in a foreign land.

Her sons, Mahlon and Kilion, took Moabite wives, Orpah and Ruth.

Ten years after their arrival in Moab, Naomi's sons died.

Naomi felt that she had no choice but to return to Bethlehem. One daughter-in-law, Orpah, remained in Moab.

But the other one, Ruth, helped Naomi return to Judah.

It was Ruth's loyalty and support to Naomi that eventually won for Ruth the notice of Boaz, who was Naomi's kinsman on her husband's side.

Indeed, Boaz was impressed not only by Ruth's loyalty to Naomi, but also eventually by her loyalty to him in spite of the fact that she could have attracted younger men (3:10).

Thus, Boaz and Ruth married (4:10).

A couple in my church has displayed on their wall a framed piece of needlework they received as a wedding gift. On it appears their names, their wedding date, and the phrase "God gave us each other."



DuPre Sanders
pastor, Roxboro
Baptist Church

I think many Christian couples believe that they were brought together by God's providence.

But why would we think such a thing?

I've never known anyone who said God literally told them who to marry. Yet, we believe God is guiding His people. If that's true, how does it happen?

The story of Ruth tells us about God's way of carrying out His plans, and about how we become aware of God's work in our lives. Ruth's story tells us that God wields the power to change things.

The picture of Ruth at the beginning of the story is one of sadness, poverty and hopelessness.

At the end of the story, Ruth is happily married to Boaz. They have a son, Obed.

Obed would become the grandfather of none other than King David, from whose lineage came Jesus.

The amazing reversal in this story is brought about by God, who is the master of transformation.

Often, God's work is seen only in hindsight and requires complete trust in Him to guide our lives.



Lesson for July 31

Bible Studies for Life

Lesson for August 7

Personal Service

Focal Passages: Galatians 5:13-16, 22-26; 6:7-10

When division erupted among his church members, the pastor resigned and pursued secular employment. Later, a fellow minister asked, "What are you doing now that you have no congregation and pulpit?"

He answered, "Who says I have no congregation as long as there is grief and pain in the world?"

Pondering his response, I wonder if we sometimes limit our personal service by asking wrong questions, such as, "Do people who ask for my help deserve it?" and "Would they even appreciate my help?"

Jesus never questioned people. He saw and met their needs, expecting nothing in return.

I wonder too, if while thinking of serving others, is it possible to think too big? Society urges us to dream and plan extravagantly, but God thinks small. David killed the giant Goliath with one small pebble targeted correctly (1 Sam. 17:50). Moses parted the Red Sea with his shepherd's stick (Ex. 14:15-16). And Jesus fed 5,000 with five barley loaves and two small fish (John 6:1-15).

So when we cannot travel the world distributing Bibles to the lost, we can cross the street to share Christ with unchurched neighbors.

And when our tithes can't build a hospital, a tip wrapped around a gospel tract can meet a restaurant waiter's spiritual need.

In Galatians 5, Paul convinces us that no amount of legislation from the outside in can change sinful nature, but love issuing from the inside out makes all the difference.

Reading the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, we can feel Paul taking our spiritual temperature, and realize that there are many ways to serve others when we become concerned enough to do it.

In fact, until we can define our lives in terms of service to others, we cannot consider ourselves genuine followers of Christ.

I think of Anna, the teenager whose mother died, leaving Anna to rear four young siblings. Life was difficult on her father's meager salary, and in time Anna developed tuberculosis. As she lay dying, an overzealous religionist came and peppered her with questions.

"Do you know Jesus?" "Yes."

"Do you go to church?" "No."

"Then what will you tell Jesus when you meet Him in the judgment?"

"I won't tell Him anything," Anna whispered. "I will show Him my hands."



Catherine Painter
Author, speaker
from Raleigh

Love One Another

Focal Passages: John 13:4-35; 1 John 3:10b-12, 16-18; 4:7-13, 19

In the upper room on the night He was betrayed, Jesus opened His heart more fully to His disciples than ever before. They leaned forward, intent upon hearing His every word. He called them His children (John 13:33), and like a parent consoling a child, explained that everything would be all right, and that God would be glorified through His death.

The disciples were anxious like children being torn from their parent, wishing to go along but being told they could not go (v. 33b).

To comfort them, Jesus said in effect, "This is how you can help one another when I am gone: I give you a new commandment: Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (v. 34-35).

Jesus did not require miracles, prophecies, or anything else as a prerequisite for discipleship.

Love alone would distinguish them as Christians (little Christs) after He was gone, and the future of the Church hinged upon their love for one another.

Would they pass the test? History

proves they did, for the early Church flourished and grew like wildfire. You and I are beneficiaries of the love that passed down to us as testimony of how the disciples excelled, so that observers commented, "How those Christians love one another!"

Are you blessed to belong to a church known for its love? If not, seek ways to help it become such a church.

Nothing grieves God's heart more than to see professing Christians eating each other up with bitter words and unkind deeds.

A teacher once asked his students how they could tell when night ends and day begins.

"Could it be," one student suggested, "when you see an animal at a distance and know whether it is a sheep or a dog?"

"No," replied the teacher.

"Could it be," said another, "when you see a tree in the distance and tell whether it is an apple tree or a peach tree?"

"No," the teacher said. "It's when you look at any man or woman and see that person as your brother or sister; because, until you do this, regardless of what time it is, it will still be night."

If you and I are to touch the world for Jesus, it will be through loving as Jesus loved and doing whatever we can to ensure the happiness and well-being of others.

New resources point believers toward ‘Loving Muslims’

By Ava Thomas
Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Cade Rutledge* used to wave his American flags and get really fired up about “getting those terrorists.”

From most people’s viewpoint, he had a right to feel that way. His brother was working in the Twin Towers nearly 10 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001.

He made it out alive, but the attack was still way too close to home physically and emotionally for Rutledge to consider the idea of loving terrorists, or loving any Muslims for that matter.

Until Jesus showed him a different way.

“I asked myself, ‘How can we possibly love the lost — the Muslim terrorists — who attacked my city?’” Rutledge said.

“Our answer should always be yes because our Jesus-centered faith demands it. Our Christian response must never resemble the world’s.”

A heart of love for Muslims is something the International Mission Board hopes to cultivate through the new Loving Muslims resources, which are being released in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. The resources include free study guides for small groups to use for one session the week before Sept. 11, 2011, and one on the anniversary itself, as well as an eight-day prayer guide for use the week in between.

The first session focuses on loving Muslims, and the second on reaching Muslims with the gospel.

The prayer guide leads believers



LOVING MUSLIMS — As the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks approaches, the International Mission Board is launching a website and study guide to encourage believers to reach out in love to Muslim neighbors.

through praying for their Muslim neighbors and ways they can show hospitality to their Muslim neighbors.

The website, lovingmuslims.com, also includes feature videos, stories,

photos and other resources for learning more about Islam, Muslim culture and ways to reach out to Muslims and share Jesus Christ with them.

For more information and free down-

loadable resources, visit lovingmuslims.com. The site opens Aug. 1.

*Name has been changed
(EDITOR’S NOTE — Thomas is an IMB writer/editor based in Europe.)

Former terrorist trainees turn to Christ

By Shiloh Lane
International Mission Board

SOUTHEAST ASIA — As a teenager, Budi Mulyadi* trained to kill Christians with a 9 mm pistol.

For months, he aimed it at a target while an instructor shouted slurs against Christianity. Mulyadi didn’t know anything about the religion, just that it threatened Islam. Not once did someone explain Christ’s sacrifice to him.

Yet, almost 20 years later, he serves as a Christian worker.

Today Mulyadi works with American Christian workers to manage worship sessions for youth in Southeast Asia. He helps local farmers learn better ways to raise healthy fish and grow their crops. He gives food to poverty-stricken families.

As Mulyadi works, the jobs and the people he works with bring him joy and he smiles, but his smiles fade when he talks about his adolescence. At the age of 14, he lived in an Islamic terrorist camp that imbued him with wrath and hate.

Hate “was something that was implanted in my mind,” he said. “I could just think about Christians and the hate would pop up.”

An obstinate child, Mulyadi ran away from an Islamic boarding school in his early teenage years. The school merely taught him Muslim scripture but had too many rules for his taste. He had already run away from home after a violent disagreement with his father. The 13-year-old had nowhere to turn. Then he met an Islamic extremist who promised him a new education.

The man took the young Mulyadi to a large compound consisting of tents and surrounded by trees. Twenty other boys slept in these tents at night and trained with knives and guns during the day. They only stopped for sleep, food and prayer. When their instructors talked to them, they touted the supremacy of Muslims and the wretchedness of Christians. The Christians, they said, deserved to die.

“We were told that the Christians were infidels,” Mulyadi said. “If we would kill Christians, then that would be a free ticket into Heaven for us.”

At the camp, Mulyadi felt anger and self-righteousness boiling inside. As he practiced with a gun supplied by the camp, hate filled him. At times, however, he also felt doubt and confusion. The instructors told him that Christians should burn in hell, but did he want to send them there?

The boy continued to mull over these questions as his marksmanship improved and as the gun felt more and more familiar in his hand. Eventually, the leaders believed, Mulyadi and four other boys were ready to prove their worth. Without a clear strategy, they sent their students out to kill anyone they could.

“There wasn’t any specific hit, so there wasn’t any specific contract,” he said. “If we could find someone that was particularly ‘holy’ — someone that would really make a dent ... then that’s who our primary target was.”

Once they left the compound boundaries, Mulyadi discovered he wasn’t the only one with doubts. The other boys had examined themselves as well, even-

tually determining they had no desire to kill.

“We were given a task to go kill Christians, and we had to make a decision — did we want to do that or not?” he said. “And, that was the point that we broke (and went our separate ways).”

All five boys decided to abandon the jihad. For all the camp’s brainwashing, they never wanted to kill anyone — no matter how much they hated them.

Mulyadi went home briefly, but his father’s anger forced him out on the road again. He eventually landed in a city several hours away and found a job tending the lawn of a health clinic. He spent the rest of his teen years living alone in a rented room.

The Damascus Road

As he trimmed hedges year after year, Mulyadi became interested in general spirituality — not simply what he found in the pages of the Koran.

During his spiritual search, he found the name of Jesus, a prophet according to the Koran, and questioned why Muslims never mentioned Him in their lectures and discussions. He seemed overlooked. Mulyadi picked up a Bible and investigated.

Then, one night, as he prayed alone in his room, he heard a voice say, “I will send a Helper unto you.”

Mulyadi didn’t know where the voice came from or who the “Helper” was, but he turned to Scripture, and after exhaustive reading, found John 14:16: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever” (NASB).

From the moment he read that verse in John, the young man devoted himself to Jesus, a man who had the power to send him a Helper — the Holy Spirit — and the power to tell him about it 2,000 years after His initial promise.

“My whole demeanor has changed, and God has filled my heart with love,” he said. “I’m not an angry person anymore. My temper is gone. I don’t get mad at people like I did before. Because God loves me, I am able to love others.”

This love turned Mulyadi into a Christian worker. He loves the people he once hated. He leads worship for people he once scorned. He desires to bring people to Christ when he once wanted to punish them for following the Savior. This is his new passion.

“Until God chooses to take me home, I’m going to be here on a mission to share the gospel with people who need to hear it,” he says.

As Mulyadi preaches God’s word in scores of villages and spends time with his family — a wife and daughter — he rarely speaks to anyone of his time as a terrorist in training. Only after an hour of questioning does he mention it, and until recently, his American partner didn’t know about that section of his life. It’s personal.

However, every once in a while, he reunites with the four other men with whom he left the Islamic camp. They get together and discuss their work and families, and they discuss God. Although Islamic extremism filled them with revulsion for Jesus, Christ pursued every one.

All five are Christian pastors.

*Name changed

Lasting legacy

Former camper works his way up to director

(Continued from Page 1)

camp and North Carolina Baptist Men where he's children's mission consultant and Royal Ambassador director.

"We're trying to reach all boys where they are," said Moore, who was just completing a mini-camp for 7-9-year-old boys, a first for the camp. "We had great numbers for the first year."

The camp maxes out at 180 people but this summer most of the weeklong camps are averaging 100 boys or so, he said. While he believes the economy is a factor, Moore doesn't cast the blame of lower numbers solely on the tighter budgets.

He's trying to learn how to better market the camp. With 4,200 Baptist churches across North Carolina, Moore said the key is getting the word out to those churches.

"I think there is still something very special about ministering to a boy in a single-gender setting," he said of Camp Caraway's programs for boys aged 7-17. "We have a great potential for growth if parents will continue to buy into our ministry."

Moore hopes happy campers and parents will share their experience with others. In a recent debriefing session with parents, Moore shared that about 30 boys ages 7-9 gave \$80 towards the North Carolina Baptist Men's medical/dental bus ministry.

Demonstrating tools

This year's theme Tools of the Trade highlights spiritual gifts of Romans 12:6-8.

"Everything we do at camp is intentional to point people to Jesus Christ," he said. "Having fun is an avenue to minister to the boys."

The counselors are trained to point every activity to a teachable moment.

Camp pastors and missionaries take different angles on that theme as they teach the boys.

As director, Moore said it's hard to be at all the functions during camp but he tries to be at as many as he can — around dealing with paperwork and fielding emails from parents and other general office work. And planning for 2012 has already begun.

Building relationships with those boys pays off later, Moore said. At least half of the boys in the older groups are repeat campers.

At the end of a recent mini-camp of 7-9 year olds, Moore debriefed parents before allowing them to pick up their campers. He asked them to partner with Camp Caraway in prayer and to invite their son's friends to hear about camp.

Moore said a face-to-face meeting is worth more than a mailed DVD or brochure.

The camp sometimes borrows the nurse across the road at Camp Mundo



BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle

YELLING — One of the groups at a recent mini-camp for 7-9-year-old boys chants for their parents before the end of a Camp Caraway for Boys event.

Vista but also has a local doctor and nurse available for questions. Moore's medical training as a paramedic also plays a part.

Moore loves the father-son option at Camp Caraway. He likes the freedom in the schedule for fathers or male mentors to have time with their boys. The youth and children camps are more structured.

"Caraway has been a place where I can always be myself," he said. It helped prepare him for "serving God in everyday life."

While Moore's salvation decision did not happen at camp, he credits the staff with "creatively discipling me as a boy."

"Camp helped motivate me to stand on my own feet spiritually and live out my faith in Jesus Christ every day," Moore said.

He also said being on staff helped prepare him for the responsibility of parenthood. He and his wife Ashley have two children.

Capital campaign

Caraway Conference Center and Camp is in the midst of a three-phase \$7.5-million capital campaign called "New Beginnings." Part of the improvements will help with an indoor multi-purpose recreation facility geared at visitors to Camp Caraway as well as the conference center. "Whether former staff or campers, if they say they support Caraway they need to back it up financially," said Moore.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, real estate or other items of value can also be contributed through the N.C. Baptist Foundation (NCBF) designated for "Caraway — New Beginnings." Contact Caraway at (336) 629-2374 or P.O. Box 36, Asheboro, NC 27204. Contact NCBF at (800) 521-7334 or 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511.

Visit campcaraway.org or facebook.com/Camp.Caraway.for.boys. See more photos at BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."

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