

COUPLE HOPES TO BE  
FIRST MONTAGNARD  
MISSIONARIES



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RANDALL HOUSE  
LEADER TO ADDRESS  
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IN THE CHURCH



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# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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## REBUILDING

### Many residents still trying to dig out of devastation

By **EMILY ROJAS** | BSC Communications

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit North Carolina, leaving damaged and destroyed homes in its wake.

Since then, N.C. Baptists on Mission (NCBM), also known as Baptist Men, have made restoring and rebuilding some of these homes a top priority through its disaster relief ministry.

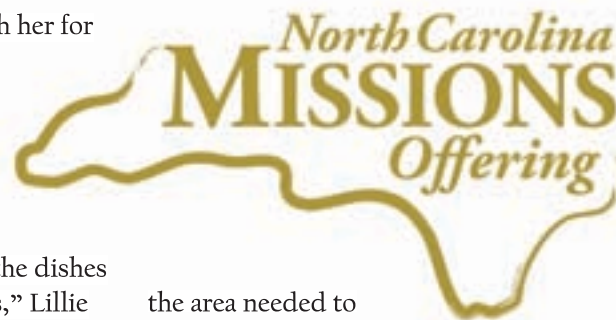
Forrest and Lillie Jean Mobley are the owners of one such home.

Last Oct. 7, the Mobleys left their home in Duplin County to visit their

daughter, hoping to remain with her for a few days. Hurricane Matthew hit North Carolina later that weekend, and by the time the Mobleys returned home, their house had been flooded in nearly three feet of water.

"We lost everything except the dishes that were up in the top cabinets," Lillie Jean Mobley said. "A few pictures on the top wall, and that's about all that we saved. A few clothes."

The couple was on a waiting list for a few months since many other homes in



the area needed to be restored. When Baptists on Mission volunteers showed up to work on their home, the Mobleys said they were grateful for the joy and integrity that the volunteers brought to

their work. It's what separates them from other organizations, they said.

"They have caring people," Forrest Mobley said. "People that do things like they think they need to be done, which is good."

"To see how they have just jumped in and taken hold and do what needs to be done – and they do it with a smile!" Lillie Jean Mobley added.

"They're happy to do it, and that makes a big difference."

NCBM has set a goal to rebuild and

[See Rebuilding page 7](#)



pixabay photo

### Teen Internet addiction a growing concern

By **DANIEL WOODMAN** | Baptist Press

Gateway Seminary professor Paul Kelly had a friend who once became so addicted to online gaming that he would ignore his family and friends, while also skipping meals, so he could play more games on the Internet. His desire became so severe that he began failing classes and stole from his family to support his habit.

Amid the emerging challenge of Internet addiction, youth ministry experts are calling for churches to raise

awareness of the topic and provide resources for parents and students.

While pornography is perhaps the most publicized online addiction, Internet-based activities that are less sinister in themselves can rise to a harmful level, according to a growing body of evidence.

Kelly, professor of educational leadership at Gateway, told Baptist Press (BP) he is "very concerned about much that teens are doing on the Internet," though he

[See Internet page 11](#)



# Couple hopes to be first Montagnard missionaries

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

**K**houng Rolan was born in a small Montagnard village in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. His grandfather was a general in the Vietnamese army, and his father worked in the communist government.

Through the witness of a cousin, Rolan and two of his sisters became Christians. Their parents did not agree with the children's decision to follow Christ. Communist leaders made life hard for Christians, but the young boy and his sisters prayed that their parents would also follow Christ.

One of the sisters became very sick, unable to eat or drink for three days. In desperation, Rolan's father asked if the elders of the Christian church would come to his home and pray for the girl. The father said, "If your God is real, and He can heal my daughter, I will accept Christ, follow your God and leave my job."

The church leaders went to the girl's bedside and prayed for hours. "About midnight my sister got up and asked for food," Rolan said. "My father and my mom received Christ after that."

The family began to face persecution from the communist government. Following Christ changed many relationships in communist-ruled Vietnam.

In his late teen years, Rolan rebelled and turned to gang life, indulging in a life of crime as a gang leader. He was charged with criminal assault and given a seven-year prison sentence.

Rolan said God got his attention in prison. He repented and cried out to God saying, "I will serve you all of my life if you will get me out of the prison."

After serving only 10 days of the seven-year sentence, he was mysteriously released and told to leave. He fled to Cambodia where Rolan lived in a refugee camp for eight months.

In 2005, a United Nations refugee resettlement organization placed Rolan in Charlotte. He changed his name from the Montagnard "Khoung" to a more American name, "Kyle." He was able to help his father and mother escape persecution in Vietnam and immigrate to the United States.

In Charlotte, Rolan met Jenny, a Vietnamese woman who had fled the country with her family five years earlier. One year later they were married.

Jenny grew up in a Christian family in Vietnam. Her father was an interpreter for the American Army during the Vietnam war, and was imprisoned at the end the war. Her family of six fled the country through an immigration program for those who assisted Americans during the war and whose safety was at risk.

Kyle and Jenny began to meet with other Montagnard Christian families for fellowship and Bible study in the Charlotte area.

In 2012, Pastor K'Them, the Montagnard Baptist ministry coordinator for North Carolina, invited Rolan to attend a weekly Bible study class in Greensboro. Hungry to be discipled, Rolan accepted and drove to Greensboro every Saturday for two years. "Many times, my wife drove the car since I worked late the night before," he said.

"The big turning point in my life was in late 2014 when we came to First Baptist Church (FBC) in Matthews. Since then, Pastor Brad has been coaching me, and the godly men in the church have been training me so I [can] understand [the Bible] better."

Brad Sallee, missions pastor at FBC, said, "From the very beginning, I've seen the call and the hunger in Kyle's life. He has quite a story ... it seems to me that God has had His hand on Kyle from the beginning of that journey."

FBC has involved Rolan in mission trips to Asia. In 2014, he went back to Cambodia. Last year, he served with a team that traveled to the Philippines. The church has been planting churches in the Philippines for 10 years and now has nine house churches meeting regularly.

The experience has been life changing for Rolan. The team saw 175 people accept Christ as Savior last year. "When I was there, I saw the power of the Holy Spirit work through me," he said. "It is amazing that God can use us and bring other people to Him."

This year another mission trip to the Philippines resulted in 800 decisions for salvation and two new church plants.



Khoung Rolan, right, or Kyle as he is known in the United States, wants he and his wife, Jenny, to be the first Montagnard missionaries sent from North Carolina. They hope to garner support from churches and individuals to help them on their journey to the Philippines. First Baptist Church in Matthews plans to provide some of the funds.

"When I got back, I knew God had put something in my heart," Rolan explained. "I prayed about it a couple of months and talked to my wife. I said, do you want to move to the Philippines? She said, 'Yes, no problem, if the Lord wants us to go there, we will go.'"

The Rolans plan to relocate to the Philippines next June as the first Montagnard missionaries sent from North Carolina.

The missions council and the pastor of FBC are "fully supportive of Kyle and Jenny going as one of the church-supported missionaries," Sallee said. "He meets all of the criteria for approval. At this point First Baptist Matthews is the only organization supporting Kyle." They hope more churches and individuals will add their support for the couple.

Rolan is a project supervisor for a company that remodels stores for a large supermarket chain.

His boss is a Christian who supports his mission trips and the decision to serve in the Philippines.

On weekends Rolan leads a Montagnard Bible study group and worship service at FBC. The group has almost 20 adults each week, with more than 60 joining them Easter Sunday. Their ultimate goal is to prepare church leaders to take the gospel back to their Asian countries, he said.

Jenny has been a full-time housewife and part time interpreter for those who speak Jarai, the native Montagnard dialect of the Vietnamese language. She translates primarily at hospitals and medical clinics. She fully supports the move to the Philippines.

"Our generation is too comfortable and

doesn't want to go to the hard places," Jenny said. "We need to do something to share the gospel in other countries."

After reading a book by David Platt and another book by a man who served as a missionary to Vietnam before the war, Jenny said her call to missions was strengthened.

"It really inspired me," she said. "This missionary went to a place that was really strange to him and not many people welcomed him, but he wanted to share the gospel with people who had never heard the Good News about Jesus."

Sallee said Rolan has participated in FBC's discipleship groups including a deacon-led small group.

"I've spent a lot of time with Kyle, and there is no question that he is committed to the Lord," he said.

"Kyle has been discipling a Montagnard small group. I've never met anybody that seems to love the Lord Jesus more than he does. He is so hungry to learn and to grow spiritually."

Although the Rolans do not have a connection with a mission organization, FBC Matthews will provide some support for the couple and their children when they leave next year. A seminary in the Philippines has offered Rolan some work, also. They are praying for additional financial backing.

"Kyle Rolan has a heart that burns to take the gospel to the nations," said Clay Smith, senior pastor of FBC Matthews. "He has been an integral part of our church's present mission in Charlotte and I look forward to seeing how God uses him to expand the Kingdom in the future." **BR**

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# IN FOCUS

A WORD FROM OUR LEADER

## Living in a post-Christian society

**M**ost of us are painfully aware of the fact that the influence of Christianity and the church in the United States is not what it once was, even in this part of the country that has been known as the Bible Belt.

Recent research released by the Barna Group identifies what it describes as the top 100 “post-Christian” cities in America. While many of the cities listed near the top of these rankings are



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

located in New England, the Northeast and the West Coast, the report includes 11 cities from North Carolina, as well as several others from the Deep South.

In Barna’s findings, several of the North Carolina cities were listed together as geographic regions. Cities from our state included in the list are: Raleigh, Durham and Fayetteville (No. 67); Greenville, New Bern and Washington (No. 69); Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point (No. 86); Charlotte (No. 92); and Asheville, which was listed alongside the South Carolina cities of Greenville, Spartanburg and Anderson (No. 93).

Barna’s research data was compiled based on how adults in a nationwide survey responded to interview questions on matters pertaining to faith, religious beliefs and practices. To qualify as a post-Christian city, respondents had to meet at least nine of 16 different factors, such as identifying as atheist or agnostic, having never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, disagreeing about the Bible’s accuracy and having not attended a Christian church in the last six months, among other items.

The results of this study has many implications for us as North Carolina Baptists. First, Barna’s research helps affirm that our emphasis on impacting lostness through disciple-making is on target, particularly in the eight major population centers of our state. Six of the eight population centers that our strategy has initially targeted can be found on Barna’s list (Asheville, Charlotte, Greenville, Fayetteville, the Triad and the Triangle).

Second, our state has transitioned from being part of the Bible Belt to being more of a mission field. As people from other states and other nations have migrated to North Carolina, they have brought with them different sets of spiritual beliefs, values and customs. We can no longer assume that people are familiar with the Bible or believe in its authority just because they live here in North Carolina.

Third, we must evaluate and shift our approaches to evangelism and discipleship. While the message of the gospel never changes, our methods and approaches must change to reach our changing culture.

Reaching this post-Christian culture will require a more relational approach to evangelism and discipleship. Because these individuals have little to no interest in church, they will not come to us, so we must go to them. Building relationships and sticking with them until one comes to Christ and is discipled will require a greater degree of intentionality, prayer and perseverance.

May God help us understand how we should live out the gospel in the midst of the post-Christian culture because the gospel is still, and forever will be, the power of God unto salvation.

“And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, ‘We will hear you again on this matter’” – 1 Peter 17:32 (NKJV). **BR**

## Pastor’s wife thankful for opportunities

**O**ne of the greatest struggles for a pastor’s family is the church’s dual role, somewhat unique to the United States, as a leading non-profit institution as well as a Kingdom body of believers. I spoke about this topic last year to a group of ministry wives. It is stressful to be expected to attend every other non-profit fund-raiser in your town. It is stressful to add additional demands to an already overcrowded schedule. It is stressful to take public positions that bring media condemnation. As a wife, the stability and calm I crave is disrupted by all of the above. I just want to be able to go to the YMCA on Thursday night in peace!

Recent events, however, have given me pause and caused me to consider the question: What if it weren’t so? What would my community look like if its pastors were marginalized?

How would my life be different today had my husband, Mark Harris, senior pastor of Charlotte First Baptist Church, said no in 2012 when North Carolina Values Coalition Executive Director Tammy Fitzgerald approached him about spearheading the work to pass the Marriage Amendment to the N.C. Constitution?

First, I would have missed the opportunity to be salt and light to young people in the hard-charging world of professional politics. There were times I failed at this, but God took my heart’s desire and prayer to be a Christ-like influence and blessed it nonetheless.

On a recent weekend, a young staffer from Mark’s congressional campaign caught me at the N.C. GOP State Convention and shared with me how the opportunity to be part of our campaign had blessed him. I got to read another staff member’s email stating his tremendous respect for Mark, and I got to hear his appreciation expressed to me just for knowing his name and taking time to personally thank him.

One of these young people had begun visiting our church prior to his move out of Charlotte for another job.

Second, I would have missed the opportunity to know and pray for our elected officials. Scripture admonishes us to pray for those in authority over us, but I confess I obeyed this admonition erratically.

Now that I have had an opportunity to meet

many of our elected officials at various events, I pray for them regularly. During the campaign to destroy our state’s economy over House Bill 2, it was heart breaking to hear from a legislator about attacks his son endured at a large public high school in Charlotte.

I was able to keep my small group, my Sunday School class and others informed and to remind us to pray specifically by name for our elected officials, along with their wives and children. I’ve been able to send a quick note or give a word of thanks or encouragement to people who usually hear from their constituents only when there is a problem to be addressed.

Finally, and most significantly, the public square would have missed my husband’s leadership skills, honed by 30 years of ministry. Today, when anyone can

be ordained online, there is vast ignorance of the scope of a pastor’s job.

There is the arduous budget process, which has to operate by consensus and receive a vote of the members. There is the facility, the technology, the volunteer management, the committees and the programs. But beyond all of that, there is the heart of a pastor. While a pastor carries a huge administrative load, he is not primarily a businessman. The goal of a businessman is to make a profit. The goal of government is to secure the God-given rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Who better than a pastor, whose goal is to shepherd people, to lead the fight to secure those rights? Who better than a pastor to prod those in power to remember the people they represent? Who better than a pastor to build relationships that lead to productive conversations around the issues of our day?

If you serve in ministry, my prayer would be that you will find your place in the larger community and that God will give you the fortitude to maintain it. If you are a member of a congregation, I would ask that you embrace the benefit to the Kingdom when your pastor is allowed out of the bubble of the church, whatever that may look like. Much has been given to us in ministry in the United States in terms of respect in our communities. Let us embrace that boldly.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Mark Harris announced recently that he is resigning as pastor of Charlotte FBC while he considers another congressional race. His last day will be Sept. 30, and he will be interim pastor until a new pastor is found or until Dec. 31.) **BR**



**BETH HARRIS**  
Guest Column

### P.K. PREACHER’S KIDS

BY DAVID AYERS





# Exec. Committee recommends \$31M budget for 2018

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

The Executive Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) unanimously approved a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors a \$31 million Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 2018 during a July 13 conference call.

The proposal, which came from the convention's Budget Committee, reflects an increase of \$625,000, or about two percent, over the 2017 budget. It also calls for 0.5 percent increase in the state convention's allocation to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) ministry efforts, moving from 40.5 percent to 41 percent. If approved, this would mark the 12th consecutive year that the allocation to SBC ministries has increased.

The budget will be presented to the full BSC Board of Directors for discussion and a vote at the board's next regularly scheduled meeting Sept. 26-27 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro. If approved, the budget will then be presented to messengers for discussion and a final vote during the BSC annual meeting Nov. 6-7 in Greensboro.

In a separate measure, the committee also approved

recommending a \$2.1 million goal for next year's North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) and leaving the allocation amounts for the offering unchanged. The NCMO supports the ministries of N.C. Baptists on Mission, also known as Baptist Men, church planting, mission camps, associational projects and mission mobilization projects.

The NCMO measure will also go before the Board of Directors and messengers at the Annual Meeting for discussion and a vote.

Citing increased Cooperative Program giving from N.C. Baptist churches, John Butler, BSC executive leader for business services, said he and the convention's Budget Committee felt comfortable proposing an overall budget

increase for 2018, most of which would go toward supporting SBC ministries in North America and around the world.

If approved, more than \$408,000 of the proposed \$625,000 budget increase would go toward supporting SBC missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program, Butler said, bringing the total amount sent to the SBC in 2018 to more than \$12.7 million if the budget is met.

The proposed budget also calls for increased alloca-

tions to N.C. Baptist institutions and agencies, as well as a two percent salary increase for state convention staff.

BSC Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. expressed his support for the budget proposal and thanked N.C. Baptists for their generosity. Hollifield also said he was thankful for another proposed increase in SBC missions support through the Cooperative Program.

If the proposed budget is adopted, N.C. Baptists will have increased SBC support by nine percent over the last 12 years, moving from 32 percent in 2007 to the current proposal of 41 percent. Hollifield said he hopes that trend can continue as leaders seek to strike a balance between supporting SBC causes and ministries in North Carolina. "We've been trying to take a very healthy look at the whole picture, and I think God has blessed what we're doing," Hollifield said. "We're trying to continue to move in that direction."

Beverly Volz, BSC director of accounting services, reported to the committee that as of June 30, CP receipts for 2017, as well as receipts for the Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon and NCMO offerings, were all up based upon the same time period from 2016.

"I'm grateful for the growth that we've had and that we are experiencing, and I'm thankful for the support that our churches are giving to the budget this year," Hollifield said. **BR**



## Sam Porter named national DR director

NAMB

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has named Sam Porter as the new national director for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR).

Porter will replace Mickey Caison, who officially retires Aug. 31.

NAMB noted Porter has been a proponent of SBDR for years and one of the first disaster relief leaders to respond after the 9-11 attacks in New York City. He served as a chaplain in the morgue at Ground Zero.

Porter also has led more than 100 volunteer mission projects and more than 40 international relief missions. He's headed recovery

efforts for a year in Haiti following 34 volunteer teams from Oklahoma in the wake of the devastating earthquake Jan. 12, 2010. Porter currently serves as volunteer missions specialist for the Baptist

General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO), which includes responsibilities as the director of Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief. Porter plans to retire from the BGCO Aug. 15 and begin his role with NAMB in mid-September.

Porter has an undergraduate degree from Baylor University. He has a master's of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Sheryl, have two adult sons and five grandchildren. **BR**



SAM PORTER

## WHY ARE THEY HERE?

Of the more than 7 billion people who live in the world, 4.2 billion are unreached, representing 7,050 unique unreached people groups. Of those 4.2 billion unreached people, more than 219 million are currently not being engaged in disciple-making leading to church planting.

Consider the people of northern Yemen as an example. There are 11.8 million northern Yemeni people living in the world today, with only 35 believers and no churches among them. This is what it means for a people group to be unreached and unengaged, and there are thousands of people groups just like the people of northern Yemen.

Yet, God is doing something truly amazing in our day. In His gracious goodness, God is bringing the unreached within the shadow of our own steeples. In North Carolina, more than 300 languages are spoken in our public schools. We know of 158 people groups in our communities, of which more than 60 are considered unreached or unengaged.

God has even brought northern Yemenis to North Carolina. There are more than 800 northern Yemeni

people living in towns and communities like Greenville, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Goldsboro and Fayetteville.

Now why would God allow northern Yemenis to move within arm's reach of our churches in North Carolina?

Our Father desires that the people of northern Yemen be given an opportunity to hear the gospel of His Son. He desires that they might be brought into the family of God, and He intends to do just that through the word of His disciples.

Will we be willing disciples of Christ? Are we willing to lay aside our comforts, our preferences, even our prejudices to take the gospel across the street and around the world to the unreached peoples, like the people of northern Yemen?

Will we be a generation that is filled with a holy discontentment because there are many in our own communities and around the world who have not yet had an opportunity to hear and turn to Christ?

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Zac Lyons is a senior consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Office of Great Commission Partnerships. Contact zlyons@ncbaptist.org or (984) 202-6037.)



ZAC LYONS

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## Rowan County commissioners' prayers unconstitutional

BR staff

**R**owan County commissioners violated the United States Constitution by opening meetings with commissioner-led Christian prayers and inviting the audience to join, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 10-5 on July 14.

The commissioners could decide to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The *Charlotte Observer* reported July 15 that at least two of the five commissioners were ready to appeal.

In 2014, the Supreme Court decided in *Town of Greece v. Galloway* that clergy can offer prayers to open town board meetings. However, the 4th Circuit emphasized that because commissioners exclusively gave the prayers, and 97 percent of prayers in recent years were Christian in context, Rowan County's practice "falls well outside the more inclusive, minister-oriented practice of legislative prayer described in *Town of Greece*."

Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III wrote in the majority opinion, "The great promise of the Establishment Clause is that religion will not operate as an instrument of division in our nation."

"Consistent with this principle, there is a time-honored tradition of legislative prayer that reflects the respect of each faith for other faiths and the aspiration, common to so many creeds, of finding higher meaning and deeper purpose in these fleeting moments each of us spends upon this earth. Instead of drawing on this tradition, Rowan County elevated one religion above all others and aligned itself with that faith. It need not be so."

The prayer debate started in 2012 when the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) requested commissioners stop praying at meetings. In 2013, the ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of three non-Christian residents who said the prayers made them feel excluded. According to WRAL, Rowan County attorneys argued that commissioners did not coerce audience members to participate and allowed them to leave the room or stay seated during prayers.

A district court ruled the county's practice unconstitutional in 2015. In 2016, a three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit overturned that decision and upheld the commissioners' right to pray.

All 15 judges of the full 4th Circuit agreed to hear the case again in March, leading to the July 14 decision. **BR**

## Pastor sleeps on roof after students reach VBS goal

By IMARI SCARBROUGH | Special to the *Recorder*

**A** Wadesboro pastor slept on the roof of his church after a recent Vacation Bible School (VBS) raised well over twice the goal of \$1,000 for charity.

Mark Perko, pastor of Deep Creek Baptist Church, challenged his students to raise the money for Sole2Soul by the evening of June 29, VBS Family Night. He promised them that if they met their goal, he would sleep on the roof of the church.

As of June 28, the students had only raised \$466. That same day, Perko received a phone call with a commitment for \$325, leaving them only \$209 from the goal. During the offering taken on deadline during Family Night, the students collected about \$1,400.

The students sent Perko out while some counted the money and wrote the amount on a poster board. Perko heard cheering, then turned and saw the figure written on the poster board. A few individual contributions of \$5 and \$10 bumped the total figure to just over \$2,300.

A nearly 30-minute Facebook Live video taken by Steve Northcutt showing Perko on the roof had 1,400 views, 73 reactions and 14 shares as of June 30. In the video, the narrator asked for supporters to bring coffee and check in with the pastor to see if he needed anything as a crowd watched him and took photos.

Perko has made a habit of offering his students unusual incentives for raising money for charity.

"I always try to do something crazy," Perko said. "Last year, I said if we raised \$700 I'd let the kids throw pies at me. The year before, we collected food and had a large mailing box. I said if we got the box full, I'd dye my hair blue for the last night, Family Night. This year, though, I thought I'd set the bar really high with \$1,000."

Both of the previous two goals in 2015 and 2016 were met, and Perko had pies thrown at him and dyed his hair.

The money raised goes to organizations within the county. The \$700 raised two years ago was donated to Anson County Toys for Tots.

Perko carried a small air mattress, blanket and phone charger with him to the roof and took short "catnaps" during his stay.

"Throughout the night, different people were texting me," he said. "I had four different individuals until 1:30 (a.m.) drive up just to check on me. One member of our church is a Polkton police officer. He came up and put the floodlight on me just to check. Everyone had such a great time with it. At 5:30, members brought coffee to check in on their way to work."

Perko originally planned to have breakfast with John Fagala, founder of Sole2Soul, but Fagala had another commitment. Fagala still stopped by the church to visit Perko, bringing breakfast from the Hub restaurant.

Sole2Soul is a charitable organization founded by Fagala and his teenage daughter, Kelli.

The pair raises money and buys shoes to give to children. In March, more than 100 Anson children in kindergarten through sixth grade and their families went to the Rotary Planetarium and Science Center for a Sole2Soul event and were given shoes and treated to activities and a dinner prepared by members of Deep Creek. Some members of the congregation also washed the feet of the students – a tradition rooted in scripture and performed by Jesus for his disciples – and spoke with the students about faith.

Fagala said at the time that the organization does not require proof of income in order for families to receive shoes.

"Deep Creek has been an absolute God send to our mission," Fagala said in an email to the *Biblical Recorder*. "They have raised over \$6,000 for these kids, and we will be forever grateful."

Perko said Sole2Soul held a similar event July 19 in Monroe for about 300 children, and that another will be held in Anson soon after school starts. Fagala also said there was another event scheduled in West Virginia for 326 children. All of the VBS money will go to pay for shoes during the events.

The church treasurer will count the remaining change brought in by students and add it to the total. A check for the

See VBS page 12



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# Randall House's Ron Hunter hopes to help families connect

BSC Communications

**R**on Hunter Jr. is the executive director & CEO of Randall House, a Christian publisher that promotes generational discipleship through curriculum, books and events. Hunter helps church leaders, parents and grandparents live out the disciple-making principles of Deuteronomy 6 through D6 Family Ministries and as an author, conference speaker and leadership consultant. Previously, Hunter served for 11 years in ministry in Florida and Tennessee.

Hunter will be the keynote speaker at the first event of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Faith at Home Network Fall Conference Series on Aug. 29 at Lakeview Baptist Church in Hickory. Hunter will address what family ministry can look like in the church. Hunter recently took time to answer some questions about his ministry and what he'll be sharing.

**Q:** From your perspective, what is the current spiritual state of the family in the United States?

**A:** For the past three decades, parents have delegated the responsibility of spiritually developing and discipling their kids to the church. Research reveals the problem arises when a child's primary influencers (traditionally his or her parents) do not engage their kids from a biblical perspective.

Parents cultivate their child's passion for sports, music and other hobbies but fail to disciple. It is not that parents do not care about discipleship; they have simply not observed good models nor been taught how to engage their kids in the way Deuteronomy 6 directs. The family unit is often non-traditional and faces brokenness, pain and guilt. The only true answers come from the scriptural mandate to have the church equip the saints (including parents and grandparents) to teach their kids how to put on the whole armor of God and see discipleship as way of life, not an event.

**Q:** You lead a ministry called D6 Family, which is focused on aligning the church and home to accomplish God's design of generational discipleship. What does Deuteronomy 6 tell us about developing faith within the family?

**A:** Deuteronomy is the second most quoted book by Jesus, and

Deuteronomy 6 has always been held in such high regard for God's people, even to this day. But many Christians stopped practicing the simple formula given in Deuteronomy 6. God actually commands us ... to look for teachable moments in the home. Parents and grandparents

do not need to add anything more to their schedule if they simply spend time in the Word daily and use the counsel of scripture to shape the decision making ability of their children. The idea of writing on the doorposts provides a lasting reminder to live, outside the home, what the home biblically teaches. The "impress them on your kids" suggested an ongoing effort to

establish a biblical worldview rather than just teaching a single lesson. The former requires commitment, while the latter provides just knowledge.

**Q:** D6 focuses on the home as the primary vehicle for imparting faith to the next generation. How should churches and families work together in this effort?

**A:** Churches are the on-ramp, equipping place and training venue for how all ages should live, act and believe when not at church. So, why have so many American families compartmentalized the church and home, dividing the efforts? If the church recalibrated efforts to help parents continue to teach what begins during the weekly service, then the biblical lessons would stick and transform families. The goal is consistency in church and home between parents and kids.

The church can teach lessons or teach people – teaching people creates cultural change. The church can provide tools to help parents have Deuteronomy 6 conversations outside of church which help kids understand their parents really do believe and practice biblical values. D6 believes in an age-graded discipleship plan where every age is on the same page learning at different depths. Family-aligned devotionals keep the family connected through the week, allowing conversations to flow more naturally. The church equips and trains parents and grandparents so they can spiritually coach their kids and grandkids.

**Q:** Why do some pastors and churches struggle to prioritize, incorporate and implement a comprehensive family ministry plan into their current ministries? What encouragement would you share with them?



**A:** This one is so simple but not at all obvious to ministry leaders. Senior pastors and the staff form the greatest trained leaders America has ever had.

As a result, the family has trusted everything to church leaders and expect the discipleship to occur only at church. When the ministry leaders come to realize that all their efforts cannot go into what happens at church, then time and attention can be directed toward what happens outside of church.

A church service is an event, and one cannot become a healthy disciple from an event approach. We like to say it this way, "Discipleship is not an event; it is a way of life."

Church should be executed with excellence, but not in such a way that parents think they can never measure up to what ministry leaders do.

The not-so-obvious solution is to spend less time planning the weekly worship hour and more time planning what the families will do with the lessons

taught during that hour throughout the week.

**Q:** What do you hope attendees at the upcoming Faith at Home Fall Conference Series might take away from your presentation?

**A:** My prayer is that attendees find a renewed focus on helping dads get real wins connecting to their kids spiritually, even if imperfectly; that ministry leaders recognize the single moms struggling, but show them how they can give to their kids what really matters – a contagious walk with Christ.

My prayer is that ministry leaders learn how to begin working on a change in the church that teaches Deuteronomy 6 in such a way that families become stronger, biblical worldviews lead our actions, and our culture reflects more of Christ.

Church is not a performance; it is a launching platform for everyday life that still takes daily effort.

Visit [ncbaptist.org/faithathome](http://ncbaptist.org/faithathome). **BR**

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Featuring Clayton King



# Texas evangelism leader accepts new Colorado role

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

Colorado Baptists elected Texas evangelism leader Nathan Lorick as their new executive director in a near unanimous vote July 15 at Applewood Baptist Church in Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Lorick, director of evangelism for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) and a former senior pastor, replaces retiring executive director Mark Edlund, who held the Colorado post for

more than 15 years. The Colorado Baptist General Convention (CBGC) executive director search team recommended Lorick to messengers from a pool of about 20 applicants, BGCC President Mike Routt told Baptist Press (BP).

"There was a unanimous sense that God was leading the search team to him," Routt said.

"It was a variety of things, as it usually is when God is leading. His exceptional leadership in the SBTC in the area

of evangelism was also a very positive aspect."

Lorick became SBTC director of evangelism in 2012 after serving the previous five years as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Malakoff, Texas.

He pastored Martin's Mill Baptist Church in Martin's Mill, Texas, 2005-2007.

Lorick wrote *Dying to Grow: Reclaiming the Heart for Evangelism in the Church*, initiated the ICross app sharing the gospel in

60-plus languages and is an International Mission Board trustee. He is a sought-after voice promoting religious liberty, the CBGC said, noting his media appearances on broadcasts including "Fox and Friends," "Glen Beck Radio," "American Family Radio" and "Tony Perkins Live." He holds master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Jenna Leigh Lorick, have four children. **BP**

## Rebuilding Continued from page 1

restore up to 1,000 homes that were damaged by Hurricane Matthew in the next two years. The organization receives most of its funding from the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO), which is received primarily during the month of September. Each year, 41 percent of the NCMO funds are allocated to Baptists on Mission for ministries like disaster relief.

This year, the offering's theme is "Eyes to See," taken from John 4:35. Richard Brunson, NCBM's executive director, says disaster relief isn't just about helping people rebuild homes. It's about sharing the love and gospel of Jesus Christ and helping people build a new life in Christ. "When God gives those who serve Him eyes to see the brokenness and hurt around them, He works through acts of compassion and love to touch lives," Brunson said. The Mobleys said the workers' kindness



and consideration have helped them in dealing with the aftermath of the flood, which brought about losses that are both monetary and sentimental. The Mobleys lost most of their possessions from their 48 years of marriage in the storm, in addition to irreplaceable items given to them from family members who have since passed away.

"It's just hard," Lillie Jean Mobley said. "We had so many people here helping us tear out and taking everything and just putting it on the pile. But we do have our memories, and that's something that can't be taken away from us."

And through the work of the Baptists on Mission volunteers, the Mobleys say that they had been blessed.

"This time with the flood, if you've never been through it before, it is something else. I hope I never have to go through it again," Forrest Mobley said. "But if we had to, I hope we could count on (N.C. Baptist Men) to help us."

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Watch a video about the Mobleys by visiting [vimeo.com/channels/ncmo](http://vimeo.com/channels/ncmo). To learn more about the North Carolina Missions Offering, visit [ncmissionsoffering.org](http://ncmissionsoffering.org).) **BP**

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**Our Vision** “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.”



by Chad Austin

Chris Schofield is a student of revivals, awakenings and and great movements of God throughout history, and he says there’s a common thread that unites all of them.

“Every awakening has started with God’s people recognizing their desperate need for Him and crying out to Him in heartfelt prayer,” says Schofield, who serves as director of the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

Schofield, the Office of Prayer strategy team and other state convention leaders are urging fellow Baptists to join together at this year’s BSC annual meeting on Nov. 6-7 at the Joseph H. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro and cry out for God to move in our state, nation and world.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the entire evening session will be devoted to a time of dedicated prayer for revival and spiritual awakening as part of the “Broken Before the Throne” prayer gathering.

The prayer gathering aligns with the annual meeting’s theme of “Return to Me,” based on Zechariah 1:3.

More information about annual meeting and the prayer gathering is available at [ncannualmeeting.org](http://ncannualmeeting.org).

“We’ve got to return to Him, and the first element of that is being broken over our sin before His throne,” Schofield said.

While citing reports of spiritual apathy, declining church health, fewer conversions, as well as cultural, economic, political and social unrest, Schofield says he’s never seen a time in recent history where there has been a more desperate need for God to

send revival to the church. He said the prayer gathering at annual meeting is an opportunity for God’s people to unite and humble themselves in brokenness, repentance and one-accord prayer. It will be a time to seek the Lord and call upon Him to move in a mighty and powerful way.

**BROKEN BEFORE THE THRONE:**  
**PRAYER GATHERING**

**When:** Annual Meeting  
November 7, 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Koury Convention Center  
Greensboro, N.C.

**Info:** [ncannualmeeting.org](http://ncannualmeeting.org)

“We need revival in the church and spiritual awakening in the culture,” Schofield said.

“This prayer gathering is a call for God’s people to pray and seek the Lord. It’s an opportunity to acknowledge and confess to God that He is our only hope.”

Acts 3:19 will serve as a guiding verse for the prayer gathering. It reads, “*Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*” (NASB).

The prayer gathering will include seasons of worship intertwined with scripture readings, testimonies and directed seasons of individual and united prayer.

“Our prayer is that the gathering will be

an environment where God’s people can seek His face, turn from their wicked ways, pray and listen to the Lord,” Schofield said. “We are not having a designated speaker that night, except for the Lord.”

N.C. Baptists can prepare their hearts for worship and prayer leading up to annual meeting with a 30-day devotional prayer guide that will be available by early fall.

The devotional will correspond with the annual meeting theme of “Return to Me” taken from Zechariah 1:1-6.

The prayer guide will feature 30 days’ worth of daily devotions, prayer points and reflection questions, and it is intended for use during the month of October.

Each N.C. Baptist church will receive one complimentary printed prayer guide, with additional copies available for purchase.

A free electronic version and other related resources will be available for download at [prayfor30days.org](http://prayfor30days.org).

“We are also calling on pastors and churches to devote a portion of their worship service to prayer for revival and spiritual awakening on Sunday, Nov. 5, leading up to annual meeting and the Tuesday evening prayer gathering,” Schofield said.

Schofield said he hopes the prayer gathering will encourage and challenge pastors and churches to unite and seek the Lord through extraordinary prayer.

“I do think God wants to send revival and spiritual awakening to His church and to America” Schofield said. “But it must start with my broken heart and my desperate prayer.”

Connectnow

VIDEOS

There are a plethora of inspirational and training videos available for you, free to download and use in your church or small group.

[vimeo.com/ncbaptist](http://vimeo.com/ncbaptist)

RESOURCES

Tons of **FREE** resources are available on our [ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org) website and through @ncbaptist on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Log in or follow us and get connected to all.

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Revamped ‘Mission of God’ resource available [ncbaptist.org/missionofgod](http://ncbaptist.org/missionofgod)

Looking for a Bible study or small group resource that provides a biblical and theological foundation for reaching the nations? Consider the “Mission of God,” a free, video-based Bible study produced by the Peoples Next Door N.C. ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The series includes six video sessions that provide an overview of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, highlighting God’s desire to see all of the earth’s people groups come to faith in Jesus Christ. Each video includes biblical teaching and questions for discussion and reflection. Newly revised and updated study guides for students and leaders are also available. All videos and resources are available online at [ncbaptist.org/missionofgod](http://ncbaptist.org/missionofgod). The resource is designed to be used in a variety of ways, such as an individual or group study, as a churchwide teaching series on Sunday or Wednesday nights, or as an enhancement to a pastor’s personal study on the mission of God. Individuals who have used the resource encourage others to use it, as well. “Too often, churches attempt to come up with their own mission when God has already clarified what it should be,” said George Robinson, professor of missions and evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. “The ‘Mission of God’ series is a great resource to help equip churches to join God in His global purposes. “Get this study, use it and put it into practice. The world is waiting.”

Upcoming Events

Spiritual Leadership Equipping Track

Aug. 10-11, Cary [ncbaptist.org/leadershiptevent3](http://ncbaptist.org/leadershiptevent3)

Church Weekday Education Conference

Aug. 12, Cary [ncbaptist.org/cwe-conference](http://ncbaptist.org/cwe-conference)

Inside-Out Sunday School

Various Dates & Locations [ncbaptist.org/insideout](http://ncbaptist.org/insideout)

Faith at Home Network Fall Conference Series

Aug. 29, Sept. 12, Oct. 3, Various Locations [ncbaptist.org/faithathome](http://ncbaptist.org/faithathome)

Reaching College Students

Sept. 16, Chapel Hill [reachingcollegestudents.org](http://reachingcollegestudents.org)

Scorecard

Oct. 3, 5, 19, Various Locations [ncbaptist.org/scorecard](http://ncbaptist.org/scorecard)

Reaching the Nations in North America

Oct. 27-28, Wake Forest [reachingthenations.net](http://reachingthenations.net)

[ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org)



Faith at Home Fall Conference Tour

Are families in your church making disciples in their homes? Join us for the Faith at Home Network Fall Conference Series as four of the country’s top family ministry leaders will help you and your ministry team implement a biblically-based family ministry in your church. Events are scheduled for Aug. 29 at Lakeview Baptist Church in Hickory; Sept. 12 at Calvary West Baptist Church in Advance; and Oct. 13-14 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro. Speakers include Mark Holmen, executive director of Faith at Home ministries of Crosslake, Minnesota; Ron Hunter, author and

leader of D6 Family Ministries; Rob Rienow, founder of Visionary Family Ministries; and Doug Bischoff, next generation’s minister at Houston (Texas) First Baptist Church. More details on the events – including speaker biographies and registration information – is available online by visiting [ncbaptist.org/faithathome](http://ncbaptist.org/faithathome).

Learn more at [ncbaptist.org/faithathome](http://ncbaptist.org/faithathome)



Reaching the Nations

People from all over the world are moving into our communities. Many are coming from places where there is little-to-no access to the gospel. Join us Oct. 27-28 on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest for speakers, breakout sessions and peer learning all directed toward the task of reaching the nations in North America. Sessions will cover methodology for people group discovery

and engagement, creative strategies for local churches and more. Featured speakers include: Danny Akin, president of SEBTS; Chris Clayman of the Global Gates Network; J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church (Raleigh-Durham); J.D. Payne, pastor for church multiplication at The Church at Brook Hills (Birmingham, Ala.); and Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church (Marietta, Ga.).

Learn more at [reachingthenations.net](http://reachingthenations.net)

Women’s Retreat: Anchored

God desires for women to live their lives anchored to Him so that when the storms of life come, we are firmly planted in Him and His promises. But how do we anchor ourselves in God’s Word? At this year’s N.C. Baptist Women’s Retreat, scheduled for Oct. 27-28 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro, women will learn how to study scripture so they might be anchored in our Heavenly Father and His Truth. Author and Bible study leader Katie Orr will encourage

attendees throughout the weekend, which will also include special guest breakout session leader Esther Burroughs of “Esther Burroughs Ministries: Treasures of the Heart.” Kimberly Merida of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh will serve as the retreat worship leader. Early-bird registration is available through Sept. 8. Learn more and register at [ncbaptist.org/anchored](http://ncbaptist.org/anchored).

Learn more at [ncbaptist.org/anchored](http://ncbaptist.org/anchored)





# Peterson endorses, retracts same-sex marriage endorsement

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Production Editor

**E**vangelical leader Eugene Peterson, 84, author of “The Message” Bible translation, set social media ablaze after a July 12 story was released.

The question and answer format by Religion News Service’s (RNS) Jonathan Merritt asked Peterson about his latest and last book, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, as well as questions about politics, the American church and same-sex marriage. In his answers, Peterson indicated that, if asked, he would perform a same-sex wedding. He answered with one word, “Yes.”

That answer, along with his answer to a previous question about the Presbyterian church grappling with the hot-button issue of same-sex marriage, attracted the most attention.

Peterson released a statement July 13 indicating he did support traditional marriage.

“To clarify, I affirm a biblical view of marriage: one man to one woman,” he stated. “I affirm a biblical view of everything.”

Peterson mentioned most of his interviews have been done in writing, giving him time to formulate responses.

“When put on the spot by this particular interviewer, I said yes in the moment. But on further reflection and prayer, I would like to retract that.

“When I told this reporter that there are gay and lesbian people who ‘seem to have as good a spiritual life as I do,’ I meant it. But then again, the goodness of a spiritual life is functionally irrelevant in the grand scheme of things.

“We are saved by faith through grace that operates independent of our resolve or our good behavior. It operates by the hand of a loving God who desires for us to live in grace and truth and who does not tire of turning us toward both grace and truth.

“There have been gay people in a variety of congregations, campuses and

communities where I have served. My responsibility to them was the work of a pastor – to visit them, to care for their souls, to pray for them, to preach the [s] criptures for them.”

Baptist Press (BP) released a story July 12 as well with comments from key Baptist leaders, who blogged and tweeted about the revelation by this best-selling author.

In a statement to BP, LifeWay Christian Resources said if the statement from Peterson was true, the stores would no longer carry his materials.

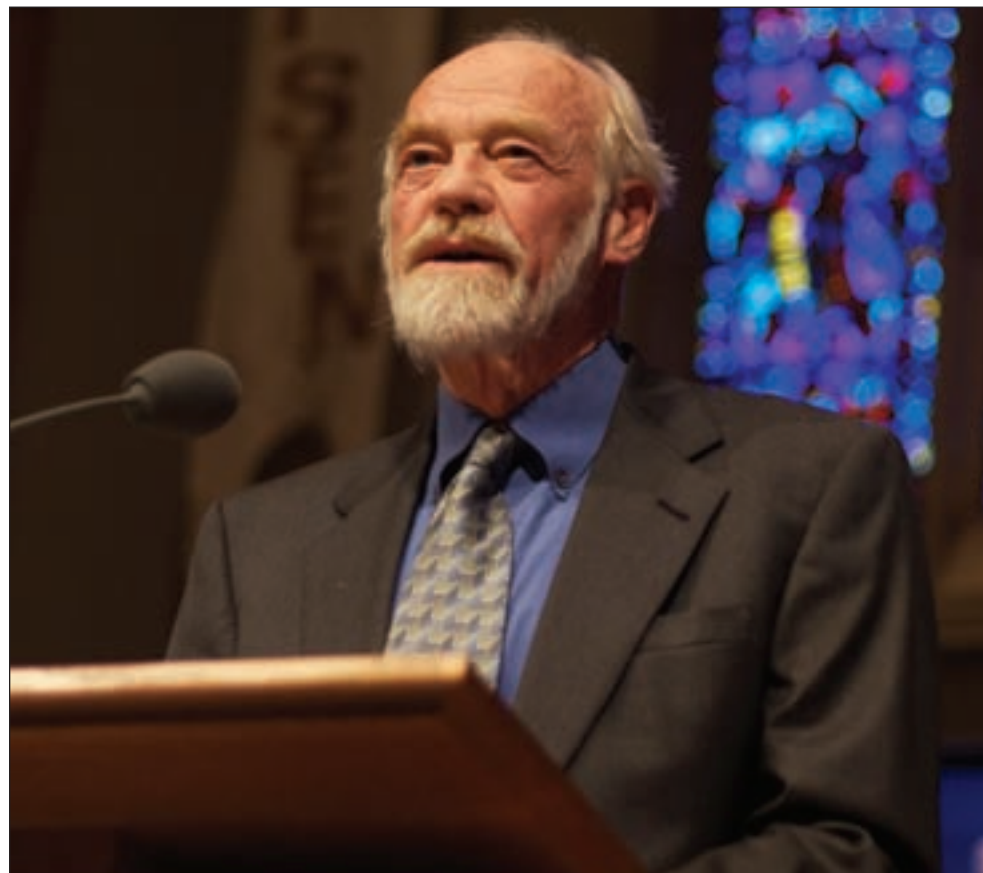
Peterson said he regretted the confusion “that this interview has fostered.”

In a RNS column, Merritt elaborated that the article he originally wrote was part of a three-part interview addressing a range of topics, including why Peterson was stepping away from public life, his view on megachurches and whether death frightens him.

“Some have asked me why I would ask these questions at all,” Merritt said in his column. “There were two primary reasons. First, he is one of the most influential Christian thinkers in the world, and homosexuality is one of the most contentious debates in the church today. What Eugene Peterson believes about this topic matters, which is more than evident in the reaction it generated.

“Second, and perhaps more interesting, I had spoken with several prominent pastors, authors and theologians who intimated to me that Peterson had told them privately that he was affirming of same-sex relationships. This prompted my curiosity about his views. If true, I know my readers would be interested.”

Merritt indicated the actual interview took place July 6 over the phone and was recorded by his permission. The inter-



Eugene Peterson lectured in 2009 at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Wash., sponsored by the Seattle Pacific University Image Journal. (Wikimedia photo by Clappstar)

view lasted just over 30 minutes.

Merritt further said that in the week leading up to the post (on July 12), Peterson never attempted to clarify or change his answer to the questions Merritt posed.

A similar revelation from popular Christian author Jen Hatmaker last year also caused a firestorm on social media and beyond.

A *Christianity Today* article July 13 indicated that LifeWay would continue to sell Peterson’s works. The store pulled Hatmaker’s books and Bible studies after her statements, also to Merritt, last year.

In the series of articles with Merritt,

Peterson said he would no longer be writing, teaching or speaking publicly. In his retraction, he indicated his desire to avoid public statements. He plans to limit his communication to personal correspondence. **BR**

## 11 Reasons to Not Drink Alcohol

1. God said to be sober (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8; 1 Peter 5:8, NKJV). The Greek word “*nepho*” means wineless, free from intoxicants.
  2. We are to love God with all our minds (Mark 12:30). Alcohol impairs that mind.
  3. It is expensive (Proverbs 23:21).
  4. It makes you do foolish things you would never do in your right mind (Proverbs 23:29-35).
  5. It is dangerous and addictive (Proverbs 20:1).
  6. It hurts your testimony; you influence others to drink; you often harm others (Romans 14:21).
  7. Drugs should not be used for recreation and pleasure.
  8. Never take that first drink, and you will never become a problem drinker.
  9. Drinking supports an industry that has destroyed untold thousands.
  10. Not drinking is prudent and wise (Proverbs 20:1; 22:3).
  11. You should rely on God, not drugs (Psalm 11:1).
- David R. Brumbelow, author of *Ancient Wine and the Bible: The Case for Abstinence*. [gulfcoastpastor.blogspot.com](http://gulfcoastpastor.blogspot.com) (Permission granted to reprint.)

Questions about the Bible and alcohol? Find answers in *Ancient Wine and the Bible*.

Also see: *The Wit & Wisdom of Pastor Joe Brumbelow*

## Emergency Chaplains Training Events

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**Aug. 19:** Mental Health First Aid  
**Sept. 22-23:** Group Crisis Intervention (ICISF)  
**Oct. 13-14:** Assisting Individuals in Crisis (ICISF)

See our website for more information:  
[Echap.org/training](http://Echap.org/training)



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# Black church conference: nurture, fellowship & praise

By **DIANA CHANDLER** | Baptist Press

**S**outhern Baptist African-American pastor Ryan Rice, founder and leader of Life Church in New Orleans, is experiencing the first Black Church Leadership and Family Conference of his 30-some years.

“To see other pastors who look like me ... and have flourished in their families and their ministries – that’s been a huge blessing and an encouragement,” Rice told Baptist Press (BP) July 18 on the second day of the conference scheduled through July 21 at Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

Rice connected with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) when looking for a partner to help him plant Life Church in the Algiers community of New Orleans three years ago and said he is becoming increasingly involved in Southern Baptist life. At Ridgecrest, he has already established connections he considers valuable to the life of his ministry.

“It’s been the relationships that I’ve been able to develop, even in a short 24 hours’ span of time, and just the real nuggets of wisdom that I’ve gleaned from other pastors who’ve been doing ministry longer than me, and who’ve given their heart, their soul,” Rice said in reflecting on the most valuable aspects of the conference.

“It’s been a huge blessing to be a part of the SBC,” he said. “It’s been a great thing to see how God is moving among the SBC, seeing the generations now, kind of touch every generation from my generation, millennials, all the way on, and then the multi-cultural aspect as well. I’ve been definitely blessed.”

Ken Weathersby, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention advancement, likened the worth of the SBC to an African proverb that suggests if you want to simply run fast, run alone, but if you want to run farther, run with others.



New Orleans pastor Ryan Rice, right, networked and learned valuable insights from other pastors at the 2017 Black Church Leadership and Family Conference underway at Ridgecrest, N.C. (BP photo by Diana Chandler)

On the heels of the SBC’s passage of a resolution denouncing alt-right white supremacy at the group’s 2017 annual meeting, Weathersby encouraged conference attendees during the event’s opening evening worship in Spilman Auditorium.

“There will be no racism in the Southern Baptist Convention. We will not tolerate racism,” Weathersby said, though not referencing the resolution. “As Dr. (Frank S.) Page said when he greeted you here last year, there will be no partiality in the SBC.” Page is president of the SBC Executive Committee and has made intentional strides in including the voices of Southern Baptists of all ethnicities in policy initiatives and priorities.

Byron Day, president of the SBC’s National African American Fellowship (NAAF) of 4,000 churches, described the conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC as “one of the most exciting,

encouraging and empowering events for black Southern Baptists.”

Among the 200 or so pastors, ministers and others who attended the welcoming reception NAAF hosted on the conference’s opening night, about 25 were first-time attendees of the event held annually for nearly 25 years. Preliminary LifeWay figures show a total conference attendance of about 950.

“The annual conference is important because it offers African-American Southern Baptists the opportunity to worship and fellowship with brothers and sisters from all over the country in a familiar cultural context not available to them at similar conferences,” said Day, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Laurel, Md. “The numerous training classes and activities for the entire family provide a time of rest and renewal for our pastors, church leaders and their families.”

Day, like others, pointed to the networking and information-sharing as beneficial. “I am very grateful to LifeWay and its partners for their commitment to this event that equips, encourages and edifies the saints,” he said.

Conference convener Mark Croston, LifeWay’s national director for black church partnerships, voiced excitement at the opportunity to offer the event.

“Having all the SBC entities and other partners represented allows us to offer classes and experiences for all aspects of church life and something for all age groups,” Croston told BP. “What really makes this event unique is that we really do have something for the entire family.”

With its origins in ministry to African-American Southern Baptists, the conference has multicultural value, Croston said.

“We are (titled) black church but not just for black

**See Church page 12**

## Internet Continued from page 1

believes harmful online behavior generally stops short of addiction.

“The Internet is ubiquitous for most teens,” said Kelly, who teaches youth ministry. “The Internet is just an extension of where they live. We see students having real problems disconnecting from friends through texting or other forms of messaging.”

The National Center for Biotechnology Information describes Internet addiction as a “preoccupation with the Internet and digital media” accompanied by an “inability to control the amount of time spent interfacing with digital technology.”

Internet addicts may experience “the need for more time or a new game to achieve a desired mood, withdrawal symptoms when not engaged, and a continuation of the behavior despite family conflict, a diminishing social life and adverse work or academic consequences,” according to the center.

Hilarie Cash, a psychotherapist at an Internet addiction rehab center in

Washington state, told The Guardian “there isn’t consistent criteria to measure [Internet addiction] yet,” but it is “being considered for future possible inclusion” in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual, the standard U.S. reference book for mental health. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the average teen spends 2.3 hours per weekday engaged in media and communication-related activities.

A female teen was the focus of an National Public Radio (NPR) feature that explored Internet addiction. Naomi, whose name was changed for privacy reasons, initially watched YouTube videos fleetingly in her spare time. Her mother began to notice Naomi was watching videos online more frequently, and the videos usually featured females fighting one another. What’s more, Naomi would become “agitated” and “bleary-eyed” after emerging from her room.

Naomi’s obsession reached its darkest hour when she began to watch videos about how to commit suicide.

“I got the idea to overdose online,” Naomi told NPR. “I was researching how many pills I had to take to die.”

After checking into rehab followed by a month-long outpatient program, Naomi said she was committed to not falling back into addiction. She asked her mom to restrict her phone use so she can’t use the phone when she’s alone.

“I’ve realized what it’s done to me in some ways,” Naomi said of her addiction. “I’ve seen what it has done to some of my friends.”

Youth minister Chuck Butler believes churches should act now to stem the tide of harmful teen Internet consumption.

“I think there are some students who are potentially addicted to the Internet,” said Butler, minister to students at Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, told BP. “I also think there are opportunities for us to help that.”

A challenge, Butler said, is “for the church to be able to shine a light on [Internet addiction] and to not shame and guilt the use of technology. There is more

we should do and we have got to be more proactive.”

One reason teens might become addicted to the Internet, Butler said, is their desire to be connected to what is happening around them.

“There are so many points of connection on the phone, and so many things on the phone are incredibly appealing,” Butler said. “Students love being connected to each other. They love being connected to everything that is going on.”

Educating parents on how to deal with Internet addiction is one solution to the problem, Butler said.

“We’ve had the opportunity to get in front of parents and teach them about technology,” Butler said. “We’ve attempted to help parents understand that the Internet doesn’t always have to be an evil thing, but you have got to be aware of the dangers.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Daniel Woodman, who will be a senior journalism major at the University of Missouri, is a summer intern with Baptist Press.) **BP**



## Church

Continued from page 11

church,” he said. “We have many who are not black but want to share with or learn how to share with African Americans in their communities. One white family from Vermont is here. They adopted a black child and want to give him time and experiences with other black children, but it turns out they have been having as great an experience as their child.”

Trillia Newbell, who addressed racial unity in her 2014 book *United: Captured By God's Vision for Diversity*, told BP the conference is an opportunity for churches to gather, support, encourage and equip each other for the glory of God. She believes the SBC has made strides in racial reconciliation and has hope that Southern Baptists will continue to see progress.

“I don’t know of anyone who doesn’t need to grow,” Newbell said, moments before teaching a conference class July 19 encouraging women to love the unborn, unloved and neglected. “The truth is that we will not see complete restoration until Jesus comes.”

The previous day at 6:45 p.m., conference attendees gathered in Spilman Auditorium for worship.

Eric Geiger, vice president of LifeWay’s resources division, preached on sanctification from Galatians 3:1-13. The grace of Jesus saves, sustains and sanctifies His followers, Geiger preached. Praise leader and vocalist Niya Cotton, wife of conference worship leader Roy Cotton II, sang a closing hymn, “How He Loves Us,” before the benediction.

For most churches, the benediction signals the end of worship, but Cotton kept singing, “He is jealous for me. Love’s like a hurricane. I am the tree bending beneath



Niya Cotton, at podium, leads the “Who-So-Ever-Will” choir in praise and worship during the 2017 Black Church Leadership and Family Conference underway at Ridgecrest, N.C. (BP photo by Diana Chandler)

the weight of His wind and mercy.” The “Who-So-Ever-Will Choir,” a volunteer impromptu group drawn each year from conference attendees, remained on stage, praising God, singing background at times.

More than 100 of the 700 or so adults gathered for worship remained in the auditorium, singing along, raising hands, swaying, undaunted by the close of service. After 20 minutes of soulful love ballads to and about God, Cotton’s father-in-law Roy Cotton Sr. joined in singing “Oh, How I love Jesus.”

Someone shouted “hallelujah,” even as the crowd dispersed and fellowshiped with conference attendees in Ridgecrest coffee shops, courtyards and other venues. The next day would begin with 6:15 early morning worship. **BR**

## VBS

Continued from page 5

full amount will then be given to Fagala for Sole2Soul.

Perko estimated that about 230 people were present during Family Night – average attendance for that part of VBS – and that there were 50 to 75 there when he went on the roof.

The pastor said he was thrilled that the students raised so much over the goal.

“It was just so awe-inspiring,” Perko said. “I knew all along we were going to hit the goal; I prayed and asked God to give me a number, an amount, and it was \$1,000. I knew he wouldn’t tell me \$1,000 if we weren’t going to get it .... I told folks it was just the kind of God we serve. He gives us exceedingly, abundantly more than we think. Think of the 12 baskets left over from a boy’s lunch when Jesus fed over 5,000 people, and there were still leftovers.”

Perko said doing feats such as fundraising such a high goal for the group is just part of serving God.

“We try to shovel it out, and God always shovels it back,” he said, “and His shovel is bigger than our shovel.”

“But I promise you they will in coming weeks, and they will be pretty crazy,” Perko said. “It’s probably the craziest thing I’ve ever done – and I’ve been in ministry 26 years – but this was the most fun and most rewarding. It was worth it all.”

The students haven’t yet suggested any fundraising ideas for next year’s VBS, but the pastor said he’s considering jumping out of a plane.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – This story was originally published in The Anson Record.) **BR**

# It’s very simple!

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## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituary

**GEORGE DUANE WILMORE**, 77, of Hertford, died July 13.

A Pennsylvania native, Wilmore served in the U.S. Navy and was a former volunteer with Albemarle Hospice. He was pastor at Great Hope Baptist Church, Hertford, from December 2006 until his death. He had also served as pastor of Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Hertford, and several other churches.

He is survived by his wife, Millie Barber Wilmore; a brother, David Wilmore of Williamston; a sister, Shirley Warner of Showlo, Ariz.; two sons, Michael Wilmore of Sterling, Va., and Andy Wilmore of Orange, Va.; Millie's sons, Paul Peaden of Shallote, and Kris Peaden of Buena Vista, Va.; his "adopted" daughter, Anita Eure of Hertford; and six grandchildren.

Memorials: Great Hope Baptist Church, 131 Great Hope Church Road, Hertford, NC 27944.

### Staff changes

**EARL PENNELL** has been called as interim pastor of West Point Baptist Church, Kannapolis. He previously served as interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Clover, S.C.

Coats Baptist Church has called **NEAL THORNTON** as senior pastor. He previously served as senior pastor at First Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, Ky., for three years.

**BILLY DENNIS** has been called as senior pastor at Roberdel Baptist Church, Rockingham. He previously served as pastor of Manteo Faith Baptist Church.

Parkersburg Missionary Baptist Church, Garland, has called **MICHAEL SALISBURY** as pastor. He previously served as pastor at Bonaparte Baptist Church, Ocean Isle, for two years.

**HAL GREENE** has been called as pastor at Little Rock Baptist Church, Boomer. Greene previously served as associate pastor at Southside Baptist Church, Mooresville, for more than 22 years.

Friendship Baptist Church, Hope Mills, has called **KENNETH MCMULLEN** as pastor. He previously served as associate pastor at the church.

**JONATHAN WAITS** has been called as senior pastor at First Baptist Church, Oakboro. He previously served as senior pastor at Central Baptist Church, Church Road, Va. for nine years.

Anderson Creek Community Church, Spring Lake, has called **SAM HARVIN** as pastor. He previously served as interim pastor at the church.

**RANDY STORZ** has been called as senior pastor of Mount Beulah Baptist Church, Wadesboro. He previously was associate pastor and youth minister at Mount Olive Baptist Church, King.

## OPPORTUNITY CORNER



## BAPTISTS ON MISSION

The Baptists on Mission Regional Rallies will highlight the variety of opportunities North Carolina Baptists have to be involved in missions across our state, in our nation and around the world.

Worship, testimony, mission video and a prayer time for missions will be featured at these 10 rallies across the state in August. Everyone who is interested in missions is welcome.

A main focus of these rallies will be state, national and international partnerships and projects that are supported by the North Carolina Missions Offering.

• **Aug. 14** – Region 2: Southside Baptist Church, Elm City; Region 8: Mt.

Ruhama Baptist Church, Maiden; Region 10: Scotts Creek Baptist Church, Sylva;

• **Aug. 15** – Region 1: Galatia Baptist Church, Seaboard; Region 4: New Hope Baptist Church, Raleigh; Region 6: First Baptist Church, Rockingham; Region 9: Pole Creek Baptist Church, Candler;

• **Aug. 17** – Region 3: Salemburg Baptist Church; Region 5: Stallings Memorial Baptist Church, Salisbury; Region 7: Midway Baptist Church, West Jefferson.

A meal is provided for the N.C. Mission Rallies at no charge, but reservations are necessary for the meal.

The deadline for reservations is one week prior to the event. Visit [baptistsonmission.org/events/region-rallies](http://baptistsonmission.org/events/region-rallies).



**In Prayer ↑  
On Mission →  
For Christ †**

## Metrolina Baptist Association → 2017

Metrolina Baptist Association in partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is sponsoring Equip Network Fall Classes. Classes offered are: Developing a Church Planting Methodology Practicum taught by Bob Lowman, director of missions for Metrolina, and Personal Discipleship and Disciple-making Practicum taught by Ronnie Parrott,

lead pastor of Christ Community Church in Huntersville.

Classes start Aug. 23 and are available for class credit or audit. Course fees apply through Southeastern, but auditing the class is free. Participants are expected to purchase their own course material. Email Lowman at [bob@metrolina.org](mailto:bob@metrolina.org) or call (704) 375-1197.

## INSIDE-Out

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Gain a new perspective on Sunday School that focuses on growing and making disciples — not just filling seats.

*Schedule*

**SATURDAY, AUG. 26, 2017**

9:30 a.m. to noon  
Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone

**MONDAY, OCT. 9, 2017**

6-8:30 p.m.  
Greater Joy Baptist Church, Rocky Mount

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 2017**

9:30 a.m. to noon  
Mount Olive Baptist Church, Bolivia

**THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 2017**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Corinth Baptist Church, Elizabeth City

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 19, 2017**

6-8:30 p.m.  
Stanleyville Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

**SATURDAY, OCT. 28, 2017**

9:30 a.m. to noon  
West Canton Baptist Church, Canton

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 2017**

6-8:30 p.m.  
Christ Community Church, Huntersville

**LED BY**

**N.C. Baptist  
Sunday School Team**



## worshipleader

BOOT CAMP EXTREME

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is hosting Worship Leader Boot Camp Extreme on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia. This camp is for those who want to really understand and apply the material covered in the Worship Leader Boot Camp. Participants will be expected to complete some work before the intense three-day conference.

Additionally, they will set goals for personal and ministry improvement at

the event and will be involved in months of follow up. Focus areas include: planning worship services, planning music sets and their connections, rehearsing bridges to connect songs in a set, modeling a worship arts team for worship planning, exploring biblical, missional, cultural and discipleship issues and how they relate to local church settings. Cost is \$225 and includes two nights lodging in a single-occupancy room and seven meals. Visit [bootcampextreme.org](http://bootcampextreme.org).



August 6

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

August 13

## The Gift of Grace

**Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

Some of us undoubtedly remember the folklore stories of Uncle Remus. One of my all-time favorites is the tale about the day “Br’er Fox” caught “Br’er Rabbit.” Br’er Fox wanted to make Br’er Rabbit suffer as much as possible. The sly rabbit was even smarter than the fox so he begged to be eaten or skinned alive but he pleaded, “Please don’t throw me in the briar patch!”

Of course, when Br’er Fox threw Br’er Rabbit in the briar patch, he soon learned that it was in the thorns and thistles that a rabbit was most at home.

While Br’er Rabbit clearly loved the briar patch more than we do, I cannot help but think of the similarities that exist between Br’er Rabbit and the child of God.

We really don’t want to be thrown into the briar patch of life (unlike Br’er Rabbit), but oftentimes we find that it is in the briar patch that we flourish.

The secret of our success in the face of difficulty is not our intellect or our good disposition, but rather the grace of God. In 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Paul recalled

how God had greatly blessed him in Christ. Nevertheless, he says, *“in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh”* (2 Corinthians 12:7).

There has been endless speculation as to what Paul’s thorn in the flesh might have been, but it was undoubtedly a difficulty he experienced in his life. Paul’s problem kept him from becoming overly confident or independent. His struggle constantly reminded him that he had to rely on God’s grace. Because Paul admitted his weakness and need of God, Christ worked through him in a powerful way.

Therefore, when Paul felt weak in himself, he was strengthened in Christ by grace. No matter what difficulties you experience in life, you will have strength to succeed spiritually if you depend on God and His grace. The truth Christ spoke to Paul can be applied to all believers, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”* (2 Corinthians 12:9).



**DAVID CROWTHER**  
Pastor,  
Mount Olive Baptist  
Church, Pittsboro

## A Channel of Comfort

**Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 1:2-7**

Before he ever became a famous preacher and had denominations which claimed him as their founder, John Wesley was a preacher who had never met Jesus. He had gone to the American colonies and experienced a failed pastorate and failed romance in Savannah, Ga. On his return voyage to England the vessel he was sailing upon encountered a horrific storm. While he and the others held on for dear life and were overcome with fear, Wesley noticed that a group of German Christians sang hymns of praise to God almost as if they did not notice the violent shaking of the ship and the salty water which was drenching them. The attitude of these Christians (the Moravians) in the midst of a frightening time made a deep impression upon Wesley. In fact, what Wesley witnessed on that vessel played a strong part in his later conversion.

Perhaps you have never had the same

experience as Wesley, but surely we’ve all had difficulties in life – losing a loved one, a broken or strained relationship or a doctor’s discouraging prognosis. It is during these difficult times that we learn that our God is *“the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles ...”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). God is the source of true comfort for the believer. However, since God comforts us as Christians, we are required to comfort others with his love and comfort; Paul goes on to add that God comforts us *“... so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God”* (2 Corinthians 1:4). Paul experienced hardship and learned God’s comfort in the face of his difficulties. The lessons we learn through trouble can help us to comfort others when they are facing those same troubles. How has God comforted you in a difficult time in your life? Do you know someone who is going through a trial that you have already completed? Have you considered sharing with them how God comforted you when you faced a similar situation? Let’s remember God spoke to us through Isaiah: *“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God”* (Isaiah 40:1).

August 6

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

August 13

## The Confession

**Focal Passage: Psalm 51:1-17**

Most of my Bible heroes were also “big time” sinners. Moses was a murderer, Paul rounded up people to be killed and the man who penned Psalm 51 was no different.

David writes this soul wrenching and restoring psalm after being confronted by his advisor about his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11).

David, like my other heroes, knew God, sought forgiveness and aspired to honor God through confession and obedience.

For repentance to take place we must have sorrow over our sin.

Second Corinthians 7:10 says that *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorry brings death.”*

Psalm 51 moves directly from David’s guilt over his sin to his desire for cleansing.

David asks God to *“create in him a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me”* (Psalm 51:10).

Man may put together something from other materials, but David is asking for a clean heart.

No man can make that.

Only God can create. It is also no wonder that David desires to have a firm spirit about him.

Temptation had led him astray already, and he had no desire to repeat that sin. He desired to stand firm.

Too often humans deny the need for forgiveness by trying to be self-sufficient.

David lusted after Bathsheba, then he sinned with her. He brought Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, in from battle to entice him to go home to his wife to cover up David’s sin.

Finally David had Uriah killed with a plan that involved the loss of other lives too as the army lines did not pull back from the fierce fighting until Uriah was dead.

David could not erase or cover his sin and neither can we. God is the only self-sufficient being.

God desires for His children to obey Him, but He knows we are sinful. He provides forgiveness and reconciliation through Jesus.

God desires for us to be broken over our sin so that He may restore us.



**EMILY CARTER**  
Member,  
University Hills Baptist  
Church, Charlotte

**Focal Passage: Psalm 32:1-11**

There is great contrast between righteousness and sinfulness. Last spring I asked a group of middle schoolers to make a list of sins and ungodly traits from Romans 1:29-31 and write down the opposite characteristics. For instance, in the left column they wrote the words evil, greed and envy. Correspondingly on the right side they wrote the words good, generous and delight. They then threw away the list of sinful behaviors and posted the godly ones on the wall because we wanted to confess our sins to God and remember that He removes them as far as the east is from the west.

Psalm 32:1-4 shows the contrast between the one who has brought his sin before the Lord and the one who is still holding on to it. There are few things worse than knowing you have sin in your life and continuing to hold on to it. Living with sin will drain a person’s energy, keep one from experiencing peace, reaching his or her full potential and will cause

## The Cleansing

a stunt in spiritual growth. Freedom comes the moment the sin cycle is broken and confession is made to the Lord. One can almost hear the excitement in David’s voice in Psalm 32:5 *“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’ – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

We do not need to run from God when our sin is made known to us, instead we need to run to God, for His word promises protection, deliverance and wise counsel. Imagine if we took our temptations to Jesus and sought out His help before we sinned.

*“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

Because of Jesus we are made righteous and may rejoice in the LORD and be glad.

**There are few things worse than knowing you have sin in your life and continuing to hold on to it. Living with sin will drain a person’s energy ... stunt ... spiritual growth.**



# Verse-by-verse nurture marks Andy Davis' preaching

By S. CRAIG SANDERS | SBTs

To preach verse-by-verse through Isaiah – from 2008 until February of this year – Andy Davis memorized all of the book's 1,292 verses.

It's a discipline he developed while working as a mechanical engineer in 1986, several years after becoming a Christian. To this day, fellow students from his doctoral studies at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., recall seeing Davis walk the streets near the campus as he committed entire books of the Bible to memory.

When Davis finished his doctor of philosophy degree in church history in 1998, he accepted the call as pastor of the historic First Baptist Church (FBC) in Durham. Scripture memory and meditation sustained him as he withstood a faction of deacons and committee chairs opposed to a 2001 change in the church's bylaws to reflect biblical roles of gender and authority.

Davis continues to lead the congregation in the same way, with verse-by-verse expository preaching rooted in scripture memory and meditation.

As Davis walks down the hallway to his church of-

fice, he passes a portrait of Martin Luther at the 1521 church assembly Diet of Worms, surrounded by Catholic officials as the reformer declares his allegiance to scripture and refuses to recant his "heretical" views. Inside Davis' office hangs the classic portrait of George Whitefield preaching in the open air in London amid the utter mayhem of hecklers. Having studied John Calvin for his doctoral dissertation, Davis says learning from history's theologians, martyrs and missionaries "gives you courage to face the challenges" of pastoral ministry.

While the congregational turmoil that marked his first three years at FBC Durham has disappeared, Davis recognizes the rapidly growing tides of secularism outside the doors of the church's 90-year-old sanctuary. Duke University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are all within 25 miles. Known as the Research Triangle, the Raleigh-Durham area boasts one of the nation's highest number of advanced degrees per capita and a heavily liberal presence in an otherwise conservative state.



ANDY DAVIS

Educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., with 10 years of experience in the workforce before earning his doctorate at Southern, Davis possesses a professional and academic background uniquely suited for ministering among highly educated people.

His sermons are carefully reasoned presentations of truth – biblical exposition crafted with the care one would expect of a mechanical engineer.

"My way of fighting secularization is verse-by-verse exposition," Davis said in an interview with *Southern Seminary Magazine*. "People start to see the magnificence of the Word of God, and I love the complexity of the interconnectedness of the Bible."

No one influenced Davis' hermeneutics more than Calvin. Studying Calvin's commentaries and his Institutes of the Christian Religion provided him with a model both for verse-by-verse exposition and presenting the big picture of redemptive history.

"What Calvin did better than anyone in history is

See Davis page 16

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

Pearl Baptist Church, Iron Station, NC, seeks **Pastor** who is passionate about sharing the love of Christ to all ages of our congregation and to the local community. We believe the Bible is true yesterday, today and for all times. Seminary graduate, divinity school or Bible college is preferred with a minimum five to 10 years of pastoral experience. Our focus is on reaching the community at home and through missions; we seek a pastor that shares these desires. Submit resume, statement of faith, personal testimony and a recent sermon video to: Pearl Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, C/O James Rosselot, Chair, 4657 East Hwy. 27, Iron Station, NC.

Seeking **FT Sr. Pastor** for a blended style worship service Southern Baptist church. Requires a minimum education level of master of divinity from a seminary affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Licensed and ordained as a pastor in a Southern Baptist church with a minimum of 10 years experience as a pastor (Sr. or Assoc.). Send cover letter and resume to: Pastor Search Comm., Burkemont Baptist Church, 4668 Burkemont Road, Morganton, NC 28655.

First Baptist Church in New Tazewell, Tennessee, is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Master's degree and experience preferred. Please send resume with sermon CD or DVD to FBC, Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 248, New Tazewell, Tennessee 37824. Resumes accepted through September 8, 2017.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Cowpens, SC, is seeking a **full-time Southern Baptist Pastor**. Send resume to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 250 Mt. Olive Road, Cowpens, SC 29330, or [mtolive@bellsouth.net](mailto:mtolive@bellsouth.net).

### Church Staff

Salemburg Baptist Church, Salemburg, NC, is currently seeking individuals for the following two positions: **Minister of Music** and **Pianist**. Prospective candidates must have an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ and have a love for people. Candidates will be musically competent, motivated, and have excellent communication and organization skills. Persons interested should call the church office at 910-525-4265 or send email and resume to: [salemburgbc@embarqmail.com](mailto:salemburgbc@embarqmail.com).

Fairview Baptist Church, Reidsville, NC, is seeking a **part-time Music Director**. We are searching for a person who is Spirit-filled, loves the Lord Jesus, and seeks to honor God in all aspects of worship and leading. Fairview is a conservative Southern Baptist church. Send resumes to: [jheathlloyd@gmail.com](mailto:jheathlloyd@gmail.com) or to Fairview Baptist Church, 2531 Flat Rock Rd., Reidsville, NC 27320.

First Baptist Church, Hudson, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Administration**. Candidates should demonstrate a proven ability to oversee the processes of assimilating and equipping Christians to effective discipleship. Seminary degree required. Send resume by July 31 to Search Committee, 345 Main Street, Hudson, NC 28638, or [resume@hudsonfirst.org](mailto:resume@hudsonfirst.org).

Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, is seeking a **Minister to Children and Their Families**. Responsibilities include oversight of the Child Development Center. Mail or deliver resumes by August 15 to Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church, 1117 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203 (ATTN: Search Committee); or [bobbymorrow@pritchardmemorial.com](mailto:bobbymorrow@pritchardmemorial.com).

Scotland Neck First Baptist Church has two positions available: **Part-time MINISTER OF MUSIC**. Music degree desired. Duties: choosing and preparing church music, directing adult choir on Tues. night and Sunday morning, occasional special music. **Part-time CHURCH ACCOMPANIST** accompany congregational hymns, choir anthems, and solos. Tuesday nights, Sunday morning services, Occasional special services. E-mail resumes to: [snbaptist@embarqmail.com](mailto:snbaptist@embarqmail.com) or call 252-826-3911.

Lower Creek Baptist Church seeks dynamic, on-fire-for-God, **full-time Director of Music and Media**. Direct, organize, implement comprehensive church music program. Serve as worship leader. Develop, evaluate all technology and media to effectively communicate church mission and vision. Maintain church web presence. Send resume to [lcbclovesmusic@gmail.com](mailto:lcbclovesmusic@gmail.com) or Search Committee, PO Box 306, Lenoir, NC 28645.

Green Street Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time Business Administrator**. Prior experience as a Church Administrator is preferred. Send resumes to [kristi@greenstreet.org](mailto:kristi@greenstreet.org) or 303 N. Rotary Dr., High Point, NC 27262.

Jersey Baptist Church, Lexington, seeks **part-time Music Minister** to lead music for contemporary and traditional worship services. Duties include initiating, planning and coordinating music ministry; collaborating with the pastor and music/worship committee. Ability to exhibit and promote mature Christian values, and discipleship is required. Submit resume to [jerseybaptiststaff@gmail.com](mailto:jerseybaptiststaff@gmail.com).

Samaria Baptist Church in Middlesex, NC, is seeking a **part-time Family Ministry Director**. Family Ministry degree or related experience desired with a minimum of 1-3 years. Please send resumes to [ggflashgordon@aol.com](mailto:ggflashgordon@aol.com).

Zoar Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is seeking **PT Worship Leader/Minister of Music**. Blended worship; avg attendance 100-125. Choir, organ/piano, congregational worship tracks. For full job description/details, contact Alex Carroll. Send resume to Zoar Baptist Church, Attn. Alex Carroll, 1740 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152, or [arcarroll92@gmail.com](mailto:arcarroll92@gmail.com).

### Miscellaneous

NCBAM is hosting a special training, "Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults," August 29-30, Thomasville, \$30 includes course materials and certificate. Register online at [ncbam.org/events](http://ncbam.org/events) or call 877.506.2226.

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# Davis

Continued from page 15

he had a big hermeneutical circle – to go from an overarching, ever-growing, developed system of theology that comes from believing all 66 books of the Bible are perfect and true and they must be harmonizable into a systematic theology,” Davis said.

Verse-by-verse preaching also makes challenging topics unavoidable when they arise through the course of a book, Davis noted. When he preached on biblical marriage from Hebrews 13 at the end of a two-year sermon series on the book, a local woman who visited that Sunday organized a protest outside the church the following week.

“If you faithfully preach the Word, and you don’t shrink back from those controversial, pointed topics, you’re going to have a hard time,” Davis said. “I think it’s going to get worse in our culture. I think Christianity is going to become more and more controversial, and Satan is going to try to marginalize. Christians are going to have to learn to be winsomely countercultural and stand up and make hard arguments.”

As he approaches his 20th year as pastor of FBC Durham, Davis isn’t complacent. His new book *Revitalize* shares the story of the church’s renewal and offers

guidance on how other pastors can revive their churches. He has now memorized more than 40 books of the Bible and relies on God’s Word internalized as he battles the intellectual, emotional and spiritual trials of seasoned ministry.

Meditating on large portions of memorized scripture also aids him in preparing multiple sermons and lessons each week, since he teaches courses at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. It’s the simplest way of reducing preparation time, he said, as the memorized scripture often has “marinated” years in advance of preaching and teaching through the text.

He also cherishes his family’s role in shaping his ministry. His wife of 29 years, Christi, has been “a river of blessing” to his ministry, and as three of his five children have reached adulthood, he hopes his love for the local church abides in them as well.

“I want my kids to see the wisdom of God in [the] local church, the covenant

commitment we have and the fact that there are no perfect churches,” Davis said. “People are going to let you down,

they’re going to hurt you, they’re going to say unkind things, but you’re going to let them down too. You can’t be on your own. If you’re on your own, you’re going to drift away, and you’ll die spiritually. So the rest of your life, you need to be involved in the local church.”

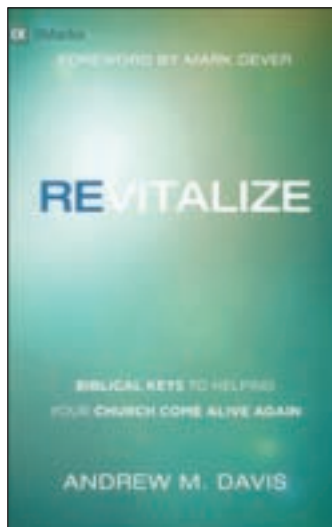
His youngest children help him build a theological vocabulary for his congregation. In his Feb. 12 sermon on Isaiah 65:17-25,

Davis used terms like “amillennialism” and “eschatology” but only after he made sure his children understood. While he preaches in a highly educated community, he recognizes some people in the congregation will have limited theological depth, so he strives for clarity in each sermon. While he aims “to preach meat as meat,” he provides “an oasis of milk in the middle of every sermon,” presenting the essential message of salvation in Christ.

In 2014, Davis authored *An Infinite Journey*, a manual for the Christian faith. He says advancing the gospel and growing in sanctification require “an infinite power source” and extend to the end of a Christian’s life. One of the primary ways Christ accomplishes these journeys in individual lives is through expository preaching.

“Faith comes by hearing God’s Word and I believe faith gets sustained by God’s Word,” Davis said. “I am sustaining the salvation of the people that are coming here. That’s what Paul is saying in 1 Timothy 4:13-16: ‘Devote yourself to preaching and teaching ... for in so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.’ Save them? He didn’t say justify them. Salvation is bigger than justification; there’s an ongoing work of salvation. Keep feeding them the Word, keep their faith strong; you’re going to need your faith until the day you die. When Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep,’ that’s the number one thing I think of every Sunday morning as I’m walking up the steps: feed their faith.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Craig Sanders holds a master of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and formerly served as the seminary’s director of news and information. This article originally appeared in Southern Seminary Magazine.) **BR**



## MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

## RANDY AND DENISE CHESTNUT

DAYTON, OHIO

North Carolina Baptists will pray for two of their North American missionaries on Sunday, Aug. 6: Randy and Denise Chestnut, who are starting a new church in Dayton, Ohio.

North Carolina Baptists support them through their Cooperative Program giving. Your church can be part of their prayer support!

Download **52 Sundays** files now at [www.ncbaptist.org/52sundays](http://www.ncbaptist.org/52sundays) — and lead your entire church to pray for your missionaries.

