# BIBLICA OR

NEWS JOURNAL OF NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

VOL. 177, NO. 16 AUGUST 6, 2011 BRNOW.ORG



## Be intentional, strategic in sharing gospel

WORSHIPPING – Students and leaders raise their hands during a service at Fort Caswell during one of the Youth Weeks. Students focused on their identity in Christ and were encouraged to share Jesus with their friends as well as strangers. Evangelism and baptism are two key parts of the Baptist State Convention's vision for its churches. See stories about Fort Caswell on page 8. There are also more photos online at BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."

### By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Asst. Managing Editor

oe Cappar knows the average church member is not involved in evangelism.

But the New River Baptist Association's interim director of missions hopes the upcoming associationwide emphasis will be a catalyst for change. "People rely on magic feeling that now is the time to"

(evangelize), Cappar said.

In September the association will have a night for training on personal evangelism with time scheduled the following Saturday to put their plans into action.

Evangelism and baptism are keys to church growth according to Don McCutcheon, executive leader for evangelization with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

McCutcheon began to study how churches become intentionally evangelistic when he worked with the Florida Baptist Convention. He was inspired by a book by Thom S. Rainer, LifeWay's president.

McCutcheon, said each of the Great Commission verses (in all four Gospels and Acts) deals with evangelism and the commissions were directed toward the body, not a specific individual. Evangelism came first; then a church was started.

The five-part Intentional Evangelism Church Strategy (IECS) began in a pilot church in Florida and has since been used in more than 200 churches in Florida and North Carolina.

Statistics show that 40 percent of those churches doubled in baptisms in two years or less after introducing IECS.

(See Reaching Page 6)



In this issue of the Biblical Recorder, we examine evangelism and church growth within the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

### Pillar 2 — Promote Evangelism & Church Growth

This denomination of churches will fail to accomplish her task if people are led to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but are not encouraged to mature in their walk with Christ because conversion is only the beginning of their spiritual journey. Those who do not know Jesus as Savior must be reached for Christ and assimilated into the fellowship of a healthy church environment that is conducive for good spiritual development. Baptism numbers have declined across our nation and Southern Baptists are not even reaching our children with the gospel. This must change! Collegiate ministry is another critical function of this state convention because thousands of young adults attend educational institutions where a seedbed of unbelief and antagonism toward the gospel of Christ is present. The concentrated populations of the inner cities must also be reached for Christ. North Carolina Baptists must utilize all available means to sow and cultivate the seeds of the gospel as we prepare for a great harvest of souls.

"Southern Baptists are a harvestedoriented denomination in the midst of an unseeded generation."

- Charles S. Kelley Jr., president, **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary** 

## Gastonia church offers hope, gospel to its community

#### By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Asst. Managing Editor

ickie Spargo will be the first to tell you that Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gastonia is not perfect. But one thing Bethlehem is doing right is getting outside of its walls.

With its Hope 4 Gaston ministry, the church is uniting with other denominations as well as business and community leaders to renovate entire neighborhoods.

'It's pretty cool," said Spargo, Bethlehem's senior pastor. "It's pretty powerful."

Hope 4 Gaston decides on a neigh-

borhood and date, and Bethlehem invades that area.

They organize workers putting 40-50 people on a house to paint it in a short period of time. The ministry even gets city funds - \$25,000 per year - to help offset costs for supplies.

There will also be a block party with a free flea market, including furniture, appliances, clothing and food.

Spargo credits the ministry with helping the city win a national liveability award as well as an All-American City honor.

"It's sort of like Extreme Home Makeover," Spargo said, referring to the ABC hit show that airs on Sunday

(See Gastonia Page 6)



Over the next few months, the Biblical Recorder staff, with help from key Baptist State Convention leaders and churches, will highlight each of the pillars adopted as the focus for the Convention. This issue: page 2, 5-10, 12-13, 15-16.

1. Practice Fervent Prayer — July 23 issue

### 2. Promote evangelism & church growth — This issue

3. Strengthen existing churches

4. Plant new multiplication churches

5. Increase work with the international community

6. Escalate technology improvements & upgrade the web site

7. Reclaim the younger generation of church leaders

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

## The Cove Church facilitates spontaneous baptisms

By Dianna L. Cagle BR Asst. Managing Editor

> ilming outdoor baptisms allows The Cove Church in Mooresville to spread the enthusiasm for baptism even further.

"We are very enthusiastic about the baptisms," said Mike Madding, senior pastor since the church's inception in 1998. "We do it all for the glory of God."

The church does not baptize people in the winter but usually plan a big event in the spring and baptize every three weeks or so in the summer.

Not big on specific event evangelism, Madding said the church builds up its weekly services on one of its three campuses, so there are 52 big events a year.

"We really see it that way," Madding said. "We do that service up big. People have this excitement."

From the parking lot to the atrium to the auditorium, Madding said church members try to have a positive impact on other members as well as visitors.

Before becoming a member there is a class the church requires that helps people explain their faith story. This class explains salvation and baptism as well as the strategy and structure of the church.

"Some people find out that they're not saved at that point," Madding said.

Other classes are not mandatory but help members learn the habits of a healthy Christian and spiritual gifts.



LIVING WATER – At The Cove Church, baptisms can be planned or spontaneous. The three-campus church keeps supplies on hand for those that might want to take the plunge. The Cove is one of the top 10 baptizing churches in North Carolina according to statistics at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Pastor Mike Madding said there is an excitement about the services which inspires others to make that public profession.

When the church plans a baptism service, they open it up to anyone who feels led to be baptized. Madding said

acyon for coming to Ubraine to salo us ACL us about Jesus. We loved the Bibl stories, the crafts and your kind hands that

GUMPF BY CHRIST. BY LOVE. BY LOSTNESS

## NCMO materials still available

he goes into detail at the services to explain what baptism is and what it means.

Because of the story of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts, Mad- about the baptisms. We do it Mooresville campus, ding said that there is

no required class to be baptized. The Cove keeps

bathing suits, towels and hair dryers on hand for people who spontaneously want to join in the baptism. People can stay inside and watch it live or they can venture outside to surround the baptismal fountain.

"It feels like a celebration," Madding said.

Some people share stories that "connect life change to the baptism," he

## Churches leading the state in baptisms

*"We are very enthusiastic"* 

all for the glory of God."

- Mike Madding, pastor of

The Cove Church

- 1. Elevation Church, Matthews
- 2. The Cove Church, Mooresville
- 3. Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden
- 4. Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte
- 5. The Summit Church, Durham
- 6. First Baptist Church, Indian Trail

said. "This is why we do what we do. It's just a great source of encouragement." Of the four

weekend services at Madding said he finds it's important to have one story every service so more people can be involved.

At each baptism, there are people available to answer any questions. One of the cool things that Madding enjoys is that the person who baptizes can be anyone that has been a spiritual leader. Parents can baptize their children, or a youth leader instead of a staff member can baptize. Madding said it makes for a special day for those involved.

With a goal of \$2.1 million, the North Carolina Missions Offering provides funding for numerous ministries of the North Carolina Baptist Men and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The theme — "Compelled ... by Christ, by love, by lostness" - is based on 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Packets about the offering should have already been sent to N.C. Baptist churches, but if your church has not received anything or if you want extra resources, please visit nemissionsoffering.org.

Or contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5547.

There will also be regional rallies this month. Each event is 6-8:30 p.m.:

Aug. 22 • Region 5 — Bethany Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

• Region 7 — Lower Creek Baptist Church, Lenoir

Aug. 23 • Region 3 — Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro • Region 4 — First Baptist Church (FBC), Cary

Aug. 25 • **Region 2** — FBC, Jacksonville

• Region 6 — North Albemarle Baptist Church, Albemarle

Aug. 28 • Region 8 — Mount Home Baptist Church, Morganton

• Region 10 — FBC, Robbinsville Aug. 30

• **Region 1** — Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Edenton

• Region 9 — West Asheville Baptist Church, Asheville



7. Catawba Heights Baptist Church, Belmont 8. Cleveland Community Church, Clayton 9. Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem 10. First Baptist Church, Jacksonville

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## **Rebuild Haiti on target to build 2,500 homes**

#### **By Mark Kelly**

Baptist Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Rebuild Haiti, the joint Southern Baptist disaster relief initiative launched in the aftermath of the massive Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake, will have built 1,982 houses by the end of November and has 560 more in the pipeline before the scheduled exit date in March 2012.

"Southern Baptists should heartily celebrate what has been accomplished in Haiti," said Jeff Palmer, executive director of Baptist Global Response (BGR), one of the key partners in the Rebuild Haiti alliance.

"It is amazing what has happened in such a short period of time, but there are still thousands of people living in tents and much to be done."

"Rebuild Haiti" is a cooperative venture that also involves Haitian Baptists, the International Mission Board, the Florida Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. In the past 18 months, Southern Baptists have invested more than \$4.5 million in assisting survivors of the earthquake. Besides building houses, the disaster response effort has included feeding programs, medical clinics, school assistance, beds for 2,200 orphans, and prosthetics fabrication as well as many other projects.

Baptist volunteers from Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Dominica and Grenada have worked alongside U.S. and Haitian volunteers.

The goal of the home construction campaign has

not been just to build houses, but rather to build Haitians and their communities, said David Brown, who with his wife, Jo, directs Baptist Global Response work in the Americas.

"About 50 Haitians have been trained and employed as supervisors on job sites. Each of these has been training two assistants," Brown said.

"As a result of community transformation, small businesses have been created to meet construction supply needs and transportation of those supplies. Small diners and shops have sprung up to provide daily necessities.

"The impact of Rebuild Haiti will be felt for generations to come."

Home construction has been coordinated in about 30 communities, Brown said.

Southern Baptist volunteers who have endured the heat and hardships of post-earthquake Haiti can find satisfaction in knowing their efforts have made a difference for thousands of Haitians, Palmer noted.

"We are, however, still entertaining volunteer teams who are interested in helping in Haiti, but we are asking them to diversify into other activities," Palmer added.

"There are needs in the medical and healthcare areas, as well as for water wells. We are working on some poultry/farming projects with an orphanage to help them become self-sufficient.

"There's an enormous amount of work yet to be done to help people in these communities get their lives back on track and experience the love of Christ for themselves."

Bill Mathews, a volunteer from River Oak Church in Chesapeake, Va., said he was deeply impressed by the impact he saw Rebuild Haiti projects making in communities, as well as in people's lives.

"I worked in Bon Repo, Damien and Marmont. Seeing three different communities in different stages was something that really impacted me," Mathews said. "In Bon Repo, there were still lots of suspicions and taunts from the locals. A group of kids climbed a tree near where I was working and teased me while I worked. It was very clear that the program had not 'soaked in' enough in Bon Repo, but there was a toehold established.

"In Damien, a ton of work has been done and the community has been well-reached. There were lots of smiles and friendly faces there," Mathews added. "We all felt very safe the entire time we were there, and our Haitian co-workers were very protective of us.

"The people in Marmont were friendly, hospitable and their church community was very strong. In Marmont, there was a mature community with a functioning church community that supported one another," Mathews said.

North Carolina Baptist Men continues to support and facilitate projects in Haiti as well.

Visit baptistsonmission.org.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Kelly is senior writer and an assistant editor for Baptist Press.)

## GuideStone Funds named 2nd overall by fi360

#### By Roy Hayhurst Baptist Press

DALLAS — GuideStone Funds was ranked number two among its 222 peers for the period from April 1 through June 30 by fi360 Fund Family Fiduciary Rankings. Additionally, the MyDestination 2035 and 2045 funds of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention were ranked number one in their respective categories for the one-year period ending June 30, according to the industry-ranking firm Lipper. The Extended-Duration Bond



Fund (GS2 class) finished with number one rankings in the three- and five-year periods ending June 30.

As of June 30, the MyDestination 2035 Fund was ranked 1 of 107 funds in the one-year period and 26 of 76 funds in the three-year period in Lipper's Mixed-Asset Target 2035 category, while the MyDestination 2045 Fund was ranked first among 106 funds in the one-year period and 27 among 75 funds in the three-year period in the Mixed-Asset Target 2045 category. The Extended-Duration Bond Fund (GS2 Class) was ranked 13th among 138 funds in the one-year period, first among 121 funds in the three-year period and first among 115 funds in the five-year period in Lipper's Corporate Debt Funds A Rated category.

In addition to Lipper's number one rankings, 10 out of 13 funds in the GS2 class and 14 out of 21 funds in the GS4 class exceeded their Lipper medians.

(The share classes are defined in each prospectus and relate to eligibility of participants and plan size.)

GuideStone Funds continues to rank higher than many well-known household names in the mutual fund industry.

John R. Jones, chief operating officer

families are ranked by the percentage of individual funds in a family that have a fi360 Fiduciary Score in the top quartile of their peer group. The score evaluates investments on nine different criteria to determine if the investment meets a minimum fiduciary standard of care: regulatory oversight, track record, assets in the investment, stability of the organization, composition consistent with asset class, style consistency, expense ratio/fees relative to peers, risk-adjusted performance relative to peers and performance relative to peers. Additionally, fund families must contain at least five distinct funds with a three-year history to be considered in the report.

Similarly, Lipper's benchmarking and classifications are widely recognized as the industry's standard by asset managers, fund companies and financial intermediaries. Lipper Rankings compare the performance of mutual funds with a universe of funds having similar investment objectives and include both socially screened and unscreened funds. Rankings are subject to change monthly.

For more information on GuideStone Funds, including the prospectus and other funds' individual rankings, visit *GuideStoneFunds.org*. Retirement plan participants who want to determine if any of the funds mentioned are an appropriate component of their portfolio can use GPS: Guided Planning Services by logging into their accounts at MyGuideStone. *(EDITOR'S NOTE – Hayhurst is editorial services manager for Guide-Stone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.)* 

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of GuideStone Financial Resources and president of GuideStone Funds, said, "These accolades from two respected ratings agencies (fi360 and Lipper) help demonstrate the quality work that our GuideStone team performs daily. Our investment team, managers and subadvisers all seek to benefit our participants. These rankings indicate their work is recognized by industry leaders."

To determine fi360 standings, mutual fund and ETF (exchange traded fund)

### John Stott, called 'evangelical pope,' dies

(RNS) John Stott, a renowned and prolific author credited with shaping 20th-century evangelical Christianity, died July 27 in England at age 90.

While not a household name like evangelist Billy Graham, Stott was considered nearly as influential.

He wrote more than 50 books, crafted the Lausanne Covenant — a defini-

tive statement that unified evangelicals worldwide — and supported numerous Christian scholars through his organization. If evangelicals elected popes, they would have chosen Stott, the scholar Michael Cromartie once quipped.

Stott was a mentor to many evangelicals, from up-and-coming pastors to organization leaders.



Southport Baptist Church hosted the National 9/11 Flag in its Christian Ministry Center (CMC). The flag, which was one of the ones at the World Trade Center in New York City at the time of the terrorist attack, is being stitched back together (see photo above). The flag was transported July 3 by more than 300 motorcycles and several medical vehicles to the Cape Fear Memorial Park Cemetery in honor of Richard H. Stewart Jr., who was killed in the North Tower on 9/11. The Stewart Family arranged a ceremony with several of the local religious representatives to have prayer for peace. The flag was the grand marshall of Southport's parade July 4 and then was displayed at the CMC. Robert Howard, Southport's mayor and a deacon at Southport Baptist, gave a welcome speech. The North Carolina State University Pip and Drum Band performed "Amazing Grace" followed by Jason W. Bland, Southport's pastor, leading in prayer. More than 2,000 people stood in line to make a memorial stitch in the flag that will return to New York City to be displayed at a museum at the attack site. Visit www.National911Flag.org.



> New Hope Baptist Church, Laurinburg, held a groundbreaking ceremony June 4 for Phase 1 of its four-phase building program. Almost 300 people were present for the ceremony and dinner on the grounds. The church started Aug. 15, 2010.

### **Opportunity Corner**

**BCH plans Western** Area Conference

Duncan for Girls in Aberdeen on Sept 17; Kennedy Home in Kinston, Mills Home in Thomasville, and Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron, on Sept. 24. Call (800) 476-3669.

The speaker is Jaye Martin, and Jami Smith will lead worship. Martin is an author and former evangelism strategist with the North American Mission Board. Registration is \$80 and the deadline is Sept. 2. Contact Ashley Allen at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5561; embracenc@ncbaptist.org. Visit ncbaptist.org.

### To submit items:

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to print significant news from the churches.

Accuracy and timeliness are enhanced if you send the information to the Biblical Recorder as soon as it is available. The paper is printed every other week. Not all items will be printed. Please make sure to either e-mail digital photos or send prints of photographs (photos printed on paper will not be accepted). Church staff changes, obituaries of pastors and state Baptist leaders, announcements of upcoming events (with statewide interest) will be considered. Send all photos as well.



> Ocean View Baptist Church, Kill Devil Hills, added a "Covered in Prayer" ministry to its Woman's Missionary Union. Pictured are the ladies with their first completed lap prayer quilt that was given to a church member that had been in the hospital for several months: Beth Crawley, Donna Stoessner, Candis Stoessner, Betty Hamlett, Charlotte Ashe, Reda Gudac, Ann Harp, Karol Siegrist, Joan Cook, Toni Lanning, and Shirley Griffin. The pattern for the quilt was taken from Mission Mosaic magazine. The church's WMU also has a mission doll ministry.



**Benvenue Baptist Church**, Rocky Mount, members enjoyed constructing items for Vacation Bible School, including this taxi driven by Tom Gearhart, pastor. Other churches in the area will be using the materials throughout the summer.

The Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) Western Area Conference is set Sept. 8 at Broyhill Home in Clyde at 4 p.m. This year's theme is "Sharing God's Love." The afternoon includes gospel singing, children's testimonies, and a free barbecue meal. BCH President Michael C. Blackwell will be speaking. Call (828) 627-9254 or email Nancy at nkallen@bchfamily.org.

### Volunteer at Baptist **Children's Homes**

From painting to planting, Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) "Friends of Children" workdays offer volunteers of all ages an opportunity to work sideby-side with BCH's children and staff. Lunch is provided. Opportunities are at Odum Home, Pembroke, on Sept. 10; Oak Ranch in Sanford and Camp

### Lad/Crusader **Camporee set**

Royal Ambassador leaders and boys in grades 1-6 are welcome to join in the Lad/Crusader Camporee on Sept. 16-18 at Camp Caraway near Asheboro. The camporee will include games, competition, worship, and a bonfire. Contact Joanne Honeycutt for more information at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5603; jhoneycutt@ncbaptist.org.

### Women's conference planned in Charlotte

Follow Me is a women's prayer and evangelism conference on September 16-17 at First Baptist Church, Charlotte.

### New ministers' wives can take retreat

October 7-8 at Camp Mundo Vista, Asheboro, new ministers' wives and ministers' wives new to North Carolina of ten years or less are welcome to "Unhindered," a retreat for worship, fellowship, and gathering information on North Carolina services to ministers' families.

Joyce Rogers, Renea Henderson and others will lead the retreat. Registration is \$30 by Sept. 23. Contact WMU-NC at (866) 210-8602, ext. 209; mharding@wmunc.org. Visit wmunc.org.



## Sharing faith a command

#### By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Asst. Managing Editor

eople have no problem sharing exciting news: the birth of a child or maybe a promotion or raise at work.

But ask them to share their faith, and many times the response is silence.

"I think we need to practice more what we already know," said Dorothy Barham, a member at Lillington Baptist Church.

Before a full room, Barham asked the women to share exciting news.

One talked about a transfer to Alaska; another talked about visas for some missionaries.

"How long has it been since you told someone about Jesus?" Barham stressed while teaching breakout sessions called "Sharing My Faith" at the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina Missions Extravaganza earlier this year.

"Awww, she's tough," said one woman, just above a whisper.

Barham is the first to admit she doesn't share her faith enough, but stressed the urgency of the mission. "We are accountable," Barham said.

"Wherever Jesus went He witnessed. Every opportunity was an opportunity to share God's love." People usually list the same excuses for not sharing: don't want to be rejected, made fun of or criticized; too busy; haven't been trained; too far out of comfort zone, etc.

"There are those who say that it is not my gift," Barham said. "Who did Jesus exclude from being His witness? Nobody.

"Are we witnessing to what we do, or are we witnessing to what Jesus does and can do?"

Witnessing can happen anywhere you go.

Whether it's at the grocery store, gym or a neighborhood park, Barham said no place is off limits.

When polling the group, Barham discovered that most had been trained in some sort of evangelism training, and yet people are still afraid.

"We can share from what we've experienced if we can get that in our mindset," said Barham.

"There are people all around who don't know Jesus."

The first criteria for sharing faith is spending time with Jesus.

"If we're too busy doing good things, doing good work, we're too busy to spend time with Jesus," Barham said.

She encouraged the women to pray for lost people by name. She does that on an individual basis but also meets with two other ladies 15 minutes a week to pray



WITNESSING — Dorothy Barham, a member of Lillington Baptist Church, leads a group in sharing their faith.

for each others' lists. "I encourage you to look around wherever you go," she said, "see people who need God's love.

"We just have to be open."

## Important truths to share in witnessing

1. We all need forgiveness; we have all sinned; we cannot reach heaven on our own; we all deserve eternal death.

2. God loves us; He loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place.

3. This grace is for everyone; Jesus died for everyone, no matter how sinful that person may be. It is offered as a gift to us.

4. To accept that gift, we need to confess our sins, ask God to forgive us our sins and to come into our hearts and make us a new person.

5. Understand the importance of obedience; following Jesus in baptism, church membership, living a life for him, and sharing with others.



### Jesus set the example

"Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'" — Matt. 4:19

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness." — Matt. 9:35

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." — Matt. 28:19-20

"Jesus replied, 'Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.'" – Mark 1:38 "Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits." — Mark 6:7

"One day Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's go over to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and set out."

– Luke 8:22

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go." — Luke 10:1

"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."" — John 3:3

> "Now he had to go through Samaria." — John 4:4

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." — Acts 1:8

## **FBC Cary works at being intentional**

By Dianna L. Cagle BR Asst. Managing Editor Church in Cary pastor came to North Carolina about three years ago, he made sure his staff members took part in "(The Intentional Evangelism Church Strategy) was very beneficial to our staff. It created a different mindset of how to do church and a purpose for what we're about. I saw our staff began to think as one."

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eing intentionally evangelistic began when Jay Huddleston served at a Jacksonville, Fla., church. When the First Baptist



the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Intentionally Evangelistic Church Strategy (IECS) training.

The IECS was created by Don McCutcheon when he worked at the Florida Baptist Convention.

"It was very beneficial to our staff," Huddleston said. "It created a different mindset of how to do church and a purpose for what we're about. I saw our staff began to think as one."

They got excited about planning events that would lead people to Jesus. Huddleston said his second experience with IECS was "refreshing."

The FBC Cary staff began examining every event and asking tough questions: "Why are we doing what we do? What kind of fruit did we see? Did it bring anyone to the Lord? If not, why do we keep doing it?"

"We began to see people respond and make professions of faith," Huddleston said. - Jay Huddleston

Huddleston's Florida church changed the way they did things too. They set up an evangelism booth at a fall festival. In three hours they presented the gospel 22 times.

"We had never done anything like it before," he said.

The training has changed the way his church does weddings and funerals as well.

"It changes your ministry and mindset," he said. "It makes the evangelism

(See FBC Cary Page 15)

## Reaching out: Be intentional, strategic in sharing gospel

(Continued from Page 1)

One church McCutcheon worked with in Florida went from two baptisms one year to 17 the next after an IECS training.

"The major method is relationship," McCutcheon said. "The gospel is still the same. The method is still the same: person-to-person. They find what works for them."

In all his years in ministry, McCutcheon said he's only had one man ask to be removed from a prayer list.

"People pray for everything except non-believers," he said.

Whatever churches do should be evangelistic, he stressed. "Be very clear about who you are and Whose you are," he said.

The BSC evangelism staff work closely with congregational services to strengthen churches. McCutcheon said the BSC is about helping churches focus on the Great Commission.

"An effective evangelistic church will on average baptize and retain about 10 percent of their Sunday morning worship crowd," he said.

In the New Testament, baptism wasn't tied to a building. McCutcheon said outdoor baptisms "give people an opportunity who wouldn't come to a building."

Based on Acts 2:41-47, the IECS was built off insights from more than 100 pastors "who are effectively and consistently evangelistic," according the BSC web site. It is based on four principles:

every Christian is called by God to be involved in the Great Commission,
evangelism begins with the local

church,

• churches are different and must find



BAPTIZING — At The Cove Church in Mooresville, people can plan to get baptized or it can be a spontaneous event. Pastor Mike Madding said the church's leadership was inspired by the story of the Ethiopian eunuch. They have supplies available for people who want to get baptized. See story, page 2.

their own way to evangelize their community,

• and God wants to bless Christians in reaching nonbelievers.

McCutcheon said the strategy is based on five pillars: evangelistic leadership, evangelistic prayer, assimilation, personal evangelism and event evangelism.

New River leaders plan an evangelism event each year including the IECS.

Some of the events were rallies that were motivational in nature but those

have become less popular, Cappar said. With the emphasis on discipleship from the BSC's Find It Here, Cappar believes the association needs "to be equipping our church members to be able to do evangelism."

Training believers in evangelism is a part of that discipleship.

While the Sept. 22 event's breakout sessions on specific faith-sharing techniques has not been finalized, Cappar said the leadership is working to include a variety of evangelism techniques.

"The churches will take that into

## Evangelism resources

### by Don McCutcheon

• Effective Evangelistic Churches: Successful Churches Reveal What Works and What Doesn't by Thom S. Rainer

• *High Expectations: The Remarkable Secret for Keeping People in Your Church* by Thom S. Rainer

• Total Church Life: How to Be a First Century Church in a 21st Century World by Darrell W. Robinson (and workbook)

• Anything written by Alvin Reid • Drawing the Net: 30 Practical Principles for Leading Others to Christ Publicly and Personally by O.S. Hawkins

• Friends Forever: Studies in Relational Evangelism by Jack R. Smith

their own communities," Cappar said. After the training, leaders are working with the churches who sign up to plan a Saturday evangelism outreach for their church. The goal is for members to get out of the church building and share Christ with their community.

"(The churches) seem to be embracing the idea that it's important," Cappar said.

The DOM would love to have all the association's 34 churches involved in training but knows that won't happen. He hopes that those who do participate are inspired to do more than pre-evangelism events.

The training should remind people who God is and why they should be sharing Christ with their neighbors and non-believers.

## Gastonia church offers hope, gospel to its community

(Continued from Page 1)

nights. "We've done several million dollars of repair work."

Volunteers have painted the local fire station as well as some of the local schools. Landscaping is also covered.

"It's turned out to be the biggest volunteer initiative in Gastonia," said Spargo, who also hopes to draw close to 2,000 volunteers at the city's October event.

Before the day of service, there is a community prayer service as well.

"It's turned into a pretty big deal,"

While Bethlehem is not in the top 10 N.C. Baptist churches in baptism, it does rank No. 13, according to recent numbers from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Spargo said the church was recognized two years ago by Outreach, a LifeWay publication, as No. 39 in the top 40 fastest-growing churches in America.

Looking outside its walls has built a reputation for the church within the community.

People are getting "a sense that we're a church that cares," Spargo said. One of Spargo's favorite things is a baptism service on Christmas eve. "It's a neat opportunity," he said. "It brings to light why Christ came. It really helps us to focus on His purpose, what the purpose of Christmas is all about." He never thought a lot of people would get baptized at that time of year for a variety of reasons, but says the service "proves to be very moving," when the gospel is shared and the reason for baptism is explained. He estimates 30 people were baptized last Dec. 24. They also do an outdoor baptism at a local lake in August. Last year 60 people were baptized. The church sets up a sound system and they have worship. Spargo said it's important to train believers to share their faith as well. "Primarily what we challenge and encourage people to do is invest in their friends," Spargo said.

"It brings to light why Christ came. It really helps us to focus on His purpose, what the purpose of Christmas is all about." — Dickie Spargo

The church is always evaluating its events to see if they are effective in reaching the community for Christ.

"If it's not working we need to do something different," he said.

He has some people share their story when they are baptized. "When you baptize a lot of people sometimes it can feel like an assembly line," said Spargo, who believes the stories help break up the monotony. tonia and the Parkdale Mill Community. During that time 107 homes have been refurbished, landscaped and painted, and 30,000 people were provided food through "Harvest of Hope." Hope 4 Gaston conducted a block party during each event where over 15,000 people attended, enjoying games, lunch and music. Hope 4 Gaston also provided a Flea Market known as "Closet of Hope"

Spargo said.

"We want to be the best church for our community."

They have partnered with local schools to implement sports programs. As a result of its efforts, Bethlehem is becoming more diverse "because we've been intentional about building relationships," Spargo said. "It's got our people into neighborhoods we'd have never gone into."

The intent is for the ones who volunteer at a house to continue to build on that initial relationship.

"If someone comes in and fixes major repairs for free ... they're going to be pretty close to your heart," Spargo said. "It's tearing down some walls and building some bridges. Those folks don't need a hand out, they need a hand up."

The program is drawing attention from other cities who want to replicate what Bethlehem is doing in Gastonia.

#### By the numbers

Since Hope 4 Gaston began three years ago, it has hosted five events in the Highland West and East Communities, Jenkins Height Community, North Myrtle School Road Area of West Gas-

#### which supplied thousands of items to include furniture, appliances, toys, men, women and children's clothing, shoes and household items for more than 6,000 people.

The next community event is scheduled for Oct. 8 in the South Gastonia area.

## We want your feedback

Are the stories the *Biblical Recorder* is doing helping you? What do you think we haven't covered enough or at all? We are looking to you for help. There are a variety of ways you can help.

• **Church news:** If you have staff changes or announcements that you would like to share, please send to *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619-8808; or email *dianna@biblicalrecorder.org*. Call (919) 847-2127.

• Letter to the editor/Tar Heel Voices: These are opinions from you about what we are doing or what is going on in the Southern Baptist Convention or Baptist State Convention in North Carolina. There are requirements. See page 13.

• **Story ideas:** Do you have events or a person that has an interesting story? Please send us your ideas at the contact information under church news.

If you don't see your church in our pages, many times it's because we haven't heard from you.

## **Gideons spread God's Word around globe**

#### By K. Allan Blume BR Editor

hey generally avoid the spotlight and press coverage. However no organization is more visible in hotel rooms around the world. Diligently, but quietly, 290,000 men and women around the world distribute Bibles under the banner of The Gideons International.

"Next to coming to faith in Christ and serving in my local church there is nothing more fulfilling than being a Gideon," said Lester Shelton, president of the North Carolina Association of Gideons, the host for this year's convention in Charlotte. Shelton is an active member of West Cabarrus Baptist Church in Concord where his son-inlaw, Terry Faulkenbury is the senior pastor. He has been a Gideon for 28 years.

"This ministry has strengthened my walk with God more than anything I have done," Shelton said. "I am excited that this ministry serves in partnership with the local New Testament church, because the local church is central in fulfilling the Great Commission."

Each year members of the organization from around the world gather for an inspirational convention to hear first hand stories of how lives are being changed through the scriptures. This year their international convention came back to North Carolina for the second time. Ten years ago the meeting was in Charlotte. This year's gathering was held in Charlotte's Convention Center, July 13-16.



GATHERING – The Gideons International gather in Charlotte, at left, to celebrate pastors July 15. At right, Chris Roberts, associate pastor for music and worship at Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville, leads worship at the event. Gideons work to put Bibles in strategic places in order to share the gospel.

In the past year Gideons placed 68,190,377 copies of God's Word in 192 countries outside the U.S. That includes service testaments, youth testaments, medical testaments, hotel Bibles, hospital Bibles and more. The total scriptures placed through The Gideons within the U.S. for 2010-2011 was 10,802,435. That includes youth testaments, college testaments, hotel Bibles, hospital Bibles, prison Bibles, and medical testaments.

The Gideons and their wives called auxiliary members — place Bibles at the rate of more than 2 per second. To date, they have distributed more than 1.7 billion scriptures in the world since the first placement in 1908 at the Superior Hotel in Superior, Montana.

North Carolina Baptists were very visible at the meeting. Chris Roberts, associate pastor for music and worship at Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hen-

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dersonville, was the worship leader and soloist for the pastor's appreciation banquet. More than 3,500 participants filled the banquet hall to thank more than 800 local pastors and church leaders for their support of the Gideons' ministry.

Dean Mattern, pastor of outreach at Life Community Church in Jamestown, delivered a powerful keynote testimony. His story (see below) detailed a life of crime, drugs and jail, where God used a Gideon Bible to introduce him to Christ. His wife also found Christ in prison through a Gideon Bible.

W.E.G. Thomas, international vice-president says, "Gideons are an extended missionary arm of the local church.... We believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and it is powerful when people receive a Bible and read it."

There are 136,556 hotel rooms in North Carolina. Almost every hotel room has a Bible placed by the Gideons. Research shows that 2,300 people will see that Bible in its lifetime of 6 years. Many of those who read it will be changed.

They will find help in a moment of despair. They will stop their plans for suicide. They will give their lives to Christ. This is the ultimate goal of the Gideons — to share the gospel.

Most think the Gideons only place Bibles in hotel rooms, but tens of millions are personally handed to medical personnel, men and women in the military, students on university campuses and in grade schools around the world.

An offering taken during the convention totaled more than \$2.5 million. These men travel around the world to personally hand a copy of scripture to nationals in schools and other venues. The stories of lives changed through these encounters are incredible.

North Carolina. Almost every hotel thes

## How you can help The Gideons

There's probably a Gideon in your Baptist church. They are laymen and their wives who love God's word. You cannot be a Gideon if you are a pastor. But everyone can support their work. While the average international scripture distribution costs about \$1.25, hotel Bibles in America cost around \$5 each.

Contact your local Gideon Camp and invite a Gideon speaker to bring a report and testimony to your church.

Let the Gideons place a card display in your church building. Cards are used for memorial gifts or special occasions.

Visit *Gideons.org* to hear personal testimonies, learn how you can become a Gideon and to give a contribution for Bible distribution. Call (615) 564-5000 or email *tgi@gideons.org*. Mail: The Gideons International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214.

## Dean Mattern: My story

By Laura Moore BR Editorial Aide

<u>A Lunor in Mue</u>

when I was 14 that by the time I was 21 I would either be dead or in jail. I had fulfilled her expectations."

When he got out of jail in California,

**Great activities:** Hands-on mission opportunities and a silent auction to benefit World Hunger. **Great worship**, Bible study, music and morning prayer walks.

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with an atheist father and a family very against the church, Dean Mattern's mother left him at age 11 while his father found comfort in a bottle.

aised in Cleveland, Ohio,

Mattern, outreach pastor for Life Community Church in Jamestown, shared his story with the Gideons at a recent meeting in Charlotte.

Joining a gang, stealing firearms and a car all before he was 14 years old, he spent all of high school behind bars. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps to avoid further time in prison. At 18, he was in Vietnam. The experience left him violent, unhappy, and addicted to drugs.

After returning and getting involved with the wrong crowds, Mattern said, "I was a habitual welfare case."

Mattern stole some credit cards and was arrested again in Lake Tahoe. He said, "I turned 21 while I was in that jail. I remember my mother saying he wanted answers. He tried every cult he could get access to. "I tried everything but the Bible or church because of the way I was raised."

He hitchhiked across country and even talked a girl, Debra, into dropping out of college to go with him. They thought that a place that existed for thousands of years may have more answers about absolute truth, so they headed for the Middle East.

But, God had other plans for them. They were arrested for trespassing as they crossed into Florida.

In that jail, he would tear pages out of books to roll cigarettes. For the first time, Mattern found himself holding a Bible. "So I was smoking Leviticus and I started reading the Gospel of John."

"On December 18 at 7 o'clock at night I bent my head with no understanding of theology, only knowing that

(See Dean Mattern Page 15)

## Summer weeks at Caswell teach youth about identity

#### By Melissa Lilley

**BSC** Communications

esearch from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicates that teenagers spend 7.5 hours a day involved with media, such as watching TV, texting and surfing the Internet. They spend about four hours listening to music. Teenagers today actually spend more time with media than they do sleeping.

Merrie Johnson, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) senior consultant for student evangelism and ministry, wants to help give students a filter by which to use when considering whether or not they should listen to or watch certain things in the media. "We want them to bring what they are listening to back to God's Word," Johnson said. "If we're truly Christ followers, it should affect everything we do."

The filter is always God's Word, and verses such as Philippians 4:8, which teaches that those who follow Jesus Christ should only dwell on things that are "true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and excellent."

Johnson said today's generation of youth are the most biblically illiterate generation to date. Many youth she meets with and counsels during summer youth weeks at Caswell tell her they have never thought about, nor ever had anyone teach them about, needing a biblical filter for their lives.

This year's theme for summer youth weeks, or summer camp, at Caswell is "Identity," focused on Galatians 2:20. More than 7,000 youth from across North Carolina were taught from God's Word the truth about their identity in Jesus Christ. They learned that because their identity is in Christ, it is not in worldly things or in the media.

Youth weeks helped equip middle and high school students to make God-



DRAMATIC – Samuel Kraus, Sara Jolley, Caitlin Crouthamel and Sammy Cruz, all a part of BeDoTell, talk about identity. For more pictures from Fort Caswell, see BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."

honoring decisions, and to trust God as the Lord of their life.

Deborah Lockey, director of youth and senior adults at First Baptist Church in Morehead City, began coming to Caswell when she was in youth group. Lockey, 55, now brings other youth to youth weeks.

"I've seen so many young people come to Christ here," she said. As a youth leader, Lockey has a lot of time at Caswell to build relationships with youth. "You get to share with these kids and find out where they are in their walk with the Lord. That gives you an opportunity to share the gospel with them."

Lockey appreciates this year's youth weeks theme because it addresses an issue that many youth struggle with. "Our young people are so caught up in being part of the crowd and being like everyone else," she said. From how they dress to the activities they do to the social networks they belong to, Lockey said youth are trying to fit in.

"Be who you are in Christ," Lockey said. "Our identity is not found in our friendships, family, a boyfriend or girlfriend, or our work. Our identity is found in Christ alone."

Even as an adult, the learning never stops. Just a few years ago, when Lockey lost her job, she was reminded that her identity was not tied to a particular job. "God showed me I am His child. That's the most important thing to me."

Lockey wants youth to learn that they can be who God made them to be, and they do not have to go along with the crowd. "God's way is the best way. He is never going to lead them in the wrong direction. The world is teaching shallow relationships. He will teach them to be real with each other," she said.

Elizabeth Brinkley, 18, came to youth weeks this year with Oak Grove Baptist Church in Aulander. This was her third time at Caswell. Brinkley sees firsthand youth trying to be people they are not in order to fit in. She said if youth don't have a strong biblical foundation, it's easy to fall into that temptation.

Brinkley sometimes struggles with self-esteem. She said her time at Caswell reminded her that she is "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Already in college, Brinkley knows that college students meet many students with many different beliefs. What she has learned at Caswell has helped her "stick up for what's right."

The week Brinkley and Lockey came to Caswell they heard from speaker Jack Easterby, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, campus director, for the University of South Carolina. Every morning and evening Easterby taught the students about how to anchor their identity in Christ.

One night he challenged youth to really think about what it means to be born again.

Trusting in Jesus for salvation is the only way to be born again. Their identity must be in Jesus because He gave His life for them.

Easterby gave the example of a time he was traveling overseas and someone asked, when finding out he was from the United States, if he knew different famous athletes. Easterby said that conversation reminded him that many people in the world today find their identity in other people, especially celebrities and athletes.

He asked the youth to consider what it would be like if instead of finding identity in other people, and in accomplishments such as being a great athlete, identity was found in Jesus Christ.

"What if Jesus was truly the Lord of our life?" Easterby asked.

Learn more about student evangelism and ministry, and how you can help teenagers learn to find their identity in Christ: *bedotell.com*.

## A vision to change means food for Haiti

#### By Melissa Lilley

BSC Communications

s Merrie Johnson sat in Hatch Auditorium at Fort Caswell one evening last summer her thoughts turned toward 2011 and the theme for youth weeks: identity. Johnson, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) senior consultant for student evangelism and ministry, is devoted to ministering to students, training students and serving with students. She sees the passion of students all across this state to serve God and to know Him.

high school students attended youth weeks.

This summer, Johnson and students partnered with Change This World ministry to help send food to people who have none. Johnson said the worldwide hunger statistics shocked her. Every day, 16,000 children and teenagers die from hunger, and more than one billion people in the world are undernourished. Through Change This World, organizations, churches and individuals can feed someone for a quarter a meal. Change This World helps send meals all over the world. Johnson decided that all the money given by students to the youth weeks missions offering would go toward providing meals for people in Haiti. People receiving these meals will also hear the gospel, which Johnson said was a must.



Yet, she also knows that students live with an unfortunate reality. Some people doubt their ability to make a difference, others their willingness to make a difference.

Johnson wanted to help change that stereotypical identity, and in doing so, challenge students to do something great, to understand more what it means to have the identity of Jesus Christ, and to learn to be people marked by love and compassion.

"I made a commitment right there to the Lord that we'd do something we'd never done before; something that was a God-sized task," she said.

So Johnson decided that the 2011 youth weeks would be different. Youth weeks, or summer camps, continues to be the event that draws the largest crowd to the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, which has been owned and operated by the BSC for 62 years. This year more than 7,000 middle and

Weekly offerings during youth weeks average about \$3,500; but Johnson wanted to do more. If each group

POURING — Merrie Johnson, right, senior consultant for student evangelism and ministry for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, gets assistance from her son Mac as a room full of students and leaders prepare packages for Haiti. For more pictures from Fort Caswell, see BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."

> of students every week collectively gave \$5,000, they could, every week, raise enough money to send 20,000 meals to Haiti. By the end of the summer, that

> > (See A vision Page 15)

## Youth learn they can share gospel anywhere they go

By Melissa Lilley BSC Communications

> ast year during Deep Impact at Red Springs Samantha Canipe's team spent some time at a local swimming pool. Canipe couldn't understand why her team's mission site was a swimming pool.

Canipe learned that summer that evangelism can happen anywhere, anytime believers are willing to share their faith and are obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading. Through conversations with people at the pool, several prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

This year during Deep Impact, a similar thing happened. What seemed like a situation with little opportunity to witness turned into opportunity to share how the gospel changes lives. Canipe's team served at a skateboarding park in the Fruitland/Hendersonville area, and at first they were not able to meet many people.

By afternoon's end, after prayerwalking and just being willing to talk with people at the park, the team saw people come to faith in Christ.

Canipe said some of the youth were nervous about sharing their faith, but were willing and are learning how.

Last year Canipe, 19, served with other college students on staff with Deep Impact. This year she came as the youth intern with Cross Road Baptist Church in Asheboro.

Deep Impact is sponsored by North Carolina Baptist Men, under the direction of Tom Beam, Baptist Men student mobilization consultant. It began 14 years ago at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell in Brunswick County, and in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Deep Impact mission weeks are opportunities for middle and high school students to serve and to witness. Every evening during Deep Impact youth participate in a worship service.

This summer, 1,161 students participated in activities such as construction, Vacation Bible School, prayer walking and service projects. In North Carolina, Deep Impact was held in Fruitland, Red Springs, Greenville, Shelby, Caswell Beach and Bladen County. One week was also held in New York City and Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

In addition to the skate park, youth participating in the Fruitland week served in sports ministry and children's ministry, encouraged residents in a nursing home, prayer walked and witnessed in downtown Hendersonville, led Vacation Bible School, and served on construction teams.

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM)



PRAYING – Part of the emphasis of Deep Impact is to encourage students to share their faith. Here, a young girl prays to receive Christ. For more pictures from Deep Impact, see BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."



SINGING — Mosaic leads a worship service at Deep Impact in Hendersonville. More than 1,100 students participated in Deep Impact weeks this summer. See more photos at BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery."

and the Carolina Baptist Association worked with Deep Impact to coordinate project sites for the Fruitland week.

"We come in for a week and leave. But the churches and associations are still here," said Brandon Powell, student pastor at Cross Road.

When Deep Impact works with other groups such as NCBAM, these groups are able to help identify the greatest needs and then follow up with people when Deep Impact is over, which means greater long-term impact in that area.

Powell, who first participated in Deep Impact in 1999 and served as on-site coordinator for the Fruitland week, believes long-term impact is important not just for the people students minister to, but for the students themselves. Powell said such an impact comes when youth leaders help youth be involved in missions all throughout the year and not just one week during the summer. During the year Powell has his youth group serving in local missions efforts in Asheboro. "The summer is the culmination of what we've done throughout the year," Powell said.

Such an approach helps youth understand they are to be serving wherever they are, and serving should be part of their life.

"God has taught me that every student wants to be a part of something bigger than themselves. This generation of youth wants to do something. They are willing, we just have to take the reigns off them and provide the avenue for them to do ministry — and let them do the ministry," Powell said.

Deep Impact helps students learn how to share their faith and how to be involved in serving. Marcia Elliott, a youth leader at Bethesda Baptist Church in Durham, said she hears all the time students saying that they want to share their faith but don't know how. "At Deep Impact, we are giving them the tools," she said.

Elliott remembers last year, her first time to Deep Impact, when a student in her group learned how to use an Evangecube. This year, "she did it with ease," Elliott said.

During Deep Impact, Elliott said the leaders are very intentional in encouraging students to share their faith. Last year, while serving with a team to lead a Vacation Bible School in a trailer park, Elliott witnessed the power of God when a child came to faith in Jesus Christ. Some of the children's moms also came to the Vacation Bible School, so they also heard the Bible stories and the gospel.

Elliott will also be working to try and help create year-round opportunities for the youth to serve and witness, similar to what they experience during Deep Impact. "If you give them a jumping off point they will go," she said. "That's how they learn."



*CIRCLE* — One of the ways students use Deep Impact to minister is by playing games to build relationships.

## What is Deep Impact?

Deep Impact is a ministry of North Carolina Baptist Men to Deep Impact Missions Weeks are pre-packaged week long mission experiences of North Carolina Baptist Men that provides middle and high school students with the opportunity to: "Share God's love with hurting people through word and deed." Youth will participate in a variety of mission opportunities including construction, VBS, sports evangelism, servant evangelism, prayer walks, and others. Evening worship each night will help students reflect on their lives and commit themselves to serving others in Christ's name.

Contact: Tom Beam, student missions mobilization consultant, tbeam@ncbaptist.org; (800) 395-5102, ext. 5626 Follow on Twitter @DeepImpactNC Follow on Facebook at DeepImpactNC



## **Baptist State Convention resources**

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's evangelism & church growth team offers various evangelism resources you may purchase: paperback New Testaments, tracts in English and other languages, follow up materials for new believers, DVDs, and EvangeCubes. Life Death tracts are available from the Florida Baptist Convention. For more information contact Rebecca Harbinson: (800) 395-5102, ext. 5563, or *rharbinson@ncbaptist.org*.

For a free copy of evangelism planner software, information on lifestyle evangelism or for more information call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5563.



## Intentionally Evangelistic Church Strategy (IECS) events

• Aug. 30-Sept. 1 — Surry Baptist Association, Mount Airy hosts the event. Registration is \$40 by Aug. 15.

• Oct. 4-6 — New South River Association, Fayetteville, hosts the event at Arran Lake Baptist.

For either event, contact Joni Lancaster at *jlan-caster@ncbaptist.org* or (919) 459-5557.

### Other evangelism events

• Coastal Christian Worldview Conference — Sept. 17 at First Baptist Church, Shallotte • National Conference on Christian Apologetics — Oct. 28-29 at Northside Baptist Church, Charlotte

• Men at the Cross — Nov. 5 at First Baptist Church, Shallotte

### **Prayer line**

24-hour prayer line: Call (888) JESUS-2000



### **Downloads from BSC**

These downloads are available through the BSC web site (*ncbaptist.org*) or at *BRnow.org*.

- Preparing for Personal Revival (black & white)
- How to Pray For Your Children (black & white)
- Evangelism Crash Course (black and white)
- 28 Ways to Share Your Faith
- Meaning of Christmas
- True Meaning of Christmas Tract

• Personal Commitment Guide (English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Portuguese, Vietnamese)

• Beginning Steps (English, Spanish, Arabic, Chi-

nese, French, Hindi, Portuguese, Vietnamese)

Preparing for Personal Revival Brochure
How to Pray For
Your Children Bro-

ekangelism Crash
 Course Brochure



#### Links

how to

for your

- Who is Jesus? whoisjesus-really.com
- The Good News the good news.org
- Lord, Liar or Lunatic? greatcom.org/resources/whoisjesusorig
  - Not Religion notreligion.com

• How to become a Christian — *sbc.net/knowje-sus/theplan.asp* 

- **Desiring God** *desiringgod.org*
- **Purpose Driven** *purposedriven.com*

• Knowing God Personally — 4laws.com/laws/ englishkgp

- Children and Evangelism namb.net/cme
- NAMB Apologetics 4truth.net

• Vocational Evangelism information — *ncev*angelists.org

• Unsaved Friends or Family Resources — *fin- dithere.com* 

• Evangelism and Discipleship Resources — *finditherenc.org* 

• Evangelism Crash Course Video — 2010. finditherenc.org/index.php?id=1491



## **PRAY** for those serving at Camp Mundo Vista this summer:

Jetta Archibald, Jessica Beaver, Amelia Bolick, Abby Brack, Kristen Bright, Jessica Broadwell, Kelsey Coffey, Marie Collins, Blaire Dawkins, Caitlyn Fry, Lauren Gagliardi, Macy Giles, Danielle Hall, Casey Harris, Hannah Helms, Baylor High, Jessica Knapton, Amber Lewis, Jessica Lewis, Courtney Lockamy, Kimberly Mack, Liz Mallory, Stephanie Mangum, Alison McClay, Briann Messick, Amanda Miller, Bob Navey, Caitlyn Newby, Evelyn Nordhaugen, Lynne O'Donnahue, Tara Safrit, Stacie Siers, Amy Smith, Patricia Snyder, Janell Stevens, Tammy Tate, Cortney Wyatt, Amanda Zepher, and Jordan Zepher.

## Senate, House override veto on Woman's Right to Know

The North Carolina Senate and House voted to override Governor Bev Perdue's veto of a bill requiring a 24-hour waiting period for women considering abortions.

The Woman's Right to Know Act, which now becomes law, was vetoed by Gov. Perdue more than a month ago. But both the House and Senate rallied to override the veto in the latest legislative sessions.

The bill requires state-mandated counseling before women opt for abortions and ensures the women receive information from doctors about adoption and other alternatives.

Ruth Samuelson, one of the bill's sponsors, tweeted July 26 about the House's override of Perdue's veto. "Thanks for everyone's prayers," she said. She updated her followers July 28 when the Senate also overrode the veto.

### N.C. drillers take top honors

Taylor Oxendine of Mt. Airy Baptist Church in Burnt Swamp Association is the 2011 National Youth Bible Drill winner. Oxendine was among 30 youth competing in the National Invitational Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament at Meadow Brook Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

## News Briefs

She competed against drillers from Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri and Ohio. Lauralee Lopez of Unity Baptist Church in Tar River Association finished second in the High School Division.

## Association withdraws fellowship from church

Surry Baptist Association (SBA) messengers voted July 25 to remove fellowship from Flat Rock Baptist Church in Mount Airy.

The church recently named its new pastor, Bailey Edwards Nelson, a female. She began duties July 10 at the church. A three-page addendum to the August newsletter explaining events said the SBA Membership Committee invited Flat Rock's leadership to discuss the situation.

"Flat Rock refused their invitation and thereby closed the door on any reconciliation with the Association," the letter said. The addendum also said the motion to remove fellowship passed by a "very large majority."

### **Edenton minister arrested**

An Edenton minister has been relieved "of all responsibilities in any official capacity" until further notice.

A statement from Rocky Hock Baptist Church in Edenton said that Jonathan Winfield Rose, 35, formerly a music and children's minister at the church, had been relieved of his duties July 25 after contact with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

"We further make it known that we will support, pray, and minister to (Rose) and his family to assist through this difficult time in his life and in the lives of the members of Rocky Hock Baptist Church," said James E. Horton, senior pastor.

Rose has been accused of propositioning a 13-yearold Cumberland County girl by computer, authorities said. He was detained July 25 in Buncombe County at Camp Ridgecrest for Boys in Black Mountain. He was transferred to Cumberland County. Authorities say that between June 11-29, Rose asked the girl to take part in sex acts. His bail was set at \$50,000.

## Wingate gets \$20.9M gift

Wingate University has received a \$20.9-million gift from its portion of the sale of Park Road Shopping Center, which was donated to Wingate, Wake Forest and Queens universities by owner Porter B. Byrum. The multi-million dollar gift is the largest single gift in Wingate's history and will be used to establish an endowed scholarship, educational programs, expansion of the cultural arts, and enhancements to the campus.

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## Pastor

Small conservative church seeks **full-time Pastor** whose gifts include preaching, teaching, ministering to the church family, and motivating others. Our ideal candidate will have some seminary training and a heart for youth. Mail résumés to: FBCA, Pulpit Committee, PO Box 190, Alamance, NC 27201.

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

## **Seeking President**

The Board of Trustees at Blue Mountain College, a coeducational liberal arts Christian college affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, announces the search for its next president and invites nominations and applications for the position. Dr. Bettye Rogers Coward, the seventh and first female president, will retire from Blue Mountain College on June 30, 2012, when she will have completed 11 years as president. Dr. Coward led the College in a functioning planning process, extensive refurbishing of campus facilities, increasing enrollment, growing the endowment significantly, establishing the college's first graduate program, and developing a campus-wide wireless internet and course management system while maintaining a debt free situation. These accomplishments position a new president to take this Christian institution of higher education to new heights of excellence. Blue Mountain College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and masters degrees.

**Desired Qualifications:** The successful candidate will be a member of a

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

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

**SENIOR PASTOR.** First Baptist Church, Laurens, SC, seeks a visionary leader to supervise a full-time ministerial staff of three in leading our church in the worship of God and in achieving the purposes to which God is leading us. FBC Laurens recently completed an extensive renovation of facilities and an in-depth self study to prepare ourselves for a future of service to God under the leadership of an experienced minister with an accredited seminary education. FBC Laurens embraces the roles of women in ministry through a dual affiliation with CBF and SBC alike. Submit resumes by August 31, 2011, to FBC Pastor Search Committee, 300 West Main Street, Laurens, SC 29360.

### **Church Staff**

**Full-Time Music Minister.** First Baptist Church of Valdese, NC, a growing church in the foothills of The Blue Ridge Mountains, seeks a versitile leader for our adult choir and other music ministries. We affirm women in ministry and worship in a blended service. The best candidates will be comfortable with both traditional and contemporary music and competent in a secondary area of ministry, such as administration or technology. For a detailed job description, consult www.valdesefirstbaptist.org. Send resumes and inquiries to *srudi87013@aol.com*.

McLean Baptist Church, a Christ-centered, missions minded, inclusive, moderate church in the greater DC metro area; seeks an experienced **Associate Pastor** for discipleship and faith formations for all ages, from children to senior adults. *www.mcleanbaptist.org*.

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

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

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

### Miscellaneous

Solid Oak Church Furnishings for sale in Otto, NC. 36 pews with book racks and red upholstery: 6@8', 24@9', 2@10', 4@12'; 14' choir railing; 44" x 20" pulpit; 54" x 24" communion table; 2 arm chairs with red upholstery. Contact Davis Hooper, Coweeta Baptist Church, 828-369-7508.

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Baptist church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, hold an earned doctorate and/or a successful tenure related to the nature of leading an institution of higher learning, and be an effective communicator. The college is seeking a president who has a passion for students and their development and a capacity for shaping and communicating an institutional vision in ways that are compelling to donors, the media, and the community and to other college constituents. He/she will be expected to be an effective manager of resources.

**Challenges:** The next president of Blue Mountain College will build upon the foundation developed by the current Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff and take the institution to new heights of excellence. The new president, through her/his leadership, will work with all of the college's constituent groups to expand the influence and educational opportunities of the college in the region and beyond.

**To Apply:** Go to *www.bmc.edu* and follow the application process as found on the Presidential Search section. The Presidential Search Committee is committed to the highest standards of professionalism in working with candidates, sources, and references, respecting the need for confidentiality. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR. First Baptist Church, Franklin, NC, is seeking an associate pastor. Send resume' to *plparker@dnet.net* or Patsy Parker, 69 lotla Street, Franklin NC 28734. Applications open until Oct.1, 2011.

**Minister to Students.** Upstate SC church with worship of 250-300 seeks full-time minister to students. College degree required. Seminary preferred. Send resumes to *csbcstudents@bellsouth.net* prior to August 30. NCBAM needs servant volunteers who like to mow, trim, rake, and bless others. Help aging adults enjoy quality life in their own backyards. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

**NCBAM needs handymen to weatherize** the homes of aging adults. It's nice not to have to choose between groceries and heat. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

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- Send e-mail to: alison@biblicalrecorder.org
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Cost for Baptist churches and organizations is \$1.20 per word, number and standalone initial (\$1.42 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds that run in the paper also are carried online.

## **Church multiplication values**

Guest

Column

hurch planting is evangelism! Multiplying churches can be one of the most effective methods for local churches to evangelize their cities and regions. The apostle Paul evangelized urban cities during his missionary journeys and left congregations of new believers in the wake of his ministry.<sup>1</sup> In the book of Acts, Luke records the early history of church multiplication throughout the Roman Empire where evangelism and church multiplication were inseparable. Sadly, many churches within our denomination function more like institutions than organisms. As a result, we have created complicated and cumbersome organizational structures that are difficult to replicate into new churches.2

OPINION

We need to remember that every Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) church was planted at some point in history. Recent statistics show that 87 percent of Southern Baptist pastors believe it is the local church's responsibility to plant churches, but unfortunately only 3 percent of SBC churches have participated in church planting through direct funding or parenting.3 North Carolina Baptists have a heritage of church planting that convicts today's SBC of its current trends. The Sandy Creek Baptist Church, a North Carolina congregation, accounted for 42 churches or missions in a span of just under 20 years beginning in 1755.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, church planting has been an emphasis within the Southern Baptist Convention from its inception by relying on lay leadership and non-professional clergy for a large portion of its existence. So, with her heritage and emphasis on church planting, the question remains, "What will it take to encourage more SBC churches and pastors to engage in church planting?" With the renewed emphasis on church planting by the North American Mission Board, I would like to propose some values inherent in churches that seek to parent new congregations.

### Kingdom vision

Churches that multiply themselves

think with Kingdom vision that extends outside the four walls of their local congregation and into the neighborhoods that surround them. Phil Stevenson, author of Ripple Churches, argues, "Not every church can be a regional Christopher C. church, but every church can have a regional ministry

extending its influence over a broad area."<sup>5</sup> A Kingdom vision sees the world as the congregation and church multiplication as a means to exponentially reaching more people than one local church can hold.

### **Evangelistic zeal**

Hefner

Churches that multiply are committed to evangelism. Because new churches tend to be more effective at bringing the gospel to the lost, churches that plant can be considerably more evangelistic by planting new congregations. Their uniqueness, location, and freshness, as well as the necessity of growth for survival all attribute to new churches being passionately and successfully evangelistic.6

### Simplicity

Churches that multiply emphasize simplicity in structure and purpose. Instead of carrying a load of traditions into the plant, new churches can easily strategize around "teaching, fellowship, prayer (and its results), praise, generous giving, and evangelism outside its four walls."<sup>7</sup> Parent churches are careful to engrain vital qualities into their daughter church, but do not cumber them down with the beneficial traditions and programs that only an established congregation can effectively produce.

### **Equipping leadership**

Churches that multiply equip and send out leadership. God created families to reproduce children, and it would seem to follow that God created churches to reproduce as well. The parent congregation will unselfishly share energy, money, resources, and leaders keeping the Kingdom vision in mind. These churches see their sacrifices as an eternal investment for the Lord's glory.8

These values are certainly not the only characteristics in multiplying congregations, but they are broadly true of parent churches. I believe they can be a starting point for the discussion. For further encouragement, see the resources below.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Hefner is minister of missions and evangelism at Mud Creek Baptist Church, Hendersonville. His brother, Robert Hefner is on the Biblical Recorder Board of Directors.)

1 Michael Green, Evangelism in the Early Church, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), 366.

2 J. D. Payne, Discovering Church Planting, Kindle ed. (Colorado Springs, CO: Authentic Publishing, 2009), loc. 926-34.

3 Rodney Harrison, Tom Cheyney, and Don Overstreet, Spin-Off Churches: How One Church Successfully Plants Another (Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Academic, 2008), 34, 65.

4 Rodney Harrison, Tom Cheyney, and Don Overstreet, Spin-Off Churches: How One Church Successfully Plants Another (Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Academic, 2008), 19.

5 Phil Stevenson, The Ripple Church: Multiply Your Ministry by Parenting New Churches (Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2004), 42.

6 Paul Becker and Mark Williams, The Dynamic Daughter Church Planting Handbook (Oceanside, CA: Dynamic Church Planting International, 1999), 6, 7, 13.

7 Ralph Moore, *How to Multiply* Your Church: The Most Effective Way to Grow God's Kingdom (Ventura, CA: Regal, 2009), 97.

8 Stevenson, The Ripple Church, 70-4.

## Are you telling your story?

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

**BSC** Executive Director-Treasurer

n 2010, our convention launched a three-year focus on evangelism, Ldiscipleship and missions called Find it Here.



The goal for Find it Here is to help churches become more intentionally evangelistic, which leads to disciple-making, which then leads to missions involvement.

This is the best way to grow a church

and transform believers into dynamic followers of Christ.

As part of the Find it Here evangelism emphasis we asked North Carolina Baptists to pray for lost people, specifically by name, and to invite them to attend a worship service.

As churches began praying for lost people by name, and inviting those people to church, and sharing Christ with them, they began to see lives change. People all across this state came to faith in Christ because someone took time to share the gospel with them.

If you will go to *finditherenc.org* you can read testimonies from pastors about what a difference it made when they, and their congregation, were more intentional in evangelism.

Intentional — this is a word I want us to think about. Churches that saw people come to faith in Christ did not see this kind of result because of anything special or extraordinary that they did. They saw this life change because of the power of the gospel and work of the Holy Spirit — and because they were intentional to share their faith.

Please consider for just a moment that 5.6 million people in this state, 258 in North America, and 6 billion in the world do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Does that reality make a difference to us?

Are we burdened because we know that every person who lives in this life apart from a relationship with Christ will miss the joy of knowing His presence here, and they will also exist throughout eternity in a place called hell?

We must care because God cares. 1 Tim. 2:3-6 teaches that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

God wants all people to enter into a personal faith relationship with Him. Romans 10:14 asks us to consider how people will know about God unless someone tells them. Matthew 28:18-20 gives the answer: it's us. We are God's chosen instruments in this world to tell others about Him. It is our responsibility to share the Good News. If you know Jesus, you have a story to tell. Your story is important because it is a story of how God saved a sinner and transformed that person into His beloved child.

## Watching Muslims profess Christ, face persecution ecently, I had the privilege of helping lead a

team from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to a country in South Asia. We spent 10 days in a nation with a population four times larger than that of California but where far less than 1 percent of the population professes faith in Christ. It is one of the poorest places in the world. Almost 90 percent of the population claims the Muslim faith, though the Guest average citizen adheres to what might Column be called "Folk Islam," which is a mixture of traditional Islam and animistic superstition. Most of the rest of the population is Hindu. During our time in South Asia, our team of eight students and two professors were able to minister in a number of ways. First and foremost. we shared the gospel, both through personal evangelism and evangelistic teaching. We also conducted discipleship training with recent converts from Nathan Finn Hinduism, most of whom had recently been baptized or were preparing for baptism. We were able to celebrate the Lord's Supper with some of these brothers who had already become baptized church members. My faculty colleague and I had the chance to engage in some theological training with our translators, all of whom

are native evangelists who work closely with our International Mission Board (IMB) personnel. I doubt I'll ever have a seminary classroom experience as difficult as trying to teach the doctrine of the Trinity, through a translator, to



a group of former Hindus and Muslims.

(See Watching Page 13)

## **Tar Heel Voices**

### Thankful for help

I am sending this to you to commend Kings Grove Baptist Church for their help in the recovery efforts after a F-3 tornado hit Glade Spring, Va., in April. This church called me the very next day wanting to help. They have had as many as 40 volunteers to spend several weekends in Glade Spring rebuilding. This church is really missions active. We are grateful for their help.

On behalf of the people in the Glade Spring, Va., area, I want to thank Kings Grove Baptist Church in Edneyville, for their tireless efforts and work that you have done in the Glade Spring recovery. Thank you for the work on (the) garage and for building the handicap ramp.

God's blessing on you for your mission activeness.

**Ronald Gilbert, director of missions** Lebanon Baptist Association, Glade Spring, Va.

When you tell your story, you bring God much honor and glory.

Who do you know who needs to hear the gospel? Will you tell them? God will enable you with His power. When is it going to happen?

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me ..." Acts 1:8

## **Reaching the unreached**

### Pillar 2 — Evangelism and Church Growth

(EDITOR'S NOTE – This issue of the Biblical Recorder continues our coverage of a seven part series on the "Seven Pillars for Ministry: Biblical Concepts for a Christ-Centered Vision." These seven pillars are vision statements developed by Milton Hollifield, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. I believe these pillars need to be known, understood and embraced so N.C. Baptists can do a better job of fulfilling the Great Commission. It is our hope that this series will be the catalyst to strengthen our churches in fellowship, vision and partnership.)

remember it well. I was 10 years old, and I had just prayed to receive Jesus as my Savior. My Dad and my brother prayed to receive Christ in the same Sunday morning service at New Hope Baptist Church in Charlotte. My mother made her decision for Christ two weeks earlier and my sister two weeks later. Our whole family of five was baptized together soon thereafter.

I remember the clean sense of newness in my life. I'll never get over it. My life had been changed for eternity. Our whole family was headed in a new direction. My alcoholic father was set free from that destructive addiction, never to be enslaved again.

The truth of the gospel had invaded our household. We were brand new because someone in the church down the street cared enough to share the Good News of salvation with us. What if they had not cared? What if they never told us that Christ died for our sins? I've wondered where I would be if that Baptist church had been caught up in just having activities that keep people busy, but had no evangelistic outreach.

### REACT: Tar Heel voices is forum for your opinions • Letters are limited

Letters are initial
to 300 words.
Letters may be edited for style, length and clarity
Name

## From the

Editor

I'm surprised they did not ask my brother and I to stop coming to the church. You need to know that Larry and I rode our bikes to Sunday services for a long time before my parents started attending. We were those little brats who did not know how to act in church, and there were no par-

ents present to supervise us. But there was Mrs. Jordan who loved us like we were her own. And others welcomed us, overlooking our "unchurchy" ways. So, we kept going back.

God was working on me from another angle. The Gideons came to our elementary school. Yes, it was a public school and we knew nothing about "political correctness." The Gideons said I could have a New Testament if I would memorize one Bible verse. The verse was John 3:16. I put it to memory and received my first reward. God used that scripture to prepare my heart for a greater gift — the gift of eternal life.

Everyone's story is different, but the result is the same. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, as Paul stated in Romans 1:16. Evangelicals believe the gospel is true. We believe it is life-changing. We believe Jesus suffered and died for our sins, was buried and arose the third day. We believe he lives today and that his indwelling Holy Spirit gives us the power to proclaim this salvation to those who have not yet believed.

This is the basic meaning of "evangelism and church growth." The gospel is proclaimed. Some respond in faith and experience the forgiveness of sin. These new believers get assimilated into a New Testament church. The church grows, reaching out to others and the cycle is repeated.

The methods of evangelism are many — tracts, EvangeCube, verbal witness, Bible distribution, Vacation Bible School, public evangelism events, Sunday School, worship services, concerts. But no method works if we do not share the gospel. We are God's method!

If there is no proclamation of the gospel, the church is merely a social club. If evangelism is not important, we should not be surprised when baptism numbers decrease and churches close their doors.

If there is no faithful proclamation of the gospel, we are guilty of disobedience. Jesus said we will obey him and share his salvation throughout the whole earth when we are filled with His Holy Spirit. Are we filled with Jesus? Are we telling the good news?

"And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." — Acts 2:47b, NASB Watching Muslims profess Christ, face persecution

#### (Continued from Page 12)

But, the highlight of our time in South Asia was seeing six Muslim men come to saving faith in Christ and publicly testify to their newfound faith through believer's baptism. We had heard there were some Muslims interested in talking about Christianity in a particular village, but when we arrived there, an imam disrupted our attempts to share the gospel. We left their village, but not before secretly passing word to the inquirers that we would meet in another location.

About a half hour later, we reassembled under a bridge, which was out of public view. About a dozen Muslim men came to hear us teach about Jesus. Two students and I shared the gospel with the group, while our IMB missionary and one of our translators answered questions raised by our Muslim friends. Over the course of the morning, several of the men indicated they had trusted Christ as their Savior and they requested baptism.

To be honest, we were surprised by their desire to be baptized. One of the Muslims warned the new Christians that it would not go well for them if they went under the water. This was no idle word. boldly to proclaim Christ. The cost of discipleship is high in this nation for Muslim converts to Christianity.

The realities of persecution were on everyone's minds as we walked down to the river for the baptisms. One by one, our new brothers in Christ walked out into the water where they were met by our translator.

He asked them some basic questions to make sure they understood the gospel. But then he also asked them if they were prepared to lose their livelihoods, their families — even their very lives.

Their response? "Jesus is Lord." And with that, they went down into the watery grave, only to be raised as new creatures in Jesus Christ. The week after we left, these brothers worshiped together for the first time. Lord willing, they represent the genesis of a new local church.

As we departed from the river, no one had dry eyes. How could we? One of the students asked me what I thought about the events of the morning. I told him we'd just witnessed the Book of Acts.

God's desire is for the nations. The Lord of the Harvest has redeemed a vast multitude from every people group through the person and work of Christ. He has commanded his people, the church, to advance His Kingdom to every corner of the globe. May we obediently join him in the drama of redemption by proclaiming the gospel, baptizing disciples, and planting new churches here, there, and everywhere. (EDITOR'S NOTE – Finn is assistant professor of church history and Baptist studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.)

## Editor's picks for evangelism

Introduction to Evangelism by Alvin Reid,

B & H Publishing (1998) Reid traces the history of evangelism with a focus on how Christians can proclaim the gospel effectively. Using methods built upon biblical, historical, and theological foundations, this exhaustive guide integrates doctrinal issues with practical matters of methodology, while developing the personal spirituality of those who seek to carry out the Great Commission.

The Master Plan of Evangelism, 2nd edition, abridged, by Dr. Robert

E. Coleman, Revell (2010) This classic on evangelism needs to be read and applied in every church. For more than 40 years this book has challenged over 3.5 million readers to discover how Jesus used men to proclaim His message.

Concentric Circles of Concern, Revised, edited by Claude V. King, by W. Oscar Thompson Jr. & Carolyn Thompson Ritzmann, B & H Publishing Group (1999) According to this newly revised edition of W. Oscar Thompson Jr.'s classic work, successful evangelism always starts at home. In Concentric Circles of Concern, Dr. Thompson gives specific details on how best to share Christ's love by meeting the spiritual needs of close family first, followed by friends, and others in your circle of relationships.



may be withheld only for sufficient reason.

• Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number.

- Only one letter from a writer will be published in a 90-day period.
- **E-mail to** editor@biblicalrecorder. org, or **mail to:** Editor, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

About a month before our arrival, one of our translators had been savagely beaten for "blaspheming the prophet" he had shared the gospel. He was thrown out of his village and told not to return to his home unless he had recanted Christianity. He had only seen his wife once in the past month. Though she remains a Muslim, no one in the village will provide for her needs because her husband is an infidel. Our friend is grieving these losses, even as he continues



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#### Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 232 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27609, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, Nov. 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C. 27676.

**Postmaster**: Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, N.C. 27619-8808.

Fax (919) 847-6939 *BRnow.org* 

K. Allan Blume, Editor/President editor@biblicalrecorder.org Dianna L. Cagle, Asst. Managing Editor dianna@biblicalrecorder.org Alison McKinney, Business & Advertising Manager alison@biblicalrecorder.org Daphne Woodall, Circulation Manager daphne@biblicalrecorder.org

Volume 177 No. 16

(919) 847-2127

**Priscilla and Aquila: Partners in Ministry** 

### Lesson for August 14

### **Formations**

### Lesson for August 21

### The Bride and the Beloved: Partners in Intimacy

Focal Passages: Song of Solomon 1:2-4, 9-2:7

To observe that we live in a society that is suffering greatly from sexual confusion, and also sexual misconduct, is not a novel insight. A few minutes spent watching television; listening to any rock, pop, or country music station; or perusing the cornerstore magazine rack reveals that we live in a sex-saturated culture. Unfortunately, the Christian response to the sexual excess we see is to offer condemnation without providing biblically sound guidance as to how one can have a healthy, active sex life.

The Song of Solomon offers us help in understanding sex in a positive way. Although this book is often interpreted allegorically to illustrate Christ's love for the church, it is clearly written as a love poem containing several segments. The book reveals the way men and women in love should conduct themselves in attitudes and activities.

As the book begins, the young woman and young man have already met and "fallen in love." In verses 2-4, the girl voices her desire for her betrothed's affection. The girl speaks first, and there is a sense that she is the major character in the poem. She seems to see herself as of equal stature with her beloved. Much

more of the text comes from her mouth and mind than from his, though there is no failure on his part to declare his love and admiration for her.

In verses 9-11, the young man thinks of his betrothed as a person to cherish, comparing her to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.

received as a compliment today, the Pharaoh's horses were decorated to show off their beauty and splendor.

In 1:12-2:7, the love of the young man and his beloved continues to intensify. The metaphors at the beginning of chapter two show that the young man satisfies three needs of his betrothed: protection, intimacy, and public identification as her beloved.

Solomon, as author of the poem, of-

Although this would probably not be

**DuPre Sanders** 

Baptist Church Perhaps the outstanding characteristic of this first major section of the book is the sexual restraint that is evident during courtship. The restraint contrasts with the sexual intimacy that characterizes the lovers after their wedding (3:6-8:4).

fers a charge: "Do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready!" In regard to matters of the heart, patience is needed. Wait for love to blossom; don't hurry it! Focal Passages: Acts 18:1-4, 11; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19 The texts for this lesson introduce

us to a couple who are partners in ministry: Priscilla and Aquila. For those of us who are married, they provide for us a needed model. When we read the New Testament, Jesus and

> Paul are the two main characters, and yet neither of them married. We know that Peter was married, but we never learn anything about his wife. We don't even know if any of the other disciples were married. Perhaps because of this, we might feel that in marriage we can't serve God as effectively as if we're single.

Priscilla and Aquila give us a glimpse of how well we can serve God as married couples.

Priscilla and Aquila appear six times in the New Testament (Acts 18:2-3, 18-19, 26; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19). In Acts 18:1-3 we read the passage that introduces them: "Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul

went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them."

So, this couple was in Rome when Emperor Claudius ordered all the Jews to leave the city. We know from historical records that Jews were expelled due to disputes among those who disagreed as to whether or not Jesus was the Messiah.

It is hard to imagine how hard this was for Priscilla and Aquila. It would have been easy to become discouraged. Yet, when they were forced from their church in Rome, they became an important part of the church at Corinth.

When Paul arrived in Corinth, Priscilla and Aquila offered him hospitality by opening their home and business to him. Hospitality is an important part of a God-pleasing life.

It is also important to note that Priscilla, Aquila and Paul managed to earn a living while doing a lot for the Lord. We are tempted to think we cannot serve God because we have to work our normal jobs. Priscilla and Aquila found their identity more in being a follower of Jesus than in their work.

Priscilla and Aquila were partners in life, business, and ministry. They are an example of how God can use married couples to work together in effective ministry.

### Lesson for August 14

### **Forgive One Another**

Focal Passages: Colossians 3:12-13; Philemon 8-22

t the fragile age of 13, Susie transferred to another school. There she found girls in her class intent upon keeping her outside their tightly knit circle. Among them, Mary seemed the most open to Susie's friendship. One day after school, as the two walked home together, Sarah suddenly rushed from behind, pushed Susie and Mary apart and placed herself between them. She related only to Mary, making no eye contact or conversation with Susie. Gradually, Sarah steered Mary and herself ahead, leaving Susie to walk alone behind them.

Emotionally crushed, Susie related the incident to her mother. "You must forgive Sarah," her mother suggested. "She hasn't asked me to forgive her," Susie answered.

"She won't," her mother said. "The injured always does the forgiving. Until you forgive Sarah, however, you have bound her to you — the very thing you don't want. Once you forgive, you'll both benefit: she'll be released and you'll be free, leaving the door open for future friendship." The Greek word that Paul used for forgiveness in Colossians 1:13-14 means "to send away." Paul wrote, God "has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

### **Bible Studies for Life**

pastor, Roxboro

### Don't Criticize One Another

Focal Passages: James 4:11-12; Ro-

remember with amusement an incident when my husband Jack and I were young and new to ministry. As I entertained a church member, I went to check on food in the oven.

> When I returned, my visitor was missing. In time she returned and explained, "I was just looking for a better place for you to hang that picture." The incident is funny now, but I don't remember laughing at the time.

> As I have grown in Christ, I've learned, as I'm sure you have, certain things about criticism that warrant review:

• Criticism can be verbal or Author, speaker non-verbal.

 Raising the eyebrows, or rolling one's eyes can speak volumes without saying a word.

they have a painful home life, a crippling debt, or illness.

Lesson for August 21

• The cost of "losing one's cool" is high.

It can affect our health and that of others when we give way to fits of anger at home or at work.

No one enjoys being around someone with a "short fuse." The writer of Proverbs said, "A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath' (Prov. 15:1).

• Prayer and practicing the presence of God conquers a critical spirit, and renews fellowship with God.

Paul said, "For it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will give praise to God" (Rom. 14:11).

James warned, "There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?" (Jas. 4:12).

We are wise to leave it to God to "set others straight" and make Jesus our



Painter

Centuries ago, Paul intervened for mans 14:1-12, 19

Onesimus, a slave who ran away from Philemon, his owner. Writing to Philemon, Paul begged him to forgive Onesimus and take him back, "no longer a slave, but as a dearly beloved brother" (Philem. 16).

Jesus personified forgiveness though many offended Him: Jewish leaders plotted His death, Judas betrayed Him, Peter denied Him, and Pilate, although believing Him innocent, ordered His crucifixion. The mob screamed, 'Crucify Him!' and the soldiers drove the nails, but no one on record begged His forgiveness.

Instead, it was Jesus, the offended, who prayed, "Father, forgive them."

In colonial America, John from Raleigh Wesley pled the case of an offending colonist before the British governor, James Oglethorpe. The gover-

nor quipped, "Wesley, I never forgive. Wesley responded, "Then I hope you

never offend!'

Jesus said, "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your wrongdoing. But if you don't forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your wrongdoing" (Mark 11:25-26). With that in mind, let us forgive those who offend us, and leave the Sarahs of the world to God.

• Refusal to acknowledge others with conversation or eye contact is another non-verbal way to criticize, as it communicates disdain.

• Everyone from time to time encounters criticism; the only people who don't are in the graveyard.

• Criticism of another person doesn't make it true. When criticism comes from friends, there may be truth in it that can help us to grow in Christ.

• Studying our critics can reveal what makes them critical by nature. Perhaps

example. He completed His work while enduring harsh criticism.

The Pharisees were jealous of Him and envied His great following. He was accused of blasphemy, called the son of the devil, and charged with being insane.

Paul declared that one day, "Each of us will give an account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12).

Until then, whenever we're criticized, let's forgive and remember to forget.



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## A vision to change means food for Haiti

(Continued from Page 8)

would mean 160,000 meals for Haiti. Johnson was nervous the first week. Attendance was a little lower for the

first youth week and she wasn't sure \$5,000 would be possible. She was reminded to trust God to provide.

That first week, students exceeded the \$5,000 goal. The second week, the same thing happened, with students giving \$7,800.

So far this summer, through four weeks of camp, youth have given \$34,341.18. Their giving has so exceeded the summer goal that Johnson has already been able to order 40,000 additional meals, bringing the summer total to 200,000. All summer long, Johnson heard youth and youth leaders saying things like, "I can't believe what God did through us" and "What can we do when we go home?"

Every afternoon during camp, different youth groups formed assembly lines and helped pack the meals.

Change This World uses the recipe from Kids Against Hunger to make the prepackaged meals of dry ingredients. One bag of rice; crushed soy; chickenflavored, vegetarian vitamins and mineral powder; and a dehydrated blend of six vegetables, feeds six people. The bags the meals come in are waterproof, the meals have a shelf life of three years, and all that is needed to prepare the meal is to heat in boiling water. Johnson told youth during training sessions prior to assembling the meals that people receiving the meals may not eat one meal a day. "Sometimes they eat dirt mixed with water just so their stomach thinks it has food," she said. If they haven't been eating regularly for awhile, even when they do have food it takes awhile to get their bodies back on a "normal" schedule.

"They will literally eat one meal a week, then go to two meals a week. It will take them awhile to get up to more than one meal a day," she said.

The first thing Johnson told the youth to do at their assembly station, before doing anything else, was to pray for the people receiving the meals. Youth prayed that Haitians would come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

For more about youth weeks and student ministry: *bedotell.com*.

**For more about Change This World:** *changethisworld.com.* 

N.C. Baptist Men still need volunteers in Haiti. Learn more: *baptistsonmission.org*.

### **Praying for neighbors**

Soul-Winning Commitment Day is Oct. 2 and this year's emphasis is "Praying Your Neighbors to Christ."

There are resources for leaders including training information as well as a planning guide.

Visit *thebigday.org* to get a complete list of resources.

# FBC Cary works at being intentional

#### (Continued from Page 5)

intentional. You can make a funeral service very evangelistic."

The church has added a revival to its calendar and made efforts to reach its community and local college students.

Staff meetings have become a place to be accountable for sharing their faith.

On a personal level, Huddleston says the training, "gave me focus. The key word is intentional. You begin to think about ways to be evangelistic as a preacher away from the pulpit."

One of the ways FBC Cary is reaching out is sharing the story of Scotty McCreery, American Idol winner and Garner native. The FBC Garner member shared his testimony with his church to create a tract.

The church ordered 150 tracts for its members to distribute.

"It keeps evangelism on the forefront," he said noting that its "something that easily moves to the backburner.

"Keep the emphasis on the right thing, the main thing."

Visit *caryfbc.org*.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – For other stories about evangelism, see BRnow.org/ resources/SevenPillars.aspx.)





TESTIMONY – Dean Mattern, outreach pastor for Life Community Church in Jamestown, shares with The Gideons International in Charlotte of his life-changing experience after reading a Gideon Bible in prison.

## Dean Mattern: My story

#### (Continued from Page 7)

I was a sinner and I needed God. I cried out. I said 'God please forgive me for my sins. Help me.'"

"The shackles of sin and shame and guilt dropped away."

He and Debra were released after Mattern wrote a letter to the sheriff who turned out to also be a deacon.

After explaining to Debra that they

do makes a difference, Mattern said, "It isn't millions of Bibles, it's millions of people that need the Savior."

### **Outreach**

Mattern and Life Community Church have a passion to reach the lost in Greensboro. Through sports ministries such as Upward and opening it's gym for men's basketball every morning, people who wouldn't normally come to

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no longer needed to go to the Middle East, she wept and confessed that she had also accepted Christ in her own jail cell. Both had read the Bible in their cells.

"What could I do, I married her," Mattern said.

"My five children have been raised Christians and all serve God. My nine grandchildren will do the same.

"My brother, I led to Christ and he's a children's pastor. I led my sister to Christ."

He continued on with others from his family, and it all started with a Bible that had found its way to a prison cell.

"When I get to heaven I'm gonna find the person that paid for that Bible and I'm gonna introduce him to all the people I've lead to Christ."

"My family never knew what I knew because Gideons cared enough to put a Bible in a place where I'd find it."

In telling the Gideons that what they

church are building relationships with the members of Life Community.

They also reach out to the growing refugee community in Greensboro through holding a refugee Valentine's Day banquet and getting families from church connected with new refugee families.

Life Community Church holds gatherings several times a week called Lifetree Café, a ministry started in Colorado. Lifetree Café offers people the opportunity to meet and have discussions about life and faith, and it's a huge opportunity to share the gospel with non-believers. Topics discussed can be anything from inventions to war. Mattern said, "We're able to get unchurched people who would never come to church to come to Life Tree Café."

For more information about Lifetree Café and how to plant your own, visit *lifetreecafe.com*.

## Healing bodies, souls – medical missions with the Roma

#### North Carolina Baptist Men

ince 2008, North Carolina Baptist Men has partnered with Roma (gypsies) in Munkacs, Ukraine. Initially slated to transform an old KGB listening post into a house of worship, the need for volunteers was redirected when the young pastor said "would you please just come love on the children?" Teams eagerly switched gears and focused on the children.

Members of First Baptist Church in Roxboro spent a week last summer working with up to 300 children each day. Along with teaching Bible stories, crafts and music, they conducted several medical clinics.

That experience gave Jill Burleson, nurse practitioner at Duke University Medical Center, the desire to conduct a week-long medical mission trip. Her dream became a reality in the spring of 2011. The following is her account of that experience.

'Our van passed a whitewashed brick wall, switching the scenery from a quaint village in Munkacs, Ukraine, to a trash heap. Mud roads jostled our insides while we tried to comprehend the stark reality behind that wall. Filth, trash, mud, disease, houses crafted crudely out of sticks or mud, roofs patched with cardboard and trash to hold it in place met our eyes first. Children with naked brown bodies and swollen bellies from malnutrition ran alongside the van to cheer and wave. Their dirty faces strained to make out these strangers coming to visit. The need was overwhelming. And the tears began.

"However, those tears were soon dried by mamas and children clamoring to hug, kiss, and engulf us into their fold as if we were family. We entered a building, from which a melody came floating lightly, joyously, on the putrid air, turning the stench of the trash into a holy aroma rising to the heavens. And there we worshiped.

"I recalled these scenes from eight months before, the beginnings of a dream to bring a full medical team to the gypsy camps of Munkacs. Now after planning and packing, it was reality. For a week, our team provided medical care to almost 450 people from the gypsy communities. Some were extremely sick, like our Lily who was severely burned and whom we labored over intensely each day. We were relieved to watch her bloom as the week progressed.



SAY "AHHHH!" – N.C. volunteers from First Baptist Church in Roxboro conduct a medical clinic in the village of Beregszasz, Ukraine. See BRnow.org; click "Photo Gallery." At right, after walking through the gypsy camp in Munkacs, Ukraine, several children followed Jill Burleson and other North Carolina medical volunteers to be assessed and treated.

tion and received vitamins. The rest fell somewhere in between. All were given undivided attention. It was our privilege to hold their hands, listen to their lungs, hear their hearts (whether through story or stethoscope), and try to convey God's love to them in words and actions.

"My soul sighed at the end of our week in Munkacs. I realized that in my daily life, I tend to forget how to sing heaven's song that the gypsies know so well. How the love flows naturally and praises drown out the world, melting the rubbish of life into a campfire's ashes. How gently the spirit can hold a child that isn't its own, or how the flinch of a person touched kindly for the first time feels under your fingers. How it is to bandage hearts and hold hands, and how love needs no language to be perfectly understood.

"I learned in this week how it feels to have a homecoming in the middle of a garbage dump. How it is to have the strength of Samson when holding a child who just needs to be close. How it is to feel that child wrapped around you so tightly it's as if she is trying to seep into your very heart. And how it is to feel your heart break as you realize she has.

"The medical and societal needs of the gypsies in Munkacs are many. But

for God, rising from the rubbish, and

bestowing a renewed blessing to those

of us fortunate enough to serve them.

It is only by God's grace that we have anything to offer them in return."

in their beautiful pain, they are reaching

Visit *baptistsonmission.org*/ to find out how you can volunteer to help in Ukraine.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Jill Burleson (RN, ANP-BC, MSN) is a nurse practitioner at Duke University Medical Center in Durham. She works in the division of cellular therapy. Check the story online for a link to a video.)





"Others suffered only from malnutri-

## Campus Crusade shortens name: Cru

(RNS) Campus Crusade for Christ is out. "Cru" is in.

The 60-year-old evangelical ministry announced its new name at a staff conference July 19 in Fort Collins, Colo., saying the old name had become problematic.

"We've been having issues with two words in the name - campus and crusade," said Steve Sellers, a vice president who oversees the ministry's U.S. operations, in an interview.

Though the Orlando, Fla.-based organization began on campuses in 1951, it has expanded to more than two dozen ministries focused on topics such as families, athletes, the military and inner cities.

Campus Crusade was founded by the late Bill Bright and his wife Vonette.

The name Cru — already used on many U.S. college campuses — will be used throughout the United States. Most of the international ministries affiliated with Cru use a name other than Campus Crusade for Christ. Its Canadian affiliate is called Power to Change and European ministries use the name Agape.



This event is sponsored by the Sandy Run Baptist Association and churches in parenership with the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening. Evangelization Group, Baptist State Consention of North Carolina.