



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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Floyd discusses new role, missions and message for N.C. Baptists

Biblical Recorder & BSC Communications

Ronnie Floyd, recently selected to lead the Southern Baptist Convention’s Executive Committee, is slated to speak at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s annual meeting in November. He provided statements in response to questions from the *Biblical Recorder* and BSC communications staff about his new role, his passion for missions, the importance of the Cooperative Program and what he plans to share with N.C. Baptists later this year. The following is a lightly edited transcript.

Q: You were named president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) Executive Committee in early April. What have the first few months on the job been like?

A: Since my election on April 2, and full-time status occurring on May 20, I have been in a learning and listening mode. With the 2019 SBC annual meeting facing us in June, and the crisis related to sexual abuse needing a unified resolve in our response, much of my time was consumed with bringing people together to deal with this in the most responsible manner. As well, much of my time was getting to know our team here at the Executive Committee.

Q: Some Southern Baptists may not be familiar with the work of the Executive Committee. What does your new role entail?

A: The Executive Committee is the executive, fiscal and fiduciary arm of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are charged with acting for the convention when the convention is not in its annual session, which is only two days a year.

Additionally, we provide a news source for our churches called Baptist Press, plus serve in the public relations of interpreting Southern Baptists and our

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International Mission Board (IMB) President Paul Chitwood and missionary leader Charles Clark pray for a Venezuelan woman halfway across the Simon Bolivar International Bridge between Colombia and Venezuela as people pass by carrying food. The woman had crossed into Colombia to buy basic necessities that are no longer available in Venezuela. (IMB photo by Chris Carter)

By SETH BROWN | BR Executive Editor

The International Mission Board (IMB) cited sharp increases in the number of missionary candidates it has received since last fall, and due to the organization’s strong financial position, leaders are preparing to rally even more Southern Baptists to do mission work through the IMB.

IMB President Paul Chitwood told the *Biblical Recorder* there are more than 900 candidates currently in the process of becoming missionaries. He said that number represents a strong uptick since he became president on Nov. 15, 2018. (The IMB was unable to provide specific comparison data by publication time.)

“We feel like we’re rebuilding that pipeline just the way we need to,” Chitwood said in a phone interview.

Chitwood said staff downsizing that occurred in 2015-16 under the leadership of then-president David Platt left many Southern Baptists with a false impression that the IMB was not able to send new missionaries, but “they did what they needed to do.”

The personnel reduction was part of a plan overseen by Platt to balance the budget after years of deficit spending, which was achieved in 2017, according to IMB reports.

Chitwood explained that Platt and other leaders recognized the need to keep missionary candidates in

the “pipeline” and emphasized the IMB was “open for business.”

“There are always vacancies that need to be filled, even in the midst of a downsizing,” Chitwood said.

Now that the organization is in good financial shape, it hopes to ramp up deployment of new missionaries.

The IMB recently added mobilization staff and reduced the missionary application process by six to eight months, according to Chitwood. The organization is also increasing student engagement and retooling its communications and marketing team.

There are 3,692 overseas missionaries currently serving with the IMB, according to figures provided at *SBC.net*.

When asked about the “limitless” self- and partially-funded mission opportunities championed by Platt, Chitwood said those roles are still in place and important to the IMB.

He also said missionary teams and church planting are key aspects of the IMB’s work.

“Church planting is still the ultimate goal of the missionary task,” Chitwood said, adding, “We want our people to serve on a team, having accountability and fellowship. That team strategy is still critical.”

The IMB’s current budget totals nearly \$265 million. Thirty-seven percent of the budget comes from the

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Celebrate ‘God’s Great Work’

It’s hard to believe, but this year’s annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) is only three months away.

Planning for this year’s meeting has actually been going on for many months as a group of North Carolina Baptists who make up our Committee on Convention Meetings began meeting in January with convention officers and some convention staff to pray and seek God’s direction for our time together this fall.

Through all of the prayerful planning and discussion, the theme of “God’s Great Work” emerged as a central focus for this year’s annual meeting, which will emphasize the Great Commission to go and make disciples and the Great Commandment to love God and neighbor.

I hope many North Carolina Baptists will make plans now to join us for this year’s annual meeting on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 11-12, at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at the annual meeting each year, and this year is no exception.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Although we gather together to conduct important and necessary convention business, our annual meetings include rich and moving times of worship, as well as encouragement from God’s Word. This year’s meeting will include a celebration of what God has done and is doing in our state related to church planting. The special church planting celebration on Monday evening will include a time to pray for and commission church planters. In conjunction with the service, state convention President Steve Scoggins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, will preach on the annual meeting theme of “God’s Great Work.”

On Tuesday evening, Ronnie Floyd, the new president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) executive committee will preach during a special worship service designed to equip, encourage, inspire and challenge us in the area of personal evangelism. This service is being developed around the “Who’s Your One?” evangelism initiative and emphasis that’s taking place across the SBC. If you haven’t identified one person in your life who needs to know Jesus, I hope that you will select someone to pray for, share the gospel with and invite them to trust Christ as their Savior and Lord.

During the annual meeting, we will also share an update on the progress that we’ve made in fulfillment of the “impacting lostness through disciple-making”



strategy that was implemented in 2014. In addition, the SBC’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission will conduct a panel on preventing and responding to sexual abuse in the local church as part of the many breakout sessions that will be offered over the course of the two days in Greensboro.

And don’t forget to come early and attend the annual N.C. Baptist Pastor’s Conference on Sunday and Monday, Nov. 10-11.

You can find more information about this year’s annual meeting and pastors’ conference by visiting ncannualmeeting.org. The site will be continuously updated with additional information between now and the time we meet in November, so be sure to check back regularly for updates.

I hope to see you in Greensboro this November.

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” – Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV). **BR**

The Cooperative Program makes more sense now than ever

One of our younger leaders in North Carolina recently told me about discussions he has participated in with other young ministers interested in church planting. He said the conversations often feature a popular missions and church planting network with several hundred churches globally and a budget of around \$5 million.

Our leader said he usually raises a question. “Wouldn’t you be excited if there was a missions and church planting network with the organizational tools to mobilize tens of thousands of churches and harness a budget of a few hundred million dollars for the sake of the gospel?”

“We already have that,” he explains. “It’s called the Southern Baptist Convention.”

Our International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) focus almost exclusively on areas where there is least gospel presence.



STEVE SCOGGINS
Guest Column

This year Southern Baptists will give more than \$260 million to the IMB through the Cooperative Program (CP) and through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

The North American Mission Board will receive over \$100 million through the CP and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American

Missions.

Yet, not all missions and church planting among unreached people groups takes place through the IMB and NAMB.

Reaching the unreached in North Carolina falls almost exclusively on the

shoulders of our state convention and its churches. We have 1.5 million people in North Carolina who were born outside of the United States. There are pockets of lostness in our state that rival those of any major area in the world. Our N.C. missionaries are targeting those pockets by working with our churches to reach people.

The young leader had one more thing to say about funding missions and church

planting: “We don’t need to reinvent the wheel. The Cooperative Program is still effective and relevant.”

I believe the Cooperative Program makes more sense now than ever. It is more effective because we can do more together than any church can do by itself. Few churches could afford to sustain just one missionary by themselves. But even the smallest Southern Baptist church can

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Pastor facing felony charges on house arrest

Biblical Recorder

Stephen Arthur Morris, 61, pastor of Oliver's Grove Baptist Church in Four Oaks, N.C., was arrested July 5 and charged with five counts of statutory rape and five counts of taking indecent liberties with a child.

The victim, now 19 years old, reported the crimes to police in June. The victim was 13 at the time of the abuse that allegedly occurred between June 2013 and June 2014.

According to WRAL, authorities did not disclose whether any of the alleged acts occurred at Oliver's Grove or through its programs or ministries.

ABC11 reported Morris was "off of the job."

Reports indicate that he resigned from his church the day after his arrest.

A judge lowered his \$2.5 million bond to \$250,000. Morris was released July 26, but the judge placed several conditions on his release:

- He must stay away from the victim and refrain from communicating or attempting to communicate directly or indirectly with the victim or her family.
- He must provide fingerprints and a

DNA sample.

- He must remain under house arrest with electronic monitoring.

Morris' next court date is Aug. 8.

Earlier this year, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) committed to act in accordance with a "Statement of Principles on Abuse" as part of an effort across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to prevent sex abuse and care for victims. Churches can contact BSC consultants for assistance with safety and prevention procedures.

This year, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and SBC President J.D. Greear's Sexual Abuse Advisory Group launched the Caring Well Initiative, a curriculum designed to equip congregations to prevent sexual abuse and care for victims.

Greear, who leads The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., formed the advisory group in July 2018 to assess how Southern Baptists are handling sexual abuse cases.

North Carolina's mandatory reporting laws require any adult to alert authorities if they suspect the abuse or neglect of a person under 18 years old.

Visit caringwell.com. **B3**

NEWS BRIEFS

Alleged sex abuse victim sues Village Church

(Baptist Press) A Texas woman has sued The Village Church for more than \$1 million, alleging she was sexually assaulted at age 11 in 2012 by Matthew Tonne, whom the church employed as a minister and counselor.

Identified in the lawsuit as "Jane Doe One," the plaintiff accuses The Village Church of negligently breaching the church's duty to care for her, failing to "implement reasonable policies and procedures to detect and prevent the sexual abuse of Jane Doe One by Tonne," and failing "to adhere to the policies and procedures it had in place at the time" to prevent the alleged abuse. The church has said Tonne was fired in June 2018 for a matter unrelated to the case.

Tonne was charged in January with indecent contact with a child, was released on \$25,000 bond and is awaiting trial in August, according to Dallas County District Court public documents. In the lawsuit filed July 26 in Dallas County, Texas, the plaintiff alleges Tonne sexually assaulted her at the Mt. Lebanon Retreat and Conference Center, a Baptist ministry in Cedar Hill, Texas.

Jury rules Katy Perry copied Christian rap song

(Baptist Press) A jury unanimously ruled on July 29 that Katy Perry's 2013 hit song "Dark Horse" improperly copied from a 2009 Christian rap song from a musical artist known as "Flame," according to media reports.

The case – originally filed in 2014 by rapper Marcus Gray (under the stage name 'Flame') and his two co-authors – involves the song titled "Joyful Noise," which was released in 2009, according to The Associated Press (AP). The song also features a verse by Christian rap artist Lecrae.

Flame is a graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's undergraduate Boyce College and also took classes at the seminary, according to a Baptist Press report.

Jurors found the six songwriters and four distributors of "Dark Horse" all liable. This includes Sarah Hudson, who co-wrote the song's words with Perry, as well as several producers of the song from Capitol Records and rapper Juicy J who wrote his verse of the song, AP reported.



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On the border: ‘Urgent need’ to show Christ’s love

By **DIANA CHANDLER** | Baptist Press

The two adult sisters risked their lives in a months-long journey from Cameroon in Central Africa to Tijuana, Mexico. Southern Baptist pastor Marshal Ausberry was surprised to see them at the Southern U.S. border seeking asylum in America.

“It’s just not people from Central America and South America that are coming,” Ausberry, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), told Baptist Press (BP) following his trip recently to the border.

“There are people from Africa and Haiti that have migrated to Mexico in attempts to come through the border to the United States.”

Ausberry met the immigrants at a Baptist church in Mexico as he was on a fact-finding mission on border ministry with Todd Unzicker, an associate pastor at The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

The Christian sisters fled persecution in Cameroon.

“That was just one story, and there are thousands of those kinds of stories,” said Ausberry, senior pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax Station, Va.

“I kind of see it as a modern-day diaspora, that God is shifting the population around for His purposes. When people are willing to endure such great hardships to come to the United States from Mexico for their personal safety, it just moves your heart.

“We don’t get into the politics of it, but as believers in Christ Jesus, we’re burdened to do that basic level of care,” Ausberry told BP.

“We still need to show them that human dignity of food, clothing and shelter, that care ... as they go through the political process of getting asylum and access to the United States and Mexico.”

SBC President and The Summit Church senior pastor J.D. Greear asked Ausberry, Unzicker and SBC second vice president Noe Garcia to make the trip, but Garcia was unable to make the trip and needed to remain home where he pastors North Phoenix Baptist Church.

July 16-18 in Tijuana, Ausberry and Unzicker met with leaders of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, Baptist pastors, Southern Baptist pastors from California and Southern Baptist workers in Mexico to learn about ministry to those caught in the crisis on the border.

“As Pastor J.D. says, most of us are not called or competent to make policy decisions on the border, but we are commanded by Jesus to love our neighbors and those who are hurting,” Unzicker told BP.

“And this, what is a crisis, I think

could actually be an absolute win for the Kingdom.

“Nobody could doubt that God is moving the nations all around the globe right now, in ways that history has not seen before,” Unzicker said.

“We were able to go and share the gospel with people who literally had nothing.”

The sisters from Cameroon were staying and serving at a church while awaiting an immigration hearing in the U.S., Ausberry said.

“They really have the joy of Christ in them,” he said, and prefer their current situation to Cameroon.

“Their love for Christ, their hopefulness, is just tremendous. It touched our hearts, and we’re thankful for the church opening their doors to give them a place to stay, a place to serve while they’re waiting to go to the hearing to continue their path to seeking asylum.”

Ausberry and Unzicker visited five sites where aid is being administered. Baptist churches there do much with few resources, the two said.

At one church, about 30 immigrants were housed on cots stacked to the ceiling. Churches were feeding, clothing and ministering to those who had fled home with nothing.

“One pastor had such a burden,” Unzicker said, that he asked his leadership for permission to house immigrants in the church’s Sunday School classrooms.

“His leadership team said OK you can make room for five people, so he went out and brought back 30. And so they

IMB Continued from page 1

Southern Baptist’s Convention’s Cooperative Program (CP), a unified funding tool that supports 12 organizations. The IMB receives 50.41 percent of CP funds.

“The IMB is on strong financial footing. We’re in the black,” said Chitwood. “We’re incredibly thankful for the generosity of Southern Baptists. ... I hope the generosity of Southern Baptists will match the number of Southern Baptists who feel called to serve through the IMB.”

In his report at the 2019 SBC annual meeting, Chitwood said, “We now have more fully-funded, open missionary positions than we have candidates in the missionary pipeline.”

When asked how he would like Southern Baptist church leaders to respond to the IMB’s current situation, Chitwood said, “Issue the call. It’s not my call; it’s not the IMB’s call; it’s not even the pastor’s call or Southern Baptists’ call. It’s the Lord’s call. ... The nations are waiting.” **BR**



Todd Unzicker, associate pastor at The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., encountered two Christian sisters at the Mexican border who had fled persecution in Cameroon and are seeking asylum in the U.S. (Twitter photo)

made bunks that just went all the way up to the ceiling.

“It’s happening all along (the border) from Brownsville (Texas) to Tijuana,” Unzicker said. “We want to catalyze that, and see all Southern Baptist entities and churches working together for one cause.”

Greear will use information gathered on the trip to Mexico to formulate ideas for ministry through Southern Baptists and partners, Unzicker and Ausberry said. Greear could not make the trip, as he was in Asia in July meeting with 51 missionaries from The Summit Church serving in Thailand and Malaysia.

Ausberry noted there is “an urgent need here to show the love of Christ, and it’s in real terms of food, shelter, clothing, a bath, a bed, just basic needs you and I take for granted.

“I use the phrase, it’s almost like we’re making bricks without straw. They do what they can,” he said.

Ausberry and Unzicker described the situation as an optimum opportunity tangibly to show the love of Christ.

“The nations are coming to our front doorstep,” Unzicker said. “We want to certainly welcome them with arms that are full of blankets and food, and most importantly the love of Jesus.” **BR**

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SEMINARY NEWS

Staff changes

Southwestern Seminary – Longtime Texas pastor and Southern Baptist leader **CHRIS OSBORNE** has been named as professor of preaching and pastoral ministry. His post begins Jan. 1, 2020, after he finishes his doctor of philosophy in preaching from Southwestern.

Osborne has held multiple pastorates and convention leadership positions at the state and national levels. Since 1986, he has served as pastor of Central Baptist Church in College Station, Texas.

He has also served as president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Osborne completed his master of divinity at Southwestern in 1974. Osborne has been married to his wife Peggy since 1974. They have two children, Stephen and Lauren, and three grandchildren.

MICHAEL S. WILDER, will serve as interim dean of Southwestern and professor of educational ministries.

Wilder comes to Southwestern Seminary with many years of vocational, administrative, and leadership experience.

He most recently served as the J.M. Frost Professor of Leadership and Discipleship, and associate vice president for doctoral studies at Southern Seminary.

Wilder has also served as the senior pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Floyds Knobs, Ind.

Prior to his role at Southern, Wilder served as a youth minister in Georgia for 12 years, pastored a Kentucky church for three years, and taught at New Orleans Seminary. Wilder obtained his master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He later earned a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary.

CHRIS SHIRLEY, most recently served as associate professor of discipleship at Dallas Baptist University. He previously served at Southwestern as an assistant professor in the areas of discipleship and family ministry.

Shirley earned both his master of arts in Christian Education (1994) and Ph.D. (2002) from Southwestern. Shirley also has extensive experience in the local church in the areas of education and discipleship, and he served for a time as associate director of camps at Ridgecrest in North Carolina.

Credentials Committee elects chair

By ART TOALSTON | Baptist Press

The Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) held its initial meeting July 22 by video conferencing, electing Stacy Bramlett of Tennessee as its chair.

The nine-member Credentials Committee was repurposed during the SBC's 2019 annual meeting into a standing committee to make inquiries and recommendations for action regarding instances of sexual abuse, racism or other issues that call a church's relationship with the SBC into question.

Bramlett, senior vice president of Independent Bank in Collierville, Tenn., has been a member of the SBC Executive Committee (EC) since 2016, serving as the EC's secretary from 2017-2019.

Bramlett is one of three members nominated by the Executive Committee. The Credentials Committee also includes the SBC's registration secretary, the EC chairman and four members nominated by the Committee on Nominations. The nominations were approved by messengers June 11 in Birmingham, Ala.

In written comments to Baptist Press, Bramlett said, "I am humbled at being selected and I am approaching the role with much prayer and total dependency on the leadership of the Holy Spirit."

In their bylaws vote, messengers in June repurposed the former Credentials Committee and created a new Registration Committee that will continue to be appointed by the SBC president for each annual meeting for the registration process of messengers.

The Credentials Committee members named by the EC are Linda Cooper of Bowling Green, Ky., national president of WMU, and Mike Lawson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Sherman, Texas. Named by the Committee on Nominations were Jimmy Draper of Colleyville, Texas, a former SBC president and president emeritus of LifeWay Christian Resources; Cheryl Rice, a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla.; Roger Spradlin, co-pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif., and a former EC chairman; and Greg Fields, lead pastor of Nellis Baptist Church in Las Vegas. The SBC registration secretary serving on the Credentials Committee is Kathy Litton, director of planter spouse development for the North American Mission Board; the EC chairman is Mike Stone, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Blackshear, Ga.

The constitutional amendment will require a second two-thirds vote during the SBC's 2020 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. **B3**

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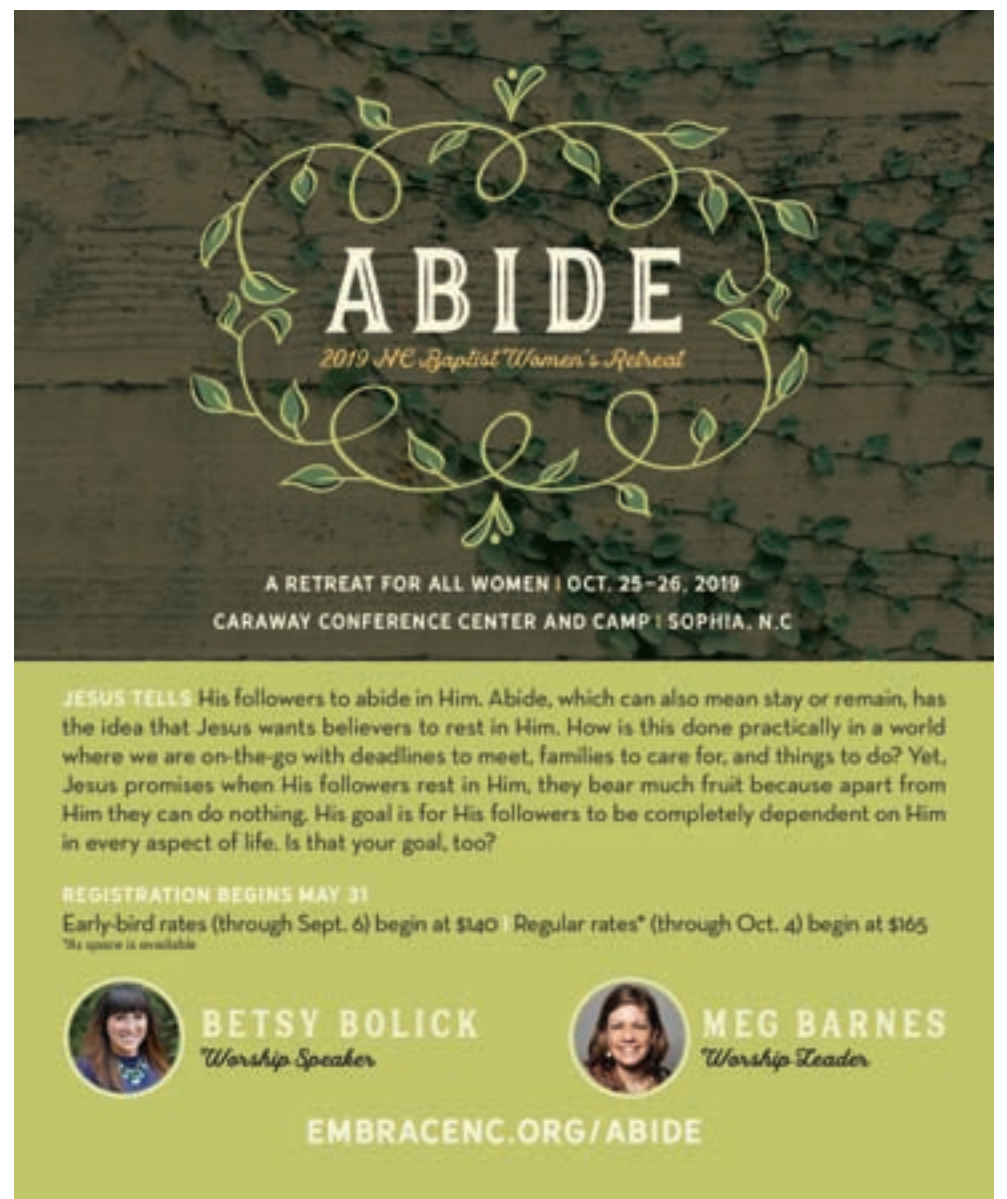
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Expert urges churches to learn risks of sexual abuse

BSC Communications

After decades of litigating sexual abuse cases, Gregory Love and Kimberlee Norris founded MinistrySafe to help ministries meet legal standards of care and reduce the risk of sexual abuse by creating preventative measures tailored to fit the needs of churches and ministry programs. With over 50 years' combined experience in sexual abuse litigation, consultation and crisis management, Love and Norris understand the risk of sexual abuse and how it unfolds in children's programming.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) is partnering with MinistrySafe to conduct two church safety workshops for pastors and church leaders on Fri., Sept. 20 and Sat., Sept. 21 at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church. The training will provide the tools to implement a safety system that protects children from sexual abuse in church and ministry environments.

Love, a recognized expert in legal standards of care related to child sexual abuse, recently took time to answer some questions about what he plans to share at the workshops. His responses are below.

Q: What led you to start MinistrySafe?

A: My involvement in sexual abuse risk began in the representation of victims of sexual abuse in the mid-90s. Through this work, I learned a great deal about sexual abuse risk and how it unfolds in child-serving programs (litigation). That practice grew into the

prevention side through the design and implementation of systems to prevent sexual abuse (prevention). Representative clients range from the very large (United States Olympic Committee) to the very small, secular and faith-based. Over the last 15 years my firm has been heavily relied upon by organizations to help respond to crises, conduct internal investigations, address reporting matters and more (related to) crisis Management. MinistrySafe and Abuse Prevention Systems were started as the consulting arm of my business on the prevention side.

Q: Media coverage over the past year has raised awareness about issues related to sexual abuse in the church. What's been your reaction to that coverage?

A: I'm pleased to see sexual abuse risk to finally get attention. I'm disappointed that it took this long. The key to understanding the risk of child sexual abuse is an understanding of the "grooming process." The grooming process has not changed materially over the last 25 years, (and) children's programming has not changed materially over the last 25 years. Awareness of the risk is

finally changing. Sadly, the culture and the media are waking up in anger and frustration – and rightly so. In sum, I am glad but disappointed that the "wake-up call" to many is rude and angry. It would have been much easier to have addressed this risk when the culture was less hostile.

Q: The media coverage and attention that's been given to this issue suggests that no church is immune from the problem of sexual abuse. What's your response to a church that may still be thinking, "This could never happen here"?

A: That church is simply wrong, which has been one of my messages for the last 20-plus years. You will meet me someday – hopefully in my capacity of a prevention expert and not as a crisis response expert.

Q: What are some of the basic first steps a church should implement or have in place to guard against sexual abuse?

A: Understand the risk. Throw off common errors and misconcep-

tions. Understand the grooming process – especially how grooming would unfold in that church's particular programs. Implement the MinistrySafe five-part safety system with sexual abuse awareness training as the foundation.

Q: We're thankful that you will be joining us to conduct two MinistrySafe workshops here in North Carolina this September. What do you plan to address, and what do you hope attendees will take away from this training?

A: In sum, I want to cover the why, what and the how. I want attendees to understand information about sexual abuse and sexual abusers (the why).

With a correct understanding of the risk, I can now help attendees understand what an effective safety system looks like (the what). Once ministry leaders understand the risk, the necessary steps to address the risk become clear. With a good understanding of the risk and an effective safety system, I will then show attendees how to get the tools and resources to implement an effective safety system (the how). **BR**



Southeastern to host second annual military week

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS Communications

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) will be hosting its second annual Military Community Emphasis Event Sept. 3-5 in conjunction with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Throughout the week, students and local ministers alike can come and learn more about opportunities for military chaplaincy, local church military ministry and church planting in military communities.

"SEBTS considers it an honor and privilege to serve, and offer training for, the men and women of the armed forces who serve and protect us with their lives," said Mark Liederbach, dean of students and vice president for student services. "Among the military there is a ripe field for evangelism, discipleship and global impact. I am deeply grateful for Jim Houck's work to bring this week together."

The event will begin with a chapel sermon by Chaplain Doug Carver, who formally served as the U.S. Army's 22nd Chief of Chaplains and the first Southern Baptist Chief of Chaplains in 50 years. Carver currently

serves as the executive director of chaplaincy for NAMB.

Following Carver's sermon, there will be a Q&A lunch on campus to highlight opportunities for chaplaincy. Chaplains will be coming from their operational units to share about their ministry.

Two panels on Wednesday will highlight churches that are active in military ministry and those who have planted churches in military communities. Local churches will share their experiences and provide ample opportunity for questions for attendees. The event will conclude on Thursday with a time for chaplains and students to connect one-on-one to learn more about military ministry.

The purpose of Military Community Emphasis Week is to bring the SEBTS military community together for fellowship and create an awareness among students and local pastors about military chaplaincy and church planting among military families and communities.

The event is open to all, and no registration is required. Visit sebts.edu/admissions-and-aid/student-resources/militaryaffairs/military-rate-application.aspx to learn more information about opportunities offered to active-duty



Doug Carver, right, will preach during a chapel service during Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's Military Community Emphasis Week Sept. 3-5. Carver serves as the director of chaplaincy for the North American Mission Board. (SEBTS photo)

personnel and veterans at SEBTS. For more information regarding Military Community Emphasis Week, contact Jim Houck at jhouck@sebts.edu. **BR**

SBC leaders alarmed by ‘misleading’ footage in Founders video

By **SETH BROWN** | *BR* Executive Editor

Four Southern Baptist seminary presidents featured in a video published online by Founders Ministries on July 23 have expressed concerns that the edited footage does not accurately portray their views or the views of other Southern Baptists.

The video is a trailer for a forthcoming documentary film titled “By What Standard?” The film, slated for release in September and described as a “cinedoc,” is meant to “sound an alarm” about “godless ideologies” being promoted among Southern Baptists “in the name of social justice,” according to a promotional web page at *Founders.org*.

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, called the trailer “misleading” and asked that his association with the documentary and interview material be retracted. Akin and three other seminary presidents were among interviewees that agreed to discuss doctrinal issues such as the authority of scripture and gender roles in ministry with Founders in on-camera interviews.

“As a Southern Baptist who has staked the whole of my life and ministry on the authority, inerrancy, and sufficiency of Scripture, I was happy to share my convictions on the matter,” Akin said in a statement posted online hours after the video’s release. “Today I was disappointed to see the trailer for that documentary. What I saw was edited footage that I believe to be misleading, which misrepresents important issues and what leaders in the SBC actually affirm.”

The seminary presidents expressed concerns when

they discovered interview clips were stitched together with ominous portrayals of fellow evangelical leaders, such as well-known author and speaker Beth Moore; Curtis Woods, an executive leader at the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; and Rachael Denhollander, author and advocate for victims of sexual abuse.

“I am alarmed at how some respected SBC leaders are represented,” Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said as part of a series of posts on Twitter.

Jason Allen, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said in email comments to the *Biblical Recorder*, “You can’t judge a book by its cover, nor can you judge a movie by its trailer. But this trailer is either a click-bait promotional piece or it represents a movie that’s uncharitable and unhelpful. Founders Ministry has often played a constructive role in SBC life, but I’m afraid this video isn’t one such occasion. It doesn’t appear to be the type of documentary I thought I – and other SBC leaders – was signing up for. These issues demand we engage with clarity and charity, and we should do just that.”

Adam Greenway, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said on social media that he was interviewed about the Southern Baptist Convention’s “Conservative Resurgence,” but added, “I will not, however, be part of any agenda seeking to divide Southern Baptists unnecessarily.”

Jonathan Leeman, editorial director for 9Marks, noted on social media that he and Mark Dever, senior

pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., were also interviewed by Founders on the topic of complementarianism. Leeman shared Akin’s statement on Twitter, saying, “our experience and reaction is the same.”

Founders Ministries is a Calvinistic group that developed in the early 1980s to host events and publish material to promote conservative evangelical beliefs. Founders President Tom Ascol is pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Fla.

Ascol responded to the “uproar about the trailer” on July 29 in a blog post at *Founders.org*. He defended the trailer and the forthcoming documentary, but acknowledged that a subsequent release of the video had Denhollander’s image removed.

“Some expressed concerns about a 1-2 second clip of Rachael Denhollander, accusing us of presenting her as demonic,” Ascol wrote.

“Certainly, no one at Founders Ministries believes that and we did not foresee people taking it that way. That was not our intention and, admittedly, not our wisest editing moment. We regret the pain and confusion we caused by this unwise alignment of image and idea.”

Three board members have since resigned from leadership at Founders, citing an “impasse” about “the nature of sin, unintentional sin, unwise acts and what faithfulness to Christ requires in the wake of each,” according to Ascol. Founders said it will continue the film project “unabated.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Liz Tablazon, assistant editor for the *Biblical Recorder*, contributed to this report.) **BR**

New Hispanic churches often do more with less

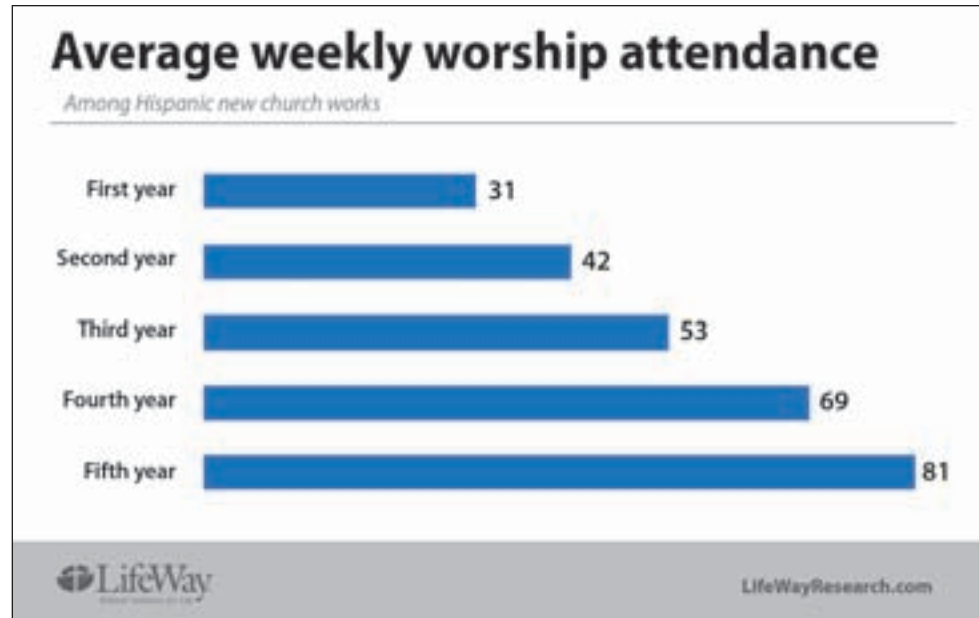
By **AARON EARLS** | LifeWay Christian Resources

New Hispanic church works in the U.S. are reportedly seeing similar patterns of attendance growth and conversions as other church plants despite having a fraction of the financial support and training, as well as facing complications from the immigration status of members and leaders, according to a new study.

“Evangelical groups who are starting new churches are starting Hispanic churches,” said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. LifeWay Research surveyed leaders from more than 200 new Hispanic church works from 14 Protestant denominations. And the study, conducted March 15–June 26, revealed most of the pastors and members were born outside of the U.S.

Among the lead pastors of these churches, 94 percent are Hispanic and 80 percent are first-generation immigrants. Around 1 in 12 (8 percent) say they were born in the U.S. But one or both of their parents were born elsewhere, and 12 percent say both they and their parents were born in the U.S.

One in 4 pastors (25 percent) say some of their church leaders have undocumented status. Around 2 in 3 (64 percent) say none of their church leaders



have undocumented status and 11 percent prefer not to answer.

Within the churches, pastors estimate 89 percent of their congregation is Hispanic or Latino. Two-thirds (66 percent) were born outside of the U.S., while 22 percent are second-generation immigrants and 12 percent are third generation. Pastors say most of their congregation are citizens with permanent legal status (68 percent), while they estimate 21 percent of those in their church have undocumented status and 11 percent have temporary legal status.

Two-thirds of new Hispanic church works (64 percent) conduct their services completely in Spanish. And three-fourths (73 percent) say they have no plans to change the language(s) used in their church.

The new Hispanic work congregations are, in large part, middle aged, with 40 percent being 30 to 49 years old. Around 1 in 5 (21 percent) in the church are under 18, 16 percent are 18 to 29, and 23 percent are 50 and older.

“While most of the leaders of these churches are first-generation immigrants

themselves,” said McConnell, “most have been in the area their church serves for 10 years or more.”

Similar growth with fewer resources

As with most other church plants, new Hispanic church works see exponential growth during the first few years. The average attendance in the church’s first year is 31. That climbs to 42 by the second year, 53 in year three, 69 in the fourth year and 81 after the fifth.

While those numbers are smaller than other church plants, they have similar growth trajectories. A similar 2015 LifeWay Research study of 843 Protestant church plants found the average new church began with 51 people in weekly worship attendance and grew to 146 by the fifth year.

The same is true for the number of conversions. In the first year, Hispanic church leaders say their church saw 10 first-time commitments to Jesus. That climbed to 13 in the second year and 15 in years three and four.

Among all church plants in the 2015 study, an average church saw 11 conversions in the first year, 14 in the second, 18 in the third and 17 in year four.

Similar to all church plants, around 4

See Hispanic page 12

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina (BCH) invites you to attend and participate in “Hope in Style,” a Triad-area event that aims to give children living at Mills Home in Thomasville a new beginning. On Aug. 17 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Greensboro Country Club you can bid on more than 100 auction items ranging from small gifts to vacation getaways at the silent auction, treat yourself to a full brunch, and watch children living at BCH walk the runway in their new outfits provided by lead sponsor, Belk. Tickets to attend are \$35. Contact Karen at kslate@bchfamily.org.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is offering Gospel Training Conversations Aug. 31 at Pleasant View Baptist Church, State Road. Ever wanted to have a gospel conversation with someone but had no idea where to begin? Gospel Conversations training explains not only why but also how to have these conversations across various contexts. You will learn what to do and say to share the good news of the gospel competently and confidently. This training includes a time for practice and follow-up processes for strategy and accountability. The event is from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and costs \$10, which includes lunch. Visit ncbaptist.org/event-gospel-conversations-training/ to register.

Join the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina Sept. 4 to celebrate its 60th annual Western Area Conference at Broyhill Home in Clyde. Cottage tours begin at 4 p.m. The new Annual/Thanksgiving Offering video will be shown at the picnic shelter at 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. From 4:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. there will be live gospel singing and a free barbecue meal. At 5:45 p.m., there will be a special program featuring children’s testimonies, special presenters and more. Make reservations by contacting (828) 627-9254 or nallen@bchfamily.org. Include your name, number of guests, and the name of your church if you are a part of a church group.

The Office of Prayer and Evangelism and Spiritual Awakening (a division of the Administration and Convention Relations Group at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina), in partnership with the Truett Baptist Association, invites you to Fanning the Flames Prayer Summit Sept. 7 at Truett Conference Center and Camp, Hayesville. You will hear from Marvin Green, retired DOM, Sandy Run Baptist Association; David Horton, president of Fruitland Bible College; Fred Lunsford, retired DOM, Truett Baptist Association; and J. Chris Schofield, director of the Office of Prayer for the SBC. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required and includes lunch. A love offering will be received. The meeting will be from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Register at tbanc@frontier.com or (828) 837-5401.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Davis Blount will help ministers, financial administrators, treasurers, church committees and other interested lay leaders with a financial and tax workshop Sept. 10 at the Transylvania Baptist Association, Pisgah Forest. Choose from the following topics: preparing for retirement, compensation planning, church retirement plans, employer provided benefits, managing designated funds, reporting charitable giving, tax updates and more. This free workshop will run from 4-7 p.m. Visit ncbaptist.org/event-financial-seminar/.

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina (BCH) is hosting its Saturday “Friends of Children” (FOC) workdays at its statewide locations in September. All types of projects are available at this one-day missions opportunity. Registration and job assignments begin at 8:30 a.m. A free lunch will be served after the work and a short program. Optional campus tours will begin at 1:30 p.m. Workers are welcome to prayer walk the campuses and pray for children and staff throughout the day. Sept. 14 is reserved for Mills Home, Thomasville, and Cameron Boys Camp. Sept. 21 will be at Camp Duncan for Girls, Aberdeen; Kennedy Home, Kinston; and Odum Home, Pembroke. Sept. 28 you can serve at Oak Ranch, Broadway. Visit bchfamily.org/involved/friends to sign up and find more information.

Does your church have a shared vision for making disciples from infants through senior high? Are your children’s and youth ministries aligned with a foundational ministry plan for that purpose? The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is sponsoring Scorecard, a one-day seminar where you can develop a strategic ministry plan with checkpoints that will help you measure spiritual growth in your children and youth. Scorecard also includes specific ways your church can partner with parents to disciple their children at home. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch. A special group rate of \$100 for five leaders is also available. These seminars will be held Sept. 14 at West Chowan Baptist Association, Ahoskie, and Oct. 12 at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, Marion. Each seminar runs from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit ncbaptist.org/scorecard.



The list below represents the top 25 churches that made financial gifts to the North Carolina Missions Offering in 2018.

Union Grove Baptist Church, Yadkinville

Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone

Old Town Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte

Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh

Summerfield First Baptist Church, Summerfield

Millers Creek Baptist Church, Millers Creek

First Baptist Church of Welcome, Welcome

Hampstead Baptist Church, Hampstead

Fairview Baptist Church, Apex

Cool Springs Baptist Church, Sanford

Kennebec Baptist Church, Angier

Louisburg Baptist Church, Louisburg

First Baptist Church of Boone, Boone

Shiloh Baptist Church, Garner

Calvary Baptist Church, Canton

Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Sandy Ridge

Mount Herman Baptist Church, Taylorsville

First Baptist Church of Oak Island, Oak Island

Intentional Love Baptist Church, Fuquay-Varina

Mount Ruhama Baptist Church, Maiden

Visit ncmissionsoffering.org for more information.

Floyd

Continued from page 1

beliefs to our people as well as to the outside world.

Our team is also tasked to plan, prepare and execute the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

We are right now working years ahead, as well as promoting and preparing for the 2020 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. Stewardship education and the work of the Southern Baptist Foundation is also entrusted to the Executive Committee for oversight.

Furthermore and most important to us, is championing the vision of reaching the world for Christ through promoting the Cooperative Program.

Working with all of our partners, it is our heart to assist and inspire churches to cooperate with one another through giving resources and people to this grand task of presenting the gospel to every person in the world and making disciples of all the nations.

The Executive Committee is comprised of 86 members from each state or defined region in our nation; therefore, it is the most representative body that gathers outside of our Southern Baptist annual meeting.

Q: What are some of the most pressing issues facing the SBC?

A: I believe that reaching, baptizing and discipling people across America is our greatest need so we can advance the gospel around the entire world. Southern Baptist churches must recapture the priority of evangelism through our churches. Living and breathing gospel urgency in all we do in our churches will change the heart and vision of our churches.

In order to reach the world for Christ, we need pastors and preachers of the gospel to begin calling out the called on a weekly basis. We need more church planters now and more new pastors ready to lead our existing churches here in the United States.

Additionally, we need more missionaries in the pipeline now ready to serve through international missions. Therefore, we need to call out the called of God who are sitting in our churches, inspiring them to invest their lives to seeing people come to Jesus Christ as Lord. This is why I am calling upon our just under 52,000 churches and congregations to

begin to prioritize, elevate and accelerate their giving through the Cooperative Program.

Increasing financial support through the Cooperative Program is key in this grand missions and ministries gospel advance. So what does it mean to prioritize, elevate and accelerate giving? Prioritize means to talk now with your church about how they can emphasize Cooperative Program giving in a greater way this year and in years to come.

Elevate means to highlight giving now and develop a strategy to do it annually. Accelerate means to start giving now, rather than later.

People are lost without Jesus. We must advance the gospel now to people across America and the world. We cooperate together because we know we can do more together to fulfill the Great Commission.

Q: You have often emphasized prayer and evangelism in your ministry. What are your thoughts on the “Who’s Your One?” initiative?

A: I think the Who’s Your One? initiative is a simple, clear, and shared strategy that any Christian and church can do. Regardless of the size of the church, any church can do this. Who’s Your One? could be an annual emphasis and even ongoing emphasis in our churches. Of course, Who’s Your One? should be coupled with a commitment to pray for lost people in an ongoing way.

Q: We’re grateful that you will be a part of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s annual meeting this November. You are slated to preach during a special service that



Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee at the SBC annual meeting in June, will preach at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting in November. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

will highlight “Who’s Your One?” and personal evangelism. Can you give us a preview of what you will share and what you hope attendees will take away from the service?

A: I want to encourage all North Carolina Baptists to join me for the annual meeting in November. Each church in North Carolina should be represented and most could join us for the Tuesday evening session during this convention.

I believe you will leave with a new and fresh vision of seeing each person in North Carolina come to Christ as Lord, as well as be inspired to work together alongside one another in this great gospel advance across North Carolina, America, and the world.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – For more about the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting and other events that week, visit ncannualmeeting.org.) **BR**

Fanning the Flames PRAYER SUMMIT

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 2019 | 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

TRUETT CONFERENCE CENTER & CAMP | 345 TRUETT CAMP RD. | HAYESVILLE, N.C. 28904

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please contact Fatima Roma, froma@ncbaptist.org (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513 or visit www.praync.org.

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptist.org

The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

All resolutions should be submitted in writing for consideration by the committee no later than **Sept. 10, 2019.**

Send by mail to Committee on Memorials/Resolutions
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512

Send by email to Penny Cozadd
Business Services, Executive Leaders Assistant
pcozadd@ncbaptist.org

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Send information to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512; (919) 847-2127.

ADVERTISE – (919) 459-5691

August 18

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

August 25

Remember God's Faithfulness

Focal passage: 2 Chronicles 16:1-13

How easily we forget! Every Monday morning, the trash collectors come to my house to get our trash. You would think with that being a weekly occurrence, it would be easy enough to remember. Yet I still forget. While that is a fairly simple and insignificant example, it can remind us of how easily we forget and the importance of being diligent to remember bigger, more obvious things – in particular, to remember God's faithfulness.

Israel, the people of God, were notorious forgetters. They would see God at work doing great things in their midst and then immediately forget God's goodness and faithfulness as soon as the next challenge would arise. We clearly see this pattern as they left Egypt. It is no wonder that the whole book of Deuteronomy largely consists of God's call to His people to "remember" Him as they are going in to possess the land He promised to give them.

King Asa had experienced God's power and faithfulness. He had seen God give Judah victory over enemy forces that were much more numerous and power-

ful. And yet, when King Baasha of Israel came against him, rather than turning to His all-powerful and all-faithful God, he instead resorted to bribing an enemy king for assistance. God even, in His grace, confronted Asa by means of the prophet, Hanani. Rather than responding in humility and confession, Asa responded in stubbornness and pride.

Lest we too quickly throw rocks at Asa, we need to remember how easily we forget. We shouldn't have to think very hard to remember a particular demonstration of God's goodness and faithfulness in our lives. I immediately remember a specific occurrence of His financial provision for our family while in seminary by means of an unexpected check. Most of all, God has demonstrated His grace and faithfulness through sending Jesus as Savior, just as He promised He would do. I pray I will remember, and walk in light of, His faithfulness when new challenges arise. I pray you will too! He is faithful. We can trust Him. May we never forget His faithfulness.



RANDY MANN
Pastor, Central Baptist
Church, Henderson

Focal passage: 2 Chronicles 17:1-13

Presidents are burdened by it, but not only presidents. Pastors and parents, business leaders and baseball players – they will all leave a legacy.

The question is not whether or not we will leave a legacy, but rather what kind of legacy we will leave.

The way we live our lives matters. Our lives have an impact. Sometimes that impact is obvious; other times less so. But there is an impact nonetheless.

When I hear the word legacy, I immediately think of two men.

One is Jimmy Dean. He was my childhood pastor. It was under his ministry that God made my calling clear.

The other is Bill Bowyer. He was my pastor for four years while I was in seminary. I then had the joy of serving under him for almost 10 years. God used both of those men to profoundly shape who I am today – as a Christian, husband, father and pastor.

Leave a Legacy

After King Asa of Judah died, his son, Jehoshaphat, became king. While Jehoshaphat had, no doubt, seen the tragic end of his father's life and his failure to trust God completely, he had also seen the beginning of his father's leadership where his trust in God was evident and God's power and faithfulness were clearly shown.

Thankfully, Jehoshaphat chose the path of following Asa's earlier example – and David's before him – of walking closely with God in faith and obedience. He continued that legacy.

In many ways, our true legacy is seen in the actions of those who follow after us. Did they see in us a committed faithfulness to love, obey, and serve Jesus to the extent that they committed their lives to doing the same?

Are you living by faith in, and love for, Jesus Christ, illustrated by obedience to Him? Will your lasting legacy be a line of committed followers of Jesus who saw Jesus in you?

In many ways, our true legacy is seen in the actions of those who follow after us.

August 18

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

August 25

Living with Integrity

Focal Passage: Titus 2:1-15

On a Twitter account recently, someone posted the back cover of a book written to remind pastors of the dangers present in ministry. Three of the ministers who recommended the book are no longer in ministry. The advent of social media has made it easy to watch these happenings from a distance. As a pastor, I can tell you that falling away from the faith is not confined to celebrity pastors.

I've watched once faithful church members drift from church based on moral or ethical failings or just a pattern of lazy spirituality. These experiences can be disheartening. But let me draw a contrast.

The other day I had the privilege of sharing a meal with several older pastors. They reflected on their ministries and their ministry heroes. They are older ministers who remained faithful. We should all aspire to be older Christians.

Paul encourages the older men and women in Titus' church to teach and train younger believers.

What is the difference between those

who fall and those who are faithful? Paul writes, "*and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech*" (Titus 2:7-8). It seems to me that integrity in one's teaching and conduct is what makes it possible to be faithful.

If you're like me, you can already draw out inconsistencies between your life and your doctrine.

That's why Paul grounds his command for integrity not in legalism, nor in our character, but in the grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-14).

Paul is not demanding that we "do better." He's reminding us that we are not righteous, good and holy. But in Christ and in his gospel we've been made righteous, and we can be trained to be men and women of integrity.

Even when we fail, the gospel teaches us that God already knows our sin. We have grace so we must repent and return to Christ. Moreover, the grace that grounds our faith is also that grace that grows us in faithfulness and integrity.



CHRIS HEFNER
Pastor,
Wilkesboro Baptist
Church

Focal Passage: Titus 3:1-11

The other week our family was on vacation. My idea of vacation is to relax, read a book or take afternoon naps. My boys' idea of vacation is to go and do. "Dad, can we do this? Dad, can we go here? Dad, what are we doing next?" We made time to go and do as well as time to rest and relax. Our spiritual lives are like this. We need time to pause, pray and rest spiritually. That's why we are supposed to set aside the first day of the week for worship and spiritual rejuvenation.

Jesus both rested and worshiped. But our Christian faith must also be active. Jesus healed the sick, ministered to the downcast and preached the gospel. Paul echoes Jesus' ministry when writing to his pro-

tégé, Titus. We have been saved, not by our righteousness but by his mercy (Titus 3:5). Yet, we have been saved for good works (Titus 3:8). Good works don't result in salvation, but salvation should always lead to good works.

Our faith should be alive, active and engaging. Good works looks like: comforting a bereaved family through a meal; counseling a young mother-to-be at a crisis pregnancy clinic; volunteering at a local food bank; sharing necessities with the less fortunate locally through mission partners or globally on a mission trip.

The good works we can engage in are nearly limitless. When our good works are the fruit of the gospel, they provide opportunities for others to experience the love of Christ and hear the message of Christ.

You are alive. Christ gave you this new life that you have. What are you going "to do" with it to share his love and gospel with others?

Jesus both rested and worshiped. But our Christian faith must also be active. Jesus healed the sick, ministered to the downcast and preached the gospel.

Living to Do

Sense

Continued from page 2

accurately say that they have over 4,000 missionaries internationally and they help start hundreds of churches every year in the U.S.

Because of the Cooperative Program, missionaries can go without the burden of raising their own funds. It takes months or years for a missionary in other evangelical mission organizations to raise their own support. We fully fund our international missionaries. They can concentrate on reaching the lost without having to worry about raising money to stay on the field.

Students at our seminaries can go at half the price of other evangelical schools because of the support given by the CP. We don't want future pastors to be handcuffed by unnecessary debt to finance their education.

The Cooperative Program not only sends out a vast mission force, and not only trains a constant stream of new Christian workers, but it also meets so many practical needs in our nation. As a pastor I receive appeals to take care of orphans or feed those who are hungry on a regular basis. We are caring for thousands of children in our children's homes. We are there with our volunteers and mobile kitchens to feed people when disaster strikes. If you are looking for a balance of both Great Commission and Great Commandment ministries, then support the Cooperative Program. You will reach the lost, disciple the saved and love your neighbors.

Many of our churches will soon begin their budgeting processes. While you are looking for ways to impact the world and our nation, don't forget a proven way that has been changing lives since 1925.

Include a commitment to the Cooperative Program as your first effort in missions. You can still find other ways to tailor mission efforts for your church. But start by funding the CP. It is the lifeline of all we do as Southern Baptists.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Steve Scoggins is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville and president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.) **BR**

Augie Boto to retire from SBC EC

By ART TOALSTON | Baptist Press

D. August "Augie" Boto has announced he will retire from the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) effective Sept. 30.

Boto, the EC's executive vice president and general counsel, notified EC President and CEO Ronnie Floyd of his retirement in a July 18 letter.

His retirement brings his service "full circle," Boto told Baptist Press, having joined the EC as a member in 1995, the same year Floyd began his 1995-1997 service as EC chairman.

Boto, 68, joined the EC in 1998 as vice president for convention policy, moving to executive vice president and general counsel in 2007. He served as EC interim president and CEO from April 2018 until Floyd assumed office May 20 after his April 2 election at a special EC meeting in Dallas, coming to the office after nearly 33 years as senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.

Boto was honored for his 13-month interim role amid his 21 years on the EC staff by a resolution of appreciation adopted during the EC's June 10 meeting prior to the SBC annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala.

"When Augie began discussing his retirement plans with me, I asked him to continue working alongside me through the September Executive Committee meeting, something he graciously consented to do," Floyd said. "I know many others join me in expressing gratitude to the Lord for his 21-year investment in Executive Committee leadership and pray God's blessings on him and Cindy as they begin the next chapter in their lives together."

In the letter to Floyd regarding his retirement, Boto wrote that "it has been a genuine pleasure working with you since you were selected to lead the Executive Committee as its president. Renewing our personal

friendship has again brought back the pleasant feelings and memories that attended my first involvement with you and the EC over 24 years ago," Boto wrote. "It has greatly encouraged me that a pastor of your stature and accomplishments was selected, but it is even more pleasing that you cherish the SBC, its pastors, its people, its entities, and its Cooperative Program as I do."

Boto continued, "In examining all the ways I might be of help to you and the future of the Executive Committee, I have come to the conclusion that stepping

aside in retirement from my work is the best one. This will provide you with the maximum flexibility in reorganizing and re-tasking the EC staff along lines you believe will be most fruitful."

Prior to joining the EC staff, Boto served as administrative counsel for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association and had been elected as Cooke County prosecutor and helped start the Texas Fellowship of Christian Prosecutors.

At First Baptist in Dallas under the ministry of the late W.A. Criswell, Boto began

attending the church at age 13 with his family and later became a deacon and Sunday School teacher in the young married division. He also was among the church members involved in the Conservative Resurgence to return the SBC to its biblical heritage.

He made a profession of faith in Christ at age 7 at Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church when his family lived in Riverside, Calif. He was born in St. Charles, Mo.

His late grandfather, T.W. Medearis, served as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention from 1942-1954; as a pastor in Missouri, Oklahoma and California; and as interim president of California Baptist College (now University). Boto holds juris doctor and undergraduate degrees from Baylor University. He and his wife have been married nearly 40 years and have three grown children, Lucas, Matt and Grace. **BR**



AUGIE BOTO

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Oakboro, NC, a conservative, mission minded, rural SBC church is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Pastor who believes the inerrancy of the Bible. Master's degree at accredited seminary/divinity school, SBC church ordained and 5 years Senior Pastor experience. Email résumé and sermon link to dobbiac@twc.com.

First Baptist Church of Stanleyville (www.stanleyvillebaptist.org) is searching for an **Intentional Interim Senior Pastor**. We are a conservative Southern Baptist church located in north Winston-Salem, NC, and are affiliated with the SBC, BSCNC and Pilot Mountain Baptist Association. Send inquiries, cover letter and résumé to pastorsearchfbcs@gmail.com.

Church Staff

Prospect Baptist Church, Albemarle, NC, is seeking a **full-time Children's Pastor/Director**. Primary duties include overseeing the ministries for children from birth to 5th grade. Experience in children's ministry is preferred. Please email your résumé to stoney@prospectbaptist.com or mail 502 Prospect Church Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001.

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

Miscellaneous

Advertise your ministry or business? The **Biblical Recorder** offers competitive denominational and nondenominational rates for media outlets our size. Contact alison@BRnow.org for information or visit BRnow.org/Advertise.

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Choose one of three avenues:

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- Purchase ads at BRnow.org/Advertise.
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For more information, call the office at (919) 459-5691.

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

ADVERTISE – (919) 459-5691

Andrews First Baptist Church in Andrews, North Carolina, is seeking a **Youth Pastor** (full-time or part-time, depending on circumstances of candidate). Salary will be commensurate with experience. We are seeking a youth pastor with a strong faith in and love for Christ, as well as a desire to disciple our students toward spiritual growth and maturity. He will need to be enthusiastic, organized and able to communicate well with staff, students, parents and volunteers. We are a Southern Baptist church in doctrine and practice, affirming the Baptist Faith and Message (2000). Please send a résumé and a cover letter as email attachments to Pastor Calvin Bobo at chbobo.62@gmail.com.

Hispanic

Continued from page 7

in 10 attendees in new Hispanic works are completely unchurched or have been for many years. However, Hispanic churches are reaching a higher percentage of those who are completely unchurched (26 percent to 18 percent).

“Though new Hispanic church works start out smaller, they are more evangelistically effective per person,” McConnell said.

In order to start their church, 60 percent of pastors of new Hispanic works say they received funding from their denomination, compared to 72 percent of all church plants. Fewer Hispanic church starts say they receive funding from a sponsoring congregation (45 percent to 56 percent).

In total, Hispanic new church work pastors say they receive an average of less than \$13,000 in their first year from outside sources, which drops to less than \$8,000 in the fifth year. By comparison, overall, church plants average more than \$43,000 of outside funding in their first year. Even by their fifth year, the average church plant receives more money from others (\$15,409) than the new Hispanic work receives its first year.

Similarly, new Hispanic churches receive, on average, \$13,617 from church members and attendees in their first year. That climbs to \$33,782 by year four, which is less than what the average church plant collects from attendees in their first year (\$46,191).

New Hispanic work pastors overcame many of the resource deficits by placing a stronger emphasis on evangelism and prayer.

Full story is available at BRnow.org. **BR**

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

MATTHEW LEDBETTER, second vice president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, has been called to Creeksville Baptist Church, Conway. He previously served Lighthouse Baptist Church, Sylva, for five years. Before that Ledbetter served on staff at Crabtree Baptist Church, Clyde; Hamburg Baptist Church, Glenville; and Rose of Sharon Baptist Church in Doerun, Ga. A graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible College and Liberty University, he and his wife Lana have one adult daughter.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone, has called **TODD HOUSTON** as senior pastor. Houston was previously pastor of Beach Road Baptist Church, Southport, for seven years. He earned his degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary, Georgia; a degree in church history and apologetics from University of Oxford, England; and his master of divinity in expository preaching from Southwestern Seminary, where he is currently on the board of trustees. He and his wife Alisha have two children: a daughter, Abigail, and a son, Aaron.

CLAY GAESSER has been called as worship pastor of Cape Carteret Baptist Church. Gaesser is a graduate of Liberty University with a bachelor of music degree in worship studies and a minor in pastoral leadership. He and his wife Kim are newlyweds.

Retirement

WAYNE KEY has retired from Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cherryville, after 25 years of service. He previously served four churches in South Carolina before coming to Mt. Zion in 1994. Key and his wife Cathy make their home in Lincolnton. He is available for interim or supply and can be reached at waynekey77@gmail.com.

Seminary staff change

Southeastern Seminary – **CHRIS THOMPSON** has been hired as Southeastern Seminary’s vice president of distance learning and academic support. He previously served as associate publisher at B&H Academic Publishing in Nashville, Tenn. Thompson is currently pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in Christian leadership with Southeastern.

KBC names new leader

By **BRANDON PORTER** | Kentucky Today

Todd Gray, 54, has been named the new executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC).

He served churches in Kentucky and Indiana for 20 years before joining the KBC staff in 2012 as a regional consultant for western Kentucky. Since 2016 he’s served as the team leader for the Evangelism, Church Planting and Campus Ministry team.

He and his wife Connie have two adult daughters. **BR**



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