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Students
 serve the nations
 in Charlotte



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NFL trainer
 Chip Smith discusses
LEADERSHIP & FAITH



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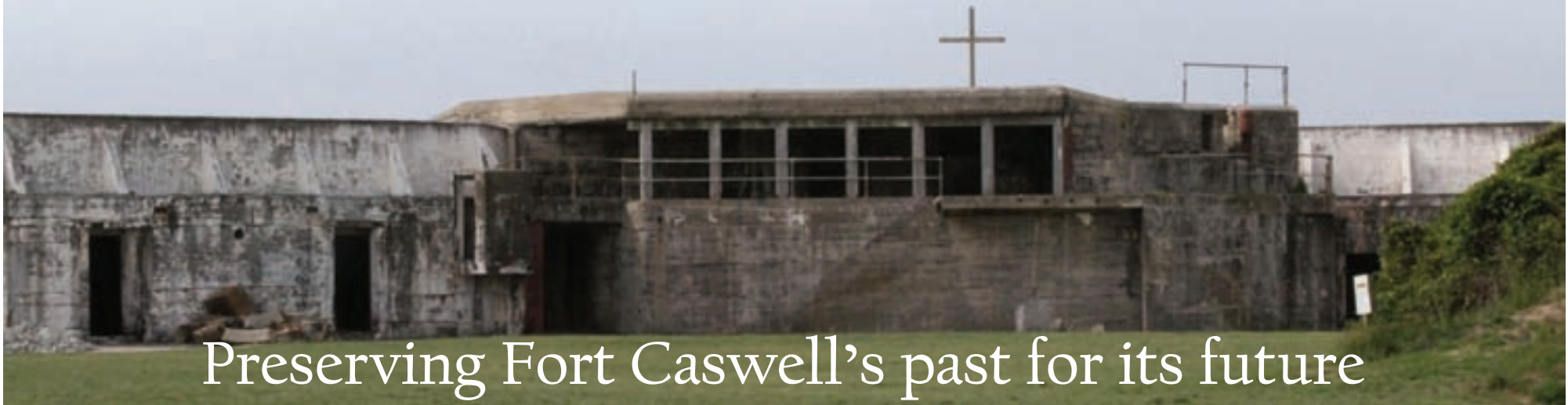
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RECORDER

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A HISTORY OF CHANGING LIVES

By **MICHAEL MCEWEN** | *BR* Content Editor



Preserving Fort Caswell’s past for its future

Located on the southeastern shores of Oak Island, historic military stronghold Fort Caswell was named for Richard Caswell, North Carolina’s first governor.

Fort Caswell played a number of military roles in American history, and in 1949 it was purchased for \$86,000 by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) to become the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.

Nathan Sloan, seasonal staff coordinator at Caswell, said Congress authorized construction of Caswell in 1825 because

the area – particularly Wilmington as a major trade center – was extremely vulnerable to international naval armies.

Except for the War of 1812, Caswell had a crucial function in every American war including the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, as well as the Persian Gulf War and the Haitian War. Initial construction began in 1827 under United States Corps of Engineers, Major George Blaney. Notices were placed in the *Cape Fear Recorder* and the *Wilmington Commercial* for “competent” and “able-bodied” workers who would

receive 50-75 cents per day in wages to erect the 2,750-acre military defense system.

This area includes today’s “Youpon Beach, Caswell Beach, Oak Island Golf Course and the land beyond to the Elizabeth River,” wrote authors Ethel Herring and Carolee Williams in their book, *Fort Caswell In War and Peace*.

On Oct. 20, 1838, Fort Caswell was completed by Capt. Alexander Swift at the total cost of \$473,402.

Two decades later, it would be captured by Confederate armies on Jan. 8,

1861 – three months before Fort Sumter in South Carolina was seized. Caswell was abandoned shortly after Fort Fisher fell on Jan. 15, 1865.

An evacuation order given by Charles H. Simonton, a colonel of the Confederate Army.

For a short span in the early 1920s, Fort Caswell functioned as a military-training ground used for maneuvers by the North Carolina Coast Artillery, National Guard and other militaries.

Over a decade later in 1937, the

[See Caswell page 9](#)

Ebola comments prompt Christian backlash

By **SARAH PULLIAM BAILEY** | Religion News Service

Prominent conservative voices are criticizing the decision to bring two medical missionaries who contracted Ebola back to the United States for treatment.

Real estate mogul Donald Trump and retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson were both critical of bringing the infected missionaries back to the U.S. Columnist Ann Coulter went further, questioning why the missionaries were working in the “disease-ridden cesspools” of Africa.

Dr. Kent Brantly, with Samaritan’s Purse, and Nancy Writebol, with Service in Mission, are medical mission-

aries who were infected with Ebola while working with patients in Liberia. They are being treated at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

“If Dr. Brantly had practiced at Cedars-Sinai hospital in Los Angeles and turned one single Hollywood power-broker to Christ, he would have done more good for the entire world than anything he could accomplish in a century spent in Liberia,” Coulter wrote in a column.

But the professional provocateur is facing a backlash from the mainstream Christian establishment, especially evangelicals, for whom overseas missionary work is an article of faith.

“St. Thomas should have never gone to India and Jim Elliott should have never gone into the jungle. Sigh,”

conservative columnist Erick Erickson shot back at Coulter on Twitter.

Samaritan’s Purse, which is run by Franklin Graham, declined to comment on the criticisms directed at Brantly and others. Service in Mission was unavailable for comment.

Denny Burk, a biblical studies professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Coulter was dishing out “pagan foolishness” and shouldn’t be a go-to source for the theology of mission work. Andrew Walker from the Southern Baptists’ Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission called her remarks “absolutely reprehensible, Christ-denying vitriol.”

[See Ebola page 3](#)

Extremists at work

It is not uncommon to be convinced you are right, believing that your way is the best way or the only way. The sin nature enforces the element of pride that insists on self-superiority.

Extremists are generally described as those who demand that others submit to their way under the threat of force or death. You must believe their way or die. The prelude to this worldview is the practice of bullying.

Bullying is legal. No, I do not favor the practice of bullying in the least. I understand it is common among children in elementary and middle schools.

But apparently some adult organizations believe the childish practice is not only acceptable, it is preferred. Some use legal maneuvering in order to enforce bullying.

Mary's Gourmet Diner in Winston-Salem gave customers a 15 percent discount on their meal if they were seen praying – giving thanks – over their meal. The discount was offered to people of all faiths.

But the bullies at the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) objected. The organization seems to believe in selectively promoting the freedoms they want for themselves and aggressively deny others the freedoms they would like to enjoy.

The attacks on religious freedoms are increasing significantly.

It appears FFRF does not only want to free themselves from religion. They want you to be freed from your religion, and they want all of society to be sterilized from all religion – except their own. Theirs is a religion of self-sufficiency. The weapon of choice is force, not freedom. They have learned that the way to make converts to “anti-religion” is by force. So bullying is a handy tool.

The FFRF is certainly not promoting any goodwill campaigns. Their public image is not their concern.

They just want to force others to adopt their worldview.

If not, they will sue or shut down your business.

Mary's Diner is not guilty of proselytizing. Mary's Diner is not guilty of pressuring anyone to adopt their values or their worldview. Apparently they want

to honor gratitude. Mary's Diner wants to enjoy religious liberty, but FFRF seems intent on denying those liberties.

The diner ceased giving discounts to praying customers when threatened with a lawsuit by FFRF. This is most unfortunate.

It should be noted that FFRF is the same organization that recently worked out a deal with the IRS to force the

government agency to increase scrutiny of churches who address moral, social and political issues. The organization has filed lawsuits to halt prayer at university athletic events, halt prayer at city and town council events, stop the practice of housing allowances for ministers, halt the public display of nativity scenes at Christmas, remove a cross from a public utility water tower, halt the National Day of Prayer and a long list of other egregious onslaughts.

A mall near Macon, Ga., reportedly barred a group of women from praying out loud at the shopping facility. Dublin Mall, which is owned by MCK Properties, became the center of controversy after a security guard stopped a women's group from engaging in prayer. The guard also told the group the prayer ban included praying over their meals in the mall's food court.

Known as Dublin Girls Run, the small group of women was known to do fitness walks at Dublin Mall and pray together in a circle.

They have been following this rou-

tine every Tuesday since last November according to one member of the group. They no longer use the mall for their exercise routine, but they continue to pray – elsewhere.

Religious minorities in Iraq are facing genocide under the oppressive dominance of Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), a militant Islamic group. Christians are one of the group's primary targets. It is estimated that 3 million Christians live in Iraq. Those numbers are dwindling in Hitler-like fashion. They are being shot, buried alive, beheaded and persecuted.

It is reported that hundreds of women from the Yazidi religious minority have been taken captive by Sunni militants. According to an Iraqi official the Islamic State group has “vicious plans” for the women. The plight of Iraq's minorities is not good.

The terrorist group Boko Haram and other extremists have killed nearly

as many Nigerian Christians in the first seven months of this year as were killed in all of 2013, the advocacy group Jubilee Campaign reported. Approximately 1,505 Nigerian Christians have been killed for their faith to date this year, compared to 1,783 Nigerian Christians killed in

all of last year.

Bullying, persecution, genocide – this is standard practice for tyrants, extremists and dictators who insist that others must adopt their beliefs, or else.

We are witnesses to serious problems in our own country and in the nations

of the world for whom Christ died. The solution to our problems is beyond talking and thinking. Political diplomacy is failing. It's time to pray. Talking about the problem will not resolve the hatred of extremists.

Thinking about it convinces no one and goes nowhere. Prayer brings God and all of His resources into the resolution of a crisis.

That is what is needed. God's people hold the key.

God has used the United States to rescue many around the world from genocide, oppression and persecution. But there is an important truth we must keep in perspective: the United States is not the savior of the world. Jesus is.

Moral governments should use the resources of influence, materials and military might wisely and generously to preserve basic human rights as much as humanly possible. There are moral obligations in our quiver of responsibilities.

But, the lessons of history demonstrate that divine intervention is supremely more effective than political dynamics. For this reason believers have a major responsibility to pray and to publicly declare the eternal truth of scripture.

Has it occurred to anyone that the moral and structural decline of America is happening in an environment dominated by organizations pushing for redefining marriage, censoring Christians and denying religious freedoms? This nation has prospered and grown when the Bible and prayer were welcomed everywhere and Christians were free to live their faith without harassment or bullying.

Those who put our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior must leave the artificial bubble of a safe environment. We must stay informed, be alert and pray for God's glory to shine through us. **BR**

“This nation has prospered and grown when the Bible and prayer were welcomed everywhere and Christians were free to live their faith without harassment or bullying.”

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CORRECTION

On page 2 of the August 2 edition of the *Biblical Recorder* we published a chart on the weekly worship attendance of Southern Baptist churches. We regret that we did not clearly represent the information LifeWay provided us. For clarification this chart shows additional facts that accurately represent information provided by churches in the 2013 Annual Church Profile. An explanation of the chart is available on our website in the updated editorial at <http://www.brnow.org/Opinions/K-Allan-Blume/July-2014/Each-church-is-unique>.

SBC Weekly Worship Attendance (2013)

Weekly Worship Attendance	Number of churches reporting	Percent of total churches	Percent of churches reporting
1-49	11,878	25.8%	33.81%
50-99	10,601	23%	30.18%
100-249	8,482	18.4%	24.14%
250-499	2,640	5.7%	7.51%
500-999	966	2.1%	2.75%
1,000-1,999	384	0.8%	1.09%
2,000+	179	0.4%	0.51%
Total	35,130	76.2%	99.99%

Source: 2013 ACP

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FOR THE LATEST N.C. BAPTIST NEWS AND INFORMATION

GuideStone assets nearly double

GuideStone/Baptist Press

GuideStone assets have nearly doubled since the bottom of the economic downturn of 2008-2009, trustees learned during their 2014 summer meeting. Total organizational assets rose to \$13.1 billion by the end of June, nearly doubling the trough in organizational assets of \$6.8 billion experienced in February 2009, GuideStone chief operating officer John R. Jones told trustees. “For 2013, we didn’t think we could be more blessed with the results in the way that God’s hand just continued to be on GuideStone,” Jones said during the July 28-29 meeting in New York. “We shake our heads and continue to

say that, here going into the latter half of 2014. We give thanks to the Lord.” Even as assets have performed well, GuideStone Funds continue to receive recognitions from national ranking firms. For the 14th consecutive quarter since early 2011, industry firm fi360 has ranked GuideStone Funds in the top 20 percent of all fund families, using broad-based criteria selected to reflect prudent fiduciary management. Additionally, in fund performance based on 10-year periods, Lipper ranks 10 of 14 GuideStone Funds as performing above the median. Morningstar rates 18 of 20 GuideStone Funds as three star or better in the Over-all category. See full story online at BRnow.org. **BR**

Ebola

Continued from page 1

Last week, Trump sent a series of tweets about the missionaries being treated in the U.S.:
– “Ebola patient will be brought to the U.S. in a few days – now I know for sure that our leaders are incompetent. KEEP THEM OUT OF HERE!”
– “Stop the EBOLA patients from entering the U.S. Treat them, at the highest level, over there. THE UNITED STATES HAS ENOUGH PROBLEMS!”
– “The U.S. cannot allow EBOLA infected people back. People that go to far away places to help out are great-but must suffer the consequences!”
Russell Moore, the head of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, tried to restrain himself on Instagram: “I have no words for this. Actually I think I do but the Holy Spirit won’t let me say them.”
Conservative Minneapolis preacher and author John Piper wrote a poem for World magazine in reaction: “Why bring them home? Though you be stumped, This grace will not be trumped,” Piper wrote.
Carson, who is flirting with a White House run after taking on President Obama at the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast, said it was a mistake to bring the missionaries back for treatment and doctors could have flown overseas to treat them.
The head nurse at Emory, where the missionaries were taken, wrote that Americans stand to benefit from what medical professionals learn by treating the patients.
“These Americans generously went to Africa on a humanitarian mission to help eradicate a disease that is especially deadly in countries without our health-care infrastructure. They deserve the same selflessness from us,” wrote Susan M. Grant. “To refuse to care for these professionals would raise enormous questions about the ethical foundation of our profession.”
Before they returned to the United States, Samaritan’s Purse arranged for the missionaries to receive an experimental drug, prompting debate among Africans over why Americans could receive the drug when Africans couldn’t have access.
Brantly was doing a Samaritan’s Purse post-residency program before joining the medical team responding to the Ebola crisis.
He received a unit of blood from a 14-year-old boy who had survived Ebola under his care. Brantly reportedly insisted that Writebol receive treatment before he did.
An elderly missionary became the first Ebola patient to arrive in Europe for treatment early Thursday (Aug. 7) when Spain’s government flew a 75-year-old Roman Catholic priest back from Liberia.
Missionaries have sometimes received backlash for their involvement in other countries. Evvy Campbell, a retired professor of intercultural studies at Wheaton College who once served as a medical missionary in Sierra Leone, said a similar epidemic of fear surrounded the beginning of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the 1980s.
“It’s driven by ignorance and self-protection,” Campbell said. “Missionaries have always gone into these kinds of situations and have often been on the front line.”
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued its highest-level alert for a response to the Ebola crisis. Ebola has claimed more than 900 lives in West Africa since the start of the latest outbreak. **BR**

Deep Impact students serve the nations in Charlotte

By C. WALTER OVERMAN | BSC Communications

As Erin Jenkins went door-to-door at a number of apartment complexes near downtown Charlotte interviewing foreign refugees, she gained a deeper appreciation for the little things in life.

“It’s a different experience because the people who live here don’t have much,” she said. “They have little furniture and decorations. It’s not like what we are used to at home.”

Jenkins, a rising high school sophomore from Bryson City, participated in Deep Impact Charlotte the week of July 14-19. Deep Impact is a weeklong mission camp for middle and high school students sponsored by NC Baptist Men.

Jenkins was on a team comprised of youth and adult leaders who conducted surveys of foreign refugees living in apartment complexes throughout Charlotte. During their first two days in the field, they interviewed people from 15 different nationalities, including people from Africa, Burma, Cuba, Nepal and Vietnam.

Most of the refugees have few belongings, speak little English and have minimal job skills.

“It’s been a new experience. I never realized that so many people live here who don’t even speak English,” Jenkins said.

Making Disciples

Robyn Duncan, an adult youth leader from First Baptist Church Bryson City, said many of the youth participating in the surveys were apprehensive about going door-to-door in the inner-city apartments.

“My 11-year-old daughter was scared at first, but that all changed once she began serving,” Duncan said. “She has been able to see that we are all alike, we’re all the same and that we all need to be loved.”

Duncan said the people they met were loving and welcoming and that some indicated they were happy just to meet new people. She said the experience was “eye-opening” for her and the students.

“It is like God is bringing the world to us,” she said. “They still have family in their home countries and if Jesus can become Lord of their lives and we can disciple them and then they reach their families, we can make a big difference.”

Making disciples is the ultimate goal of the survey project.

The survey teams were assisting the Metrolina Baptist Association’s (MBA) efforts to identify the various people groups living in Charlotte. The six-question survey is designed to discover ethnic and religious backgrounds plus any physical and spiritual needs people may have.

“Our ultimate goal is to gain as much information about the different people groups as possible and then approach local churches about reaching out to them,” said Matt Lee, a people group intern at MBA.

Lee has lived his entire life in Charlotte, yet he was also unaware of the number of people groups living in the city until he began working with MBA two years ago.

He said the Deep Impact teams are laying an important foundation for future efforts to reach the refugees with the gospel.

“The Deep Impact teams are only here for one week but their work is important,” he said. “Churches will



Youth and adult leaders survey a neighborhood of foreign refugees. The point of the surveys is to help the Metrolina Baptist Association in its outreach efforts to these communities. (BSC photos by C. Walter Overman)

utilize the information they collect to connect with these people.”

Amazing Experience

Nearly 2,000 students attend Deep Impact weeks at numerous locations each year. This year, students will participate in Deep Impact at 11 locations statewide, plus New York City, Cuba and Honduras. The camp allows students to participate in a number of mission projects such as construction, Vacation Bible School (VBS), prayer walking, senior adult ministry, community outreach projects and more.

The weeks are pre-packaged, meaning that all of the planning and coordinating for the mission projects are provided and finalized before youth groups arrive at camp.

“These are nice ways to get youth groups and church-



Working with children through Vacation Bible School or some other ministry keeps Deep Impact students and their supervisors busy. Children play games and learn about Jesus.

es involved in missions where they don’t have to do all the legwork upfront,” said Dollie Noa, onsite coordinator for Deep Impact Charlotte. “This way, youth leaders and groups are able to spend more time in the field.”

In addition to the survey project, students attending Deep Impact Charlotte participated in construction and landscaping projects, conducted a VBS and a sports camp and served in a number of community projects.

Altogether 120 youth and their adult leaders representing seven churches attended the camp.

Noa said the camp impacts her each year as she sees the impact that missions have on the youth who serve.

“Something like this can be life changing for youth as they see the importance of missions,” she said. “I love seeing the change in their lives and it makes a difference in my life.”

This year’s camp had an impact on 15-year-old Erin Jenkins, too.

“I was very nervous at first, but now I love going and knocking on people’s doors and seeing the smiles on their faces,” Jenkins said. “It’s been an amazing experience.”

For more information about Deep Impact, visit www.baptistsonmission.org.

The surveys conducted in Charlotte are also part of a larger effort (North Carolina People Group Identification or NCPGI) to identify ethnic/language groups of people living in North Carolina who are unreached and unengaged, meaning no church planting ministry has been started for them. NCPGI is an integral part of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s strategy (ncbaptist.org/strategy) to impact lostness through disciple-making. **BR**

Church gives back after Front Street Baptist bus crash

By LONNIE WILKEY | Baptist & Reflector, BP

For many of the members at Front Street Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C., the events of Oct. 2, 2013 will be etched in their memories for the rest of their lives.

On that day nearly a year ago, six senior adults were killed and 12 others severely injured in a bus accident near Dandridge, Tenn., that also claimed the lives of two other people.

The group was returning from a senior adult conference in Gatlinburg. A blown out front tire caused the bus to cross the median into the other lane and collide with a sport utility vehicle and an 18-wheeler before overturning.

While church members have not forgotten the horrific tragedy, they also remember the countless acts of kindness shown to them by Tennessee Baptists in the aftermath of the accident.

Fifty members of Front Street Baptist, including nine of the 12 survivors, returned to the Dandridge area in July to say thank you and to minister locally.

Members from Front Street Baptist worked in connection with First Baptist Church, Dandridge, which is located just a few miles from the scene of the accident. Several of the first responders to the scene are members of First Baptist Church.

"We wanted to come here to the community that ministered to our church members," Heath Stone, missions director for Front Street Baptist, said. "We wanted to come back and say thank you and tell others in the community about Christ."

In addition to missions activities, Front Street Baptist hosted two luncheons for the Sheriff's Department and EMT workers in addition to an ice cream social for medical personnel at the University of Tennessee Medical Center where the survivors were taken.

"It's a blessing that they want to come back and do something for us," Sheriff Bud McCoig, also a member of First Baptist, said. "We are grateful that they are coming back to help our community. God is great. He is the one we live for."

The accident scene was coordinated



Pastor Bob Brown, left, of First Baptist Church in Dandridge, Tenn., visits with Sandy and Marvin Boyer of Front Street Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C. The Boyers are survivors of a horrific bus accident that occurred last year near First Baptist. Eight people were killed, including six from Front Street Baptist. The Boyers were among nine of the 12 survivors who returned to Tennessee in July to express their gratitude to Tennessee Baptists for their acts of kindness and to share the gospel locally. (BP photo)

"long distance" by McCoig, who was in Nashville at a meeting when the wreck occurred.

McCoig recalled that he stayed on the phone with people at the scene until his battery died. He then put the phone on his charger and continued directing the scene.

"On that day God put the right people in the right place at the right time to respond," McCoig said.

Bob Brown, pastor of First Baptist, remembers seeing black smoke from the wreck from his office window. McCoig asked Brown to go to the accident scene to see if he could be of assistance. Brown remembered the site looking like a war zone.

When he arrived, most of the survivors had been taken to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. Brown was able to minister to the family of one of the victims in the accident. Front Street Baptist's trip back to Tennessee is a testimony to the Dandridge community, Brown said.

"Dandridge is a small town. People here still refer to what happened as 'the bus wreck,'" Brown noted.

"It's a great gesture that in the midst of their pain and heartbreak they are displaying the grace of God by wanting to come here and give back," he said.

"It's been exciting to watch. We're happy that we can play a small part in this."

Stone, missions director for Front Street Baptist, noted the church especially wanted to say "thank you" to the first responders.

"It was traumatic for them for them but they worked in a very professional way and treated our people very nicely," Stone said.

For the same reason, church members wanted to do something at UT Medical Center for those who treated the survivors. "We wanted to say thank you to them and give them an opportunity to see some of their former patients," Stone said.

First responder remembers

First Baptist Church member and paramedic John David Holland was one of the first responders to the accident. He said when they first arrived on the scene he feared there would be no survivors.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Holland said, "It was the worst thing I've dealt with in 23 years of working with an ambulance service."

The first two people he approached had died, but the third person was a woman with shoulder and arm injuries.

As he checked on her, she told him that she was all right and urged him to go help someone else. "She had a peace that God was with her," Holland recalled.

Holland admitted that during the initial shock of the accident scene he questioned his faith just briefly wanting to ask, "Why is this happening?"

Then, he continued, "your faith and learning take over and there is no question that God is in control and that He is using you as a tool."

Holland is convinced that it was "God's will for me to be working that day. ... I was where I was supposed to be."

He acknowledged he was anxious to meet some of the survivors.

"Most of the time we rarely see victims again," he said.

Brown said the meeting with the survivors and first responders was "cathartic" for all involved, but especially the first responders. "They were torn up over what happened."

Survivors recall tragedy

Marvin and Sandy Boyer were two of the survivors from the senior adult group who joined the missions opportunity.

Marvin Boyer is the church's senior adult minister and was in the hospital or rehab center for about eight months, spending much of that time in a coma. He incurred multiple injuries as a result of the accident, including brain injuries, collapsed lung, broken ribs and numerous others.

Boyer has no memory of what happened leading up to the accident or his time in the hospital other than what he has been told. He is convinced, however, that he is "a walking miracle."

His wife agreed, noting that doctors told her that he had "little chance" of survival and that if he did he would be on dialysis the rest of his life.

Instead, his kidneys "turned around" and are functioning and dialysis is not needed.

"I can't get over how good God has been," he said.

Sandy Boyer said the accident has made her faith and determination to share Christ stronger than ever.

"We are on a mission. We feel that God spared us for a reason and that is to tell the story," she said.

The couple also is thankful for Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville. Many Wallace Memorial members helped them during that time and one couple provided a house for Sandy Boyer to stay.

"... We can never repay the kindness shown but we can personally say thank you."

Joint service

The missions team from Front Street Baptist worshipped on July 20 at First

See Front Street page 8

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Trainer to the top athletes puts Jesus first

Chip Smith is recognized as the founding father of the sports performance training industry and has trained more National Football League (NFL) talent (more than 300 current NFL players and 40 Olympic gold medalists) than anyone alive.

As a speed and strength expert, his proprietary training system produces unparalleled results. Having equipped more than 1,000 professional athletes in nearly a dozen sports, Smith is truly a leader in his field. Chip



ROMAN GABRIEL
Sports Q & A

Smith Performance System (CSPS) is one of the top sports training facilities in the United States and is located in Norcross, Ga.

CSPS just announced a partnership with Stack Velocity performance systems nationwide that will allow young athletes (high school, college athletes and others) to take advantage of his athlete training system. I have known Chip for years. He is a strong Christian, husband and father. While he has helped many athletes become champions, he relishes in leading them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Q: You have trained over 1,400 elite Olympic and professional athletes, such as NFL's Brian Urlacher, Colin Kaepernick and Cam Newton. How does your faith in God translate as you train athletes?

A: God isn't concerned with how many first-round draft picks or how many Olympic gold medalists I trained. But, rather, He is concerned with how I made Kingdom impact with the tools He gave me. Because of my relationship with Jesus Christ, I hold a higher standard when I coach. I tell every young man who comes in: "You have to be mentally, spiritually and physically fit, and if you're lacking in any of those areas you're not a total person."

Q: How do you put this philosophy into action?

A: Every Wednesday morning, we have a Bible study with Christians and non-believers. We are able to share with them what God has done in our lives, how He protects and takes care of us. We tell everyone that they can only be concerned about the things in their control such as one's work ethic and preparation. In terms of physicality, I tell the



Chip Smith, far right, is working with one of his NFL clients Oakland Raiders defensive tackle Richard Seymour, far left, while a crew films Seymour's progress. (Contributed photo)

guys that God made them exactly the size they are, and He didn't make a mistake.

Q: Cheating has become so pervasive in professional sports today. What's the message you're giving to young athletes about performance enhancing drugs?

A: Most guys are not training right, and they're not training in the right system. We've never had an athlete in the Olympic or NFL system that has maxed out their genetic potential.

We take care of diet, training, recovery and regeneration at the highest level. In the end, it's all hard work. Now, do performance enhancing drugs work? They can work. But in the long run you're doing more damage to your body and shortening your life-span drastically.

Q: Training methods have changed so much even over the last 10 years, talk about this generation's athletes and what makes them so fit.

A: Unlike when you and I played, we did static exercises like benchpresses, power cleans, squats and routine exercises.

That still needs to be done, but now, we immediately go to explosive movements from those exercises. Athletes today are training so that they're prepared

for their sport. In the weight room once we finish an exercise like the squat – a controlled movement – we'll finish with an explosive movement. This routine translates a lot better and more effectively on the field.

Q: A lot of people are worried about concussions today. What would you tell parents who are looking at youngsters playing contact sports?

A: I think you have to look at the age of the child: What is the make-up

of the child? Are they aggressive or passive?

When we speak to youth organizations people always ask, "What age would you suggest kids to start at?"

We have changed the philosophy. We used to tell parents to hold their kids back until they reached puberty. Now we're saying that we can train prepubescent athletes with weight training as long as it's based on the child's percentage of body weight and high repetitions – where they're not lifting heavy weights.

Also, parents need to look at the coach's mentality.

It has to be fun for the kids, but it's a contact sport, so don't make a mistake about it. Sometimes kids are going to get hurt because that's the nature of the game. For me as a dad of three sons, I think it's part of the growing-up process for young boys that they develop by playing.

For more information on Chip and his program you can go to stack.com/chip-smith or on Facebook, search for "Chip Smith."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Roman's Sold Out Sports Talk Radio program on American Family Radio can be heard in 200 cities nationally or streaming live at afr.net. He is an evangelist and motivational speaker. Visit his website: soldouttv.com; Facebook: Roman Gabriel III Fan Page; connect on Twitter: [romangabriel3rd](https://twitter.com/romangabriel3rd). Contact at (910) 431-6483 or email: soldoutgr3@gmail.com.) **BR**

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FOR THE LATEST N.C. BAPTIST NEWS AND INFORMATION

N.C. pastor wins congressional primary

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

Mark Walker's transition from pastoral ministry to congressional candidacy was based on his concern about tone as much as substance.

Walker, who had served in multiple pastoral roles in Southern Baptist churches, gained a decisive upset July 15 in a runoff for the Republican nomination for the House of Representatives in North Carolina's Sixth District.

The pro-life, pro-marriage conservative began contemplating a congressional run while he served as associate pastor of music and worship at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. Though concerned about the erosion of freedom facing his three children, he also was burdened about the way some communicated his party's message.

"[A]s a Republican, I felt like we had reached the place where a lot of our message was shared with great vitriol and anger and rage, and it wasn't resonating



Mark Walker, who has served in multiple pastoral roles in Southern Baptist churches, won a runoff in July in a primary race to represent the sixth district in the North Carolina House of Representatives. (BP photo)

with people," Walker told Baptist Press.

While he affirms the Republican platform, Walker said he "felt like there was a way to go and share that message that was much more palatable but also to share it with genuine compassion for our fellow man that hopefully is driven from a walk with Christ."

Other Southern Baptist pastors also have sought seats in Congress this year:

- Jody Hice, who was pastor of The Summit Church in Loganville, Ga., until April, won the GOP nomination in Georgia's 10th District primary July 22.

- Mark Harris, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., finished third in North Carolina's Republican

primary for the Senate in May.

Meanwhile, Republican Rep. James Lankford of Oklahoma is seeking a Senate seat after serving in the House for four years.

Lankford was the director of the Falls Creek Youth Camp for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for 13 years before his election to the House.

Walker entered the primary race after serving Southern Baptist churches for about 15 years in such roles as executive pastor as well as lead pastor of a church plant.

Walker won 60 percent of the vote against the favorite at the start of the primary season, Phil Berger Jr., a county district attorney who had vastly greater financial resources and the support of the GOP establishment, including Rep. Howard Coble, who is retiring after 30 years in Congress.

Walker's victory counts among some upsets or near-upsets of members of Congress or establishment-backed candidates in Republican primaries this year. The most notable was the failure of Rep. Eric Cantor, majority leader of the House of Representatives, to survive the primary in his bid for reelection in Virginia.

The primary results this year, a conservative leader told BP, indicate GOP voters have grown frustrated "with what had become a bipartisan consensus in Washington to grow government, restrict freedom and insult our values."

"It is clear that Republican primary voters this cycle are looking for bold, reform-minded conservative candidates," said Wes Goodman, an evangelical Christian and managing director of the Conservative Action Project, in an email interview.

Walker's primary win differs from the upset of Cantor, a social conservative in North Carolina told BP.

Walker and Berger have "almost identical views, especially on the issues that matter to us – life, marriage and religious

liberty," said Tami Fitzgerald, executive director of the North Carolina Values Coalition and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"I believe Mark Walker won because he was able to turn out his supporters," Fitzgerald in an email interview, "and because of the negative campaign run by a super PAC," Keep Conservatives United, which spent about \$200,000 in support of Berger.

Walker's "personality and charisma were a plus factor in the race and account for his broad support from the grassroots," Fitzgerald said.

His win proves "money is not always the recipe for success. Grassroots can still win the day when done effectively," she said.

Fitzgerald predicted Walker will be a "very good" congressman if elected in November. "He is articulate; he understands the complexity of a myriad of issues; and he is a man who serves God first and foremost."

Walker believes "you can make a case" that his win is part of a pattern in Republican primaries, but he thinks "it comes down to the individual race, the individual candidate and the platform."

"So I don't think there is a general rule, even though I think there's a concept that people are tired of what's gone on in Washington.

"The lack of Congress holding [President Obama and his administration] accountable has gone to a new height in frustration level. ... And I think people are looking to send people who live and work and breathe in everyday life," said Walker, who asserts he is "not a career politician obviously."

Walker said he determined not to accept money from special interests, political action committees or lobbyists, raising about \$330,000 in individual gifts in the process. How did he gain the victory? "People are calling me all over the country asking that," Walker said. "And without being too spiritually minded, I do believe that God just put His hand on this."

He pointed to the "unprecedented" turnout for a second primary as support for his belief God "just saw fit to allow us to move forward."

"When things happen that are unprecedented, or things that people have to say, 'Well, that's never happened before,' it just provides such a great opportunity to give God the glory," Walker said. "When you say a thing's never happened before, there's usually a supernatural reason behind it."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Tom Strobe is the Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press.) **BP**

SHARING GOSPEL WITH 'UNSEEDED'

Some years ago Chuck Kelly, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, made the statement, "Southern Baptists are a harvest-minded denomination living in an unseeded generation." We are living in a very unseeded generation, meaning most people have not really heard a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I went into a store to get a headset for my cell phone and a young man named Brian, about 25 years old, was reading a book behind the counter. I begin to engage him in a conversation.

Where did you go to school? East Carolina University. Brian do you have a church background? No sir, I have never been to church, he said. Really? What about weddings and funerals? He replied, "No sir, none of my friends are married yet, and none my friends have died. I've never been to church." He remained very open to discussion.

Then I ask one of my favorite questions: Do you ever think about spiritual things? He lifted up the book he was reading: *Bible Basics for Dummies*. He did not go to a Christian bookstore to get that book. He went to another type

of bookstore. Then I ask Brian if he had ever heard of Billy Graham. He responded, "Everyone in N.C. has heard of Billy Graham." Most people under 30 have not heard of Billy Graham, but I proceeded to share with him a popular gospel booklet entitled *Steps to Peace with God*. He was very responsive and listened attentively. He did not respond to the gospel at that point but remained very open.



MARTY DUPREE

Brian is a very typical 20-something who is seeking and searching for truth but has never had the gospel sown into his life. He was not reading the Bible, but he was reading a book about the

Bible.

This is a very good example of where our culture is – they are open to the gospel but they have never heard it. So let's be about sowing the seeds of the gospel everywhere we go in this unseeded generation. Psalm 126:5-6.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Marty Dupree is a consultant on adult evangelism and discipleship for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Contact him at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5565, or mdupree@ncbaptist.org. He wrote "My Thoughts on Marriage" in 1986 on his parent's 30th anniversary and the day he and his wife were engaged.)

NCBAM targets fire-risk areas in state

By CAROL LAYTON | NCBAM Communications

In March 2014, North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) received seven of 50 “Smoke Alarm and Home Safety Grants” awarded by the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – one for each of NCBAM’s six regional directors to administer and one for the ministry’s Call Center with its statewide outreach.

“This grant brought much-needed information on fire prevention and safety to aging adults who are most in need,” said Anita Davie, NCBAM’s west regional director.

“At senior centers, the folks especially appreciated the oven mitts and night lights we distributed. Sometimes, it’s easy to forget that some aging adults don’t have an extra dollar for these type things.”

The purpose of the grant was to identify areas with the highest rates for fire injuries and fatalities, and provide smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, deaf and hard-of-hearing alarms, safety incentives, educational and group presentation materials, and tool kits for alarm installation.

NCBAM serves aging adults 65 and over – a demographic at highest risk of being injured or dying in a house fire. In North Carolina in 2013, 23 of 65 fire fatalities were aging adults.

The NCBAM regional directors targeted areas with the most need, and along with OSFM staff, presented educational workshops at senior centers and North Carolina Baptist churches. High-risk neighborhoods were canvassed and



Sandy Gregory, North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry director, reviews the benefits of lithium-battery alarms with Larry Morris. (NCBAM photo)

residents needing smoke alarms were provided with 10-year lithium battery alarms.

The grant program wrapped up in July – with North Carolina Baptists bringing increased safety to 581 households in North Carolina.

According to Sandy Gregory, director of NCBAM, several “saves” have already been reported. In these incidents, the occupants were alerted to a fire and were able to escape and call the fire department. “If the fires had occurred prior to the home visits and installation of new alarms, the results could have been tragic. It’s gratifying to know that the program has already made a difference.”

According to Angie Gregg, injury

prevention specialist at the OSFM, the grant program was a huge success. “It’s great to know that at-risk areas are now protected,” she said. “We were surprised by the number of homes without smoke alarms or with alarms that were over 10 years old.”

NCBAM also partners with the OSFM to conduct smoke alarm installation trainings – which provide free grant-funded alarms for attendees to install in the homes of aging adults in their communities. Regarding the strong partnership between NCBAM and the OSFM, Gregory stated, “We value our partnership with the Office of State Fire Marshal. The needs are great and we accomplish more working together.” **BR**

National CP behind projection

Baptist Press

Year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries received by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee have exceeded \$153 million dollars according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Frank S. Page.

The \$153,914,489.52 received by the Executive Committee for ten months of the fiscal year, Oct. 1 through July 31, for distribution through the SBC’s Cooperative Program (CP) Allocation Budget represents 96.45 percent of the \$159,583,333.33 year-to-date budgeted CP projections to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America.

The year-to-date total includes money received by the Executive Committee by the close of the last business day of July. July’s total includes gifts from 39 of the SBC’s 42 cooperating state Baptist conventions as well as contributions from churches and individuals for distribution according to the 2013-14 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

The total is \$2,350,374.53, or 1.50 percent, less than the \$156,264,864.05 received through the end of July 2013, and is 3.55 percent less than the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget projection for the current year.

Full story online at BRnow.org. **BR**

Front Street Continued from page 5

Baptist Church in Dandridge. The service was live streamed at Front Street Baptist as well.

Tim Stutts, pastor of Front Street Baptist, was able to attend First Baptist even though his father had died earlier in the week and he was not able to be there the entire time.

Stutts thanked First Baptist and others for the love shown to them.

“We knew from the moment of the accident that God would use this in a way in which we could not even begin to fathom to bring honor and glory to Himself,” Stutts shared.

Reading from 2 Corinthians 4, Stutts noted the goal of his church is to bring honor and glory to God in everything. “And, sometimes that happens through suffering,” he said.

“And how we view suffering and how we walk through those trials reveals

much about our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and it shows if we truly believe what we say we believe about Him.

“October 2 (2013) was a defining moment in our church family. We began to see people who knew how to suffer well,” he said.

Stutts said he has seen in those who survived the accident a stronger resolve to serve God and to honor Him.

“Those involved in the accident see it as a platform to make much of Jesus. The gospel of Jesus Christ continues to be proclaimed.

“We won’t know until we get there (heaven) how many lives have been touched and how many people heard the gospel because of that tragedy.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Lonnie Wilkey is editor of the Baptist & Reflector www.tnbaptist.org, newsjournaloftheTennesseeBaptistConvention.org.) **BR**



Volunteers from First Baptist Church in Dandridge, Tenn., and Front Street Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C., joined together to conduct a Backyard Bible Club in Dandridge. (BP photo)

Caswell

Continued from page 1

deserted fort was sold to private developers, S.O. Chase and L.B. Skinner of Florida. Sloan said, “They turned the gunning placements on top of Battery Caswell into swimming pools. ... They attempted to turn it into a massive resort.” Chase and Skinner tried to take advantage of Caswell’s coastal environment and established buildings to convert the 248.8 acres into a year-round health resort.

After five years in the hands of Chase and Skinner, the United States government reacquired Fort Caswell in 1941 to use as a depot during World War II. Eight years later, the property became war surplus and it was sold to the BSC to become a retreat for North Carolina Baptists.

For the past five decades, the fort has been committed to serving North Carolina Baptists, and has been doing so while emphasizing the fort’s historical memory. Hundreds of renovations have been made to accommodate the 30,000 plus visitors each year.

Sloan said, “We’re still able to preserve the buildings better than most people would care to do because of the way we’re using these buildings for camps. ... In fact, some bunks [in the renovated barracks] still have ‘U.S.’ carved on the sides of them.”

Director of the Environment Stewardship Program (ESP) at Caswell, Jenny Fuller blends her background in biology and fisheries with her educational drive. She and her staff set up stations on local beaches and marshes so students can fish, crab and explore various organisms to learn about their biological structures as well as their economic and financial value to the state of North Carolina and abroad.

Two thousand students and adults came through the ESP in 2013, and Fuller expects over 3,000 by the end of this fall’s field-trip season.

Richard Holbrook, director of Caswell since 1985, said, “[Jenny] was a God-send. ... The program grows every year. We really don’t know how far it will go, but we’re looking forward to what will happen with it.”

Much time and energy has been placed in marketing the ESP to provide mid-week programming in the spring and fall. In the summer, the staff teaches environmental education once a week to public, private or homeschool groups.

The curriculum is designed to correlate with N.C. Essential Standards for Science and Social Studies yet in



David Johnson, right, and Nathan Sloan are long-time Caswell employees. Johnson has been working at Caswell for more than 40 years, and Sloan has been in employment for about 10 years.

a hands-on experience.

Fuller said, “We have tried to create things here that maximize exposure to the different ecosystems we have like exploring in the marsh or the beach.

“We talk about water quality, stewardship, science and biology. Our facilities lend themselves very naturally to ecosystem studies.”

Due to the unique facility and laboratory experience through the ESP, schools are open to sending students to safe environments found at Caswell, said Holbrook.

“We have a staff that can provide food, lodging and the complete package for the kids,” Holbrook said.

“It’s a good way to use the facilities and to teach young people how to preserve and take care of what we’ve been blessed with [at Caswell].”

In the past Caswell has been generally known as a youth camp.

“That’s the common concept of Baptists when they think of Caswell,” Holbrook said.

Caswell a year-round operation that does more than the summer camp experience. They also cater to adults and retired/semi-retired adults through programs like M.A.S.H. (Mature Adults Sharing Him), a retreat in fall 2014 challenging participants to share God’s Good News in word and deed.

Other denominations don’t have such premier facili-

ties like what is found at Caswell, Holbrook said.

First completed in 1989, the Smith Conference Center had its finishing renovations done in May. Dedicated to Fred and Eudell Smith for their 20 years of service at Caswell, the center is nestled at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, and it features a large dining room, conference spaces, classrooms and several guest rooms.

The newest lodging addition to Caswell is Sandpiper.

Opened in 2013, it blends in with the cultural architecture found along Caswell Beach Road. Sloan said Sandpiper generally provides bunks for youth with a 130-person capacity.

In spring 2014, the N.C. Baptist Assembly’s “Fort Caswell Historic District” was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

The register exists as “the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.”

Pointing to the transitional point of Caswell’s history in 1949, Herring and Williams said, “Gone are the soldiers of former days, but these new recruits have many life battles to prepare for, and a place like Caswell has the unique opportunity to do that, using the teachable moments of retreats and conferences.”

Caswell, indeed, no longer serves as a highly engineered military fort, yet it largely functions to equip tens of thousands of Christian soldiers who visit the historic grounds each year.

Holbrook isn’t sure if anyone will ever know the final impact that Caswell has made through the years on individuals.

“Maybe there will be a big board in Heaven somewhere where they’ll have all the Caswell people listed,” he hoped.

For more information about Fort Caswell, visit fort-caswell.com. For more information about M.A.S.H. dates click the “Programs” tab on their website. **BR**



Sandpiper, above, is the newest addition to N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. The retreat and training center is open year-round for small and large groups. At right, conservation is part of the practice for Caswell. Students and visitors can learn about ways to conserve the environment. On front page, as of spring 2014, the N.C. Baptist Assembly’s “Fort Caswell Historic District” was named to the National Register of Historic Places. (BR photos by Michael McEwen)



Why we don't cry out for awakening ... and why we must

Our Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president, Ronnie Floyd, has called us to pray for spiritual awakening. This call is the right one for a denomination that faces markers of decline even as we seek to determine the best steps into the future.

The fact that our president must call us to pray for awakening says something about us, however. We do not readily recognize the need for an awakening, and our track record says we seldom pray fervently for a mighty move of God.

We can only wonder why we lack this passion. From a long-time Southern Baptist who genuinely loves our denomination, here are my thoughts about why we don't cry out for an awakening . . . and why we must. I trust you will hear these words as both confession and concern, as I count myself among the guilty.

We are “revivalistically numbed.” We have heard this call before. In fact, I know of no SBC president in my years of denominational service who has not in some fashion called us to our knees. Sometimes we do not hear what we need to hear because it sounds too familiar. On the other hand, the fact we are numbed is only one more indicator of our need for revival.

We are biblically forgetful. Many of us forget (or perhaps do not even know) the stories of God's moving mightily through His people in the scriptures.

How many of us recall God's moving in Josiah in such a way that he led the Hebrews to abolish idols, restore the Temple, destroy pagan altars and return to the Word? We may remember that Nehemiah rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem, but do we also recall his people weeping, confessing and praying as they heard the Word of the Lord? We know the story of Jonah's rebellion, but do we recollect that the entire wicked city of Nineveh turned to God as the prophet preached? When we do not remember the miraculous movings of God in the scriptures, we do not long for such movements in our lives.



CHUCK LAWLESS
Guest Column

We are historically uninformed. Most of us have read little about the great awakenings that swept our young nation in the early 1700s and 1800s.

We do not know of crowds of thousands who gathered in public squares to hear the gospel, of congregations that clung to pews under the power of God, or of towns that spoke continually of spiritual matters. We know little about itinerant preachers who traveled the countryside to spread the gospel or about college students who prayed until their campuses erupted in revival. We are uninformed about prayer meetings that echoed from New York City to Europe to South Africa in the decade before the Civil War. Because we know so few stories of God's working in the past, we give little thought to a potentially extraordinary work of God in the present.

We are globally unaware. God is

doing mighty work around the world. Believers in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific Rim speak of non-believers turning to God in large numbers – even though doing so may cost them their lives. I have seen followers of Christ in Africa travel for days to participate in the most basic Bible study so they can teach others.

God is sending church planters to Canada, a nation with one church for every 117,000 people. The growth of the church in Cuba is staggering. Many churches do not know these stories, though, and we thus lack the passion for God to do the same on our shores.

We are comfortably worldly. Revival does not come without a cost. If God so moves in our denomination, we will dramatically learn, “God does not want partnership with us, but ownership of us.”* Foreign to us, though, are brokenness over sin, confession of wrong and gut-wrenching prayers of repentance that characterize movements of God. We are, frankly, comfortable where we are. Pleading with God to send awakening might be asking for something we do not really want if it means sacrifice and change.

We are denominationally strong. This point may seem contradictory to the beginning of this article, but that is intentional. Historically, the church has

experienced awakening when a few believers get desperate for God – when they come to the end of themselves. I am not convinced the SBC is there yet, beginning with me. We have enough members and sufficient resources to make our slide into irrelevance almost imperceptible. As long as the SBC is comfortable simply being larger than others, we will not cry out for awakening.

So, what do we do? Confess our unwillingness to pray for awakening. Teach the scriptures, reminding one another of God's miraculous work. Punctuate lessons and sermons with stories of God's moving in the past. Learn about and proclaim stories of God's work around the globe in the present. Repent of our idols, including our comfort. And pray. Fervently.

We simply must pray. I must pray. Apart from the power of God, we will not make a dent in the darkness of the world.

*Leonard Ravenhill (2004-08-01). *Why Revival Tarries* (Kindle Location 427). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.
(EDITOR'S NOTE – Chuck Lawless is professor of evangelism and missions and vice president of graduate studies and ministry centers at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a global theological education consultant for the International Mission Board.) **BR**

Ronnie Floyd President's Page live at sbc.net

By ART TOALSTON | Baptist Press

Ronnie Floyd, the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) new president, is now online at the convention's *sbc.net* website (*sbc.net/presidentspage*), in addition to his ongoing blog at *ronniefloyd.com*. The President's Page includes a number of features:

- Floyd's blog each Monday addressed to Southern Baptists.

Columns since his June 10 election as president have called for Southern Baptists to attend next year's SBC annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio; the need for prayer for America's next Great Awakening; and ways in which Southern Baptists can influence America's future.

- About Ronnie Floyd, in which the new SBC president recounts his spiritual journey, starting with his new birth at age 15 at a small church's youth event and his upbringing.

Floyd also tells of his education at a

Baptist college and seminary; his 37 years as a pastor, including the multi-campus Cross Church in northwest Arkansas since 1986; and his love for his wife Jeana, his two sons and six grandchildren.

- A link to Floyd's personal blog, *ronniefloyd.com/blog*, in which he has written about a range of ministry-related topics. The blog also has carried articles by other Cross Church staff members.

- A link to other articles Floyd has written, such as his July 11 Call to Prayer in Baptist Press titled, “Responding to the crisis on the Texas border,” addressing the influx of Central American children into Texas through the border with Mexico.

- Media resources, including a bio-type article about Floyd and a selection of photos.

Floyd succeeds Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, who completed two one-year terms as SBC president. **BR**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Atheist group victory could be good for churches

An atheist group reached a settlement earlier this month with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) over stronger enforcement of policies against “church politicking,” and at least one religious freedom group is thrilled, claiming the IRS investigation could be “a good thing” in the long run.

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) has been campaigning to overturn the portion of the tax code that prohibits nonprofit organizations from “intervening in political campaigns as a condition of their tax-exempt status.” To achieve that, it has organized the annual Pulpit Freedom Sunday since 2008, for which it encourages pastors to exercise their First Amendment right to free speech – including political speech – from the pulpit and send copies of their sermons to the IRS.

This year on Oct. 5, more than 2,000 pastors are expected to participate in Pulpit Freedom Sunday, during which they will “plainly speak scriptural truth about the qualifications of candidates for public office, regardless of candidates’ political affiliation.”

Official tally: SBC registration 5,298

Southern Baptist Convention registration secretary Jim Wells has released official registration figures for the 2014 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Baltimore.

A total of 5,298 messengers were sent by 2,257 churches from 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Only North Dakota sent no messengers. Of the 1,298 messengers who responded to the registration survey, 731 of them, or 58 percent, were age 50 and older. Only 94 of them, or 7 percent, were under age 30, registration figures show.

Messengers were nearly evenly distributed among the remaining age groups. Messengers 30-34 years old accounted for 8.5 percent; messengers in the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups accounted for 8.7 each, with the remaining age group, 45-49, drawing 8.9 percent of those registered.

By gender, 62.9 percent of the messengers were male, 37.1 percent female.

Churches must reach, baptize, disciple young adults

Baptist Press

I am burdened by the fact that 80 percent of our 46,125 Southern Baptist churches reported reaching and baptizing only 0-1 young adults according to the recent Pastors' Task Force on Southern Baptist Convention Evangelistic Impact and Declining Baptisms report released late spring. This means that 36,900 Southern Baptist churches baptized zero to one young adult in an entire year.

When I write these words, I am overwhelmed with the burden of how much we need a mighty move of God upon our pastors, church leaders, lay people and churches that comprise the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Yes, let a mighty move of God begin in me and with our church.

If this does not change, what does it mean for us?

On July 14, 2014, I released an article addressing another major problem, where 60 percent of our Southern Baptist churches did not baptize a single young person between the ages of 12-17 years old.

When you combine the lack of effectiveness in reaching them with the lack of effectiveness in most of our SBC churches in reaching, baptizing and discipling young adults from ages 18-29, we must ask ourselves many serious questions. One of these questions we must ask ourselves is, "If this does not change, what does this mean for us?"

Obviously, this means that if we continue in this mode, many of our churches are facing an aging problem that will one day threaten their long-term viability. When we are ineffectively reaching young adults between ages 18-29, we are showing our disconnectedness in the world today, but additionally our disconnectedness in days to come.

I believe the church has to reach every generation to impact its community in a great way. I see no evidence anywhere in Scripture where churches specialize in whom they reach generationally. All people are in need of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ; therefore, we must reach all people, including young adults 18-29 years of age. Are we willing to do what it takes to become all things to all people? Yes, it is hard, uncomfortable, and it takes sacrifice. But compare it to seeing a generation come alive for Christ and a world impacted. Then, the cost is small! We cannot ignore other questions worthy of answers:

- Why are we not reaching young adults effectively?
- Is our church's culture friendly to all

generations?

- Is our message boldly biblical, delivered authentically, in the power of the Holy Spirit, saturated in the love of Christ?

- Are we willing to die to self so His power may be experienced in the next generation?

These questions could be endless, but sometime soon, preferably urgently, thousands of churches must give honest answers to these questions and make the needed changes immediately. I believe that God is able to turn this situation around.



RONNIE FLOYD
Guest Column

Four ways we can reach and baptize more young adults through our churches:

1. Proclaim boldly the gospel of Jesus Christ to young adults, calling them to follow Jesus unashamedly, profess their faith, and be baptized.

Young adults today are not looking for a "seeker friendly" message; they are searching for a message that is built on truth and delivered in the right tone.

They are not afraid of a bold message, in fact, they are attracted to it. When the message is delivered by someone who has their best interest in mind, especially a message that is backed up with a life and ministry that lives it out, they will respond positively.

Therefore, do not think you have to dumb down the message to be relevant, as this turns them off immediately. Hold high the gospel of Jesus Christ and call them to live their lives by it, professing outwardly their faith, and being baptized publicly.

2. Target reaching young adults with a small group Bible study.

Young adults want to be part of something that is intimate, authentic and has a genuine sense of community. Beginning small groups in your church that can reach young adults through teaching the Word of God in this kind of environment can prove to be a great way to see many reached for Christ.

Churches must determine they are going to reach young adults. We need to get young adults into the church as well as create places to connect outside of the church.

Churches also need to have places to connect and avenues for ministry for the young adults who are coming in the doors of the church.

If they have children, take the greatest care of their children. Prioritize meeting this need. Young adults with children will be attracted to a church that can care for their children. When you couple that with an effective small group Bible Study, in time, you will reach, baptize and dis-

ciple more young adults. Let's not forget: Young adults reach young adults. They can energize a church and provide life in every way.

3. Churches and state conventions that have the capacity to help other churches in reaching young adults must rise up and provide assistance.

I am convinced if we are going to see this turned around, we all need to own this problem. For example, what can our church do to help other churches in reaching young adults? While we do it well at times, other times we struggle; but together, we can help one another. This is not just about the growth of our own church, but about penetrating the lostness of young adults with the gospel, and expanding the Kingdom of God.

4. Begin praying NOW for the next Great Awakening. This will turn it around quicker than anything else.

Evan Roberts was 26 years old when God raised him up to be the catalyst for the great Welsh Revival. Under the direction of the Spirit of God, he went to his home church uninvited. He told them, "I have a message for you from God." As God opened the door for him to proclaim the message, he stated these things:

- You must confess any known sin to God and put any wrong done to others right.
- Second, you must put away any doubtful habit.
- Third, you must obey the Spirit promptly.
- Finally, you must embrace your faith in Christ publicly.

As J. Edwin Orr shared this great story through his message, "The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening," my heart was moved as he said that within five months of this significant moment, more than 100,000 people were converted through the country. This great move of God swept into various parts of the world.

Why? Because a young adult named Evan Roberts was saved as a coal miner, called to preach, trained in ministry, and led by the Spirit of God to proclaim the message of God. God can do more in a moment than we can do in a lifetime.

May God raise up another movement of God like this, and if God so desires, even led by a young adult who will call all generations to God. This is why we must reach, baptize and disciple young adults like never before. We need a mighty spiritual awakening in the land. This will turn this tide around quicker than anything I know, while we at the same time, address our challenges strategically.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Ronnie Floyd is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the multi-campus Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.) **BR**

Acts 29 removes Driscoll from network

Religion News Service/Baptist Press

Seattle megachurch pastor Mark Driscoll has been removed from a church-planting network of more than 500 churches he helped found after a pattern of "ungodly and disqualifying behavior."

Driscoll, co-founder of the Acts 29 Network, has been an influential but edgy pastor within conservative evangelical circles for several years. His own Mars Hill Church attracts some 14,000 people at 15 locations across five states each Sunday.

At the same time, however, Driscoll has been controversial in evangelical circles for years. The New York Times Magazine called him "one of the most admired - and reviled - figures among evangelicals nationwide." He has been provocative, occasionally profane and has faced allegations of plagiarism and inflating his book sales.

After Acts 29 board action, all of Driscoll's Mars Hill Church locations have been removed from the website of the network.

"It is our conviction that the nature of the accusations against Mark, most of which have been confirmed by him, make it untenable and unhelpful to keep Mark and Mars Hill in our network," the Acts 29 board wrote in a letter. "In taking this action, our prayer is that it will encourage the leadership of Mars Hill to respond in a distinctive and godly manner so that the name of Christ will not continue to be dishonored."

In a longer letter obtained by blogger Warren Throckmorton, the Acts 29 board asked Driscoll to "step down from ministry for an extended time and seek help."

"Over the past three years, our board and network have been the recipients of countless shots and dozens of fires directly linked to you and what we consider ungodly and disqualifying behavior," the board wrote. "We have both publicly and internally tried to support and give you the benefit of the doubt, even when multiple pastors in our network confirmed this behavior."

Driscoll, who's been facing the same heavy criticism in recent years that he was known for dishing out to others, recently admitted to and apologized for comments he made under the pseudonym "William Wallace II" where he

See Driscoll page 16

History demonstrates how American Christians should respond to the Ebola crisis

The outbreak of Ebola in Africa has caused the death of hundreds of people and infected hundreds more. In addition, CNN reports at least 60 healthcare workers have died in recent years from contracting the disease while caring for others.

Samaritan's Purse made the news with their efforts to bring back two American missionaries stricken with the Ebola virus. With no known cure for the disease, its spread to cities in western Africa with international airports has caused alarm to some. Bringing two Americans into the U.S. with Ebola – although not easily contracted and easily isolated – has brought out less than kind responses. For instance, Donald Trump tweeted this: “The U.S. cannot allow EBOLA infected people back. People that go to far away places to help out are great-but must suffer the consequences!”

My point in citing Trump is not to attack him

personally, for he likely represents a lot of people – including, I fear, more than a few believers – who share his concern but won't speak it so publicly. How should believers respond? Here is an insight from the early church who advanced the gospel valiantly in the face of both persecution and plagues:*



ALVIN REID
Guest column

“One should not underestimate the impact of the changed lives of unbelievers to impact a pagan culture. One of the underestimated facets of early church history concerns the massive plagues that hit the Empire. During the reign of Marcus Aurelius beginning about AD 165, a plague devastated the Empire, taking the emperor as well. Another came around AD 251 with similar effects. About 260, in his Easter letter, Dionysius wrote a tribute to the believers whose heroic efforts cost many of them their lives. Pagans tended to flee the cities during plagues, but

See Reid page 16

TAR HEEL VOICES

Political activism not needed

Romans 1:18-32 describes God's judicial wrath of abandonment.

The fourth circuit court of appeals overturning Virginia's marriage amendment, which will probably result in North Carolina's being overturned, is further evidence that America is under God's judgment. What should the response to this be?

We don't need “political activism.” We need pastors and laymen who will speak out with the truth of God's Word.

Romans 1:16 does not say “political activism” is the power of God for salvation. It says the gospel is the power of God for salvation. The righteousness of God is not revealed in “political activism.” It is revealed in the gospel (Romans 1:17). God is not watching over “political activism” to perform it. He is watching over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

“Political activism” is not living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart, but the Word of God is (Hebrews 4:12). “Political activism” will not save you. The Word of God does. You are not born again through “political activism.” You are born again through the living and abiding Word of God (1 Peter 1:23). James 1:18 does not say in the exercise of His will He brought us forth by “political activism.” It says in the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, which is a synonym for the Word of God.

We don't need “political activism.” We need laymen and pastors who will speak out with the truth of God's Word.

Tim McKittrick
Stoney Point

Engagement is biblical

As executive director of the Christian Action League, it's quite common for me to hear from those who believe the influence of the gospel should be enough to change society. They shun any kind of “political activism” by Christians.

Wayne Grudem, in his book, *Politics: According to the Bible*, rightly contends “this is a foolish position.” He says it's like saying we don't need laws against drunk driving, the influence of the gospel ought to be enough. The fact of the matter is, until Christ returns there will always be drunk drivers who will not be persuaded by the gospel or even by common sense. The evil of drunk driving will be seriously exacerbated without a law to restrain them. Unfortunately, many well-meaning Christians intent on defending the gospel's power to save, unintentionally limit the scope of its salvation.

Certainly, forgiveness of sins and transformation of the human heart is the central message of the Bible, but the Bible's message is about all of life. The same passage where Jesus instructs He is to be proclaimed as Savior of the soul, also contains His command, “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19, 20). Christian “political activism” doesn't supplant the gospel. Instead it brings the “word of truth” to bear upon the political process.

The objective is the scripting of righteous law that suppresses evil and procures justice, which Romans 13 says is the primary purpose of government. The scriptures are voluminous with examples of saints who understood this duty – from Joseph in Genesis to the men of faith described in Hebrews 11 who “subdued kingdoms” and influenced the body politic to recognize God's order. Our nation's hope doesn't lie in politics alone or the gospel only, the answer lies in the performance of both.

Mark Creech
Christian Action League of North Carolina, Inc.

Church budgets: the big picture

Summertime and the living is easy, according to the old song. But in many churches, committees are working diligently on budgets to gear up for the fall schedule. Committees are poring over spreadsheets and printouts; prayers for guidance are made, pots of coffee consumed.

I often work with budgets and I know they can be trying!



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Creating a church or convention budget is when we assign dollar values to the ministries God has called us to carry out. The determination we make about how we will spend church ministry and mission dollars is where the rubber hits the road. Budgets are where the church assigns dollar values to her best intentions. The budgeting process paints a picture, not of what we would like to do, but what we can afford to do, thus what we really will do.

May I offer five suggestions on big picture budgeting?

1. Consider your church's stewardship status. Sadly, many Baptists fall short of tithing a tenth of their incomes and miss even more the generous giving taught in the New Testament. Statistics suggests that most Baptists give approximately 2-3 percent of their personal incomes, perhaps a bit more, to their churches, a percentage not even a good tip for the server at a restaurant. Does your church need to do more in educating the members about the obedience of giving to God?

2. Remember that baseline funding for the local church, so it can pay its bills and support its staff, is just the start. The church exists not just to survive, but to bring a lost world into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. To impact lostness, a church requires additional funds beyond the baseline for local ministry.

3. Acts 1:8 reminds us that outreach starts where we are, in our Jerusalem, but must continue across the homeland even to the ends of the earth. Like first-century churches, North Carolina Baptists have found they can best obey this instruction by partnering our income with those of other like-minded believers, thereby fielding some 10,000 missionaries and supporting many life-changing Christian ministries.

4. Does your church have a strategy to reach the 5.8 million lost people estimated to live in our state now? You think not? Actually, if your church supports the Baptist State Convention through the Cooperative Program, you do have such a strategy! Your church supports N.C. Baptist Children's Homes, the planting of 100+ new churches each year across our state, strengthening existing churches plus a wide range of evangelistic outreach efforts, mission partnerships, conference centers and training events that help bring thousands to Christ. Our convention's bold new strategy to raise up disciple-making churches will help us reach even more lost people with the gospel.

5. As you pray over our Lord's Acts 1:8 challenge, please consider increasing your church's Cooperative Program giving. This is how we Baptists partner together on missions and ministry beyond our Jerusalem to our state, nation and world.

“How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” 2 Corinthians 8:2 **BR**

BSC releases annual meeting app

BSC Communications

North Carolina Baptists can enjoy their very own mobile app starting August 1. The free N.C. Baptist app highlights information for the 2014 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The meeting will be held Nov. 10-11 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

The app is available for download at the Apple App Store, on Google Play (Android Market) and at the Windows Phone Marketplace and can be found by searching for "NC Baptist."

More information about the app is available at ncannualmeeting.org/app.

The app will feature schedules, speakers, information about breakout sessions, exhibits, alerts and much more about the annual meeting.

Users will have access to the Book of Reports and the Tuesday Morning Update, as well as

several other downloadable resources from the convention.

Additional updates to the app will be made following the annual meeting, allowing North Carolina Baptists to remain connected to the convention throughout the year. **BR**



Joy and Rick Trexler enjoy a party held in honor of Trexler's service with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. (BR photo by Michael McEwen)

Rick Trexler retires from BSC after 13 years with students

Rick Trexler retired July 31 from the campus ministry team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). He served in this position since June 2001.

Trexler was also in campus ministry at Gardner-Webb University, Memorial Baptist Church in Buies Creek and Eastern Kentucky University.

He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rick's wife, Joy, is a middle school guidance counselor in Wake County.

Standing in as interim for Trexler, Jonathan Yarboro is the western region consultant for collegiate partnerships at the BSC.

He helps churches engage college

campuses and make disciples among those who are often overlooked.

Yarboro said, "Tom Knight, Evan Blackerby, Sammy Joo and I all love Rick very much. We all have a great deal of respect for him, have learned from him and admire his selfless ministry to college students for 40 years."

"In leading the team during this interim period, my goal is to continue building a strong collaborative team of consultants who are proactively helping churches make disciples on every single collegiate community in N.C. There are 591,000 college students in N.C., and if we are going to reach them it's imperative that we move toward a reality of having no campus left without a gospel presence." **BR**

CHURCH NEWS



High Shoal Baptist Church, Mooresboro

Jeanne Wall Cole was honored on Senior Adult Day (May 4) at High Shoal Baptist Church, Mooresboro. She turned 90 on Aug. 12. The plaque given to Cole recognized her years of service as organist to the church. From left: Troy Nix, former music director; Cole; Donald Helton, minister of music; and John Godfrey, pastor.

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

ALVIN SUMMERS has been called to First Baptist Church of Indian Trail as associate pastor, family ministries. In ministry for 22 years, Summers spent the last 17 years as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Martin, Tenn.



ALVIN SUMMERS

Center Grove Baptist Church, Ahoskie, has called **DANIEL MULLENS** as pastor. He previously was youth minister at Winton Baptist Church, Winton.

MICHAEL DUNCAN JR. has been called as the pastor of Drexel First Baptist Church, Drexel. He previously served as pastor of Central Baptist Church, Altavista, Va.

West Chowan Baptist Association has called **TERRY STOCKMAN** as director of missions. He was pastor of Grandview Baptist Church, Waynesville, and interim director of missions for Haywood Baptist Association, Clyde.

Retirement

BILL VOORHES has retired from his pastor position at Morningside Baptist Church, Brevard. His last sermon was July 13 exactly 50 years from his ordination in 1964.

Throughout his ministry Voorhes pastored five churches, four of which are in North Carolina, and worked as the director of missions for the Transylvania Baptist Association. The churches he pastored in N.C. include Woodland Baptist Church, Wake Forest; Masonboro Baptist Church, Wilmington; Temple Baptist Church, Newburn; and Morningside Baptist Church, Brevard. He and his wife Barbara will be moving to Greenville, S.C.

Voorhes has been trained by LifeWay for transitional leadership and will be available for revivals, interim and pulpit supply. Contact at Bill28768@yahoo.com.

Anniversary

MARS HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Colerain, plans to celebrate its 160th anniversary. The worship celebration is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. with music, reading of church history and a message by former pastor of Mars Hill, Dan Morton. Dinner will be served on the grounds with a pig pickin' and games for the children.

Local gospel singer Sue Tripp of Bethany Baptist and bluegrass singer Nancy Joyner of Republican Baptist will provide entertainment.

There is a 160th anniversary commemorative throw available for \$50. It includes pictures of the current and former church buildings.

Pastor Mike Willard has more information at (252) 325-4081 or marshallbaptistnc@gmail.com.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Submissions will be edited.

Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512.

Call (919) 847-2127.

August 24

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

August 31

God's Work of Creation

Focal Passage: Psalm 104:1-5, 24-30

Psalms 104 is book-ended with praise to God. The psalmist says, in both verse 1 and 35, “*Bless the LORD, O my soul*” (ESV). He is giving glory to God for the work of His hands, the creation of the world. Everything in creation is the work of our God, who loves us. “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... God saw all that He had made and it was very good*” (Genesis 1:1, 31).

In Psalm 104:1-5, the psalmist highlights how God has created out of His power and majesty. He wraps Himself in light, stretches out the heavens like a tent and makes the clouds His chariot. He has set the earth on its foundations; what He has created cannot be moved.

Verses 24-30 emphasize God's wisdom in creation as well as His provision for all He has made. The psalmist praises Him for his vast works: from the waters to the mountains to the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; to the sea teeming with creatures, the sun and the moon, the roaring lion and the laboring man.

Yet, the psalmist makes it clear that God did not simply create and then

abandon His work. God is not “the watchmaker” who created and then left the world to run on its own. No, He is intimately involved in sustaining His creation. In verses 27 and 28, the psalmist describes how each living thing looks to God for provision “*to give them their food at the proper time.*”

I love how several translations emphasize the continual action of the verbs in verse 28, “*When You give... When You open Your hand...*” The psalmist recognizes that it is not a matter of if God will provide; it is a matter of when.

How do you need to apply this scriptural truth? Remember, you are His creation. He knit you together in your mother's womb. You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:13-14). He has not abandoned the work of His hands. He will continue to sustain you and provide for you, just like He will for the butterfly and the bear.

Let us give thanks to our loving Creator this week and say, “*Bless the LORD, O my soul!*”



HILARY RATCHFORD
Writer, Southeastern
Seminary student

Focal Passage: Leviticus 25:1-7

God blessed Adam and Eve saying, “*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth*” (Genesis 1:28). Many scholars refer to this verse as the cultural mandate. God has tasked mankind with stewardship of the earth. He has given us responsibility over His creation.

This mandate has been interpreted in multiple ways. One extreme could almost be considered the worship of nature. The opposite end may take the command as a power play; humans are at the top, and any creature or natural resource can – and should – be exploited for our benefit. A biblical approach falls somewhere in the middle of these two. Sure, God has given us the earth for our benefit but not for our abuse or manipulation. And we should care and nurture the earth but not to the obsession that we view it as its own god

or force, independent of its Creator.

In Leviticus 25:1-7, the Lord gives instructions to Moses on Mount Sinai to relay to the Israelites. Essentially, God's instructions for how to care for the land are modeled after His pattern of creation. He tells His people to cultivate the land for six years (v. 3). However, in the seventh year, they should observe a Sabbath for the land (v. 4). Observing a year of Sabbath not only stewards the land well but also demonstrates trust in God as the ultimate Provider. God not only promises to provide for the land owner during that Sabbath year, He also promises to provide for the manservant, maidservant, hired worker and sojourner; the livestock and wild animals (v. 6-7).

“Sabbath,” designed by God in creation, is a time of rest and cessation from work. It is a designated “holy” period to reflect on all that He has done (Genesis 2:2-3). God gave the Promised Land to the Israelites (v. 2). How can you be a good steward of what He has given you? Make time this week to rest, give thanks and acknowledge His provision in your life. Then use the provisions He has given you to help meet other's needs.

August 24

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

August 31

Live to Win in the End

Focal Passage: Daniel 7:7-18

I have two hobbies that clash: watching NASCAR and riding a motorcycle. They clash because racing (typically) occurs on a Sunday afternoon, which happens to be a great time to ride. So, I've begun recording races while I go ride. This, too, has a risk: someone texting me about the winner of the race before I watch it. My reaction to such a text is telling. If I get a text, and my favorite driver has won, I still watch the race. But, if a driver I do not care for won, I do not watch it. Apparently, if I think the outcome of the race is good, I watch the recording with joy, anticipating my driver's victory.

In Daniel 7 we read about a vision given to Daniel of things to come. This section of scripture is a key portion of biblical eschatology and has been pored over meticulously by scholars. Yet, there is still significant disagreement as to Daniel's precise meaning and the timing of the events. Rather than attempt to revisit all of the various theories, let's focus on what this passage teaches clearly.

First, verses 7-8 describe a great beast that devours and crushes its victims. It

is a terrifying, powerful and frightening. These verses remind us that evil will persist until the consummation.

Immediately after we are introduced to the fearsome beast, we are reminded (v. 9-12) God is the ultimate judge. A beast that puts panic in the hearts of people is no match for the God of the universe. What a great comfort! Rather than fret about which world leader might be the anti-Christ, we can rest in the confidence that every living being is under the authority of God. Rather than worry about the details of the end times, Daniel 7:13-14 remind us that the Lord Jesus was given authority and dominion over all peoples and that His kingdom will never be destroyed. Therefore, we can serve Him with confidence, regardless of the circumstances that may occur around us. All of the kingdoms of this world will eventually go into the dustbin of history (Dan 7:15-18), but not the Kingdom of Christ. His is an eternal Kingdom. So, let's live our lives with joy, knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ has won!



ROB POCHEK
Senior Pastor, Raleigh
Road Baptist Church,
Wilson

Focal Passages: Daniel 9:20-27; 12:9-13

“I don't know” are some of the most significant words I have ever said in a ministry context. It is a phrase that brings a humanity and equality to the relationship between pastor and church member. For example, our ladies group had been immersed in a Precept Bible Study on Revelation in early 2011. At the same time, the “Arab spring” was occurring in Egypt and Libya. Standing in the breezeway of the church, one of the ladies in the class asked me if I thought the events in Egypt were tied to end-times biblical prophecy. My response was “I don't know.” I think the same principles I shared with them apply to the passages under consideration this week.

First, pray for understanding. I don't mean to pray that God will show you all of the details of the future or to pray that you will understand how all of the events in world history fit a prophetic timeline. It is doubtful that any of us could handle

such knowledge. Which may be why God has kept it under wraps. Rather, do what Daniel did in Daniel 9:20-23. He confessed his sin and the sin of his people and prayed for understanding.

Second, prepare for difficulty. Regardless of your understanding of the end times, the universal witness of the scripture is that mankind grows more sinful, not less sinful. As mankind grows more sinful, those who embrace a biblical worldview become more marginalized (at best) and more persecuted (at worst). Do not focus on marginalization, but become familiar with and pray for your brothers and sisters around the world who are facing genuine persecution and death for their faith. Pray for their faith to be strengthened.

Finally, keep living for the life of faith. Don't quit. Because so many who speculate on the “times and seasons” prove to be wrong, it can become easy to question whether the Bible is true at all. Though we don't know all the details, Jesus is returning. In the meantime, we keep serving Him. Just as Daniel was told to keep living (Daniel 12:9-13) until God brought the events of His prophecy to pass, so should we.

Be Ready for Tribulation

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

All resolutions should be submitted in writing for consideration by the committee no later than **September 10, 2014.**

Send by mail to Committee on Memorials/Resolutions

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512

Send by email to Norma Jean Johnson

Business Services, Executive Leaders Assistant
njohnson@ncbaptist.org

Baptists called on to provide aid to Iraqi Christians, Yazidi Kurds

Baptist Press

As U.S. military forces launch airstrikes against Islamic militants in northern Iraq, IMB and Baptist Global Response (BGR) are asking Southern Baptists to help provide humanitarian relief for tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians and Yazidi Kurds forced from their homes.

Most pressing is a situation unfolding on a mountaintop near the Iraqi city

of Sinjar, home to the country's Yazidi religious minority, where some 50,000 Yazidi refugees are trapped with limited food and water. Donate to the International Mission Board's general relief fund by texting *imbrelief* to 80888, which will donate \$10 to that fund. Give through Baptist Global Response, visit *gobgr.org* or text *bgr* to 80888; \$10 will be added to your mobile bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. Message and data rates may apply. **B3**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Westport Baptist Church of Denver, NC, is seeking the man that God would have as our next **full-time Senior Pastor** for our traditional Southern Baptist church that resides in an area of Lake Norman that is experiencing amazing growth. The candidate must be a man of prayer, with a pastor's heart, mature in his faith, who is experienced, and has a seminary degree preferred, and willing to work to reach our area with the gospel. Please send resume to: Pastor Selection Committee, Westport Baptist Church, 2372 Lake Shore Rd. S., Denver, NC 28037, or to *wbcsusie@att.net*; *www.westportbaptist.net*.

Bible-believing SBC church in Eastern Randolph County prayerfully seeking **Full-Time** mission-minded, community focused **Pastor**, preferably with five or more years in a Southern Baptist church and a degree from a Southern Baptist college. Shady Grove Baptist Church, Staley, NC 27355: Parsonage, Family Life Center, Sanctuary/classrooms. Church founded 1755. Pictures/info on *shadygroveonline.net*. Resumes by mail or email only. Send resume and sermon sample to Ray Johnson, 1327 Langley Road, Staley, NC 27355, or to Ray at *betty3159@aol.com*. Must be post marked or emailed by August 29, 2014.

Full-Time Pastor. Sandy Plains Baptist Church in Gastonia, NC, is prayerfully seeking the man whom God has chosen to lead and shepherd our congregation as our Pastor. We are a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching Southern Baptist church located 20 miles SW of Charlotte, NC. Experience and seminary preferred. Looking for a Pastor who is biblically grounded and mission minded. Send Resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Chairman David Lynn, 4211 Beaty Rd., Gastonia, NC 28056; 704-962-4403; *davidlynn2014@outlook.com*.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Alexis, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time pastor**. Five years of pastoral experience is preferred. The church is in the South Fork Baptist Association and is situated approximately 20 miles west of Charlotte in southern Lincoln County. Please send resume and cover letter to: Pastor Search Committee, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, P.O. Box 70 Alexis, NC 28006.

Holly Springs Baptist Church, Franklin, NC, is searching for a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Our beautiful and well-maintained facilities built in 2004 are located 65 miles west of Asheville. We are currently in a successful \$1.5 million fund-raising campaign to pay off our indebtedness. Our SS averages 175 and our morning worship service averages 290. Our congregation consists of many senior adults with some young families and youth. Our current emphasis is on reaching young families. We have a sizable group of summer residents who are a vital part of our congregation. We have a blended morning worship service. Our Sunday nights focus on Home Bible Study Groups as an outreach to our community. We have a strong outreach to community children which includes a prepared meal on Wednesday nights for everybody before our Adult Bible Study and choir practice. We are a friendly, unified, and biblically oriented congregation. We support our Association, State Convention and the SBC. We are completing an Intentional Interim Ministry. Our preference is that pastoral candidates have a seminary degree with a minimum of five years of pastoral experience and believe in the inerrancy of the scriptures. Visit our website at *www.hollyspringsbaptist.org* for more info. Mail resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, 366 Holly Springs Church Road, Franklin, NC 28734, or e-mail them to Darlene Moore *secretary@hollyspringsbaptist.org*.

Church Staff

Mount Olivet Baptist Church of Franklinton, N.C., is seeking an **Associate Pastor**. For further information please see website: *www.mtolivetchurch-franklinton.com*.

Full-Time Minister of Students and Outreach at Coggins Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, NC. Send resume to *searchcommcoggins@gmail.com* or 1306 S. Main Street, Lexington, NC 27292. To learn more about our church, visit our website at *www.cogginsbaptist.org*.

Neill's Creek Baptist Church in Angier, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **part-time Director of Music**. We seek an energetic leader with a heart for worship who will assist in planning and leading music for meaningful worship services. The Director of Music will be primarily responsible for the Adult Choir but will consult with leaders of the Children's Choir, Adult Handbell Choir, and Adult Praise Team. NCBC averages 150 in Sunday morning worship attendance and is located in a growing community. Preference will be given to candidates who have previous experience in directing church choirs, congregational singing, and overseeing a church's music ministry. We are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention of NC, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Little River Baptist Association. For a copy of the job description please contact the church at 919-639-6126 or email *ncbc@embarqmail.com*. Resumes may be sent to Neill's Creek Baptist Church, 4200 Neill's Creek Rd., Angier, NC 27501, Attn: Music Ministry Search Committee.

Antioch Baptist Church in Lumberton, NC, is seeking a **full-time Children's Minister** in charge of the ministry to preschoolers through sixth grade. Submit resumes to Search Committee, 5089 Old Whiteville Road, Lumberton, NC 28358, or email Kevin Davis at *kevindaviscreations@gmail.com*.

Calvary Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC, seeking **Part-time Worship Leader** – Must be qualified to lead congregation in blended services, lead and instruct choir & praise band rehearsals and have a personal relationship with God. If interested send resume to *ccalvarybaptist@carolina.rr.com*. For more info on Calvary go to *www.calvarygastonia.com*.

West Edgecombe Baptist Church Rocky Mount, N.C., is seeking **part-time Worship leader/Choir director** that would be responsible for leading the congregation in worship as well as working with our choir and musicians. This person will create an inviting, energetic, and passionate atmosphere of worship to prepare the hearts of the people. They will need to prepare a blended selection of music every Sunday traditional and contemporary. Congregation size 200+ for more information about the church please go to: *www.westedgecombebaptist.com* or contact the office at: (252) 442-7041.

Magnolia Baptist Church in Stedman, NC, is seeking a **part-time youth minister**. Please send all resumes to Magnolia Baptist Church, 1021 Magnolia Church Rd., Stedman, NC 28391; Attn: Jason Whitfield.

Part-time Youth Minister position at North Newton Baptist Church, Newton, N.C. Resume may be sent to *nnbc316@bellsouth.net* or mailed to North Newton Baptist Church, 316 W. 21st St., Newton, NC 28658. Position is 20-25 hrs week.

Blackwell Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, NC, seeking **part-time Youth Leader/Director**. Student or bi-vocational, 15-20 hrs week with salary. Looking for neighborhood and school outreach to help growth of church body. Submit resume to Buck Jolly, Blackwell Baptist, 700 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

Miscellaneous

Gardner-Webb University is seeking a **Director** for its new Five-Year Pastoral Degree Program, offered through the School of Divinity and Department of Religious Studies, scheduled to begin enrolling students in the Fall 2015 Semester. This is a faculty level position which may include teaching. Master's degree required. The director will oversee the program and have advising responsibility for the students enrolled. Please see the full position description at *http://gardner-webb.edu/current-openings*.

NCBAM needs short term servant volunteers to "March the Blues Away" in four easy steps: 1 aging adult in need, 2 volunteers, a 3-month commitment, with 4 contacts per month. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: (877) 506-2226.

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: *alison@BRnow.org*.
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at *BRnow.org*.
- Send a Fax to (919) 469-1674.

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

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

Reid Continued from page 12

Christians were more likely to stay and minister to the suffering: ‘Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another,’ Dionysius observed, adding, ‘Needless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy.’

“Reading this from a comfortable home in the West, I wonder if we can share in the difficulty of the persecuted church by our willingness to forsake comfort to minister to those in dire need, whether it be AIDS patients or giving ourselves more to those who suffer in our culture in illness or poverty. Dionysius would agree: ‘The best of our brothers lost their lives in this manner, a number of presbyters, deacons, and laymen winning high commendation so that death in this form, the result of great piety and strong faith, seems in every way the equal of martyrdom.’

“I fear that sometimes we in the West can feel a bit of self-pity that we do not suffer as believers do in places like Saudi Arabia and China. Of course, some relish that and pursue a prosperity gospel long on narcissism and short on sacrifice. But if Dionysius is right, there is yet a way to be valiant for Christ in any culture: seek the marginalized, the disenfranchised, those no one cares about and love them and touch them, and be Christ to them.

“Consider the example of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. Each Christmas, there was a tradition in London: the churches would send

out representatives to the streets to invite the poor to the celebration, and thousands thronged there. Anglicans would begin by announcing, ‘All of you who are Anglicans come with us.’ Catholics would join in, ‘All who are Catholics come with us.’ The Methodist, the Lutherans and others would follow suit. When all the invitations were made, many more people milled about. At that point, William Booth would shout to the people, ‘All of you who belong to no one come with me.’”

Perhaps these missionaries who now suffer with Ebola represent better the spirit of the early church than those of us who simply post on our social media sites our worries, fears and outrage about life in the West, as if we are the ones who truly suffer. Perhaps we can look again at the lives of the witnesses who lived, loved and died before us to recover the gospel passion we too can share with them. We do not have to go to a dangerous place to contract a dangerous disease; but we can do more than applaud them or avoid them. We can, to quote Rees Howells who labored with the broken in the Welsh Revival, “If you love one, you can love many, and if you can love many, you can love all.” I pray God will give me such extravagant love.

*Excerpted from Alvin L. Reid, *Evangelism Handbook: Biblical, Spiritual, Intentional, Missional* (B&H, 2009).

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Alvin Reid is Bailey Smith Chair of Evangelism and professor of evangelism and student ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.) **BR**

Driscoll Continued from page 11

posted statements critical of feminism, homosexuality and “sensitive emasculated” men.

The Acts 29 board’s letter suggested that it could not lean on Mars Hill’s own board for discipline.

“In response, we leaned on the Mars Hill Board of Advisors & Accountability (BoAA) to take the lead in dealing with this matter,” the letter states. “But we no longer believe the BoAA is able to execute the plan of reconciliation originally laid out. Ample time has been given for repentance, change, and restitution, with none forthcoming. We now have to take another course of action.”

As Throckmorton has reported on his blog, the Acts 29 action comes after evangelical leaders Paul Tripp and James MacDonald resigned as members of the church governing board, and ex-members staged a recent protest at the church. The Acts 29 Network is a network of churches attempting to be “gospel-centered” and “missional.” Its mission is to plant new churches with an emphasis on holiness, humility, diversity and evangelism.

Driscoll stepped down as president of Acts 29 in March 2012, appointing Matt Chandler as his successor and moving the headquarters to Dallas, where Chandler is pastor of The Village Church in Flower Mound, Texas.

The Village Church cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention, and Chandler is a well-known speaker at many Southern Baptist events. Many other Acts 29 churches also cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention, though the two organizations have disagreed over issues ranging from alcohol to Calvinism to Driscoll’s demeanor. Earlier this year, Driscoll apologized for missteps in publishing and quit social media for the rest of 2014. **BR**

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