

Roman
Gabriel
Q&A with
Blake Koch
page 6

A W A K E N
Annual meeting to
challenge N.C. Baptists
pages 10-11

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 178 NO. 18 • **BRnow.org**

N.C. church hosts 'iPledge' simulcast on voting

Baptist Press

Leadung pro-family organizations will attempt to motivate and equip Christians to fulfill their citizenship responsibilities – praying for the election and voting – through a live simulcast in September to local churches.

The Family Research Council (FRC) and American Family Association are co-sponsoring “iPledge Sunday: A Call to Faith, Family and Freedom” Sunday, Sept. 9.

The event will originate at 7 p.m. (EDT) from First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., but churches throughout the United States will be able to host a simulcast of the 90-minute service.

Christians also may host the event in their homes.

Among the speakers will be FRC President Tony Perkins, former Republican senator and presidential candidate Rick Santorum, Maryland pastor Harry Jackson

See iPledge page 16

DEPENDING ON GOD

N.C. teen desires to share faith despite horrible accident

By SHAWN HENDRICKS
BR Managing Editor

Kelly Blanton, left, seen here with her mom, Geri, desires to seek God's plan for her life. (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

Kelly Blanton's ventilator drones softly in rhythm as she sits motionless in her wheelchair. The 18-year-old misses horse-back riding along the road outside her home in Taylorsville, N.C.

But, for now, the days when Blanton's mother said she “had the world on a string” are gone. Despite her current circumstances, Blanton, a member of nearby Three Forks Baptist Church, does not question God's plans for her.

“It's not my place to understand everything,” she said. “When [God] wants me to understand why this happened, [and] what's

See Teen page 14

‘THIS IS GOD’S PASSION’

September training to help N.C. churches embrace unengaged, unreached

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

As Old Town Baptist Church continues on a journey that began a year and a half ago to share the gospel among a people group in Southeast Asia, they are discovering just how important it is to reach the nations for Jesus Christ.

“We have been talking a lot about how passionate we are about reaching this unengaged, unreached people group (UUPG),” said Mark Harrison, missions

pastor at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

“But I realize now that God wants to reach them infinitely more. This is not just something that is a passion for the International Mission Board (IMB) or a local church; this is God's passion.”

Old Town will host the Embrace Southeast Asian Peoples USA Training Sept. 17-19.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Office of Great

See Training page 7



People of dozens of nationalities pass each other in London's Stratford area every day. Reaching unengaged and unreached peoples will be the topic of a September event in Winston-Salem. The host church is working with the T people in Southeast Asia. (Photo by Chris Carter)

AROUND THE STATE

Obituaries

OLIVER WINSTEAD “WINT” HALE JR., 69, died July 10 in Greenville.

He served many churches in eastern North Carolina and was a member of Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, and former member of Cashie Baptist Church where he was ordained in 1969. He served Pineola, Ingold, Concord, Merry Hill, Lawrence, Bolivia, Fort Barnwell, Mount Tabor and Ebenezer as pastor and Buckhorn, Bethel and Margretnville as interim pastor. Wint was also a member of the Murfreesboro Volunteer Fire Department as well as its chaplain. He was a member of the Woodmen of the World, the Lions Club and Habitat for Humanity. He was a chaplain for Roanoke-Chowan Hospital and the Ahoskie House.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Spring Hale; daughter, Helen Hale Lasiter of Windsor; sons, Otho William Hale of Pendleton and Joseph Allen Hale of Murfreesboro; sister, Len Hale Joyner of Rocky Mount; and five grandchildren.

Memorials to: Murfreesboro Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 422, Murfreesboro, NC 27855.

JAMES IRVING MURPHY, 77, died Aug. 5.

A graduate of Wake Forest University, Murphy received a doctorate from Southeastern Seminary.

He was president of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in 1985 and was in the ministry for 52 years.

He is survived by his wife, Nell Skaggs Murphy; children, Jimmy Murphy and Nancy M. Tyler; two brothers, Milton Murphy and Ronald Murphy; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: Woltz Hospice Home, 945 Zephyr Road, Dobson, NC 27017, or to Union Grove Baptist Cemetery Fund, 2401 Nebo Road, Yadkinville, NC 27055.

JESSIE “PEGGY” WALKER BRANCH of Cary died Aug. 6 in Henderson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Douglas M. Branch Sr., who was general director and secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

She was on the Board of Directors for Southeastern Seminary and was a founding charter member and first ordained woman deacon in 1969 of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, Cary, where she continued to provide leadership for the church.

She is survived by son, Douglas M. Branch Jr. of Littleton; daughters, Minnie Frances Branch of Asheville and the Cayman Islands; and Jessica Diana Branch

of Jonesboro, Tenn.; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, 110 SE Maynard Road, Cary, NC 27511.

JOHN E. ROBERTS, 85, died Aug. 15 at a Greenville, S.C., retirement community.

Roberts was a graduate of Gardner-Webb College (now university), Furman University and Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. He was a teacher in Gastonia before working at the Gastonia Gazette and Gardner-Webb College.

He was public relations director for Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in Thomasville and editor of its publication, *Charity and Children*. He joined the staff of *The Baptist Courier*, South Carolina's news journal in 1965 as associate editor and business manager. He succeeded S.H. Jones as editor in 1966, serving in the post until 1996 when he retired. He was the longest-serving editor in the 143-year history of the *Courier*.

He was president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1979-80. He also was chairman of trustees for the former Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, and president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, which now is the Association of State Baptist Papers. He had also been a trustee at Gardner-Webb and was a veteran of the United States Army having served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest citation for a civilian, by then-Gov. Carroll Campbell in 1992.

He is survived by his wife Helen, three daughters, Jonna R. Hamrick, Jill R. Gibbs, and Julie R. Freeman, all of Greenville; three sons, Wayne Roberts of Lexington, Mark Roberts of Greer, Glenn Roberts of Greenville; a sister, Bonnie R. Price of North Carolina; and eight grandchildren.

Memorials to: First Baptist Church Greenville, 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601, or The Paladin Club c/o Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613.

MARK LEE CHANEY, age 48, of Boone, died Aug. 20 at Watauga Medical Center.

A graduate of Appalachian State University and Southeastern Seminary, he was the senior pastor at Howards Creek Baptist Church, Boone, and had served as youth pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church, Monroe, and associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Boone.

He is survived by his wife, Mitzi

Miller Chaney; son, Christian Chaney of Sanford; daughter, Rebekah Chaney of Boone; brother, Tim Chaney of Monroe; step-father; Gary Sizemore of Monroe; and mother and father in law, John and Wanda Miller of Indian Trail.

Memorials to: Eternal Kingdom Growth, in care of Howards Creek Baptist Church, 240 Howards Creek Church Road, Boone, NC 28607.

Staff changes

TODD KNOCK has been called by New Hope Baptist Church, Charlotte, as senior pastor. Knock was pastor of Kaumana Drive Baptist Church, Hilo, Hawaii.

Holly Hill Baptist Church, Burlington, has called **KENNY BLACK** as senior pastor. Black was pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Liberty.

Homecoming/anniversary

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, Charlotte, kicks off its 75th anniversary with a year-long celebration beginning Sept. 30 at homecoming. Special events will take place throughout the year

such as celebrating former leaders and directors, celebrating former members, and celebrating members that are now in ministry. New Hope, known for its involvement in local children's ministry, will also be sponsoring the Agape Dental Ministry House. To learn about upcoming events for New Hope's anniversary year, visit newhopecharlotte.net. Call the office at (704) 537-6340 or e-mail nhbccchar@att.net.

GuideStone wants to change ministry assignment

SAN DIEGO (BP) – GuideStone Financial Resources trustees have approved a recommendation to change the Southern Baptist entity's ministry assignment to make its mutual funds available to Southern Baptist and other evangelical church members. GuideStone representatives will make a report to the SBC Executive Committee in mid-September with the intention of presenting the recommendation to messengers at the SBC annual meeting next June in Houston. GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins talked about this and other updates during the July 30-31 meeting in San Diego. **B3**

#bsnc12

AWAKEN

2012 Annual Meeting
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

This year's annual meeting will be focused on spiritual awakening. A prayer toolkit (right) is being mailed to your church to help you prepare for the November 12-13 meeting.

We're asking North Carolina Baptists to commit to praying during October for spiritual awakening. Sign-up at ncannualmeeting.org.

Will you accept the challenge to Pray for 30 Days?
ncannualmeeting.org

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield, Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive • Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptists.org
The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Mission Offering.

North Carolina Baptists
Caring. Sharing. Doing.

CHURCH NEWS

**Deep Springs Baptist Church, Peachland**

On Aug. 12, members of Deep Springs Baptist Church, Peachland, celebrated 150 years at its homecoming. With just under 300 people in attendance – including four former pastors, Bill Taylor, Larry Arrowood, Billy Crabtree and Brian Biggers; two other pastors who are former members, Steve Hill and Larry Allen; and former interim pastor Leon Smith. A slideshow of photographs taken throughout Deep Springs' ministry was shown during a fellowship meal. The members also held a special service Aug. 19, filling a time capsule with items related to the church's history. The capsule is set to be opened in 2062. At left, the choir sings during the special celebration.

**Bethel Baptist Church, Hertford**

At left, a group of seven youth and nine adults from Bethel Baptist Church, Hertford, went to Hines, W.Va., Aug. 1-4 to conduct an "Amazing Wonders" Vacation Bible School (VBS) for Hines Baptist Church. In the first VBS the church has held in 15 years, 24 children attended from the community. Pictured is the group from Bethel, along with Hines members and children who went to VBS. Bethel plans to share its Christmas in August offering to continue its support of Hines Baptist. Following VBS, the West Virginia Baptist Association provided school supplies and backpacks for all the children who attended.

Fraley Memorial Baptist Church, Gastonia

Warner Doles and his wife, Glenda, celebrated 20 years as pastor of Fraley Memorial Baptist Church, Gastonia, on June 10.

Executive Committee approves committee appointments

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) met Aug. 16, via conference call for a brief meeting to hear and approve committee reports.

The EC approved the following recommendations from the Committee on Nominations related to appointments on the BSC Board of Directors: Russ Reaves, Immanuel Baptist Church, Piedmont Association, to fill the 2013 unexpired term of Doug Davis; Jonathan Boyd Sr., True Vine Restoration Ministries, Metrolina Association, to fill the 2015 unexpired term of Tim Jernigan; and Steve Williams, Pine Branch Baptist Church, Mitchell Association, to fill the 2014 unexpired term of Danny Hedgepeth.

The Committee on Nominations also recommended Jim Dyer, Christ Church in Raleigh, to fill the 2014 unexpired term of Wiley Doby on the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina Board of Trustees.

Beverly Volz, BSC director of accounting services, brought the financial report. Cooperative Program receipts through

July 31 total \$17,062,713.26, which is 1.84 percent behind as compared to the same time last year.

Articles and Bylaws Committee chairman Bartley Wooten shared that the Committee recommends no proposed amendments to the BSC articles of incorporation but will bring to the BSC Board of Directors in September three motions for proposed amendments to the bylaws.

The three motions will address the following: first, limitations for non-Board members of special Board committees to serve on other committees and boards; second, requirements of individuals who have been elected to serve full terms on Convention boards and committees, but did not serve the full term, in order that they may be considered for election to another term of service; and third, a change to reflect the title change of North Carolina Baptist Hospital's School of Pastoral Prayer to the Division of Faith and Health Ministries.

The next EC meeting will be held Sept. 25 in conjunction with the BSC Board of Directors meeting Sept. 25-26 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheville. **BR**

IN THEATRES NATIONWIDE ON SEPTEMBER 14



LAST OUNCE OF COURAGE

A STORY OF FAMILY, FAITH AND FREEDOM.

BRING YOUR FAMILY.
TAKE A STAND FOR FREEDOM.

Find theatre & ticket information at
www.standusa.com/lastounceofcourage



PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN
RATED PG FOR THEMATIC ELEMENTS, SOME
WAR IMAGES AND BRIEF SMOKING



Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. All submissions will be subjected to *BR* styles and will be edited. Send to dianna@BRnow.org, (919) 847-2127.

Alexis: Doing, supporting missions, two sides of same coin

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

Missions keeps Alexis Baptist Church a lively and outward-focused congregation, said Pastor Sandy M. Marks, and that means both going out to do missions and supporting missions financially.

Alexis members have long equated missions support with Cooperative Program support, he added.

Alexis is a 1,000-member church with attendance that averages 310 to 340. Visit the brick church building and you'll think you're in the country.

But most of the area farms have folded, and closed textile plants mean surrounding villages are no longer mill villages as they were a few dozen years ago. Marks said the Alexis community has become a bedroom community for Charlotte, whose downtown is about a 25-minute drive away.

"A lot of people commute to Charlotte or they work with one of the Duke Power facilities, or they work as schoolteachers or nurses," he said.

The onslaught of subdivisions and strip malls that mark Charlotte's urban sprawl to the west, south and east was headed to this area before the economic recession slowed down development.

Marks has served the church for nine years, long enough to get a good grasp of the area and the church. He used to serve as pastor of First Baptist Church, Spring Lake.

The pastor acknowledges that, seen from a distance, "Alexis Baptist may be just a blip on the radar here in Gaston County," but he

insisted, "We have the vision and, I think, the ability to influence the entire world."

Through its Cooperative Program (CP) support, Alexis has a part in supporting thousands of missionaries and many ministry efforts at home and overseas. The church routinely commits 14 percent of its budget for CP.

CP support is not new for the church. "The Cooperative Program has a long history here. So it's an easy sell on the giving part," he said.

Still, Marks incorporates CP support into his preaching and teaching; new members joining from a non-Southern Baptist background learn about CP from Marks, along with basic Christian doctrine and church life.

He stresses that giving to missions is not enough: "Taking part in missions is part of our discipleship teaching here. We try to make it an expectation with everybody. We want it to become a part

of who we are, a part of our culture, a part of our DNA."

"Giving to missions and doing missions are two sides of the same coin," he often tells members.

Doing missions became a priority during 2011 after he challenged all the members to make a personal mission trip.

He hoped as many as 60 or 70 members might respond.

He was floored when 124 people signed up for mission trips during the year – more than a third of the church.

Last year Marks led a 14-member team to Ukraine, where they conducted Bible clubs for kids in villages, coordinated through the Baptist seminary.

A second trip is set for this summer. Other mission trips took place within North Carolina.

Leading members on mission trips is consistent with the Bible's missions mandate, he said.

But doing what the Bible teaches on missions also brings other results, beyond the ministry accomplished on trips, he said.

First, he said missions has deepened the fellowship among members.

"On all our trips we make sure we

have devotions together, testimony times together. You just learn so much about [your] own people. We had people in the church say they have basically grown up with each other in the church, but they did not really get to know each other until they went on a mission trip together. It has been beneficial in that regard. It has deepened the fel-

lowship of our congregation," he said.

Because Alexis supports many ministries through the Cooperative Program, they have access to many long-term part-

nerships for hands-on missions work, Marks noted.

"The Cooperative Program provides a structure in which volunteers can personally take part. They don't have to spend six months in preparation to set up a missions situation. They can basically take off a week and just go. We may go one time, but other Baptists have a history there and will continue to have work there when we leave," he said.

Further, hands-on missions involvement is even more important for today's young people, Marks believes.

"I think with the young people coming up in the church, the key to making the Cooperative Program a continuing priority is them experiencing missions themselves, because once they go and once they get plugged in, missions becomes a burden on their hearts, something they must do," he explained.

"To give and not go would be insufficient, and to go and not give would be insufficient," he said.

"That's what we have experienced here at Alexis.

"People really become more dedicated to missions and give more to missions when they have been involved in it."

Along with CP, Alexis also supports the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Alexis also supports the North Carolina Missions

Offering (NCMO) and some members are heavily involved with the work of N.C. Baptist Men that NCMO supports.

"We are super excited about the work of N.C. Baptist Men," Marks said.

Dollie Noa, the church's director of children and education, serves on the board of N.C. Baptist Men and is involved with the Deep Impact missions outreach program at Charlotte this year. The church has also sent teams to serve at the Red Springs Mission Camp, operated by N.C. Baptist Men in Robeson County.

One retired Alexis member now works virtually full-time in the Alexis area, helping residents with construction and repair projects.

A second man in his 40s is moving toward a similar full-time missions role, but will include service with the disaster relief program of N.C. Baptist Men.

"These are examples of people in our church who have seen the necessity of missions and answered the call to missions," Marks said.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Dollie Noa was featured in the Biblical Recorder May 26 for her involvement with North Carolina Baptist Men.) **BR**

"Taking part in missions is part of our discipleship teaching here.

We try to make it an expectation with everybody. We want it to become a part of who we are, a part of our culture, a part of our DNA."

– Sandy M. Marks



Pastor Sandy M. Marks believes that while some may consider Alexis Baptist Church as "just a blip on the radar," the church has "the vision and, I think, the ability to influence the entire world." (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)



A fire July 29 left North Beaver Baptist Church members scrambling for a place to meet. Christian neighbors have shared space with them while they figure out the next step. (Contributed photo)

Church moves forward after fire

North Beaver Baptist Church's Rick Miller sees the congregation he pastors as looking to the future.

On July 29, Miller was awakened by a phone call notifying him that the church building was burning. With evidence of a door being kicked in and fires set in five places, Miller said members are focused on serving God in the coming months.

"We've got a big God, and we're excited to see what He can do," Miller said.

The West Jefferson congregation lost its sanctuary and education building, which included classrooms, offices, library, nursery and a fellowship hall.

The thieves also stole money from the fund where children give money to help a variety of ministries.

The church, which averages 75 on Sundays, met in a funeral home with

little interruption to its schedule and has begun gathering at nearby Bald Mountain Baptist Church. A ladies exercise class has also been moved, and Wednesday night services have been held at a local fire department.

Three families in the church had firefighters who fought the blaze. So far, the only event that has been postponed is Thunder Sunday, a special service with motorcyclists.

The local police department said there is a suspect but no other information has been released in the investigation.

Contributions can be sent to Rebuild North Beaver, c/o Jessica Yearick, 278 Country Mtn. Lane, West Jefferson, NC 28694. Call Miller at (336) 649-0395.

Visit northbeaver.org or the church's Facebook page. **BR**

Calvin Miller – author, pastor, professor – dies at 75

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

Seminary professor, theologian and best-selling Christian author Calvin A. Miller died Aug. 19 of complications following open heart surgery. He was 75.

A former Southern Baptist pastor and professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Miller had served from 1999-2007 at Sam-

ford University's Beeson Divinity School, most recently as professor of preaching and pastoral ministry. The author of more than 40 books, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry, he was described as a writer of love letters to the Lord.

A reviewer of Miller's best-selling 1975 trilogy *The Singer* described Miller as a "troubadour, singing a love song to his Lord," Beeson dean Timothy George wrote on Beeson's website.

"Calvin Miller had a palpable love for Jesus Christ and his church," George wrote, "and he will be greatly missed both here at Beeson and throughout the Body of Christ."

Miller, in his most recent book *Letters to Heaven*, wrote letters of love to Christians who died before him, including C.S. Lewis, whose writing style was said to be similar to Miller's.

Life is Mostly Edges, Miller's memoir, was published in 1998.

He was founding pastor of Westside

Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., in 1966, and led that congregation for 25 years, shepherding it from just 10 members to more than 2,500, according to published reports. He pastored Plattsmouth Baptist Church in Nebraska from 1961-66.

At Southwestern, he was professor of communication and ministry studies and writer-in-residence from 1991-98 before joining Beeson's faculty.


Miller held a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and M.Div. and D.Min. degrees from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Survivors include his wife Barbara Joyce Miller and their children, Melanie Sloger and Timothy Miller; sisters, Frankie, Helen, Shirley and Bonnie; and two grandsons.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Diana Chandler is Baptist Press' staff writer.) **BR**



CALVIN MILLER




Bobby Rankin October 26-27, 2012

Worthy of the Calling


An event designed for women's ministry leaders and their leadership team

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, NC
www.embracenc.org



Embrace

Leadership Training

 **North Carolina Baptists**
Gathering Young

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

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

Kivett's - Your Source for Renewal

Complete Renovations • Refinish
New Pews • Steeples • Stained Glass
Steeple Cleaning • Baptistries

www.kivetts.com
KIVETT'S INC.
The Largest Family Owned
Church Furniture Manufacturer in the US
1-800-334-1139 • Clinton, NC

5-YEAR/60,000-MILE BODY & CHASSIS WARRANTY STANDARD WITH EVERY NEW BUS PURCHASE

Carpenter Bus Sales has gone the extra mile again in providing a unique 5-year/60,000-mile body & chassis warranty* with every new bus they sell!

An option like this would normally add \$3,000 to the price of a bus. With Carpenter Bus, it comes standard.



Call 866-750-5658
or visit us online at
CarpenterBus.com

*Details of this Limited Warranty at www.carpenterbus.com/5-60



NASCAR driver shares passion for racing, impacting others

Nationwide Driver Blake Koch has created a major fan base in both the NASCAR community and the faith-based market over the past three years. After only three short years, Koch went full time into the NASCAR Nationwide Series. In his first 10 career NASCAR Nationwide Series races, Blake Koch earned five top-25 finishes. Koch finished 18th in points and finished “Runner Up” Rookie of the year.

He has toured the nation sharing his faith and has been a keynote speaker at numerous outreach events including Promise Keepers. Koch’s ambition is to promote the importance of God’s influence in the American family, while also encouraging everyone to rise up and register to vote in this November’s election. You can learn more at riseupandregister.com.

I had the opportunity to speak with Koch about this and more. It was a pleasure to talk to a young up-and-coming driver and strong Christian with a heart for the next generation. He is passionate about getting young adults to follow God.

Q: In talking to you I sense a great deal of appreciation for what God has done for you and the great position you are in to compete on the Nationwide NASCAR Series. What can you tell me about that?

A: I feel completely blessed to have the opportunity. I thank God for the opportunity to qualify, and run one lap on one of these tracks in front of these (NASCAR) fans, completely blessed!

Q: You were a champion motocross racer for years, and unlike so many, you started your NASCAR career very late at the age of 22. How did you decide to move out of motocross and get involved in driving cars?

A: Motocross was my life growing up. I wanted to be the best I could be as a pro motocross racer. Everything I lived for was to be the best at motocross, I lived slept, and ate it ... of course injuries like football, as you know, are a big part of the sport.



ROMAN GABRIEL
Sports Q & A

Injuries can set you back in a physical sport like this for a while. ... I had two ACL knee surgeries which set me back. Then when you came back and these guys you beat are faster and ahead of you, and winning races. ... It really was difficult for me with overcoming the injuries. ... The big key in the sport is staying healthy. That separates [the] good from the best in motocross.

I decided to give it up (motocross) to go to college. ... I then had the opportunity to get in a racecar because my stepdad bought one and offered me the opportunity, and I took it; it was awesome.

Q: NASCAR is unique in that it is such a public faith and family sport. What are your thoughts on the influence of Motor Racing Outreach (MRO) on drivers and their families on the NASCAR circuit?

A: MRO is such a big influence on our personal life, our families, to the fans. We are just completely blessed to have such great support from a organization like MRO ... prerace meetings, driver Bible studies, family prayer, counseling, etc. available to us. You can learn more about them on the MRO website at go2mro.com, any support is greatly appreciated. ...

Even if you’re not a Christian you still want that prayer to make sure someone’s watching over you going that fast and that close to the wall.

Q: You say on your website, “My ambition is to promote God back into the American family and everyone to rise up and register to vote.” What message would you like to deliver to young people when you go in a church?

A: It’s an easy message. Put God first in your

life. Pray about the decisions you make. ... I start my day off this way: “God take control of my life, my heart, my mind, and my actions. Put me in the situations that you want me in, open the doors you want open, and slam the doors you want shut. That’s pretty simply said. Basically, God take control.”

... As you’re well aware, there’s a battle that we all see and all go through. ...

The more that athletes and others can get out there and be a motivational and spiritual influence and hope, the better. ... Giving kids hope is crucial as they are our next generation of leaders. They will be influential people, many running the country in 30 years. ... We need to get a hold of them now. Let them know that there’s hope in God, and that they can do anything they set their mind to, especially

when we put God first in our life.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Roman Gabriel III is president of Sold Out Ministries. He hosts Sold Out Sports heard Saturday nights 8 p.m. EST on American Family Radio, and is an evangelist and motivational speaker. Contact at (910) 431-6483 or email soldoutrg3@gmail.com. His website is soldouttv.com. Go to blakekoch.com to learn more about Koch, and how you could have him come and speak at your church.) **BR**

“The more that athletes and others can get out there and be a motivational and spiritual influence and hope, the better ... Giving kids hope is crucial ...”
– Blake Koch



Blake Koch, a NASCAR driver, tries to lap up support for November’s election. His No. 41 car carries the Rise Up and Register logo, encouraging people to register to vote. Koch is also a Christian who wants to inspire a younger generation to aspire to a better future. An injury cut short his dreams of being a champion motocross racer. He didn’t start racing cars until he was 22. (Photos from blakekoch.com)

N.C. seminary's Akin named to Calvinism advisory team

By MICHAEL FOUST | Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page has announced the members of an advisory team who will help him craft a strategic plan to bring together various groups within the convention who hold different opinions on the issue of Calvinism.

The 16-member group planned to conduct its first meeting Aug. 29-30 in Nashville, Tenn. after the *Biblical Recorder's* presstime for this issue. (See *BR* now.org as well as the next issue for updates on this story.)

"My goal is to develop a strategy whereby people of various theological persuasions can purposely work together in missions and evangelism," Page told Baptist Press. The list was announced Aug. 15.

At some point in the coming weeks and months, he said, "most likely there will be the crafting of a statement regarding the strategy on how we can work together."

"I want to be very clear: This is not an attempt to redo the theological consensus that we have in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000," Page said. "It is practical in nature, not doctrinal."

Page emphasized that the group is "not an official committee" of the convention. He also said additional names could be added to the group.

"It's a group of helpers helping Frank Page come up with some sort of strategy document," he said.

David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., helped Page put together the list. "We wanted people who truly represented the various constituencies involved in this theological discussion," said Page, who in May and then in June publicly said he was working on naming such a group.

Following are the members of the advisory team:

- Daniel Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
- Mark Dever, senior pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington D.C.
- David Dockery, president, Union University, Jackson, Tenn.
- Leo Endel, executive director, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.
- Ken Fentress, senior pastor, Montrose Baptist Church, Rockville, Md.
- Timothy George, dean, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.
- Eric Hankins, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Oxford, Miss.

● Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

● Tammi Ledbetter, homemaker and layperson, Inglewood Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas.

● Steve Lemke, provost, director of the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

● Fred Luter, senior pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans; president, Southern Baptist Convention.

● R. Albert Mohler Jr., president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

● Paige Patterson, president, South-

western Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

● Stephen Rummage, senior pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla.

● Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

● Jimmy Scroggins, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.

In early August, Page was part of a panel discussion where he and other panelists said Southern Baptists should and can unite, despite differences on the issue of Calvinism.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Michael Foust is associate editor of Baptist Press.) ■■

Training Continued from page 1

Commission Partnerships and the IMB will sponsor the event.

North Carolina Baptists are on a journey to embrace 250 UUPGs by the year 2021. Churches ready to engage a people group are encouraged to attend the training, as well as churches already involved in working with UUPGs. Harrison said the event is also helpful to churches praying about how to get involved, as the training offers strategies for how to identify and reach unreached people groups living in the United States.

Training topics include mission strategy, strengthening the church task force, researching and praying for UUPGs, field training, effective witnessing methods, and learning from past mistakes. The deadline to register is Sept. 10.

When Harrison led a team from Old Town to work among a group they call the "T people" this summer, he was reminded of God's great love for this people group.

For example, he saw how God brought an entire family to faith and is now using them to witness to others.

This particular family left their country about seven years ago and moved to a neighboring country in order to find work.

During that time the daughter met a Christian who invited her to a worship service. The daughter came to faith in Jesus Christ, and one by one, so did her mother and siblings.

The family recently moved back for the purpose of evangelizing and discipling in their home country – the T people.

"Seven years ago God began a process to reach the T people. God already has a strategy and plan. It reaffirms for me that God wants this done more than we do," Harrison said. "We need to be sensitive to see where He is working. We need to partner with Him."

During the summer trip Harrison and the team watched, as time after time, God proved His faithfulness.

"God just ordered our steps," he said. "This was a very important trip. Everywhere we went we met T people. At one restaurant every person on the wait staff belonged to the T people. At another restaurant, the same thing happened. And one day we went to a dock to visit some fishermen and they were all T people."

The team followed up with people who made professions of faith during their last few visits. They had an opportunity to share the gospel and one couple, a Muslim man and his Buddhist wife, both prayed to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

The team also participated in a commissioning service for two men from a different people group in the country who feel called to live among the T people as missionaries. They are the first missionaries to the T people.

In October, Harrison and a team will help introduce these men to believers they have met in the T villages.

"We're not as much the strategists as we are the facilitators," he said. "We are trying to connect with people and help connect the people who are already there. It's very important to keep on praying for God to show us what He wants us to do."

Since beginning this journey of embracing an unreached, unengaged people group, Harrison has prayed that Old Town would persevere to the end and be faithful to do all God asks them to do. "God has just touched the hearts of our people. They're praying hard for the T people," he said.

For more information about the training event, or to learn more about Old Town's journey with the T people, visit www.ncbaptist.org/gcp. ■■

Matthew 16: 24 – 25

BE

HIS HEART / HIS HANDS / HIS VOICE

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it."

imb

MISSIONARY APPOINTMENT SERVICE
Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 • 7 p.m.
First Baptist Church
 312 Fifth Avenue West • Hendersonville, NC 28739
 For more information, call (800) 999-3113, option 3.

Association uses camp to teach God's Word, show His love

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

When Ashley Ricks graduates next May her attention will turn to wedding planning, moving and job searching, and for the first time in a long time her summer plans will not include Camp Cale.

Ricks, a senior at Campbell University, first came to Camp Cale as a 12-year-old camper. "I could see the love that the counselors had for the Lord and for the campers. I remember, it was my first year here, and the director asked me if I had ever thought about being a counselor," she said.

From that point on, Ricks found a home at Cale. She came as a camper four years and a counselor six years, serving during high school and college. She served one year as lead counselor and one year as program coordinator.

This camp in the small eastern North Carolina town of Hertford, situated on the shore of the Perquimans River, is making a big impact in the lives of campers and counselors like Ricks.

"Without this experience I don't know who I'd be today. I can't imagine my summers anywhere else," Ricks said.

As a counselor Ricks has done it all, from leading devotions with the girls in her cabin and sharing her testimony, to learning to clean a bathhouse, teaching tract times such as the high ropes course, and managing the snack shop.

Most importantly, she has learned how to be a spiritual leader and how to keep her focus on Jesus.

"I had to grow spiritually," she said. "I had to fill myself up so I could give it all out to the campers. It's not about us. It's all about the campers and showing them Christ."

After 10 years, Cale is still as much a joy to Ricks as when she first arrived. "I want to help the campers love Cale as much as I do. I've seen campers come back like I did to serve as junior counselors and senior counselors," she said. "God has called us to serve Him, and we should go out and serve whether it's at a camp, in your hometown or across the world."

Camp director Matt Thomas encourages his counselors to always look for the "teachable moments" and to build relationships with the campers so they can have an opportunity to share the gospel.

"Camp would not have the same impact if we didn't share Christ with the campers," Thomas said.

Cale offers fun activities, such as archery, swimming and kayaking, but the priority is helping children and youth grow in their relationship with Christ.

"This camp lets them focus in a safe environment on God's Word and encourages them to go back home and live for the Lord," Thomas said.

This year's summer camp theme was "Creation Labs," based on Psalm 51:10. "We want the campers to know that God is the creator of all things, and they are His special creation," Thomas said. "God wants to have a relationship with them."

Campers participate in two worship services each day and learn key scripture passages throughout the week.

Tracy Smith, pastor of youth and evangelism at Rocky Hock Baptist Church in Edenton and member of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Board of Directors, spent a week at Cale this summer as camp pastor.



Ashley Ricks, a Campbell University student, spent her summer at Camp Cale – again. Ricks has been coming to Camp Cale since she was 12 years old and has served on staff for several years in a variety of positions. Here, she oversees some children on the ropes course. (BSC photo by Melissa Lilley)



While Camp Cale Director Matt Thomas wants the children who come to have fun, he also encourages the counselors to look for "teachable moments" to share spiritual truths. Cale is in the midst of a capital campaign to expand and improve its offerings to its association, Chowan Baptist Association, and visiting churches. (Camp Cale photo)

"In this area I see a lot of religious people, but I see people who aren't fully committed and surrendered and walking closely with the Lord," he said. "The need is huge for a place like Cale. We need to get away from religiosity and be what God has commanded us to be; to teach these campers how to be participants in the Great Commission."

Smith is encouraged to know that at Cale the Word of God is not watered down or compromised, and youth are challenged to stand firm in the Word.

"In the years to come, you will see great things come from this place," he said.

Although Cale's main outreach is summer camp for grades 2-12, the long-term vision is for Cale to offer more opportunities for families and for conferencing, such as marriage conferences and men's and women's

events. Construction on a new conference center building is underway and will be ready next year. The next phase in the camp's physical development will include additional lodging facilities.

A ministry of the Chowan Baptist Association, Cale spans 10 counties and 68 churches. Thomas said expanding Cale's ministry has been, and will continue to be, made possible in large part through the support of local churches.

Cale's ministry is also made possible through the dedication of staff like Ricks and Thomas who want to see the next generation grow up in the knowledge of the Lord.

Andrew Young came back to Cale this summer for his fourth summer as a counselor. He is grateful for the chance to pour into the lives of the youth, just as others did for him when he was their age.

Throughout the camp weeks he shared the gospel with the campers in his cabin, explaining concepts such as sin, forgiveness, grace and mercy, and let campers ask questions and shared his testimony of salvation.

Young said a former camper recently contacted him and thanked him for sharing his testimony several years ago at camp.

"The staff to camper relationship is one of the special things about Cale," he said.

"I never realized the impact God allowed me to have on the campers while I was here. Sometimes you don't know the impact you have until much later."

A fall fundraiser is planned Oct. 20. Called "For Such a Time as This," the capital campaign banquet starts at 6 p.m. Send donations to 377 Camp Cale Road, Hertford, NC 27944.

Call (252) 264-2513. To learn more about Cale visit www.campcale.com. ■



PREACH THE WORD

TWENTY TWELVE PASTORS' CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 11 + 12
 LAWDALE BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NC

II TIMOTHY 4:2
 PREACH THE WORD; BE READY IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON;
 REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT, WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND INSTRUCTION

WWW.NCANNUALMEETING.ORG/PREACH

LEE PIGG PRESIDENT
SCOTT FAW VICE PRESIDENT

SPEAKERS
GREG MATHIS BOBBY WELCH JOE BROWN DON BOULDIN
MIKE WHITSON MAC BRUNSON MARK HARRIS

WORSHIP
TIM BLANKENBECKLER & THE HOPEWELL CHOIR
MARK WALKER & THE LAWDALE CHOIR

BREAD OF LIFE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11
 6 PM - 8 PM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12
 9 AM - 3 PM



Current Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) officers – from left: Mark Harris, president; C.J. Bordeaux Sr., first vice president; and Timmy D. Blair Sr., second vice president – will all be re-nominated for office at the BSC annual meeting in November. (Contributed photos)

BSC leaders garner re-nominations for election

By **DIANNA L. CAGLE** | *BR* Assistant Managing Editor

The three top leaders for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will be re-nominated at the annual meeting in November to their respective posts.

“Mark [Harris] has been a tremendous leader in our Convention, serving as first and second vice president and this past year as president,” said Marty Jacumin, senior pastor of Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Harris, who is pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, will be re-nominated, along with C.J. Bordeaux Sr. and Timmy D. Blair Sr., Nov. 12-13 during the BSC annual meeting, which will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center.

“[Mark] has traveled this state listening to the concerns of N.C. Baptists,” Jacumin said. “We are fortunate to have Mark serve us as president, and I look forward to his continued leadership.”

Bobby Blanton, pastor of Lake Norman Baptist Church in Huntersville, praises Bordeaux’s servant leadership as first vice president.

“As an officer of this Convention, C.J. has not only assisted the leadership of our current president, Mark Harris, but has supported fully the work of our executive director-treasurer, Milton Hollifield,”

Blanton said. “I think his faithful service is deserving of another opportunity.”

Bordeaux pastors Gorman Baptist Church in Durham.

Calling Blair “a loyal Southern Baptist, a Bible preacher and a soul winner,” Scott Faw, pastor of Moon’s Chapel Baptist Church in Siler City, plans to re-nominate Blair as second vice president.

Blair has been pastor of Piney Grove Chapel Baptist in Angier for 24 years.

“He has consistently led his church over the years, and the church has seen steady growth,” Faw said. “Timmy is a friend to pastors and will serve North Carolina Baptists well this next year.”

About election, officers

Officers are elected for a one-year term and may be elected for two consecutive terms.

The president presides over the deliberations of the Convention and has responsibility of other duties as directed by the Convention. The president and vice presidents also serve as a nominating committee bringing recommendations for members of the Committee on Nominations to the Board for their election at its January meeting. The president and vice presidents also serve as ex-officio voting members of all Convention committees and of the Board and its Executive Committee. The Convention officers serve as ex-officio non-voting members of all subcommittees of the Convention committees and all committees and subcommittees of the Board.

Currently no other nominations have been announced in this year’s election. Visit BRnow.org or ncannualmeeting.com for more information and coverage leading up to and including the election. **BR**

“We are fortunate to have Mark ... as president, and I look forward to his continued leadership.”
– Marty Jacumin

PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS
NEW PEWS CARPETING
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
1-800-289-7397
Church Interiors Inc.
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialists
High Point, North Carolina
www.churchinteriors.com

[nc]connect

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina  ncbaptist.org  facebook.com/ncbaptist  twitter.com/ncbaptist

Our Vision “By God’s grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

AWAKEN

by Melissa Lilley

North Carolina Baptists will be challenged to respond to the call for spiritual awakening during this year’s Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting. The theme for the meeting, to be held Nov. 12-13 at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center, is “Awaken,” based on Romans 13:11-14.

BSC leadership is praying that this meeting of North Carolina Baptists will encourage revival among churches across the state as believers are awakened to the need to return to God in holiness so that they will be ready and able to do the work of His Kingdom.

“Awakening is about what God is doing among His people. It is about His people returning to Him in repentance, and in a cleansed heart and life,” said Chris Schofield, BSC director of the Office of Prayer. “It is about God moving in a powerful way to see that His people will be in step with what He is doing in His world to redeem a lost and dying humanity.”

About 5.6 million people in North Carolina, and 1.6 billion people throughout the world, do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. A spiritual awakening among believers is necessary if lost people are ever going to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Every day, North Carolina pastors are confronted with the reality of spiritual darkness.

“There’s a spiritual famine in most peoples’ lives and in their family’s lives. They come to church on Sunday, but what happens on Sunday has no connection with their lives,” said David Turner, pastor of

Corinth Baptist Church in Elizabeth City.

Turner is praying that North Carolina Baptists will come to understand that they need God to guide every area of their life, and that they must live every day to tell others about the gospel.

“No matter where you go in a small community you’re going to find good people; kind people. But that’s part of the problem.

“People are known around here as being good and decent people, but not lost or saved,” he said. “Please join us in praying that we would have a spiritual awakening for the need of Jesus Christ in the lives of people.”

One reason Turner believes a spiritual famine exists is the lack of emphasis on discipleship in local churches.

“We’ve said come and join us at church, but we haven’t encouraged people to join the Kingdom of God,” he said. “There is a vast difference in being a member of a church and a follower of Jesus Christ. To be a follower of Jesus means to do what He says we should do as believers. We don’t understand that discipleship is an ongoing process.”

Turner also attributes the great need for spiritual awakening to the church becoming more inward focused than outward focused.

“We have gotten so consumed with our own needs that we have lost sight of the spiritual need for God to work through us to make a difference in this world. We tend to see what we can get out of the church, rather than what we can put into it,” Turner said.

Jairo Contreras, pastor of Cristo Vive

Baptist Church and New Hope Baptist Church in Rutherfordton, also sees the need for spiritual awakening.

He has seen the power of God change lives, and wants to see more people awakened to what it means to live for Him.

Contreras has joined with other pastors and churches in the area to host community-wide prayer revival meetings. The results have been more than they imagined, as hundreds of people join to pray for revival.

“People talk about it and how much it impacts their lives. We see the Spirit of God moving,” he said.

“It’s not a magic button or program. It is spiritual awakening in peoples’ hearts. It’s a conscious choice. You have to be looking for it.”

Through these prayer rallies, people are crying out to God for His mercy and for His Holy Spirit to transform communities. Contreras is encouraged to know that he is not alone in praying for spiritual awakening, and appreciates partnering with other pastors and leaders.

“We want to plant the seed and then see the fruit,” he said. “We can intercede. God can change peoples’ minds and hearts.”

To learn how you can begin praying for spiritual awakening, visit ncannualmeeting.org and sign up for email prayer prompts. To receive text message prayer prompts, text the word “Awaken” to 313131.

Use your smart phone app to scan the QR code to the right and visit the Annual Meeting website to sign up.



Connect now

Spiritual Awakening Videos:



Watch testimonials from North Carolina Baptists about the need for spiritual awakening.

 vimeo.com/channels/bscnc12

Share your story with others:





Tell us how you see God at work. Your story will encourage others to pray for spiritual awakening. You may also tweet us: [@ncbaptist](https://twitter.com/ncbaptist), hashtag [#bscnc12](https://twitter.com/bscnc12).

 ncannualmeeting.org/share

Request a speaker:



A group of North Carolina Baptists is available to share more information about Awaken with your church. Send us an email with your request for a speaker.

Email

 awaken@ncbaptist.org

The time to awaken is now



North Carolina Annual Meeting 2012

ncannualmeeting.org

This year the theme for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting is “Awaken,” based on Romans 13:11-14. We are praying that this gathering will mark the beginning of a great revival and spiritual awakening among North Carolina Baptists all across the state.

In these verses, Paul speaks about the urgency for believers to return to God in holiness so that they will be ready to do the work of the Kingdom. He calls believers to awaken out of sleep because salvation is near.

The time is urgent, because night is almost over and the day is upon us. Every day brings us closer to our Lord’s return. None of us knows which day on earth will be our last, and none of us knows which day on earth will be the last for our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We do not have time to waste. Jesus commanded

us to go into the world to proclaim His gospel.

The fields are ripe unto harvest. Yet, many in the church are not serving in the Lord’s harvest fields because they are asleep; they have not awakened.

They have not awakened because they are still following the ways of this earthly, temporal life. Believers have not awakened to the reality that life is not about self but is about knowing God and helping others to know Him.

Therefore, the church must awaken to personal holiness. We will never reach our state, nation and world with the gospel if we do not first experience awakening in our own hearts.

Learn more about this year’s “Awaken” theme at ncannualmeeting.org.

Pastor’s Conference

November 11-12

ncannualmeeting.org/pastors

Heavenly Banquet

November 13, 12 p.m.

ncannualmeeting.org/heavenlybanquet

Missions Breakfast

November 13, 7 a.m.

ncannualmeeting.org/Missionsbreakfast

Live Interviews with Missions Leaders

Held in the exhibit hall throughout the annual meeting

ncannualmeeting.org/liveinterviews

Breakout Sessions

November 13, 3:45 p.m.

ncannualmeeting.org/breakoutsessions

Exhibit Hall

November 12-13

ncannualmeeting.org/exhibits

ncannualmeeting.org

Use your smart phone app to scan the QR code to the right and visit the website.



NC Annual Meeting Events

Pray for 30 Days

Have you accepted the “Pray for 30 Days” Challenge? We’re asking North Carolina Baptists to commit to praying during October for spiritual awakening.

To help you pray toward spiritual awakening, and to help you prepare spiritually for the annual meeting, you can sign up to receive prayer prompts during October via email or text messages. To receive email prayer prompts visit www.ncannualmeeting.org. To receive text message prayer prompts, text the word “Awaken” to 313131.

Awaken Service

A special worship service devoted to spiritual awakening will be held Monday evening during the annual meeting. The service will include worship, prayer and a sermon from Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. The service will also include times of theme interpretation. For more information about this year’s theme visit www.ncannualmeeting.org.

Please begin praying now for this to be a time when God truly does great and mighty things among us. Please pray that North

Your church should have received in the mail a prayer toolkit. You can request additional copies of the toolkit, the *Awaken Prayer Guide* or the *Awaken Prayer Bookmark* by emailing awaken@ncbaptist.org.

Please sign up on the annual meeting website and let us know of your commitment to praying for spiritual awakening.

Commit to pray for 30 days

ncannualmeeting.org

Carolina Baptists will come to this service with their hearts focused on God, ready to hear and to respond to the truth of God’s Word. We are asking God to awaken our hearts so that we may go forth into the harvest fields and, by God’s grace, expand His Kingdom.

Learn more at

ncannualmeeting.org

NAMB Commissioning Service

During the Tuesday evening session North Carolina Baptists will have the opportunity to participate in a special North American Mission Board (NAMB) commissioning service. Come hear testimonies from the people God has called to serve Him as missionaries in some of the most unreached areas of North America.

The Tuesday evening session also features the Convention sermon, which will be brought by NAMB president Kevin Ezell.

NAMB is praying to see 5,000 new congregations by 2022, as new churches are needed in order to reach North America’s growing population. In 1900, one Southern Baptist church existed for every 3,800 people. Now, one church exists for every 6,100 people.

We are praying that this service will be a time of renewed focus and commitment to reaching lost people throughout North America.

North American Mission Board

namb.net



Kevin Ezell, NAMB president

Ridgecrest receives 2012 'Praise Award'

By MARTY KING | Baptist Press

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina has been awarded the first-ever 2012 "Praise Award" by *Religious Conference Manager* magazine.

The nation's largest Christian conference facility, Ridgecrest is owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and has ministered to millions of guests during its more than a century of service.

Members of the Religious Conference Manager Association across the country were asked to nominate hotels and conference centers in the U.S. that exemplify top-quality service to convention and meeting planners as well as guests.

Ridgecrest was the only Christian conference center named among the 15 top properties, which also included three Hyatt Hotels, two Marriott properties and several resorts and spas. "We are honored to be included in such an elite group," said Bill Bowman, Ridgecrest's director. "It's certainly gratifying to be named as one of the best conference centers in the country by religious meeting

planners. It's also additional affirmation of the significant investments we've made in Ridgecrest to improve the meeting experience. Recognition like this along with strong demands for the facility show that we're on the right track."

Ridgecrest's 1,300-acre complex, in the Blue Ridge Mountains in western North Carolina, offers options for individual sabbaticals, small group meetings and large conferences with outdoor recreation facilities, diverse lodging accommodations and meeting rooms and large group spaces, including Spillman Auditorium which seats more than 2,000 people.

For more information about Ridgecrest reservations or events, call (800) 588-7222 or go to ridgecrestconference-center.org.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Marty King is director of communications for LifeWay Christian Resources.) **BR**

Top of the Mountain Christmas Tree Farm
Premium Quality Fraser Fir Christmas Trees
Specializing in Church Organizations
919-851-4206 or twsmithtrees@bellsouth.net
Glendale Springs, NC

He is able

Life for Patrick of Ireland looked pretty dim. Patrick was born in Scotland in A.D. 389 to godly Christian parents who taught him Scripture, prayers and hymns.

At age 16 Patrick was kidnapped, taken captive by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. After six long years, Patrick escaped and returned home. After being home for a brief period God began to give him a deep longing to return to Ireland and share Christ. Patrick eventually did, and he was used by God to reach Ireland with the gospel.

After returning to Ireland as a missionary, and following

numerous encounters with druid priests where the Lord proved Himself victorious, Patrick began to see the fruit of His labors. He organized churches, implemented

training programs for Christians, instituted schools for students and clergy, and wrote hymns. God truly used Patrick for His glory to see the Irish people awakened to the truth of Christ. Thus, because of the awakening and work of God's Spirit,

Patrick established a Christian witness in Ireland, planted 365 churches and won 120,000 converts to Christ. God truly is able! Do you believe?



Chris Schofield

Prayer Points

- Pray for Christ to set your heart free through faith on His ability to renew and revive His church
- Pray for the church in America to unite in heartfelt prayer toward awakening

EDITOR'S NOTE – Chris Schofield is director of the Office of Prayer & Spiritual Awakening for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5514, or cschofield@ncbaptist.org.



EMPOWERED
NORTH CAROLINA
PASTOR/STAFF
2013 PRAYER RETREAT
JANUARY 15-16
AFTER THEY PRAYED
THE PLACE WAS
SHAKEN
ACTS 4:31
LIFEWAY RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER



Mel Blackaby
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church
Jonesboro, GA



Chad Pollard
Worship Pastor
Parkwood Baptist Church
Gastonia, NC



Richard Owen Roberts
President
International Awakening
Ministries
Wheaton, IL



J. Chris Schofield
Director
Office of Prayer
BSCNC
Cary, NC


Register with Ridgecrest
at (800) 588-7222

For more information visit
praync.org

JANUARY 15-16, 2013
www.ncbaptist.org/empowered



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield, Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive • Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptist.org
The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible
by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.


COLLEGE OF
CHRISTIAN STUDIES
ANDERSON
UNIVERSITY
SOUTH CAROLINA

THE JOHN ALBERT
BROADUS
LECTURES ON PREACHING
FEATURING RICK WARREN

OCTOBER 2 - 3:00P AND 7:00P
OCTOBER 3 - 10:10A AND 2:00P
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 864.328.1809
OR VISIT WWW.AUMINISTRY.COM

Looking to start a discipleship group?

SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

If you have a desire to start up a discipleship group in your neighborhood this fall, and you don't have any idea where to begin, you're not alone.

While every situation is different, and most will agree there is not a set formula, every group leader must adapt to their situation and the culture of their community. Most importantly, they must be willing to remain flexible and open to God's leading.

Brian Upshaw, who leads the church ministry team with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, shared from his own experiences and offered a few tips regarding how to minister to people in a neighborhood.

Drop agenda, love neighbors

First and foremost, Christians must have a genuine desire to love their neighbors, Upshaw said.

He shared how he and his wife, Brandie, and their two children moved into a neighborhood in the Raleigh area about four years ago. Though they assumed they'd eventually start some type of Bible study group in their home, Upshaw said the initial plan wasn't to start a discipleship group among their neighbors.

"My family's desire [was] that we as a family would just love our neighbors, and try to understand what it means to love our neighbors," he said. "... and to figure out ways that were contextually appropriate to share the gospel with a neighborhood of people [who] did not go to church at all. We really didn't set out to start a group in our home.

"If your goal is to start a group, that's what you'll get," he said. "Your goal has to be lives changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. If your goal is to see lives changed by Christ, a group is very likely going to be part of that process."

Many Christians, Upshaw contended,

don't know how to relate to the unchurched in a natural, authentic way.

"[People] don't want to be your project," he said. "[This process] has really opened my eyes to see how many times that those [who] are far from God perceive Christians as looking at them as projects instead of seeing them as people."

For Upshaw, a former pastor, he realized he had to let his guard down to "be real" with his neighbors.

"We didn't act like super Christians," he said. "We [have] flaws. We didn't hide those flaws. We didn't treat them like projects. We were friends with them first."

"It is important to be authentic ... warts and all."

Be on their turf

Building relationships and loving neighbors also meant being "faithfully present." Upshaw and his family made an intentional effort to show up to as many neighborhood events, parties and social activities as possible.

"You have to be willing to be on their turf," he said. "We [also] made a conscious effort to be on the front lawn instead of the back yard. When you're walking you take time to stop [and] talk to people."

With that came natural friendships - people the Upshaws truly care about and enjoy spending time with. It's not anything that is "agenda driven."

Pray for your neighbors

Upshaw also wrote down the names of his neighbors in the front of his prayer journal and prays for them regularly.

Prayer is a crucial part of impacting a

neighborhood for Christ, Upshaw said.

Upshaw shared how he prayed for his neighbors for more than a year and a half before a group was formed.

"We began to walk and pray the neighborhood," he said. "I would pray for the homes. I'd pray for the people in the houses."

"Not long after we moved in there I read about the prayer that John Knox [prayed] ... when he was a minister in Scotland. He prayed 'Give me Scotland or I die.' And I began to pray that prayer for my neighborhood until I meant it."

Choose material wisely

Months after initially mentioning the idea of starting a small group, one of Upshaw's neighbors asked about it during a Labor Day party.

A group of several couples soon began studying the Bible in the Upshaw's home.

Upshaw admitted he struggled with finding the right curriculum. He said a leader must first evaluate the needs of the group and choose material that is the right fit.

Most of those who showed up expressed a desire to know the Bible better and to have a better understanding of it. After seeking suggestions from fellow ministry leaders at the Baptist State Convention, Upshaw settled on using curriculum called *Story of God*. The curriculum focuses on chronological Bible storying - from Genesis to Revelation. It has been developed from International Mission Board methods and materials that missionaries use among people who have little to no knowledge of the Bible. It focuses on four areas - creation, the fall, redemption and restoration.

While the study was designed to take 10 weeks, Upshaw said his group took their time with the material and spent a year going through it.

"I wasn't bound to the curriculum

Tips to minister to neighbors

Brian Upshaw, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina church ministry team leader, shares some tips on how to minister to neighbors. Keep in mind to always be flexible and open to God's leading.

- Drop agenda, love neighbors
- Be on their turf
- Pray for your neighbors
- Choose material wisely
- Be patient

to finish the lesson," he said. "I wanted them to get it."

The group met every other week from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Each gathering would involve an hour of discussion time and about 30 minutes of fellowship that included a snack of chips and salsa or brownies. "We didn't make it complicated," he added.

Be patient

It's about being on God's timetable, added Upshaw, who has seen some of his neighbors accept Christ into their lives since the group started. He meets regular with two other guys from his neighborhood for accountability.

"God has taught me so much about trusting in his time and not my own, waiting on him and thinking about guys like William Carey," he said. "They spent years and years and years, tilling the ground. Living in America, I think we're doing the same thing."

"Just as Jesus was incarnational by coming into our world and getting into our skin, that's the kind of ministry we have in our neighborhood," he added. "We get into the skin of the people. And you minister based on what you see in the people, not in your mindset or your program. It's not over. It's a work in progress."

Contact Upshaw at bupshaw@nchaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5632. For more information about *Story of God* material go to <http://www.gcmcollective.org/>. For more on discipleship visit BRnow.org. **BR**



Brian Upshaw

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

Enroll now for New Quarter on October 2, 2012

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Earn an associate's degree in Religion
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- "Evening Classes" now available - Tuesday & Thursday
- Courses offered for Spanish speaking students at several N.C. locations; call Dr. Aldo Barcelo for details: (336) 406-4266
- For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write:

David Horton, President

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792

Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Billy Graham hospitalized, released

ASHEVILLE (BP) - Evangelist Billy Graham was released from the hospital Aug. 14 after being admitted Aug. 12 and treated for a bronchitis infection. During his stay at Mission Hospital in Asheville, Graham was listed in stable condition, according to a hospital news release.

Graham, 93, rested well during his visit at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C.,

near his home in Montreat. The hospital said Graham "remained in good overall health the past year," though he normally is homebound "due to age-related conditions." The renowned evangelist was hospitalized last November for successful treatment of pneumonia and resumed his ongoing program of physical therapy and normal activity shortly after his release, his staff reported. **BR**

Teen

Continued from page 1

going to happen in the future, He'll let me know in His own time."

Blanton's long, dark hair frames her face as she smiles and rolls her eyes while her mother, Geri, brags about how her daughter has handled the accident that left her paralyzed from the neck down. Geri admits she doesn't know if she could handle paralysis nearly as well. And Kelly, she says, rarely complains.

"As hard as it can be for me to look at my daughter's life just jerked away from her," said Geri, "I can't imagine what it would be like if it was my life jerked away from me. ... I just don't think I would be that way."

It was during a practice run before the International Finals Youth Rodeo in Shawnee, Okla., that Blanton was thrown from her horse, Bandit.

"I remember thinking I'll just fall off and this will be OK," she said. "But I landed on my forehead and then my whole body bent back behind me. ... I was flipping down the arena, and I just landed in the dirt. I wasn't really concerned about not being able to move. I was just concerned with not being able to breathe. I thought the wind had just been knocked out of me, but that's not what it was at all."

On that day in July 2011, her plans for the future were put on hold.

"I remember the accident fully, but sometimes I wish I didn't," said Blanton, who now depends on her mother to scratch an itch on her arm or wipe her nose.

The outgoing, attractive teenager seemed to have everything before the accident. She lived an active lifestyle and planned to attend N.C. State University last fall. She was captain of the high school tennis team, threw the discus on the track team and was involved in more clubs and activities than her youth pastor had time to read at a church event honoring the 2011 graduates.

She also loved to compete in roping and barrel racing at rodeos. And she was good at it. Now, however, she can only watch Bandit and her other horses as they chomp grass behind her home.

After her accident, Blanton was transferred from a hospital in Oklahoma City to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. She spent months there receiving treatment and continues to make routine visits.

Her mother describes her daughter's condition as a "C4 spinal cord injury that is incomplete." Translation: Her spinal cord is not severed, and she has some feeling below the neck, but she is unable to move her arms and legs.

"The changes I've seen [are] in the strength in my arm ... and then strength



Friends like Lakelyn Elder, left, have helped Kelly Blanton with love and support after her accident. "Kelly is a very selfless person," said Brandon Watson, Blanton's youth pastor at Three Forks Baptist Church in Taylorsville. "She's kind of attracted those people around her." (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

in my leg and things like that," she said. "I've also seen strength in my diaphragm. I can breathe more and more [on my own] every day."

"Incomplete is a good thing," Geri added. "She does have some feeling. There's always a chance with incomplete that those [nerve] connections can be made again."

Since the accident, Blanton has been surrounded by friends, family, church members and her community. People throughout the area lined the road she lives on to welcome her back home when she returned from the Shepherd Center.

Volunteers installed a wheelchair ramp in front of her house and helped modify inside so she could navigate more easily. The church and community also have held a variety of fundraisers to help her family with expenses.

Most days find one or more of Blanton's friends stopping by for a visit while her parents work. Her mother is a supervisor at the local post office and her father, Michael, is a truck driver. She

also has two brothers: Michael, 25, and Marcus, 24.

On this day, Lakelyn Elder is relaxing on Blanton's bed keeping a watchful eye on her friend. The two young women have known each other since they were "babies," Elder said.



Kelly Blanton carries the North Carolina flag at the N.C. High School Rodeo Association finals last year, less than a month before she sustained an injury at the national finals in Oklahoma. (Used with permission from NCHSRA)

people around her," he added. "I know that her days have challenges, but she handles them well, and she's been a great testimony to our students and to our church."

Blanton also has gained new friends since her injury. Morgan Patton, 19, a fellow rodeo competitor, was the first person to reach Blanton after she fell off

"When [God] wants me to understand why this happened ... He'll let me know ..." – Kelly Blanton

her horse. She helped stabilize Blanton's neck. Though the two didn't know each other before the accident, they have been nearly inseparable since. Patton recently returned to Georgia for college, where she is studying nursing.

Blanton also is pondering her future. She is struggling with whether she should become a veterinarian or commit to some type of ministry. For now she is taking courses at a community college in Hickory, but she plans to eventually transfer to N.C. State. While she is leaning toward being a veterinarian, she also has a strong desire to share her story and faith with others.

"The only easier part now [since the accident] is I do have a doorway into telling people about Christ because people would ask me about what happened," Blanton said.

"And they see I don't blame God. Then they see God through me."

This past July, Blanton returned to Shawnee to attend the rodeo event where she was injured. She thanked the people of Oklahoma for their prayers and support while she was in the hospital. She also shared her testimony at her church – with her new friend, Patton, by her side – and expressed her appreciation for all that her church has done for her.

"I've learned how much my church family loves me," Blanton said. "... People come up and say, 'I've been thinking about you.' It's always happened when I've needed it the most."

Blanton, and those who care for her, remain optimistic that she'll walk again and ride her beloved Bandit. Her pastor, Carson Moseley, believes the Lord has great things in store for the young woman.

"She's determined," said Moseley, who said he misses seeing Blanton ride her horse up and down the road outside the church. "If God be willing He's already put within her the will and desire to walk again. But I think He's also put within her the acceptance of 'Whatever ... whatever You [God] want to do.'"

"I pray the Lord will use Kelly to touch lives. I pray [the accident] will give her many opportunities ... to tell her story, to touch her world in the way that she can."

She already seems to be off to a great start. ■

Chaplaincy volunteers make a difference in disaster relief

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

Each year as hurricane season comes and goes we're reminded of the many challenges in the aftermath of a disaster. Some must replace a roof or refurbish a flooded home.

Others must confront the challenge of overcoming the tragic loss of a loved one.

Regardless of the scope of a disaster, in addition to help with physical needs, many survivors need emotional and spiritual support.

During his six years serving with North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM), Gary Carringer has witnessed firsthand the emotional trauma that victims of natural disasters endure.

"There have been times when I just talked to folks because they needed someone to talk to," Carringer said. "Spending time with people sometimes is the most important thing."

He said the volunteers who serve in disaster relief also need spiritual care. "I've seen volunteers who thought it would be a piece of cake, but the disaster really affected them," he said.

Carringer is certified in the disciplines of feeding and recovery with NCBM, but recently felt called to also pursue cer-



Denise Gupton, right, leads a session during a disaster relief chaplaincy training for North Carolina Baptist Men. (BSC photo by Buddy Overman)

tification as a disaster relief chaplaincy volunteer. The primary role of disaster relief chaplaincy volunteers is to provide spiritual and emotional care to survivors and volunteers who serve in the aftermath of a disaster.

Carringer participated in basic training for disaster relief chaplaincy volunteers at the recent NCBM disaster relief regional training seminar at Ranger Baptist Church in Murphy. The two-day training focused on the basics of providing spiritual care in a crisis situation.

Once volunteers complete basic training, they are eligible to serve anywhere NCBM responds to a disaster. Volunteers are required to recertify every three years

and are eligible to receive advanced training.

New addition to disaster relief

The first NCBM chaplaincy volunteers began training in 2005 under the direction of Larry Jones, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina senior consultant for military and chaplaincy ministry. Since then, more than 300 chap-

laincy volunteers have completed basic training, and 209 are active and ready to serve.

The chaplaincy ministry is available to all North Carolina Baptists, including men, women, clergy and laypersons.

"We are always eager to connect with those who sense a calling to this kind of ministry," Jones said.

"We have been very pleased through the years that so many people have sensed that call and responded by getting that training."

He added that it is important to make the distinction between "chaplains" and "chaplaincy volunteers" because most volunteers are not clinically trained professionals.

Making a difference

Gaylon Moss, NCBM disaster relief volunteerism coordinator, said the level of training chaplaincy volunteers receive equips them to fill a vital role in disaster relief operations.

"The chaplaincy program has helped us highlight the spiritual and emotional components of disaster response so that survivors and volunteers have someone to talk to about spiritual things," he said. "It's meant a lot to Baptist Men."

NCBM is tracking more professions of faith since the chaplaincy program began. Jones believes that is a direct result of the spiritual focus of chaplaincy volunteers, which allows volunteers with other disciplines of disaster relief to carry out their assignments.

"That's not to say that other volunteers were not sharing their faith and bringing people to the Lord before we came on board," Jones said. "But it does say that there is a niche here for a group of people who have a specific focus of meeting spiritual needs."

Jones listed several characteristics of a successful chaplaincy volunteer. At the top of the list is a sense of calling motivated out of a love for God and for others. "The days are long and the nights are short in a disaster relief situation," Jones

said. "Volunteers will only persevere with a love for God and for their fellow man."

Volunteers are also encouraged to receive additional

training, such as training through other organizations like the Red Cross, and to learn from veteran NCBM chaplains. Volunteers should be Kingdom-focused, flexible, reliable, able to lead devotions, able to pray in public and willing to share their faith. Sharing the gospel is a critical component of the chaplaincy ministry, and is a characteristic that separates NCBM from other relief agencies.

"That's what makes us different," Jones said. "It's not just about fixing a roof. 'It's about fixing a roof in order to show the love of God and to give us a chance to share why we want the love of God to be known.'"

For more information contact Larry Jones at ljones@ncbaptist.org. NCBM disaster relief efforts are supported through the N.C. Missions Offering. Visit ncmissionsoffering.org. **BR**

"Spending time with people sometimes is the most important thing."
— Gary Carringer

Not subscribing
to the
BIBLICAL RECORDER?

Let us be
YOUR
news
source.

Go to BRnow.org to learn more or contact us at (919) 847-2127

EDIFY discipling young adults

The conference features personalized advice based on the newest research from LifeWay, including the "four markers" young adults are looking for most:

- Connection:** Friends in the church
- Responsibility:** Hands-on ministry
- Depth:** Engaging Bible study
- Community:** A place to belong

Edify is a day of training for church leaders working with young adults.

October 6, 2012
9:15 am – 3:45 pm
Crosspointe Baptist Church
Concord, NC
Leader: Linda Osborne
ncbaptist.org/edify

North Carolina Baptists
Caring. Sharing. Thriving.

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield, Jr., Executive Director/President
201 Convention Drive • Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptist.org
The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

The ‘disease of Me’

Baptist Press

Legendary NBA basketball coach Pat Riley has led multiple teams stocked with superstars, so he knows something about dealing with egos.

He also knows about winning and losing. What prevents potentially great teams from winning championships, in his view? Not lack of size, speed or talent.

Rather, they are sabotaged by what Riley calls the “disease of Me.” Selfish stars focus on themselves. They resent others getting any glory. They’re frustrated, even when the team is winning, if things aren’t going their way.

“The most difficult thing for individuals to do when they become part of a team is to sacrifice,” Riley says. “It is much easier to be selfish.”

That pretty much describes the central challenge of the spiritual life. Following Christ requires sacrificing your own agenda. To do that, you have to get your eyes off yourself – and onto Him. You don’t have to be a superstar to struggle with that. Our natural tendency is to focus on ourselves, our wants and our needs. Others, including the Lord, get the leftovers.

“I start many sentences both out loud and in my heart with the words, ‘I feel like ...,’” admits a missionary in her most recent blog post. “That’s such a dangerous place for me. I’m a feeler and a discerner and many times that gets me in trouble, spiritually speaking. It causes me to presume that things are a certain way and that people think certain things about me. It makes me focus on myself.”

Why is it so hard to keep our eyes on Jesus? Sometimes it’s because we don’t believe He is enough. We want Him, but we want other things, too. Brad Bessent, a missions-hearted pastor, reflects on Luke 5: “Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow Him. The thing is, tax collectors were the scum of the earth. They were extortionists and hated by everyone. But Jesus says to Levi, ‘I want you.’ He had already assembled a pretty motley crew, a mosaic of people. Fishermen, a leper, a paralytic, all in the same chapter, and now Levi. When Jesus calls, Levi gives up everything to follow Jesus. When you follow Jesus, there is only one guarantee. ... All you are absolutely guaranteed is if you follow Jesus,

you will get Jesus. So everyone considering becoming a believer has to decide: Is Jesus enough?”

Levi has something crucial to teach us today, whether we are reaching out to our own fallen culture or to an unreached people group far away: Jesus is enough, and we must point searching people toward Him alone.

In a particularly resistant area of Asia that had long been known as a “graveyard of missions,” Christian workers tried again and again to confront the evil practices accepted in the culture. They tried to introduce their own customs and values – and failed miserably. At the edge of despair, they remembered Christ’s words: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself” (John 12:32).

They stopped cursing the darkness and began lifting up the Light that shines in the darkness. At last, seekers became followers, and a Christian church movement was born.

“Missions exists because worship doesn’t,” John Piper declares. But the most effective form of missions is worship – lifting Christ over all things. “Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. ... The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God. ... ‘Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy’” (Psalm 67:3-4a).

Culture warriors and social justice seekers, take note. You can battle the encroachments of secularism, humanism, greed and injustice all you want, and you might succeed – for a while. But passing Christian values onto fallen cultures is like putting makeup on a corpse. Without the transforming power of Christ Himself, Christian social and political movements inevitably falter. It is a matter of focus. Jesus says, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (John 14:9b).

A great old hymn puts it this way: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Erich Bridges is an International Mission Board global correspondent. Visit “WorldView Conversation,” the blog related to this column, at <http://worldviewconversation.blogspot.com/>. Listen to an audio version at <http://medialimbresources.org/files/158/15884/15884-87522.mp3>.) **BR**



ERICH BRIDGES
Guest Column

iPledge Continued from page 1

and actor Kirk Cameron. They will address such issues as religious freedom, abortion and other life concerns, and marriage.

The event’s goal, according to FRC, is to lead Christians to pledge to: (1) Pray for the Nov. 6 election; (2) register – and register others – to vote, and (3) vote according to biblical values.

“America is in trouble,” FRC’s Kenyn Cureton told Baptist Press in explaining the purpose of the event.

“Government is out of control, and not just in terms of outrageous spending. Human life is becoming more and more devalued. Marriage is being radically redefined. Our religious liberty and heritage is being removed.

“So we hope that the ‘iPledge Sunday’ event will not only serve as a wake-up call for Christians to get off the sidelines and onto these battle lines, but also will offer practical action steps as to how we can make a positive difference,” said Cureton, FRC’s vice president for church ministries.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), endorsed the event, saying, “I would encourage Southern Baptists and other people of faith to enthusiastically embrace ‘iPledge Sunday’ and to follow the exhortation to pray, prepare and participate in the upcoming election by voting their biblical values.”

Within the Southern Baptist Convention, the ERLC and North American Mission Board will again co-sponsor the 40/40 Prayer Vigil this fall. (See related editorial on page 17.) The biannual emphasis gives Southern Baptists and other Christians the opportunity to pray for spiritual revival and national renewal according to two plans:

- Pray once each day for the 40 days from Sept. 26 to Nov. 4;
- Or pray each hour during the 40 hours from 4 p.m. Nov. 2 to 8 a.m. Nov. 4.

Churches and families may learn about “iPledge Sunday” online and sign up to host a simulcast at <http://www.ipleddesunday.org/>.

Information on the 40/40 vigil – plus a free, downloadable prayer guide – is available at 4040prayer.com.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Compiled by Tom Strobe, Washington bureau chief of Baptist Press.) **BR**

TAR HEEL VOICES

We need to learn from history

If we don’t learn from history, we will live to repeat it. In 1807 the French Broad Baptist Association was formed with three churches from Broad River, and three from Holston. One of the churches, Cane River, had as its pastor Stephen Morgan, the son of Perimeter Morgan who had come out of Shubal Stearns’ Sandy Creek Association, and had settled in the Rutherford area. This association prospered, and by 1827 had 23 churches and 997 members. Morgan, however, had developed into a staunch Calvinist, and being a leader of the association, went so far as to have Garrett DeWeese removed from his church. Due to the Calvinistic doctrine, several churches left and formed the Big Ivy Association. As the French Broad did not believe in missionaries, declaring that you were either saved or not, and no one could change God’s will, it declined and the Big Ivy, following in Stearns’ philosophy prospered. By 1831 the French

Broad had seven churches and 233 members. Roan Mountain, a church founded by my fourth great-grandfather went from a membership of 84 in 1827 to 21 in 1830, and did not report in 1831. The Buchanan’s left and went to the White Oak church. In the 40’s, Morgan relented and served on a committee to amalgamate the two associations. They used a non-Calvinistic doctrine, but retained the French Broad name. In 1850 the association was split more on geographic lines, with Roan Mountain taking in most of present Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties. These associations then prospered.

As Einstein once said, “Only a fool repeats a failed experiment exactly, and then expects to get a different result.”

(Data taken from *A Baptist Looks Back* by J. Oliver Young.)

Charles E. Buchanan Jr.
Bakersville

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Letters can be anonymous but only with approval by the editor. Each submission will be subject to style, length and clarity adjustments. Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127. Like the *Biblical Recorder* fan page on facebook and follow us on Twitter: [#biblicalrecord](https://twitter.com/biblicalrecord).

Make election season a season of prayer

Baptist Press

If you are like me, sometimes it is a little difficult to keep a good attitude during presidential election season. I know I have a duty as a citizen and as a believer to participate in the process by exercising my right to vote. And I know I need to educate myself about the positions each candidate holds and vote for the one who will best reflect godly values once in office.

But at the same time, my attitude can't help but be clouded by past disappointments and the reality that it seems like even the best leaders let us down. And doesn't it also seem that just when we take a step forward in the public square, something else happens that sets us back two steps?

But then I realize that all the shortcomings of our leaders and our political process are exactly why Christians need to be engaged and involved.

Our anchor holds to something much

more solid than a candidate or a party platform or a president.

As with all of our institutions, we shouldn't be surprised when people fail us or outcomes disappoint. But we should always hold these to a higher standard.



KEVIN EZELL
Guest Column

Democracy is not perfect, but I believe it is the best way God has given man to govern on earth. The failures of our process and our leaders should only remind us that we cannot put our ultimate faith in that process.

The North American Mission Board is privileged once again to partner with our friends at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to promote the 40/40 Prayer Vigil.

I hope you and your church will take this challenge to heart and commit to praying for our nation, our leaders and for our own personal revival and renewal.

Most of all, I believe as Southern Baptists that we need to humbly ask God

to break our hearts for those in North America and throughout the world who do not know Him.

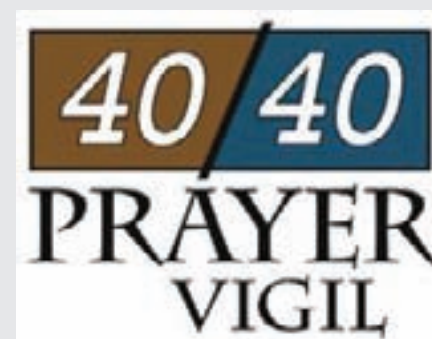
We know that Jesus is in the business of changing lives and bringing hope to hopeless situations.

Are you seeing some situations in our nation today that look hopeless? Let's introduce more of our neighbors and friends to the One who will bring hope. When hearts are changed, the direction of our cities and states and our nation will change.

I am moved and inspired by those pastors and evangelists from our nation's early years who faced great odds and confronted rampant immorality, yet saw God work in remarkable ways.

Jonathan Edwards, describing the impact of Jesus in the lives of people in one New England town, said there was such a transformation that the entire town "seemed to be full of the presence of God."

Imagine if a similar trend swept our nation today. Let's make that our prayer.
(EDITOR'S NOTE – Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board.) **BR**



This column is part of a series Baptist Press has published in anticipation of the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal. The 40/40 Prayer Vigil is an initiative of the North American Mission Board and Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission to encourage Southern Baptists and other evangelicals to pray for 40 days from Sept. 26 to Nov. 4 and the 40 hours around election day. Visit 4040prayer.com.

Next issue

The Sept. 15 *Biblical Recorder* will have several articles relating to the upcoming election. Subscribe now by calling (919) 847-2127.

Doing more together through the Cooperative Program

As believers in Jesus Christ we are responsible for fulfilling the Great Commission. Our Lord commanded us to take the gospel to those who do not know Him and to make disciples.

We cannot accomplish this task on our own. God ordained the local church to be the instrument in which believers join together to do the work of the Kingdom.

As Baptists, we place a very high value on cooperation. This is why we have local associations throughout our state, and why more than 4,300 churches are part of our state Convention. God never intended us to live the Christian life and to be on mission for Him without the support of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of the primary ways we work together as Baptists is through a giving

system known as the Cooperative Program. Our Cooperative Program consultant, Mike Creswell, tells churches that they don't give to the Cooperative Program, they give through it.

He's right; your faithful and sacrificial giving helps support ministries and missions locally and globally. Your giving helps make possible statewide efforts such as church planting, evangelism and discipleship training, collegiate and youth ministry, and multicultural ministry. Your giving helps support our Baptist Children's Homes and N.C. Baptist Hospital.

The Cooperative Program also supports our North American partnerships in Boston, New York City and Toronto. Through the Cooperative Program you have a part in the ministry of our North American Mission Board and International Mission Board missionaries. You also help make it possible for the next generation of leaders to be equipped for service, as the Cooperative Program provides financial assistance to students attending one of our six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Although many of you are still experiencing difficult financial situations because of our nation's struggling economy, your churches still continue to give faithfully. I thank God for the way you demonstrate your love for Him through your sacrificial giving.

I assure you that God is using your gifts in powerful ways. Throughout the past few months Mike Creswell has been writing a series of articles about how North Carolina Baptist churches are making a difference by giving through the Cooperative Program. I encourage you to read these articles; you will be inspired to see how God is at work.

You are probably aware by now – and the special [nc baptist] connect insert in this issue of the *Biblical Recorder* has more information (p. 10-11) – that the theme for this year's state Convention annual meeting is "Awaken." We pray God uses our time in Greensboro as a time of spiritual awakening and revival.

As we pray toward revival and seek to do more than we ever have before to impact lostness in this world, your Cooperative Program giving is invaluable. We cannot help equip churches to send out laborers into God's harvest fields without your support.

If you would like more information about the Cooperative Program you can visit ncbaptist.org/cp. Resources such as videos, prayer guides, bulletin inserts and posters are also available. **BR**

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina
Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

K. Allan Blume, Editor/President
editor@brnow.org

Shawn Hendricks, Managing Editor
(919) 459-5697; shawn@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Assistant Managing Editor
(919) 459-5698; dianna@brnow.org

Alison McKinney
Business and
Advertising Manager
(919) 459-5691
alison@brnow.org

Carly Conley
Graphic Designer

Daphne Woodall
Circulation Manager
(919) 459-5693
daphne@brnow.org

Laura Moore
Editorial Aide

Volume 178 No. 18
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 847-6939
BRnow.org

Board of Directors

Gerald Hodges, chair; Richard Hicks, vice chair; Robert Hefner, secretary; Jo Andrews; Paul Arnold; Kevin Atchley; J.C. Bradley; Stephen Burrow; Chris Byrne; Nathan Finn; Dennis Harrell; Robert Ivey; Cindi Stevens; Dennis Thurman; Don Warren; and Peggy Bass Weiss

Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$15.99
 - Clubs, \$13.79
 - Every Home Plan, \$12.49
 - Church News Service, \$11.50
 - Bulk (10+) \$11.50
 - Single copies, .60 cents each.
- Payable in advance. North Carolina sales tax is included.

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

September 9

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

September 16

High Expectations

Focal Passages: Matthew 5:17-22, 27-28, 31-34a, 38-39, 43-44, 48

What should New Testament believers do with the Old Testament law? Some people completely disregard it while others try to fulfill old covenant and new covenant commands simultaneously. The writer of Hebrews made a distinction between the two covenants, stating that Jesus is “the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises” (8:6b), so “He has made the first obsolete” (8:13). Jesus gave us the key to understanding the relationship between the two covenants, when He stated that nothing from the law would pass away “until all is accomplished” and that He came to fulfill the law (Matt 5:17-18). The old covenant law that reveals our sin points us to the new covenant which provides redemption for our sin through the blood of Jesus. Old covenant animal sacrifices foreshadowed the crucifixion of Jesus, the once and for all sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 10:1-18).

Our culture praises the self-made man who pulls himself up from poverty to attain riches by his hard work and determination. However, there are no self-made children of God. The scribes and Phari-

sees tried to make themselves righteous by strict adherence to the Old Testament law, but Jesus said our righteousness has to exceed theirs. The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector seems to clarify that Jesus was contrasting outward legalistic righteousness and true righteousness that marks the hearts and lives of Jesus’ followers (Luke 18:9-14). Our completion in Christ will not come by our works but by faith in what He can do through us as people who have been “crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20).

When speaking of a person who seemed a bit crazy we used to say, “The lights are on, but nobody’s home.” The scribes and Pharisees proved that people can have a similar spiritual condition. Everything can look good on the surface, yet his heart can be cold and dead toward God. Jesus proved that the sins of murder and adultery can be committed in one’s heart, and that the sins of divorce, lying, revenge, and hate can be easily, but wrongly, justified in the eyes of men. May God convict our hearts of inward sins and outward justifications for disobedience.



TROY RUST
Senior pastor, Somerset
Baptist Church,
Roxboro

Focal Passages: Matthew 6:1-13, 16-18

Have you ever seen the guy with the oversized money clip. He’s carrying a few hundred dollars and wants you to know it! Even if he’s only carrying one \$100 bill with 50 ones packed inside, he wants you to be impressed. Jesus warned His hearers of public, trumpeted giving that men honor but God does not reward. Conversely, He taught us to give secretly so that God will be honored and we will be rewarded.

Who are you glorifying with your money?

I grew up attending church with an older man my sister and I referred to as “The Great Oz.”

I admit we should have been focusing on God instead of him, but his prayers always sounded like a presentation of smoke and fire while the real person remained hidden.

He prayed the same repetitious, self-glorifying prayer with no mention of the grace or mercy of God. According to Jesus, we must be hidden, both physically

and spiritually, in God’s divine priorities.

Have you ever noticed the priorities of the model prayer?

Before human needs are mentioned, we are called to focus on our Heavenly Father’s name, kingdom, and will.

When Jesus comes to our needs, only one is material and it is limited by the parameters of necessity.

This need is outnumbered by our need for forgiveness and the averting of sin in the future. In other words, God’s will and our alignment with it far outweigh our material needs.

One of the most awkward moments of my seminary years happened one afternoon during class prayer time.

Some of us knew a classmate had been fasting and was beginning to look very weak and hollow-eyed.

That day she praised God that she had been fasting for 21 days!

In the midst of our disbelief the professor said, “According to the Bible, you just lost your blessing!”

She made the mistake of both displaying and announcing the pain of fasting.

Jesus exhorts us to avoid trying to impress people, and to remember that God knows and will reward our secret devotion.

Who are you trying to impress?

September 9

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

September 16

Living in Holiness

Focal passage: 1 Pet. 1:13-25

The words “be holy, for I am holy” can be terribly unsettling to the Christian when considering “the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy” as Isaiah asserts. By declaring that God is holy, we proclaim that He is utterly set apart from all things as perfect and pure.

And we as Christians recognize that we are radically sinful and depraved. So the command to be holy seems to be an inexorable demand on us, completely impossible for us to accomplish. And it is. As C.S. Lewis is quoted in *A Severe Mercy*, we are “hopeless if this is to be done on our own ... God must do it.”

This is the good news and the paradox of holiness! God acts to judge everything that is unholy and yet provides a way of cleansing for sinners.

Simply put, in Christ one is made holy before God.

Once one has truly experienced the grace of God in the gospel they are released from the slavery to ignorant pas-

sions and set free to live in a way that is pleasing to God. Yet we all struggle with sin.

We will not experience holiness in its fullness until Christ comes and makes all things new. So, when I struggle with sin in my own life I have found it valuable to adopt Peter’s method in this passage of looking to Christ:

First, reflect on the love of Christ, namely, that he shed his precious blood to cleanse us from sin.

Second, consider the holiness of God as the beautiful pattern to mirror in a shattered world.

Lastly, the imminent coming of Christ and the judgment of the Father should spur us on to pursue what is good, and we do so knowing that the Spirit purifies us through the living Word.

The call to be holy is terribly comforting.

Focal Passage: 1 Peter 2:1-10

The people of God are just that, God’s people, defined by belonging to God. Moreover, this “household” of God is built on a solid foundation, Jesus Christ. Peter proclaims that Jesus is the cornerstone, the solid basis for construction of the whole building.

In other words, the cornerstone provides stability, longevity, and holds everything else up.

Now, consider the words of Ed Clowney who once wrote, “... the status of Christians depends upon the status of Christ, for they are joined to him.”

This should give the church great confidence because in Christ we are secure! May the Spirit remind us of this great truth continually.

Even more so, Peter declares that God’s house is made of “living stones,”



MATT CAPPS
Associate pastor
for adult ministries,
Calvary Baptist Church,
Winston-Salem

Living in a New Household

being “built up” and growing as the dwelling place of God.

One cannot help but recall Eden as the first dwelling place of God.

Adam and Eve were commissioned to expand this dwelling place throughout the world. But with sin, to use the words of John Milton, paradise was lost.

Sure, God dwelt with Israel in tent and temple, but now because of the work of Christ, God dwells within the church through his Spirit.

And the church is commissioned to expand the household of Christ to all nations by proclaiming his excellencies.

There is only one edifice that will stand the course of time.

There is only one building that will hold through the toughest of storms and not be destroyed.

There is only one household that will continue throughout eternity, the household of God.

This household is full of people who have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, so let us long for Him as we grow up into salvation.

ERLC's Land announces retirement

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

Richard Land, who led the transformation of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) ethics entity during the denomination's conservative resurgence, has announced he will retire next year after a quarter of a century of service as its head.

Land's retirement as president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) will be effective Oct. 23, 2013, he announced in a letter July 31 to the acting chairman of the entity's board of trustees. His retirement is scheduled to take place 25 years from the date he assumed the ERLC's presidency in 1988.

Land, 65, has acted as an outspoken advocate among Southern Baptists for biblical positions on such issues as the sanctity of human life, religious freedom, marriage and race relations. His staunch efforts during his tenure also have made him a leading evangelical Christian voice among social conservatives in this country's escalating cultural battles. Time Magazine named him in 2005 as one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals.

"Dr. Land has been a stalwart leader of conservative and Christian causes and has been at the forefront of protecting our liberty in America," said Mat Staver, chairman of Liberty Counsel and dean of the Liberty University Law School. "He will certainly be missed in the role that he has played for many years by those of us who have worked closely with him and those of us who have followed his work. I have a high respect for Dr. Land and believe his legacy will continue to be felt throughout the country."

A search committee has been selected to begin the process of naming a successor to Land. Barry Creamer, vice president of academic affairs at Criswell College, has been named chairman.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – See full story and letter at BRnow.org.) **BR**

BRnow.org

BE SURE TO
CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE

FOR THE LATEST N.C.
BAPTIST NEWS
AND INFORMATION



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

First Baptist Icard of North Carolina, is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. First Baptist Icard is a conservative church and is a member of the Catawba Valley Baptist Association. Please send resumes to 2178 U.S. Highway 70, Connelly Springs, NC 28612 or email them to pastorsearch@firstbaptisticard.org. Resumes will be received through October 13, 2012.

Lattimore Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. A Baptist seminary degree and experience preferred. Send resumes to Box 188, Lattimore, NC 28089, Attn: Pastor Search Comm.

First Baptist Church, Graham, NC, seeks **Senior Pastor** with a minimum of five years pastoral experience and at least a master of divinity from accredited seminary/divinity school. Affiliated with CBF, BSCNC, Mt. Zion Association and partners with local ministries for mission opportunities. Our church affirms/ordains men and women in leadership roles, including deacon and minister. Seeking a compassionate and caring servant-leader, sensitive to other's needs, an effective preacher/teacher and experience in pastoral care and counseling. Prayerfully send resume to: Senior Pastor Search Team, PO Box 779, Graham, NC 27253. Visit fbcgraham.org.

Boone Trail Baptist Church of Johnson City, Tennessee, is seeking a **full-time Senior/Lead Pastor** to serve in ministry and operate with a team approach with five other pastoral staff. Master of divinity preferred, from an accredited seminary. Five years experience in church ministry required. We are a multi-campus church with an average attendance of 600. Please send resumes to Boone Trail Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee, 1985 Carroll Creek Road, Johnson City, TN 37615 or pastorsearch@boonetrailbaptist.org by 09/30/12.

Hicks Grove Baptist Church seeks **full-time Pastor**. Church is a small, rural, conservative church affiliated with Sandy Run Association, BSCNC and SBC. Parsonage provided if needed. Please send resume or inquiries to Search Committee, 574 Hicks Grove Road, Mooresboro, NC 28114, or email: david28114@att.net.

Do you have a position to fill?
Contact (919) 459-5691

A conservative Southern Baptist church, in the beautiful foothills of Georgia is seeking God's will in finding a **full-time Pastor**. He should have a heart for God and His people, should be evangelistic and mission-minded. Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 100, Clarkesville, GA 30523, by October 1, 2012.

Full-Time Pastor Center Road Baptist Church in Bladenboro, NC. A conservative Southern Baptist church is seeking a full-time pastor that believes the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Current active membership average is 130. Candidates must have strong leadership and communication skills and able to minister to all ages, and effectively lead and teach. Must believe the Bible is totally true and follows the Baptist Faith and Message by the SBC. Pastoral experience desired. Graduate of a seminary or divinity school preferred. Please forward resumes to Center Road Baptist Church, 2485 Center Road, Bladenboro NC 28320, or by email to centerroadbaptistchurch@yahoo.com. Resumes must be received by October 15, 2012.

Roberdel Baptist Church, a SBC church located in Rockingham, NC, is now accepting resumes for the position of **Senior Pastor**. Resumes may be sent in care of Pastor Search Committee, Roberdel Baptist Church, 1118 Richmond Road, Rockingham, NC 28379, or to Cathy Wilson, Search Committee Chair, at cathywilson@carolina.rr.com.

First Baptist Church, Murphy, seeks **Senior Pastor**. Seminary degree with pastoral experience preferred. We're 167 years old, multi-generational, with attendance around 150. Associated with Truett Association, BSCNC & SBC. Send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 517 Hiwassee Street, Murphy, NC 28906. Deadline: September 15, 2012.

Church Staff

First Baptist Church At The Villages (FBCATV) seeks a **full-time WORSHIP PASTOR**. Founded in 2001, FBCATV is a vibrant Southern Baptist congregation (750+ weekly attendance) located within The Villages, Florida, a fast-growing active adult community located an hour north of Orlando. For more information, visit www.fbcvillages.org and click the Worship Pastor Search link for job description and submission requirements.

Catawba Valley Baptist Church, located in Morganton, NC, is seeking a **Minister of Music and Worship**. This position is one that involves working and leading the worship choir, praise team and instrumental ensemble. This position is part-time and could potentially lead to a full-time staff member. We are seeking a person that has a heart to serve the Lord, desire to reach people through music and one that will lead worship in a blended format. A musical background is preferred. Interested candidates should submit resumes to Music Search Committee, P. O. Box 1580, Morganton, NC 28680 or via email to cvbcsecretary@att.net.

Oak Grove Baptist Church, located in Boone, NC, is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music**. The position includes working with and leading the choirs, praise team and instrumentalists. We are seeking a person that is passionate about serving the Lord through blended worship. Interested candidates should submit resumes to oakgroveboone@gmail.com.

MINISTER TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES responsible for planning, coordinating, administering a comprehensive ministry to children, birth through fifth grade and parents and providing counseling to children and their families. This position will consult with other staff members and program leaders and provide leadership concerning all activities whenever children from birth through fifth grade are involved. Candidates should have at least: 2 years ministry experience leading programs with children; a 4-yr college degree; prefer the candidate be an ordained minister or has qualifications to be ordained, and a call to family ministry. Contact: JoAnn Hampton, joann.hampton@cornerstonesbc.org.

Miscellaneous

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

Aluminum Crosses & Metal Coins: perfect for witnessing and mission trips! God Loves You (2 different imprints), Jesus Christ is Lord, and blank pocket crosses. Also John 3:16 coins for sale. Per 1,000 Crosses .18 cents - coins .25 cents. Other price breaks. Custom message cards available in any language. Call Anchor Associates, 828-256-9979 or email hjmikels@yahoo.com.

Christian Home Based Business. High Tech Manufacturer offers **unique opportunity** for Christian family home based business. Call 1-800-506-1631 for recorded message and complete information.

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

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) 847-6939

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

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

RADICALLY TRANSFORMED

hearts.lives.communities.



Transform India --
one village at a time!

Give to the North Carolina
Missions Offering!

Today this man drank clean water for the first time in his life.
He is 70 years old.

NC Baptists have helped make a difference in Bihar, India's
poorest state, where he lives.

We have provided about 1,000 water wells, supported
church planters who start new churches, provided training to
women to help them earn a living.

Hundreds of villages transformed!

Your NCMO contributions enable the staff of NC Baptist
Men to establish the partnerships which make all this
possible.

Give more! Change more hearts, lives and communities!

www.ncmissionsoffering.org