



BIBLICAL RECORDER

NEWS JOURNAL OF NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

VOL. 177, NO. 18

SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

BRNOW.ORG

Heart of church planting

Contributed photo

SERVICE — Baptism services, like this one at Jordan Lake, demonstrate the need for church planting. Statistically new churches baptize more people than established congregations. Clay Burgess, right, lead pastor of Explore Church, was just one of several pastors who baptized believers Aug. 7. Apex Baptist Church, one of Explore Church's partners, rented the spot at the lake for its members and its church plants, including The Creek Church in Cary and Apex's Hispanic congregation. See photo gallery at BRnow.org. For more about church planting, see pages 2, 6-9, and 12-13.

Apex helps start other congregations

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

Explore Church's "Bake at the Lake" brought together church members Aug. 7 at Jordan Lake to share a meal and participate in a baptism service. The church, which is about to celebrate its ninth anniversary, was launched as a partnership between Apex Baptist Church, Little River Baptist Association and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). (See related items on pages 2, 6-9, 12-13.)

"I think it's been a good success story on the importance of strategic partnerships," said Clay Burgess, Explore's lead pastor.

But the Fuquay-Varina church wasn't the only participating church at Jordan Lake. Apex Baptist rented the spot that day for special services for it and its planted churches, including Explore.

Apex Baptist has also helped with Apex's Hispanic church, which meets at its facilities, and The Creek Church in Cary.

"It was kind of a neat time with the churches working together," said Burgess.

Burgess considers Apex's Senior Pastor Phil Qualls his spiritual mentor. Qualls, who has led Apex for almost 28 years, says there's a sense of excitement involved in church planting.

"I think it's New Testament," Qualls said. "When you look at the Book of Acts you see what the church was all about: going from house to house planting house churches which developed large congregations."

Apex made a decision before Qualls came to stay in downtown Apex, leaving the church with limited space.

"We knew we only had so much land to build on," Qualls said. "We felt like the only way we could move forward was to send people out."

Explore Church

Explore Church is currently meeting in an old tobacco warehouse. Generally, Burgess has to scrounge to find a place to baptize someone. They sometimes borrow baptisteries at other churches, like Fuquay and Kennebec Baptist churches. Some of the youth wait for the special lake service.

(See Heart Page 9)

N.C. Baptists respond to wind, floods from Irene

BSC Communications

North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM) staff and volunteers were already mapping out a plan of action less than 24 hours after Hurricane Irene came ashore North Carolina's coast Aug. 27.

The Category 1 storm pounded the state's coast with rain and wind most of the day Aug. 27, leaving thousands of North Carolinians without power. Some parts of the state fared better than expected, such as Oak Island, where the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell sits. No damage was reported there. Richard Brunson, NCBM executive director-treasurer, said the hardest hit areas in the state appear to be near Pamlico Sound, Carteret County and the Outer Banks. Trained NCBM assessors have been on the ground since Aug. 28 surveying the damage and helping identify the greatest needs.

"In any disaster, we try to find out where we are needed most, and we have to base that on good information. We rely on our assessors to help us make these decisions," Brunson said. "Then, we find hubs where we can serve out of. Places where volunteers can eat and sleep, and then go out into surrounding communities to work."

As of Aug. 28, NCBM had identified three "hubs," with the possibility of adding more. Adding more feeding and recovery sites is certainly a possibility, Brunson said, as soon as communication improves. NCBM will set up a feeding/recovery unit at First Baptist Church in New Bern; Memorial Baptist Church in Williamston; and Manteo Baptist Church.

NCBM will set up its State Recovery Unit at The Memorial Baptist Church in

(See N.C. Baptists Page 3)

Garner father, son take 'Courageous' roles

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

When Rusty Martin Jr. was born, his parents, Rusty Sr. and Kim, were awestruck by the miracle God had given them.

Since doctors had told them having a child was unlikely they said they have treasured their son during his 16 years on earth.

"We've just been very blessed to raise him," Rusty Sr. said.

Junior's big screen debut comes Sept. 30 when "Courageous," the latest

offering from Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., opens in 900 theaters across America.

The film highlights the importance of fathers, and shows how five different men, four of whom work together on the police force, struggle to become better fathers.

Junior plays Dylan Mitchell, the son of Adam Mitchell, played by Alex Kendrick, who also helped write the script. The role was a stretch for Junior, who calls his father his best friend.

Rusty Sr. also has a part in the film. He plays a businessman who challenges

(See Garner Page 10)



Remember 9/11

The 10-year anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, brings back memories of fear but also of neighbor helping neighbor. See story on page 15 to see how 9/11 shifted focus from disaster relief to disaster recovery and helped Baptists better organize to respond.



"Courageous" photo

RUNNING — Once Adam Mitchell, right, played by Alex Kendrick, begins to step up in his role as a father, he begins running with his son Dylan Mitchell, left, played by Garner resident Rusty Martin Jr. "Courageous" opens in theaters Sept. 30.

NCMO offering goal set at \$2.1 million

By BSC Communications

Each year North Carolina Baptists give generously to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) so more people in North Carolina and around the world will have an opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. N.C. Baptist Men, mission camps, new church plants and local associations all benefit from the NCMO.

This year's goal is \$2.1 million. The theme for the offering is "Compelled... By Christ, By Love, By Lostness."

Church planting, one of the Seven Pillars for Ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), will receive 28 percent of all NCMO funds this year. A recent article in *USA Today* reported that North Carolina's population has increased 18.5 percent in the past 10 years. With more people moving to the state comes a greater diversity and a greater need for more churches to reach people with the gospel. Last year, the BSC assisted North Carolina Baptists in planting 125 new churches.

"If we are truly compelled by the spiritual darkness around us, and want to impact lostness, we will commit ourselves to doing whatever it takes to get the gospel to those who need to hear it," said Chuck Register, BSC executive leader for church planting and missions development. "More than 5.6 million people in this state do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. One of the most effective ways we can help them hear the name Jesus is through planting new churches."

The 125 new churches included 29 Anglo, 27 Hispanic, 15 Asian and 18 multi-ethnic churches. Other types of churches included cowboy, biker, Montagnard, Chinese, Haitian, American Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, African, African-American, Burmese, Asian Indian, Filipino and Romanian. More than 2,800 people came to faith in Jesus Christ as a result of these church plants.

NCMO funds provide almost all the support of N.C. Baptist Men, who sponsor 14 ministries in North Carolina and partnerships in 17 different states

and countries. Disaster relief is an important Baptist Men ministry. Last year, Baptist Men responded to 14 different disasters. More than 700 volunteers worked in Haiti, providing thousands of meals, building hundreds of shelters, and rebuilding many churches, homes and an orphanage. N.C. Baptist Men and women volunteers provided medical treatment to more than 90,000 Haitians.

"We are so thankful to the thousands of North Carolina Baptists who generously give year after year to the North Carolina Missions Offering so that we can continue in this life-changing ministry," said Richard Brunson, N.C. Baptist Men executive director-treasurer.

"Disaster relief ministry allows us to meet physical needs — to show the love and compassion of Christ — while at the same time offering spiritual hope."

N.C. Baptist Men operates two buses as mobile dental/medical clinics, and in 2010 volunteers serving on the buses provided care to nearly 5,000 patients across the state.

Other N.C. Baptist Men ministries include a camp for boys who have a parent in prison, lay renewal/revival, Camp Caraway, agricultural missions and aviation ministry.

NCMO also helps support the Red Springs and Shelby mission camps. These camps provide volunteers a place to stay while they serve throughout the community.

Each year, 10 percent of NCMO is divided among the state's 78 associations, the amount for each determined by how much each association's church members contribute.

Last year associations used NCMO



funds for food and clothing ministry, church planting, church leader and youth leader training, evangelistic events, community service

projects, and mission trips.

"The North Carolina Missions Offering helps make possible many opportunities for missions and ministry," Reg-

ister said. "I pray that the love of our Savior will compel each North Carolina Baptist church across the state to get involved in reaching their community and the nations for Jesus Christ."

For more information and free resources such as lessons for children, prayer guides and NCMO videos, visit ncmissionsoffering.org or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5547.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Church planting, which is a percentage of the NCMO, is highlighted in this issue of the *Biblical Recorder*. See pages 1, 6-10, 12-13, 15.)

Associations and networks

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina church planting team partners with associations and networks to plant new evangelistic, reproducing churches. Financial assistance may be provided for new church plants upon request of an association, satisfactory completion of the application process, and approval of the team. Networks partner with the Convention in initiating and assisting new church plants with a shared affinity, such as the Cowboy Church Network.

Operation Reach

This is one of the most effective tools in identifying unreached people groups in an association. This event guides associational pastors and leaders through a day of learning and identifying opportunities for new churches.

Participants learn about people groups and how to identify them, and

travel in groups to pre-assigned areas to identify unreached groups distinct from people groups other community churches are already reaching. Groups return to the host site to report their discoveries to the larger group. Many associations are identifying from 30 to 45 unreached people groups where new churches are needed, and this becomes a strategic map for planning and budgeting in the area of associational missions. Funds from the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong Offering and the North Carolina Missions Offering pay for this. Every church represented is provided with a detailed demographic report on their church. Operation Reach requires a six-month planning process and commitment from the associational missionary to personally enlist the participation of pastors and one staff member/layman from each church.



Pews Steeples & Baptistries

Quality Refinishing KIVETT'S INC.

(800) 334-1139 • Clinton, NC
www.kivetts.com



2011 Coastal Christian Worldview Conference



First Baptist Church of Shallotte
Saturday, September 17
8AM-2PM

Featuring apologist and author

Alex McFarland

For registration and more information, visit www.fbcshallotte.com/ccwvc or call (910) 754-4048.

Ruby Fulbright to retire from WMU-NC

By WMU-NC staff

Ruby Fulbright, executive director/treasurer of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) since May 1, 2002, will retire at the end of this year.

Fulbright, who led WMU-NC to make a dramatic change in relationship with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and to re-establish itself as a completely autonomous body, announced her retirement to her executive board Aug. 18 at a special called meeting.

“My journey as executive director/treasurer has been an incredible experience,” Fulbright reflected. “It has had all the elements of being fun, very busy, mind and body stretching, humbling, sometimes frightening and difficult, but mostly meaningful. Along with the WMU-NC officers, executive board and staff, we have met some incredible challenges; we’ve dreamed new dreams and seen many of them come true; we’ve been true to our purpose and we’ve been true to ourselves. Most importantly, we’ve watched God work when the element of faith was absolutely essential.”

For nine years, Fulbright has led the state-wide missions organization and helped advance missions education and missions opportunities throughout her tenure. During this period, WMU-NC continued to be one of the strongest state organizations and experienced consistent growth. Successful efforts under her leadership include the establishment of a Missionary Parent Fellowship of North Carolina in 2006; hosting the MK Re-Entry Retreat at Camp

Mundo Vista in 2008; the creation of SHINE (Serving God, Helping others, Inspiring believers, Networking community, Experiencing Christ) for young women; WMU-NC sponsored mission trips; and reinstating the Heck-Jones Offering for organizational support.

In 2008, Fulbright was presented the Anne Thomas Neil Award by Baptist Women in Ministry of N.C. The award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of women in ministry.

“There is no doubt in my mind that God still has work — incredible work — for WMU-NC, and He has gifted and called excellent leadership for this time,” Fulbright said. “North Carolina is blessed beyond measure to have Tana Hartsell as president, the current executive board and staff of WMU-NC to lead into the next 125 years.”

The sentiment is mutual. Hartsell said, “What a blessing for me to walk this WMU-NC journey with Ruby. We have shared experiences that lifted us to the very heights of heaven but also those which humbly put us on our knees at the Father’s feet.”

Hartsell added that while it is difficult to imagine WMU-NC without Ruby’s presence and guidance, the executive board continues the visioning process begun in January.

“Following the celebration of our 125-year history, Ruby has led us in the plans and preparations to move forward with that same courage, strength, and faith of our foremothers ... not reliving or staying in the past, but boldly setting the course to move toward being the premier organization for providing quality missions education and missions

involvement to all who share our common cause and purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission in our world.”

A native of Kinston, Fulbright received her education from Mars Hill College in Mars Hill and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Fulbright and her husband, Ellis, served as Southern Baptist missionaries to Zambia from 1974-1986. They have three children and four grandchildren. She has been active in all levels of WMU. Her lifetime involvement — from church WMU director to state executive director — with WMU-NC stands as a prime example of the grassroots philosophy of the organization. Prior to leading WMU-NC, Fulbright was director of discipleship and missions at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenville, and served in administration for both the South Roanoke Baptist Association in Greenville and the Alexander Baptist Association in Taylorsville.

“I may be retiring from working full time, but I am not retiring from my love and prayers for WMU-NC,” Fulbright said. “I am not retiring from God’s call on my life to be Christ’s presence in the world. I anticipate that He has something more for me to do.”

Fulbright’s last day as executive director/treasurer of WMU-NC will be Dec. 31, 2011.

According to the WMU-NC bylaws, the personnel committee will serve as the search committee for her replacement. In the interim, the executive committee will designate someone to assume Fulbright’s responsibilities until a new executive director/treasurer is named.

N.C. Baptists respond to wind, floods from Irene

(Continued from Page 1)

Greenville. Those sites were ready for feeding by Aug. 29. Volunteers serving with the recovery units will be helping with anything from mudouts to chain-saw work and removing debris.

Interested volunteers should visit baptistsonmission.org. “It is too early at this point to know how long the feeding units will be needed,” Brunson said. “We expect at least a week. How soon people are able to get power back to their homes will play a large part in determining that. However, we expect the recovery process to be much longer.”

Disaster relief teams from nearby states are ready to come if necessary. Brunson expects to feed about 5,000 meals per day at each of the sites. He said NCBM is also looking at doing satellite feeding in Buxton, part of North Carolina’s Outer Banks.

That relief effort may, depending on road damage and accessibility, involve using helicopters to bring in food. This plan, if needed, will be coordinated with Emergency Management and other NCBM partners.

NCBM has also provided two sleeper units to the Air Wing Guard stationed in Kinston. They are doing aerial evaluations of the damage and helping assess needs.

Literacy missions to host annual conference Oct. 14-16

BSC Communications

North Carolina Baptists are invited to the annual North Carolina Literacy Missions Conference October 14-16 at Caraway Conference Center. This year’s theme is “Abiding in Christ.”

About 22 percent of North Carolina adults cannot hold a job that requires reading skills, and many school-age children and youth are at risk and need help.

Literacy Missions wants to help children, youth and adults receive the training they need in order to succeed.

Literacy Missions is a three-fold ministry, reaching internationals through teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), reaching at-risk children and youth through tutoring children and youth, and reaching adults who lack reading skills through adult reading and writing.

Two basic, 16-hour workshops designed for new volunteers will train prospective tutors in ESL or tutoring children and youth. Twenty advanced conference sessions will further equip experienced workers.

Conference participants will receive training from outstanding, nationally known leaders such as Kendale Moore and Gayle Leininger, retired North American Mission Board Literacy Missions missionaries.

Doris Edwards will lead a three hour mini-workshop for those interested in teaching ESL overseas.

Ken Tan, multicultural ministries team leader for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), will lead a session about how to relate to and

minister to the many cultures represented in literacy classes.

Other session topics include “Citizenship: What and How to Teach It,” “Spiritual Gifts for Literacy Missions,” “Effective use of ads and commercials,” “Bible Verse Chants,” “Getting Serious About Top-Down Bottom-Up Pronunciation,” “Using Music to Teach ESL,” and “The Top Ten Reasons Students Do Not Drop Out of Class.”

Marshall Edwards of Blowing Rock will bring messages focused on the conference theme. Phil Stone, state Sunday School director, BSC, will lead in worship and music.


Testimonies will also be shared, such as that of Somebody Nogambu, member of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. Nogambu, who is the youngest of 19 children, was named ‘Nobody’ by his father. When Nogambu came to faith in Jesus Christ, he had his name legally changed to ‘Somebody.’

Public school teachers are often able to receive Continuing Education Credits for attending the conference. Those interested should contact their county’s public school office for more information.

Cost for attending Friday through Sunday lunch (two nights and six meals) is \$150. To attend only through Saturday dinner is \$85.

For commuter information and registration details contact Donnie Wiltshire, dwiltshire@ncbaptist.org, (919) 467-5100, ext. 5630, or Maria Luoni, mluoni@ncbaptist.org, (919) 467-5100, ext. 5629.

Registration is also available at specialministries.ncbaptist.org.



Need a Church Loan?

Regional Church Loan Conferences Scheduled

- New Construction
- Renovations
- Property Purchase
- Refinancing

Is your NC Baptist church considering applying for a loan for one of many purposes? If so, plan to attend one of the eight one-hour regional presentations by North Carolina Baptist Financial Services, a ministry of the North Carolina Baptist Foundation. A short presentation of the loan program available to NC Baptist churches will be followed by a time for questions. Information will also be available on the Church Growth Investment Fund, a competitive investment opportunity for both individuals and churches located in North Carolina.

If you have questions and/or want directions to one of these presentations, call the North Carolina Baptist Foundation at 1-800-521-7334.

Schedule of Presentations	
Tuesday, Sept. 13 1:00 p.m.	NC Baptist Foundation Office 201 Convention Dr., Cary
Tuesday, Sept. 13 7:00 p.m.	South Roanoke Association Office 606 Country Club Drive, Greenville
Wednesday, Sept. 14 1:00 p.m.	Dublin First Baptist Church 7275 Albert Street, HWY 87, Dublin
Wednesday, Sept. 21 1:00 p.m.	Sandy Creek Association Office 2807 Sandy Creek Church Rd., Sanford
Thursday, Sept. 22 1:30 p.m.	Elkin Association Office 147 Carter Mill Road, Elkin
Monday, Sept. 26 6:30 p.m.	Catawba River Association Office 1812 US 70 East, Morganton
Tuesday, Sept. 27 6:30 p.m.	Buncombe Association Office 227 Hazel Mill Road, Asheville
Thursday, Sept. 29 6:30 p.m.	Greater Cleveland Association Office 1175 Wyke Road, Shelby



Obituary

RICHARD NELSON SPENCER, 85, died June 26, at his residence in Gastonia.

He was in the U.S. Army 99th Infantry Division in Europe during World War II. He graduated from Gardner-Webb Junior College and Limestone College and received a master's degree at Southern Seminary. He began ministry at Putnam Memorial Baptist Church, Shelby, and also served at Caroleen Baptist Church, Caroleen and a church in Indiana.

He was director of missions for Gaston Baptist Association until he retired. He taught at Baptist Seminary in Warsaw, Poland, and upon his return to the States, he was a demographic consultant with Metrolina Baptist Association. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Gastonia.

He is survived by his wife Joan Ford Spencer; daughter, Becky Wilson of Monroe; son, Christopher Spencer of Forest City; sister, Pauline Huffstetler of Gastonia; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials: International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767.

JAMES WILSON ALLEN, 89, died July 2.

He was a graduate of Wingate College, Wake Forest University and Southwestern Seminary. From 1946 through 1983 he served Front Street Baptist Church, Statesville; First Baptist Church, Archdale; Enon Baptist Church, Salisbury; First Baptist Church, Carolina Beach; Rose Hill Baptist Church, Rose Hill; and Ayersville Baptist Church, Mayodan.

After retiring, he served two churches as interim pastor and did supply preaching in several churches in the Rockingham County area.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Molly Travis Allen; daughter, Melanie Allen; sons, Jimmy Allen and Stan Allen; two grandchildren; and three great-granddaughters.

Memorials: Enon Baptist Church, 1875 Enon Church Rd., Salisbury, NC 28147-9713.

CECIL ARMSTRONG RAY, age 88, of Georgetown, Texas, died Aug. 23.

He served as general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina from 1976-1983. He was a pastor, a leader of North Carolina and Texas Baptists, and a national leader within the Southern Baptist Convention.

He is survived by his son, Lanny Ray of Austin, Texas; sister, Beth Hunsinger of Midland, Texas; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorials: Crestview Baptist Church, Georgetown, Texas; the Cooperative Program of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; the Cooperative Program of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas,

Around the state

Texas; the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Atlanta, Ga.; or the Alzheimer's Association.

LARRY DEAN PADGETT, age 69, died Aug. 20.

Padgett was the director of missions for the Cullom Baptist Association. He is survived by his wife, Sue Williams Padgett; daughters: Lori Martin of Clinton, Veronica Izurieta of Cathedral City, Calif., Mary Fisher of Dunn, and Lorayne Lingat of Murrieta, Calif.; sons, Guy Padgett of Clinton, Daryl Padgett of Dunn, Dean Padgett of Charleston, S.C., and Gregory Padgett of Wilmington; sisters, Rozelle Gaither of Arab, Ala., Gloria Jones of Jacksonville, Fla., Elaine Voelker of Jacksonville, Fla., and Betty Lawson of Palm Bay, Fla.; 22 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — More information about Cecil Ray and Larry Padgett will be available in the Sept. 17 Biblical Recorder.)



Staff changes

BRIAN LANGLEY has been called by Bethel Baptist Church, Statesville, as pastor. He was pastor of youth and facilities at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Knightdale, and was on the board of directors for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The Greater Gaston Baptist Association, Gastonia, has called **THANE KENDALL** as interim director of missions. Kendall has served in church ministry for 31 years and recently finished his master's at Southeastern Seminary.



Retirement



F. EUGENE SHERRILL retired July 31 as pastor of First Baptist Church, Pilot Mountain, after 17 years of ministry.

He and his wife Janice will reside in Winston-Salem. Sherrill also pastored Forsyth Park Baptist Church, Winston-Salem. He is available for supply preaching or interim work at (336) 406-0409.

GARRY BAKER is retiring after 16 years of service as pastor of Red Cross Baptist Church, Oaksboro. Baker also pastored Lily Branch Baptist Church, Bakersville, and has been in pastoral ministry for 24 years. While retiring in Oaksboro with his wife, Baker will be available for supply and interim work at (704) 485-8421.

Sept. 10 deadline to submit resolutions

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Memorials and Resolutions Committee is now receiving resolutions for consideration.

North Carolina Baptists have until September 10 to submit resolutions.

Resolutions approved by the Committee will be presented to messengers attending the annual meeting in November (Nov. 7-8 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro).

Resolutions approved by the Committee will be printed in the *Biblical Recorder* prior to the annual meeting, and will also appear on the annual meeting web site (ncannualmeeting.org) and at *BRnow.org*.

Resolutions should be sent to: Committee on Resolutions, c/o Business Services, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511.

Church News



Contributed photo

► **Four churches within the Anson Baptist Association** teamed up July 23-30 to go On Mission in West Virginia. The group consisted of members (of many ages) from **Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, New Home Baptist Church, Red Hill Baptist Church, and Rocky Mount Baptist Church**. Pastors from three of the four churches led the team. The team ministered in Fayetteville, W.Va., at New River Baptist Church. They went through the North Carolina Baptist Men and Appalachian Coalfields Ministry. The mission projects included conducting two backyard Bible clubs, construction, and door-to-door witnessing. Eight people came to Christ.

► **Westfield Baptist Church** Pastor Joel Stephens, right, delivers a check to Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina's Linda Garner. During the church's Vacation Bible School this summer, the children collected \$1,518.71 in a "Mile of Pennies" offering campaign, almost doubling the church's record VBS offering. "Quite frankly, we set what we all thought was an audacious goal," said Stephens in an email to the *Biblical Recorder*. A mile of pennies would equal \$844.80, an amount the church had never come close to in its history. Empty water bottles were turned into coin banks with labels encouraging children to help others as Jesus did. The children searched the furniture cushions, cars and even delved into their own piggy banks to give. "God did something amazing that week," Stephens said. "He connected the hearts of our children with the needs of other children that they will most likely never meet. We've never seen such an excitement with our children about helping others as we did that week. Our kids were so thankful for the families and homes that God has blessed them with, that they wanted to be a blessing to others."



Contributed photo



Contributed photo

► **Faulks Baptist Church, Marshville**, members came to its recent 160th anniversary and homecoming in period costumes. Morning worship service included a brief history of the church, special music by Adoration Trio and the message by Pastor David Richardson. Revival services led by Roy Helms of Corinth Baptist Church began that night.

'Why is my church news not here?'

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to print significant news from the churches, but our staff relies on our churches and associations to send us information. Most items will be edited. Accuracy and timeliness are enhanced if you send the information to the *Biblical Recorder* as soon as it is available (generally within two weeks after the event).



For e-mail submissions, send announcements and digital pictures as an attachment to dianna@BRnow.org.

Or, send to *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619. Call (919) 847-2127 for information or if you have questions about a submission. If you have submitted something and don't see it or have not heard back from us about when it will run, please send it again.

Messengers to receive cards by September's end

North Carolina Baptists from across the state will gather in Greensboro Nov. 7-8 for the 181st annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). The meeting will be held at the Koury Convention Center.

Messengers to the annual meeting should receive messenger cards by the end of September. For questions about messenger cards, call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5555.

Messengers must present their properly signed card to the Credentials Subcommittee at the time of registration in order to receive their messenger packet. For more information about how to complete the cards, visit ncannualmeeting.org.

All North Carolina Baptists are invited and encouraged to attend the annual meeting. However, messengers are those attendees who have an opportunity to vote during the business sessions.

All cooperating BSC churches are eligible to send messengers to the meeting. The number of messengers a church may send is determined on either a numerical or financial basis:

- On a numerical basis: Every cooperating church shall be allowed two messengers and one additional messenger for every 100 members or major fraction thereof, beyond the first 100 members, provided that to have more than two messengers the church financially supports the Cooperative Program by giving at least one percent of undesignated budget gifts through the Cooperative Program of the Convention (for the purposes of this calculation,

funds used as matching funds for the expanded annuity shall not be considered).

- On a financial basis: Every cooperating church giving five percent of undesignated budget gifts through the Cooperative Program shall have two messengers and one additional messenger for every one percent beyond the initial five percent.

Messengers must register in order to be eligible to vote during the business sessions. Registration opens Monday, Nov. 7, at 2 p.m., and will close 30 minutes after the general session that evening. On Nov. 8, registration opens at 8 a.m. and will close once the business session concludes that evening.



Homecoming

SOUTHPORT BAPTIST CHURCH will be celebrating its 140th anniversary Sept. 23-25. Friday evening events include preaching and an archive presentation. A Family Fun Day is set Sept. 24 at Franklin Square Park starting at 10 a.m. with activities, music and a picnic. At 1:15 p.m., Glenn Wagner will have a marriage enrichment seminar in the Christian Ministry Center (CMC). Cost is \$20 a couple. During this seminar there will be a children's outreach movie event. Sept. 25 begins with coffee, juice and donuts in the CMC at 8:15 a.m. with Sunday School at 9 a.m. and worship at 10 a.m. There will be a covered dish brunch at 11:30 a.m. in the CMC.

GWU delegates visit White House

BOILING SPRINGS — Gardner-Webb University (GWU) has had a long-standing connection to faith-based service.

This commitment to community service is one of the reasons Gardner-Webb University participated in the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge kick-off at the White House on August 3.

Each participating campus will enter into a yearlong commitment to specific community service programs.

"We will continue, and expand, our partnership with the Cleveland County Potato Project," noted Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Service and minister to the University.

"That project provides food for those who really need it. Gardner-Webb students, faculty and staff have been heavily involved in that.

"We will also work with the Cleveland County Inter-faith Alliance on the homeless issue.

"We may be involved in covering office needs, serving meals, conducting a food drive or gathering items for the supply list,"

GWU will also be teaming up with Rachel's Challenge, a national outreach designed to assist middle and high schools with campaigns focusing on anti-violence and anti-bullying through random acts of kindness, and compassion.

The Gardner-Webb delegation heard from organizers of the President's Challenge at a White House briefing before heading from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to George Washington University for an afternoon of workshops and lectures focusing on community service.

The Gardner-Webb delegation was comprised of GWU President, Frank Bonner, Susan Manahan, coordinator of Service-Learning and Stephanie Richey.

Visit gardner-webb.edu.



Opportunity Corner

Christian Action League seeks partners

The Christian Action League of North Carolina will be hosting a Partnership Weekend Sept 9-11 with an endowment dinner at Ridgecrest in Asheville.

There will be an update on the state legislature, prayer workshop, and music by the Rye Holler Boys. Contact Sarah at (919) 787-0606 or sarah@christian-actionleague.org.

Conference helps prepare for retirement

Sept 19-22, Guidestone Financial Resources will have four conferences in four locations around North Carolina — Cary, Clinton, Statesville and Asheville — to help Baptists plan for retirement.

Contact Betty Pleasant at the Baptist State Convention at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5595, or call GuideStone at (888) 984-8433 and ask for Hee Sook Son. Visit ncbaptist.org.

Inasmuch training starts this month

Starting Sept. 24, North Carolina Baptist Men will hold Operation Inasmuch (OIAM) trainings for each region. NC OIAM training will prepare churches to organize a one-day mission event in 2012.

- **Sept. 24** — Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh (Region 4) and First Baptist Church, Wadesboro (Region 6)

- **Oct. 1** — Beverly Hills Baptist Church, Asheville (Region 9)

- **Oct. 8** — Oakmont Baptist Church, Greenville (Region 2)

- **Oct. 15** — Brushy Mountain Baptist Association, Wilkesboro (Region 7) and First Baptist Church, Summerfield (Region 5)

- **Oct. 22** — Corinth Baptist Church, Elizabeth City (Region 1) and Fairview Baptist Church, Statesville (Region 8)

- **Oct. 29** — Immanuel Baptist Church, Clinton (Region 3) and First Baptist Church, Bryson City (Region 10)

Participants can register at ncoperationinasmuch.org. There is no cost to attend and lunch is provided.

There is also a partnership with North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry to build handicap ramps on April 28, 2012. Training will be offered in construction, safety and techniques for the special ramp emphasis. Visit baptistsonmission.org.

The Pastor's Juggling Act

Called the Pastor's Juggling Act, a pastor's retreat at Oak Island's Fort Caswell will be Oct. 20-22 for pastors and their wives. It will be a time to rest, relax, reconnect and rejuvenate.

The cost is \$99 per couple, and space is limited. Contact Eddie Thompson at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5644, or ethompson@ncbaptist.org.

Visit ncbaptist.org.

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

Enroll now for New Quarter on October 4, 2011

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Study in a rich spiritual atmosphere
- Earn an associate's degree in Religion
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- Visit our beautiful campus near Hendersonville, N.C.
- "Evening Classes" now available — Tuesday & Thursday
- 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

Hear Dr. Jerry Vines

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Beulah Baptist Church
8454 Howard Mill Rd.
Bennett, NC 27208

Pastors and their wives **RSVP** for a free supper at 5 p.m. with Dr. Vines.
Call 336.581.3121 by September 30, 2011.

For more information visit
www.beulahbaptistofbennett.com

'CATCH THE VISION'

Cities' need to be church planting tours' focus

By Carol Pipes
Baptist Press

Ever wondered what it's like to plant a church in a mostly Russian neighborhood in New York? Or how about in French-speaking Quebec?

Now Southern Baptist pastors have a chance to see church planting up close and personal.

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is hosting "Catch the Vision" tours in four cities this fall as part of its Send North America church planting strategy.

Pastors, mission leaders and church members will have the opportunity to meet "boots-on-the-ground" church planters and hear their vision for reaching a particular people group in their part of the world.

"Catch the Vision tours are intended to be quick cultural immersions in a specific city where we need established churches to partner with church planters to start new churches," said Shane Critser, NAMB's church mobilization team leader. "We want people to experience the city and hear directly from church planters."

NAMB'S Send North America strategy aims to mobilize churches and church planters for evangelistic church planting in the five regions of North America — Canada, Northeast, West, Midwest and South. In addition, NAMB will concentrate on those regions' largest population centers. With 83 percent of the population now living in metropolitan areas, the major cities in the United States and Canada are vital mission fields for Kingdom growth and influence.

Tom Richter, a church planter in Queens, N.Y., says no passport is needed to see the world. Just a metro card. The New York City metro area encompasses 22 million people from 100-plus nations. Only 3 percent of the population in Manhattan identify themselves as evangelical, according to a study by the Values Research Institute. On Oct. 18-19, church leaders will have the opportunity to soak up the sights, sounds and smells of the diverse mission field in Manhattan and its surrounding boroughs.

"Church leaders will get a bird's-eye view of what



Photo by Ted Wilcox

PLANTER — Jacques Avakian is a North American Mission Board church planter catalyst in Montreal, one of four cities where a "Catch the Vision" tour will provide Southern Baptist church leaders a glimpse into some of the least-reached cities and people groups in North America. See video at youtube.com/biblicalrecorder.

we see God doing in New York City," said Steve Allen, NAMB's lead catalyst for the NYC Tri-State Church Planting Team. "Then we'll hit the road and do a rolling bus tour through the city visiting its diverse neighborhoods."

Participants will hear church planters describe the challenges and joys of serving in the nation's largest city, with Allen noting, "We want to give churches the opportunity to hear the different ways we envision partner churches getting involved with church plants in the city."

For churches that already have registered for Send North America, the Catch the Vision tours are a natural next step to discovering the best location for partnering in evangelistic church planting. Meanwhile, for churches that already have chosen a city in which to serve, the vision tours will offer an opportunity to meet the church planters they will be working with and see firsthand their mission field.

Churches that haven't yet registered for Send North America also are encouraged to participate in one or more vision tours to learn more about NAMB's church planting strategy and hear directly from church planters how vitally important partner churches are to the

success of their ministries. The Catch the Vision tours in Montréal Oct. 17-19 will provide church leaders a glimpse into the least-reached city and people group in North America — a profoundly secular city despite deep Catholic roots. French Quebecois of Montréal and throughout the province of Quebec are less than 1 percent evangelical.

"Visiting the city will give them a sense of how our religious history laid the ground for our current secular reality," said Jacques Avakian, church planter catalyst for Montréal. "We'll also provide a good understanding of the province — its history, where we were, where we are, where we're hoping to go."

"In addition to learning about Quebec's culture and history, we'll also let leaders meet church planters who are seeing God open doors left and right," Avakian said. "We ask that they prayerfully consider even before coming here to prepare their hearts for what God's going to show them."

In addition to New York City and Montreal, dates have been set this fall for Vancouver, Sept. 12-14 and Oct. 17-19 and Toronto, Sept. 5-7 and Oct. 17-19.

To register for a Catch the Vision tour, visit namb.net/send-cities and call or email the contact person for one or more of the cities. For further information, contact the North American Mission Board's church mobilization team at mobilizeme@namb.net or (770) 410-6388.

Each Catch the Vision Tour is unique in cost and presentation. The approximate cost of the tour itself will revolve around transportation and meals while at each city.

In addition, each individual will be responsible for their own transportation, lodging and meals outside of the vision tour. Pricing information is available at namb.net/send-cities.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina office of Great Commission partnerships has partnerships with Toronto and New York, two sites for the vision events, as well as Boston and Moldova. Contact Mike Sowers at msowers@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5654.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Pipes is a writer for the North American Mission Board.)

The state of church planting in the So. Bapt. Convention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — At the North American Mission Board (NAMB) luncheon prior to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Phoenix, I shared some important statistics about the state of SBC church planting. Let me share more here.

LifeWay Research, in its Viral Churches research, examined church planting strategies and the effectiveness of all Protestant denominations. Leadership Network invested heavily (more than \$100,000) in the research. As you can imagine, it was an enormous project.

While doing the research, which was at first a private report, I listed the denominations and groups that were strongest and those that were struggling in church planting.

Later, Warren Bird — the director of research and intellectual capital at Leadership Network — and I published the research project in the book *Viral Churches*.

We discovered and subsequently reported that the SBC is not one of the leading denominations in church planting. Facts are our friends, but some people in the SBC mistook my honesty for disloyalty.

Well, NAMB has now publicly stated that it is planting at a rate "under" 2 percent. Maybe facts really can be our friends.

The reality is that our numbers tell us that we are not particularly effective at church planting.

Let's take two examples for comparison.

As a denomination, the Assemblies of God has 12,457 churches. Last year, they planted 325 churches. A few years ago, I had the privilege of spending two days with the Assemblies of God leadership, helping develop their strategy that later became the Church Multiplication Network. They have increased their planting to one new church a day. Their rate is about 2.6 percent (up from 2 percent in 2008 and 2.1 percent in 2009).

As we will see later, the Assemblies' rate is 50 percent more than what is found in the SBC. They have opened the first part of 2011 with 177 new churches, tracking at a 3 percent pace, or almost twice the SBC rate.

Steve Pike, national director of the Assemblies' Church Multiplication Network said to me in a recent email: "We've actually decided to have a holy dissatisfaction with a 3 percent rate." Citing the 3 percent number as a "break-even" pace, he said, "That's why our near-term goal is 500 churches a year — it increases our pace well past the 3 percent break-even level."

Let's look at a Baptist group with even more impressive results. The Baptist General Conference (also called Converge Worldwide) planted 64

churches last year in a denomination of 1,150 churches — a rate of 5.5 percent.

In the NAMB presentation at the SBC annual meeting, NAMB President Kevin Ezell announced that NAMB can say with certainty that 769 churches were planted in the SBC this past year.

Since we have 45,727 churches, that means we planted at a rate of 1.68 percent last year. Therefore the SBC is almost a percentage point less than what the Assemblies of God does and about a third of what the BGC does. (Or, put another way, the Baptist General Conference planting rate is more than 300 percent that of the SBC's.) The SBC is below the rate that most scholars think is needed for basic growth, which may contribute to our membership decline.

In light of the current church planting numbers, it makes little sense to say that "NAMB talks too much about church planting." If anything, all of us should hope to talk about it as much as NAMB.

We have a long way to catch up with other evangelicals, but that is not my goal. It just helps us to define reality. That reality is that we cannot reach North America (and the world) without a more aggressive church planting engagement.

My hope is that NAMB will keep pushing us. We have not even begun

to be as serious as evangelical groups like the Assemblies of God and Baptist General Conference.

So why should everyone in the SBC be concerned about church planting? Even those who are not directly involved with it will experience a benefit.

As I mentioned, the Baptist General Conference is planting churches at a much higher rate than Southern Baptists — and guess what? — they have almost doubled the size of their denomination in the last 20 years.

In case you are wondering, the SBC potentially would have 30 million members right now if we had that same focus. Can you imagine the implications of a giving, going and growing SBC with more than 30 million members? Friends, communities and nations would be impacted for the glory of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ!

I have a deep appreciation for those groups who are acting upon their convictions regarding church planting. But I'm not headed over to those denominations. However, I share the same "holy dissatisfaction" with our current realities as Steve Pike and the Assemblies of God do about theirs. And I am dreaming about what God could do through the SBC when we get serious about planting churches.

Press on, NAMB.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Stetzer serves as the vice president of research and ministry development for LifeWay Christian Resources.)

Guest Column



Ed Stetzer



REACHING — Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association works with South Wisconsin Baptist Association to help plant churches and grow existing churches by helping with outreach activities like Vacation Bible Schools or block parties. See video links at youtube.com/biblicalrecorder and a Photo Gallery at BRnow.org.



N.C. assn. partners to help Wisconsin

By Laura Moore
BR Editorial Aide

In 2007, there were only 660 church members in the South Wisconsin Baptist Association. Five summers later, there are more than 1,200.

The number of churches in the association went from 13 to 19 in that span of time, and association giving has grown from \$27,000 to about \$48,000. It has almost doubled.

For Wisconsin, those numbers are a beautiful testimony of how God is using a partnership between two Baptist associations — associations who are working together to plant churches.

South Wisconsin Baptist Association (SWBA) owes a lot to its friends and partners in North Carolina, the Greater

Cleveland County Baptist Association (GCCBA).

Mark Millman of the SWBA met GCCBA's director of missions (DOM) Keith Dixon, in New Jersey in 2005 while the North Carolina association had a partnership with a New Jersey association.

When Millman became the DOM in Wisconsin, he called Dixon to inquire about a partnership between them.

"They have been a huge blessing to us," Millman said of the GCCBA. The North Carolina association has sent a summer mission team to Wisconsin since 2007 to help out with block parties, Vacation Bible Schools (VBS), backyard Bible clubs, church building renovations, and countless other services.

They have helped SWBA grow rela-

tionships with its unchurched people. And, they've helped train the Wisconsin churches on how to do outreach.

Like VBS and backyard Bible clubs, Millman pointed out, "A lot of things that are standard operations down here (in North Carolina) are new to us."

The GCCBA has also helped SWBA to purchase a trailer for block party ministry, and it has been invaluable for reaching its communities.

With only two of its 20 churches having over 100 members, these small Wisconsin congregations don't have the resources that many Bible Belt churches have.

And they are so spread out across 18 counties that they have to take into consideration factors that North Carolinians usually don't, such as the cost of transporting their trailer from several counties away.

But, their partnership has taught both associations about each other's needs and about working together in the body of Christ.

The partnership doesn't stop with summer mission trips. North Carolinians are keeping in touch with people they met in Wisconsin year round through social media and e-mail. Whether it was someone that they witnessed to at a block party or a family from one of the congregations, the work that the GCCBA has done for the SWBA has sparked lasting friendship and support.

Not only that, but GCCBA's Dixon has come many years in the winter to provide mentoring and stewardship for some of the Wisconsin pastors.

While the SWBA spans 18 counties, within it is the city of Madison, home to the University of Wisconsin.

Millman described Madison, Wisc., as "40 square miles surrounded by reality," with very few evangelical churches.

"They've been doing international missions here," Millman said.

"Madison is a key international city" because of the school.

With the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the international community is growing as more students pour into the area from all over the world.

Currently the SWBA has two congregations of the Hmong people as well as many other ethnic congregations.

Dixon explained about how much of

an impact it has made for his association members to reach out to internationals.



There is not a lot of cultural diversity in Shelby and Cleveland counties where GCCBA churches are, but when they traveled to Wisconsin this past summer, North Carolinians were serving Liberian, Korean, Hmong, Anglo and Chinese congregations all within one week-

end.

Dixon said, "They were exposed to more ethnic groups in one day than most people in Cleveland County will see in a lifetime."

"It makes them look at people differently when they come back down here," Dixon said.

"It's definitely opened their eyes to see the world is here ... and the vast lostness in the United States ... and the need to share the gospel."

"And it shows (them) what (churches) can do when they come together," said Dixon.

Participants from this summer's trip came from 10 different churches in the association; some are returning and others are new every year.

Dixon gives valuable advice to other associations and churches that are interested in doing partnerships. "Mark's been great to work with because partnership can be hard."

There is so much coordination involved when working with many churches in another state. It is important that the directors work together to make the partnership effective.

Millman added that he has traveled to North Carolina to speak at the GCCBA's annual meeting before. "That really helps because we're both on each other's turf," he said.

Before the N.C. team goes on the trip, they also receive a lot of training so they can be involved the entire time that they are in Wisconsin.

"We get everybody to tell their testimony," Dixon said referring to some of the work done at training sessions that the GCCBA holds for the teams.

"I anticipate us definitely going back to Wisconsin next summer. The need is there and our group enjoyed it so much that they want to go back," Dixon said about future plans for the GCCBA.

They are also looking to develop a partnership in the Boston area in the near future.

Embrace

NC Baptist Women's Missions & Ministries

Leadership Training 2011

Excel Still More — 1 Thessalonians 4:1

October 7-8, 2011 • Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Boone, NC

Esther Burroughs

Esther serves as director of Esther Burroughs Ministries... Treasures of the Heart, a speaking and writing ministry she began in 1997. Previously Esther served the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in missions and evangelism. Esther has traveled all over the world sharing her heart for God. She is also the author of several books. Esther is married to Bob and they have two adult children, Melody and David, and five grandchildren.

These leadership training events are designed for any woman called into leadership roles in their local churches and associations for ministry in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, missions involvement and leadership.

www.embracenc.org • (800) 395-5102, ext. 5561 • e-mail embracenc@ncbaptist.org

Registration deadline is September 23

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

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.

In this issue of the *Biblical Recorder*, we examine several church plants within the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, partnerships with other states, and other church planting efforts.

Pillar 4 — Plant New Multiplication Churches

The state of North Carolina is exploding in population growth and vast ethnic diversity. Although there is still a monumental need and wonderful opportunities for existing Baptist churches to grow, many newcomers to North Carolina from other countries and other states will never be reached by some of our existing congregations because of language and cultural barriers.

Some people possess preferred styles of worship while others want to find groups of Christians who have similar interests such as cowboys and motorcycle enthusiasts. Healthy New Testament churches must ensure that their



ministry DNA includes the intention and goal to start other new churches somewhere. This is the same method used by missionaries in other countries to reach unreached people groups. It is natural for churches to give birth to new congregations and celebrate what God will do through that new unit.

The financial resources required to plant new churches come from existing congregations.

Most new churches reach and baptize more lost people and experience growth faster than existing congregations. It is not about competition between churches, but it is all about the growth and expansion of God's Kingdom.



The *Biblical Recorder* staff, with help from Baptist State Convention leaders and churches, is highlighting each of the pillars adopted as the focus for the Convention. This issue: pages 1-2, 6-9, 12-13.

1. Practice fervent prayer — July 23 issue and on web
 2. Promote evangelism & church growth — Aug. 6 issue and on web
 3. Strengthen existing churches — Aug. 20 issue and on web
 4. **Plant new multiplication churches — This issue**
 5. Increase work with the international community — Sept. 17
 6. Escalate technology improvements & upgrade the web site — Oct. 1
 7. Reclaim the younger generation of church leaders — Oct. 15
- Has your church benefitted in any of these areas from the Convention? What resources have you found useful? Email dianna@BRnow.org or call (919) 847-2127.

“How did Christianity change from a faith spread primarily through church planting to a faith in which church planting became an unusual practice? As the church became established, it began to protect its establishment.

Existing churches began to see a church plant as a competitor.”

— Ed Stetzer, director of research, LifeWay Christian Resources

Lumberton church goes Vertical

By Mike Creswell
BSC Communications

It's Sunday morning in Lumberton, too early for movies to show at the cinema complex on Roberts Avenue.

But wait.

Scores, hundreds of people are driving into the parking lot. Ushers direct the cars. Tents stand before the theater, and people are greeted warmly.

Under towering marquees blaring this week's movies, one hears Christian music — loud, contemporary, rock-edged Christian music. The dress code leans to jeans and T-shirts. For a few hours on Sundays, this is Vertical Church.

Lead Pastor Mike Pittman and the Vertical team bring in a trailer of equipment and set up their portable church.

Pittman's preaching is strong and very much Bible-based. It is the church presenting Jesus to people who do not like church, Pittman says.

Vertical's website (govertical.org) clearly lists their partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), the Southern Baptist Convention and Robeson Baptist Association. But aside from the meeting place, there are other innovations. For example, after the service there's a "Next" manned lobby table if someone wants prayer or to ask questions about the sermon.

While some may question such non-traditional methods, there's no denying the gospel-centered excitement in the air and on the faces of Vertical's members.

A few weeks after launching on Feb. 6 of this year, the church had baptized 80 new believers and was off and running. But this is only the most visible Sunday face of Vertical. The church began organizing six months earlier with home Bible studies and numerous out-reach



BSC photos by Mike Creswell

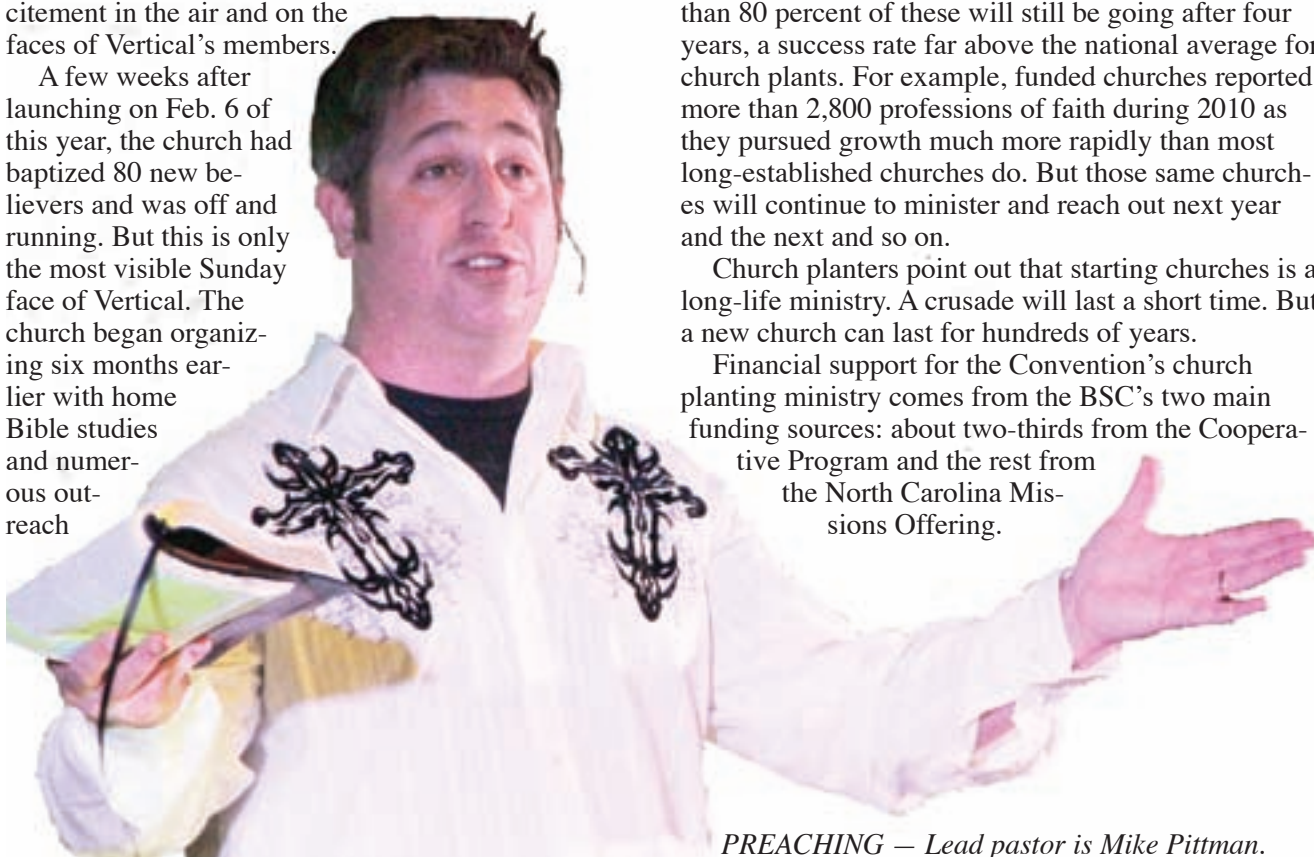
GREETING — Vertical Church in Lumberton launched in February with the help of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. They meet at a movie theater in town and in homes around the area to explore the Bible. Visit Photo Gallery at BRnow.org and video at youtube.com/biblicalrecorder.

visits. Eight of these groups are going in surrounding communities and may one day become churches. Pittman and the Vertical team aim to start many churches, not just one. Starting lots of new churches, which will start more new churches: This may be Baptists' best hope of reaching North Carolina's estimated 5.6 million lost people.

In 2010 the Convention helped start 125 new churches across the state. If earlier trends hold, more than 80 percent of these will still be going after four years, a success rate far above the national average for church plants. For example, funded churches reported more than 2,800 professions of faith during 2010 as they pursued growth much more rapidly than most long-established churches do. But those same churches will continue to minister and reach out next year and the next and so on.

Church planters point out that starting churches is a long-life ministry. A crusade will last a short time. But a new church can last for hundreds of years.

Financial support for the Convention's church planting ministry comes from the BSC's two main funding sources: about two-thirds from the Cooperative Program and the rest from the North Carolina Missions Offering.



PREACHING — Lead pastor is Mike Pittman.

How do I become a planting partner?

Any church can be a church-planting partner. Usually churches partner on one or more of the following patterns:

Some churches choose to be a primary sponsor, meaning they assume full responsibility for sponsoring the new church. Since church planting is not purchasing land or building buildings, but reaching people, many North Carolina Baptist churches can be primary sponsors. God has already put the money for land and buildings in the pockets of the people the new church will reach.

Other churches choose to be a part of a cluster of several churches that will sponsor a new church. In this arrangement three to five churches join together to start a new church. The cluster churches do not necessarily give equally to the new church. Each of the cluster churches brings to the sponsorship its uniqueness, which when added to the unique contribution of the other cluster churches creates the whole of the sponsorship.

Some churches choose to be a support sponsor. These churches bring to the sponsorship of the new church an event or an activity that will help start the new church. Their contribution may be a survey, Backyard Bible Club or lay person to lead a Bible study.

The Baptist State Convention's church planting team will provide training materials and are available to train and help churches decide and plan their level of involvement.

How can I get involved?

No assets are in place when a new church is started: no nursery, preschool, sanctuary, music program, buildings or equipment. Each new church must acquire the necessary materials and equipment, and more funds are always needed.

This listing is just a few things needed by new churches across North Carolina. Pray as you read this list and find your opportunity to be part of a church planting team.

Volunteer opportunities

Assist with building and remodeling needs; adopt a church planter family; assist with cultivation events; prayerwalk a focus community; open your home for a Bible study; pray for a church planter and family; provide childcare for adult Bible studies; and serve as a core family for six months.

Material & equipment needs

Bibles, children's books, copiers, DVD players, FAX machines, communion sets, office supplies, podiums, sound equipment, storage bins, witnessing tracts, etc.

Contact: Kelli Creswell at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5548, or kcreswell@ncbaptist.org.

Heart of church planting

Apex helps start other churches

(Continued from Page 1)

“I think the main takeaway (is) it’s very hard to be set up for success” as a church, Burgess said. Partnering with others helps with finances and encouragement.

A steering committee made up of people from Apex and Fuquay Baptist churches, Little River Baptist Association and the BSC helps Explore sort through various issues, “to help us make sure we were doing things the right way,” Burgess said. “If it wasn’t for these groups I’m not sure we would have made it.”

Explore started in Burgess’ living room; within three months, they were attracting 27 people, including children. This year at Easter the church attracted 263 people. Burgess said a local businessman has also been helpful in locating facilities for the church to use.

Before coming to Explore Church, Burgess was a pastor at Ayersville Baptist Church for 20 months. He graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest with a master of divinity degree.

“When I started as a church planter it wasn’t the fad that it is now,” Burgess said.

Launched just a year after 9/11, it was a time of uncertainty.

Apex Baptist Church en Espanol

Alex Cosio, pastor of Apex Baptist Church en Espanol, is from Mexico City, Mexico. While pursuing a master of divinity degree at Southeastern, Cosio planted three churches in South Carolina. After he graduated he returned to his hometown to lead a church.

He’s been the Hispanic church’s pastor for nine years. The church averages 70 on Sundays — 20 children, 10 youth, and 40-plus adults.

Sundays not only include a worship service but a Bible study in Spanish. The children are integrated into the main church’s classes on Sunday as well as Wednesdays when the Hispanic church has another Bible study and prayer meeting.

This month, Cosio is starting home groups in hopes of reaching more people where they live.

“We don’t see ourselves as a separate church,” Cosio said. “I think that has been a great blessing for the whole church.”

Cosio leads a mission trip to Mexico each year. The group, depending on size, does evangelism, Vacation Bible Schools, youth rallies, sports camps, etc.

Each year the church also takes part in the baptism service. Cosio baptized three youth at Jordan Lake this year. The churches also have an annual joint service. The next one is set in November.

Even though Cosio stays busy with his church, he is continuing his education at Southeastern. He is working on a doctor of education degree and teaching at Campbell University’s Hispanic theology program.

Planting atmosphere

The first plant Apex got involved with was within the Hispanic community. Back then the church had a number of people attending who were bilingual. After a planning committee did some research, they discovered the tremendous growth rate in the area. The members began to pray and look at resources.

A former staff member gave Qualls Cosio’s name. The goal was to plant a church on the current campus.

“We had sensed the reason for failure in church plants was either land or resources,” Qualls said.

After beginning the Hispanic church, they providing some financial support for a Holly Springs church plant. The primary sponsor was First Baptist Church in Cary.

Explore came next. And then a former staff member and Southeastern graduate who had planted a church in New Hampshire felt the need to come home because of issues with his family. Apex is helping financially with the River of Life Church. They have



BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle

GRILLING — Apex Baptist Church members get some relief from a fan while they prepare burgers and hot dogs for the church’s fellowship time at the lake after a special baptism service. Apex shared the day with three of its church plants. See BRnow.org for a photo gallery.

land in Brunswick County and will be working with the BSC to possibly get a building up within a couple of years. Because of its location, another church in South Carolina is helping sponsor them.

The Creek Church was started by sending 25 families from Apex Baptist Church. Matt Rice, Apex’s former evangelism minister, is The Creek’s lead pastor, as well as Qualls son-in-law.

Four churches were involved in the Jordan Lake services. The Creek and Explore held their own services while Apex Baptist and its Hispanic church shared time.

“Any local church can plant a church,” Qualls said. To involve the North American Mission Board, the church has to go through the local association. This provides a system of checks and balances. Church planters go through boot camp and take personality tests.

To find out more about church planting, contact your local association, the Baptist State Convention (ncbaptists.org) or the North American Mission Board (namb.net).

Steps to starting a church

1. Pray to receive a vision from God for a new church. Assemble a prayer group from people who share that vision.
 2. Develop a church planting mission statement and strategy.
 3. Pray for and enlist a church planter and people who will help birth the new work.
- Find receptive people:**
- Contact many people in the community
 - Hold evangelistic Bible studies
- Evangelize non-believers:**
- Develop a prayer support strategy
 - Hold outreach events
- Build a core group:**
- Build the group numerically
 - Build spiritually through discipleship training
- Launch the new church:**
- Develop a strategy for advertising and announcing the new work to the community
 - Grand opening!

Lexington church sets up in building

By Mike Creswell
BSC Communications

Drive down NC 150 south of Winston-Salem and you’ll come to the Arcadia/Welcome area, a growing area of new housing developments, strip shopping centers and fast-food restaurants.



BSC photo by Mike Creswell

PLANTER — Joey Yokeley, lead pastor at The River Church, leads two morning services on Sundays to accommodate its 200-plus members and visitors.

Some new residents are moving in from northern states; others are just moving south from Forsyth County into Davidson County.

You would probably not look twice at the neat, traditional church building where The River Church (riverchurchlive.com) meets in Lexington.

But it’s an interesting story. Another Baptist church had constructed the building, but the congregation had declined to a few members and was looking at closing down. They could not maintain the building.

Church planter/lead pastor Joey Yokeley was looking for a place his new church could meet, so The River Church took over the building. “They basically turned the entire facility over to us for free,” he said. Some original members stayed on; others left for other churches.

Yokeley spent 11 years as youth pastor before finally giving in to a long-time call from God to start a new church. Two years ago he finally started.

He and a core group met in a coffee shop and a school before the church building became available. Justin Luckett and Donny Baldrige serve as pastors.

Already the church has two Sunday morning services, both contemporary, to accommodate the 200-plus members and visitors. Growth has been slow but steady. Members bring in prospects, but the church also has had good response from Facebook and Twitter.

Members do outreach in the community, from passing out free coffee at intersections to holding cookout parties in neighborhoods.



Contributed photo

TAKING AIM — One of the activities Rusty Martin Sr. and his son Rusty Jr. like to do together is go to the shooting range. The two will be on screen in “Courageous,” a film by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., which opens Sept. 30.

Garner father, son take ‘Courageous’ roles

(Continued from Page 1)

one of the characters with a moral dilemma.

The Martins are members of Turner Memorial Baptist Church in Garner. The screenings of the film across the state have raised interest in the father and son.

The family was in Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 26 for the red-carpet premiere.

Junior is a sophomore at Wake Christian Academy, and his father owns a precious metals business. Kim is a hearing instruments specialist. The parents have flexible work schedules to coordinate with Rusty Jr.’s filming schedule. Rusty Sr. said he generally only takes roles filmed in the area or short-term gigs so he can be home with his family. Rusty Jr. is thankful to have Christian parents who have helped his faith.

While Rusty Jr. is taking all honors classes, he said his favorites tend to be science and history.

In the midst of juggling a budding acting career, Rusty Jr. tries to stay active in his church’s youth group.

“I call acting a passion,” Rusty Jr. said.

He’s not sure about college yet but is considering the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He’s waiting to see what God’s will is for his life.

Getting started

When Rusty Jr. was in third grade, no one had tried out for the main role for the school play, so he auditioned.

That was just the beginning. It wasn’t long before he’d found a talent agency and was filming his first commercial.

One of the activities he likes is Boy Scouts. He is working his way toward Eagle Scout.

“I’ve been working at it for such a long time now,” he said.

He was 14 when he was cast in “Courageous.”

While Rusty Sr. followed his son into acting, he was the first one cast in “Courageous.” They sent audition tapes in and also auditioned via the Internet.

Of the films in which they’ve been involved, “Courageous” was the most family friendly. They would routinely work for a week or two and give breaks for actors and crew to have time for family.

Both actors said they want people to be changed by “Courageous.”

While Rusty Jr. said his relationship

was “rock solid” with his dad before the movie, he said the film’s subject challenged him to be a better son. Rusty Sr. echoed the sentiment about being a better father.

Rusty Sr. indicated his family life was not the happiest. He said he was fortunate that when he was in his 30s he met some men who modeled manhood and displayed what a godly home should look like.

He married Kim when he was 33. When Rusty Jr. was born, “I determined he was going to be a priority.”

While the family has seen several screenings of the movie, in the next few weeks they’ll be seeing it again with family and churches.

“I get emotional every time I see it,” Rusty Sr. said. “It just really tugs at the heart. It makes you want to stand tall and makes you want to do better as a father.”

Father and son would love to work together again, and Rusty Sr. said he would love to play father-son on screen.

In the meantime, Rusty Sr. might be seen in a new production called “Snitched,” developed by Cross Shadow Productions.

See *Snitchedthemovie.com*. It was filmed in Apex. Father and son also recently worked on *Destiny Road*, a film for Brazil but filmed in North Carolina.

Word-of-mouth

As the film nears its debut, more people are contacting the Martins about speaking at their church or appearing at the movie theater to answer questions.

Both Rusty Jr. and Sr. said this picture has raised the bar for Christian films.

“This is a film that Christians can be proud of,” Rusty Sr. said. “A guy who goes to see it on Friday night, on Sunday afternoon he can grab his neighbor ... and take that guy to the theater and be proud of this product.”

Some churches are buying tickets for members and for guests to go the opening weekend. Some have private screenings scheduled opening weekend.

Kim handles the Garner area, and she said there has been a positive response to ticket sales.

She mentioned one church bought more than 100 tickets for first responders. At the movie the church will invite them to its services that following Sunday to meet a couple of local actors from the film.

Ways churches can help

Seeing “Courageous” is just the beginning of how churches can use the movie as a ministry tool.

Churches can buy tickets for opening weekend (*courageousthemovie.com*) and can find resources at another website, *CourageousResources.com*.

The following are ways churches can support and use the movie for ministry:

- Buy all the tickets for a showing. Churches can rent out a theater so their congregation can see the movie together.

- Towns where “Courageous” is not playing can also get in the action and bring the movie in by pledging to purchase 1,000 tickets. (For more information go to *CourageousMovie.com* and click “Take Action.”)

- Have church at the movies. Instead of a traditional Sunday morning service, churches can call their theater to set up a morning showing and provide childcare back at the church nursery for families who attend.

- Give tickets to chaplains, law enforcement officers and first responders.

- Invite unchurched friends, coworkers or family to see the movie.

- Put up posters and flyers to promote the movie on church campuses or in the community.

- Embed the movie trailer on church websites. (To find the trailer, go to the movie’s website and click on “Click Here to Watch the Trailer.” Then copy the code beneath the video.)

- Plan a sermon or series on fatherhood either leading to or following the movie’s release.

- Use “Courageous” material to start a men’s ministry or to study in an existing one. (Resources, including small group guides, can be found at *CourageousResources.com*)

- Reaching out to men with an event like a breakfast or special service honoring fathers.

Books:

- *The Resolution for Men* by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick, with Randy Alcorn

- *The Resolution for Women* by Priscilla Shirer, with Alex and Stephen Kendrick

- *Courageous Living — Dare to Take a Stand* by Michael Catt

- *Rite of Passage — A Father’s Blessing* by Jim McBride

- *Courageous — The Novel* by Randy Alcorn

- *Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood* by Dennis Rainey

Other resources

DaySpring has produced greeting cards as well as a framed print of “The Resolution” that is available. Check *dayspring.com/courageous* for priced materials relating to the movie.

Other family-friendly sites

- **Focus on the Family** — *focusonthefamily.com*

- **All Pro Dad** — *allprodad.com*

Tony Dungy, former Indianapolis Colts head coach, has created a website promoting how to be an All Pro Dad.

- **iMOM.com**

Lauren Dungy has a similar site to her husband’s promoting motherhood.

Events

- **Men at the Cross conference**

Website: *menatthecross.org*

Date: Nov. 5; Time: 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Location: First Baptist Church, Shallotte

Speakers include Joe White, Rick Rigsby, Ted Cunningham, and Joe Brown.

There is also a track for teen guys ages 13-18. White and Adam Donyes will lead the teens.

The featured artist is Christopher Julian.

Other conferences are in development for Raleigh and Winston-Salem.

- **Iron Sharpens Iron**

Website: *ironsharpensiron.net*

Date/location: Nov. 5 at The Park Church in Charlotte

Four resource CDs are available featuring interviews and message clips from national leaders.

Each CD has seven tracks and each track is five to eight minutes long. Visit *Ironsharpensiron.net/fatherfactor* for more information.

Greensboro church ‘Fireproof’

Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro formed an action squad when “Fireproof” came to theaters. In place of their regular Sunday evening service on opening weekend of “Fireproof,” the church bought all the seats at their local theater.

Members were encouraged to buy tickets not only for themselves, but also for unchurched friends, with whom they could then enjoy dinner and discussion after the movie.

In the following weeks, Pastor Patrick Fuller preached a sermon series on marriage, and Sunday school classes focused on “Fireproof” were offered.

Three years later, 75 new families that were part of that outreach are members of the church.

The church held a special “Courageous” Father’s Day service in June in an effort to purchase tickets opening weekend (Sept. 30-Oct. 2).

Triangle initiative

An Action Squad coordinated by a Triangle radio station is recruiting people to buy tickets for first responders and their spouses.

The same squad helped 500 first responders see “Fireproof,” another film from Sherwood, when it debuted.



Baptists must defend traditional marriage

By Mark H. Creech
Christian Action League

The week of September 12, the North Carolina General Assembly is expected to reconvene in special session to take up a measure that would give the electorate of this state an opportunity to vote on the much debated question of marriage.

North Carolina remains the only state in all of the southeastern United States that has yet to enact a Marriage Protection Amendment in its Constitution. Without it, the state is extremely vulnerable to court or legislative actions that could provide for a definition of the institution as something other than its traditional one.

Gay marriage is now legal in Iowa, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York, states that didn't have Marriage Protection Amendments. And, what has happened in these states heightens the urgency for North Carolinians to place marriage's true definition of one man and one woman in its Constitution — an act that will prevent it from being subject to the whims of future judicial or legislative redefinition.

Baptists have always believed in God's model for marriage as described by the Genesis account, where Adam and Eve, two similar but distinct creatures, male and female, made after God's image, were joined together for a permanent union. It was this model Jesus blessed at the wedding in Cana and

endorsed when asked questions concerning marriage in Matthew 19:4-6.

For centuries, Baptist pastors performing this rite have declared it the foundation of home life and social order, exhorting that it must so remain until the end of time.

But who would have imagined a day when there would be a concerted effort to redefine the fundamental building block of society to include same-sex relationships?

Some now contend marriage is essentially a private affair, created by two people for personal reasons, deserving of a license by the government to obtain certain legally recognized rights. Thus, to favor one kind of personal relationship, heterosexual, over same-sex relationships, they argue is inherently discriminatory.

The historic and biblical view, however, recognizes marriage as designed by God not simply for private purposes, but for the public's good. Government has a vested interest primarily because every male-female nuptial has the potential for children, either biological or adopted, and societies need babies. Social research overwhelmingly demonstrates children are most apt to be successful when raised by both a mother and a father in an intact family. Therefore, without a healthy citizenry that can reproduce and provide a stable, productive and balanced workforce, the culture's future is bleak.

Make no mistake; if matrimony is redefined to include same-sex couples and the government's favor for traditional marriage is erroneously deemed discriminatory, it will mean the beginning of the end of the nation's best support system — the traditional family.

In places like Norway, which has had de-facto same-sex marriage since the early 90s, marriage is quickly becoming irrelevant.

Anthropologist Stanley Kurtz notes that in that country "we are peering as far as we can into the future of marriage in a world where gay marriage is almost totally accepted. What we see is a place where marriage itself has almost totally disappeared." Nothing can effectively substitute for civilizing and focusing men on productive pursuits, protecting women, mothers and children from violence and economic harms, while

encouraging an adequate replacement birth rate as marriage.

Moreover, the links between the dissolution of marriage and rising illegitimacy levels are profound. Frank Turek notes that in Norway, "where they fly gay 'rainbow' flags over their churches, illegitimacy has soared — nearly 70 percent of all children are born out of wedlock."

Illegitimacy not only produces a less than favorable environment for children to grow up, but consequentially adds significant social and economic burdens

for any society.

With considerable certainty, the failure of the traditional family will also precipitate a severe curtailment of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The most important assignment of the family has not only been to propagate the race, but to hand down the faith to children. Malachi 2:15 instructs husbands and wives, "Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring." Few things stifle the ability to pass the gospel down to the next generation than the loss of God-fearing families. This accounts for much of Christianity's decline throughout Western Europe today.

This is to say nothing about the numerous ways the ratification of same-sex marriage will clash with religious liberties and the church's ability to spread the truth, just as its legalization already does in places like Canada and Sweden. If Baptists in the Tar Heel state really believe marriage originated exclusively as one man and one woman, if they are genuinely concerned the foundation God ordained for home life and social order remains in law until the end of time, then at this juncture in history they will have to vigorously defend it. That includes zealously expressing their support for a Marriage Protection Amendment to their state lawmakers before they return to Raleigh on September 12.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Creech is executive director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina, Inc.)

Guest Column



Mark Creech



Classified Advertisements

Pastor

St. Pauls Community Church of St. Pauls, NC, a Bible based, Christ centered Southern Baptist Church, is seeking a **bi-vocational mission minded pastor**. Must have completed or currently working toward seminary degree. Please submit a letter of interest and a resume with a statement of faith to St. Pauls Community Church, P.O. Box 781, St. Pauls, NC 28384, or via email at SPCCNC2011@aol.com. For other information contact Noel Brown at (910) 865-4868.

Ephesus Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist church in Spring Hope, NC, with average attendance of 150, is seeking **full-time pastor**. Send resume with references and statement of faith to Post Office Box 489, Spring Hope, NC 27882, or email to jalfordsh@aol.com.

Pastor. Derbyshire Baptist Church (DBC) in western Henrico County, Va., is seeking a full-time seminary-educated pastor. The candidate should have proven pastoral, preaching, Bible teaching, leadership, and organizational skills with a strong presence in the pulpit. The candidate should also be effective, with proven results, in increasing active membership growth. DBC is a mission-minded church affiliated with BGAV, SBC, and CBF. DBC is an active congregation focused on our core ministry values of missions, community, faith development, worship and music, outreach and evangelism, and generosity along with traditional/blended Sunday services. Resumes may be submitted to psc@dbcricmond.org or to Pastor Search Committee, 8800 Derbyshire Road, Richmond, VA 23229.

Bellview Baptist Church in Woodruff, SC, is prayerfully seeking a **full time senior pastor**. Must have a Southern Baptist seminary degree and minimum 5 years pastoral experience. Please send resume and references to Pastor Search Committee, 901 Bellview Rd., Woodruff, SC 29388.

First Baptist Church in Perry, Florida, is a multigenerational congregation seeking a **SENIOR PASTOR** to help us reach young families. Pastoral leadership and ministerial staff at the church is supported by a church council. Worship services are characterized by a blended contemporary style of music and expository teaching from God's word, with a focus on reaching the local community. Applicants need to have a clear sense of God's call to the pastoral ministry and exhibit visionary leadership while demonstrating the heart of a shepherd. Accepting resumes through Sept. 30 via email to fbcsecretary@fairpoint.net or by mail: Pastor Search Team, c/o First Baptist Church, 102. N. Center St., Perry, FL 32347.

Church Staff

Baptist church located on the OBX (Outer Banks) of NC is seeking the position of **Youth Director**; college degree required. You may email your resume to manteobaptist@embarqmail.com or send to Manteo Baptist Church, PO Box 670, Manteo, NC 27954.

Pine Level Missionary Baptist Church seeks **part-time Youth Minister**. Send resumes to plbc01@bellsouth.net or PLMBC, PO Box 340, Pine Level, NC 27568.

Drexel First Baptist Church seeks a dynamic, **full-time Associate/Youth Pastor** to serve in a growing, dually-aligned fellowship in Drexel, NC (www.drexelfirstbaptist.org). The assoc/youth pastor will direct a Christ-centered program for spiritual growth, especially for grades 6-12. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumes to P.O. Box 308, Drexel, NC 28619 or email to drexelfbc@att.net.

First Baptist Church of Hickory, NC, affiliated with CBF and SBC, is seeking a **full-time Minister of Music and Worship** to lead the vibrant and diverse music ministry of the church which weekly ministers to an average of 450 worshippers. He/She must have previously demonstrated abilities in both traditional and contemporary worship settings and must be equally capable and committed to designing worship, directing rehearsals, and leading worship in both settings. Ministry includes fully-graded choirs and instrumental programs. Masters degree from accredited seminary or divinity school in sacred/church music strongly preferred. Previous experience in full-time church music is preferred. Visit www.fbc.cc for our identity statement, overview of music and worship ministry, and job description. Qualified resumes to: musicsearch@fbc.cc or First Baptist Church, Attention Music and Worship Search, 339 2nd Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601.

Memorial Baptist Church is looking for a **Student Pastor** who is gifted in teaching, leading, organization and having fun as he glorifies Christ and builds relationships both inside and outside the church. Experience and higher education preferred. Please send resumes to Memorial Baptist Church Attention: Student Pastor Search, P.O. Box 618, Norwood, NC 28128, or to revdflynn64@gmail.com, or fax to 704-474-3088.

Administration Pastor. Hopewell Baptist in Monroe is accepting applications for this full-time position. A qualified applicant will have a degree in ministry and or business with experience in both (master's preferred). Duties will include overseeing church staff, budget, calendar, contracts and ministry responsibilities including vision casting, team meetings and pastor care. Please send resume to Lee@whatasavior.com.

First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach, FL, is seeking God's leadership in pursuing a **Minister to Students**. We are a SBC church that averages 625 in worship located in Northeast Florida. Interested candidates should have minimum of 5 years experience, prefer they have a seminary degree and should send resume to FBC Fernandina Beach, 1600 S. 8th St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034; ATTN: Dawn Lee or via email at delee@fbfirst.net.

Full-time Student Pastor available at First Baptist Church, Lexington, SC. For more information please visit our webpage, www.fblex.org.

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

Miscellaneous

NCBAM needs handymen (or women!) for home maintenance projects. Help aging adults enjoy quality life in their own homes. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

NCBAM needs window and free-standing fans for aging adults suffering in summer's heat. We can help you bring them blessed relief. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

Share the Biblical Recorder — FREE. Order a three-month free subscription for your family and friends. Contact Daphne Woodall at (919) 847-2127 or daphne@BRnow.org to make arrangements. Encourage others to be more informed about N.C. Baptist life and missions.

HAVE YOU MOVED? Help the *Biblical Recorder* cut down on postage costs by letting us know your new information. Contact Daphne Woodall at (919) 847-2127 or daphne@BRnow.org.

Carpenter BUS SALES

going the extra mile since 1953



We Rent Buses!
15 to 41 Passenger
Buses Available
Call for Rates

LifeWay
CHURCH BUS SALES
Biblical Solutions for Life
A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

Visit www.carpenterbus.com to see over 100 New & Used Buses In Stock. We buy buses and welcome Trade-Ins.

CALL TOLL FREE: 800.370.6180

How to place 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 web site at www.BRnow.org
- Send a Fax to (919) 847-6939

For more information, call the office at (919) 847-2127.

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

Planting churches for a purpose

In April 2006, North Carolina Baptists welcomed Milton A. Hollifield Jr. as their executive director-treasurer. To this key place of leadership, Milton brought a deep passion for reaching North Carolina with the gospel of Christ. He quickly challenged North Carolina Baptists with the 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," and he identified church planting as a key pillar in accomplishing this God-given vision. Under Milton Hollifield's leadership, North Carolina Baptists have focused on "Planting New Multiplication Churches."

The need for new church plants

Researchers tell us 5.6 million lost people call North Carolina home; that's 5.6 million of your friends, co-workers and neighbors. This mass of lost humanity comes from countries all across the globe. According to the North Carolina State Department of Education, 240 different languages are spoken in the homes of school children in our state. God has truly brought the nations to North Carolina, and North Carolina Baptists have the Great Commission responsibility to share the message of the gospel in the heart language of these precious people and to disciple them within the context of a local church. That's where church planting comes in.

Since 2006, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), working with Baptist associations and church planting networks across our state and utilizing your sacrificial gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering, has facilitated the planting of 496 new churches. Many of these new churches were launched specifically to reach the ethnic populations in our state.

For instance, in 2010, the BSC facilitated the planting of 125 new churches. A total of 96 of these new church starts were non-Anglo congregations and currently your church planting consultants are working with church planters from 34 different countries. Through church planting, North Carolina Baptists are reaching "the nations" all across our state. While we do focus on ethnic church planting, we certainly are not forgetting our Anglo neighbors who need Jesus. Last year, 29 new churches were planted to reach Anglos across our state.

Through the evangelistic ministries of our ethnic and Anglo plants North Carolina Baptists celebrated more than 2,800 professions of faith in Jesus!

The blessing of faithful, Kingdom-focused church planters

North Carolina Baptists are blessed to partner with some of the finest church planters in the Southern Baptist Convention. These God-called men are passionate about reaching their communities with the life-transforming message of the gospel. They have a heart to fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Each planter funded by the BSC affirms the theological tenants of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, does not consume or condone the use of beverage alcohol and commits to lead his church to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the North Carolina Missions Offering. In

addition, all funded church plants commit to tithe their undesignated offerings using the formula — 5 percent to the Cooperative Program, 3 percent to a Baptist association or church planting network and 2 percent to church planting endeavors of the plant's choice. Your church planters use wisely the Cooperative Program dollars North Carolina Baptists sacrificially give to underwrite their evangelistic ministries. Anglo church planters and most ethnic church planters are now funded by the BSC using a "strategy-based funding model."

This funding model calls for the planter to present a three-month evangelism strategy for the BSC to consider funding. If the strategy is approved, funds are provided. At the conclusion of three months the effectiveness of the strategy is evaluated by the planter and a BSC church planting consultant. If the planter has proven effective in implementing his strategy he may then present an additional three-month strategy for funding consideration. This process may be repeated for up to 24 months. The "strategy-based funding model" helps to ensure that the Cooperative Program dollars of North Carolina Baptists have maximum Kingdom impact.

Guest Column



Chuck Register

The need for partnering churches

God has certainly blessed the church planting efforts of North Carolina Baptists. He has blessed us with your financial gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering. He has blessed us with God-called, faithful, dedicated planters. He has blessed us with an outstanding team of church planting consultants who faithfully train, mentor and guide our church planters.

However, there is one critical church planting "need of the hour." Your church planters desperately need North Carolina Baptist churches to step up to the plate as "partnering churches." Your church planters need your church to come alongside for encouragement, for ministry assistance, for financial resources but most of all for prayer support.

They need you to join hands with them and help them reach pockets of our population that are not being reached with the message of the gospel. Together, established churches and new church plants can reach this state for Christ.

To find out how your church can specifically partner with a new church plant, call the BSC church planting team at (800)-395-5102, ext. 5552, and let us help you begin the journey of a lifetime!

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Register is executive leader of church planting and missional development at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.)

Chuck Register's recommended resources

- *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World* by David Garrison
- *Legacy Churches* by Stephen Gray and Franklin Dumond
- *Planting Fast-growing Churches* by Stephen Gray and Trent Short
- *Viral Churches: Helping Church Planters Become Movement Makers* by Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird

Planting new churches for God's glory

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.
BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

An article earlier this year in *USA Today* reported that our state's population has increased 18.5 percent in the past 10 years. Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city, saw a 35.2 percent gain during that time.



With a growing population comes a growing diversity. North Carolina's Hispanic population grew 11 percent, making it the 11th state in the country in Latino residents. North Carolina school systems report that more than 230 languages are spoken in this state. Of the top five largest

cities in our state, only in Raleigh is the white population the majority.

More people in our state means more churches are needed to help reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some people will not be reached by existing churches because of language and cultural barriers. We know that most church plants reach more lost people and experience growth faster than existing congregations. The more healthy, gospel-centered churches we have, the greater our opportunity to penetrate spiritual darkness.

Church planting is the heart of Pillar No. 4 in the Seven Pillars for Ministry. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) wants to help churches across this state — and throughout North America and the world — start new churches that will in turn start new churches.

Last year, the BSC assisted North Carolina Baptists in planting 125 new churches. You may not be aware that these new churches included 29 Anglo, 27 Hispanic, 15 Asian and 18 multi-ethnic churches. Other types of churches included cowboy, biker, Montagnard, Chinese, Haitian, American Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, African, African-American, Burmese, Asian Indian, Filipino and Romanian. As a result of these church plants, we witnessed 2,813 professions of faith. I praise God for salvation and for these new brothers and sisters in Christ!

To help equip church planters to be as effective as possible, your Convention staff led 218 people through the Basic Training Journey for Church Planters last year. We have also launched a church planting partnership with the Canadian National Baptist Convention. Our prayer is that God will help us plant 60 churches by the year 2021 in Canada. I want to thank each of you who have contributed to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) throughout the years. This offering, which is a focus in many churches during September, plays a tremendous role in helping us support new churches. We need your help. You can read about how this offering has helped by visiting ncmissionsoffering.org.

If your church is not already participating in church planting, I encourage you to pray about how God would have you to be involved. Our church planting team stands ready to assist you in any way that we can. Our desire is to see more churches planted so that more people may come to faith in Jesus Christ.

"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Ephesians 1:22-23

Gene Ryder
Winston-Salem

Tar Heel Voices

Congrats to Mt. Airy church

I offer my congratulations to the Flat Rock Baptist Church in Mount Airy. Calling a woman as their pastor is to be commended.

John's Gospel contains the story of the woman at the well where Jesus witnessed to her about her life. He made such an impression that she went to her village and shared her experience.

She invited those who would listen to "Come and see ..." Those hearing her "... left the city and were on their way to him."

Flat Rock Church just may be where all people can "Come and see" because they are hearing a woman who has heard, as did the woman at the well (John 4:26b).

REACT: Tar Heel Voices is your forum to share opinions

- Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for style, length and clarity.
- Name may be withheld; writer must have

sufficient reason. Only one letter from a writer will be published in a 90-day period.

E-mail: editor@BRnow.org, or

Mail: Editor, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Questions?: Call (919) 847-2127 or email.

What does a church planter look like?

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

Your idea of a church planter may be a young man in his 30s with a casual, contemporary appearance — maybe even spiked hair. Think again. Stereotypes are common. I don't suppose this will ever change. Perceptions of church planters are not exempt.

Church planters are not all young, and not all fit the mold of a student fresh out of seminary. Some look like cowboys, most are not Caucasian — Korean, Vietnamese, Mexican, Turkish, Filipino — you pick the nationality.

Herman T. Stevens was a church planter of a different era in Baptist life. A loyal Southern Baptist and proud graduate of Campbell University, he served as the pastor of churches

in North Carolina and Virginia. Each grew under his leadership. And each was a mother church to multiple new church plants.

He is responsible for at least 24 new churches in the Tidewater-Peninsula area of Virginia. He planted at least seven churches after he retired in 1948. This was a man of energetic leadership and vision. Church planting was his passion because he believed this would reach the greatest number of people through the limited resources of the local church. He believed that

God's resources were unlimited, so the dollars would always be there for a new mission of the church.

Stevens believed in the "Baptist seven-mile concept." Under this concept, when a church reaches 250 members, you go seven miles down the road and establish a new congregation. He obviously practiced it.

He resisted the use of his name when naming a church. Twenty years after he retired, he finally allowed one of those new churches to use his name. The Richneck Mission became Stevens Memorial Baptist Church. My wife's family was part of



Herman T. Stevens
Church Planter

Church planting was the norm 60-70 years ago in Baptist life. Ed Stetzer says "As the church became established, it began to protect its establishment. Existing churches began to see a church plant as a competitor." Church planting became the exception.

When I moved into the county of my most recent pastorate, the newest church plant was 40 years old. Thankfully, the last decade has seen significant change in that statistic.

Every church planting network — denominational or independent — has minimal standards for effective church planters. Although not exhaustive, the following five statements summarize the convictions of most networks:

- He must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- He must be fully committed to Biblical authority.

- He must be committed to living the truth of scripture daily.
- He must be committed to his wife and family.
- He must be disciplined in his daily walk with God.

But there is much more. An effective planter has passion. He is not serving himself. He is focused on glorifying God, giving birth to a ministry that produces changed lives. His age, nationality and cultural genre fit no stereotype. His uniqueness was designed by God for a purpose.

We have no reason to be threatened by the work God is doing through new churches.

Our partnership in the gospel leaves no room for competition with fellow Baptist churches. We will be wise to ask God to give us a vision to plant more churches which will reach more people with the life changing message of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Give Him glory for every new Bible-based congregation in this state.

Editor's Pillar 4 picks

Planting Missional Churches
by Ed Stetzer,
B & H Publishing Group, 2006

*The Multiplying Church:
The New Math for Starting
New Churches*
by Bob Roberts Jr.,
Zondervan, 2008.

Four steps to encourage a church planter

By Diana Davis
Baptist Press

It can be lonely out there. When a new church is begun, its pastor may sometimes feel isolated, especially during the initial months.

Planting new churches is a high priority for Southern Baptists, who are committed to planting record numbers of them, especially in highly populated, under-reached cities. Your small encouragements could make a huge difference to a church planter in North America.

As a member of a Southern Baptist church, you are already involved in church planting. For example, your church's contributions through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong offering helped support more than 750 new church plants just last year.

Would you go a step further and personally encourage one church planter? Here are a few tips:

• Find one.

Be intentional about knowing and befriending a church planter and his family. If your church sponsors a new church, intentionally get to know that planting pastor. Otherwise, ask your pastor or a denominational leader to recommend a church planter. You can meet planters at your state or national Baptist convention. Click "mobilize me" or study the map at namb.net.

• Be an encourager.

Study the church's newsletter, blog or website.

Give relational support. Let the church planter and his family know you care. Send email encouragements. Take him to lunch. Ask how things are going and how you can pray for him. Listen well to discover needs and opportunities. Offer practical advice when asked. Be available if he needs you. Brainstorm with him. Enthusiastically praise God for blessings and pray with the planter about challenges.

• Share your resources.

Has God gifted you with things that could be shared to help the church? Could they use your home for a Bible study? Your pool for a fellowship? Your lake home for a planning retreat or pastor getaway? Loan your tent or trailer for an event. Connect Christian friends who might offer aid, such as a banker, carpenter or accountant.

Share monetarily. Your tithe, of course, is given to your local church, but God may prompt you to give an additional monthly offering, like \$20 or \$200, to a church plant. Consider a one-time offering for a specific item, like a coffee pot, advertisement, or a down payment for land. Do they need Bibles, audio-visual equipment or furniture? Encourage the planter pastor with a bookstore gift certificate or scholarship to attend a conference, Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, or seminary class.

• Share yourself.

Show your personal support by visiting the church plant's worship service occasionally. Offer your skills

and talents. If the church is in another state, can you organize a mission trip for an outreach event, survey or building project?

A new church needs a quality core group. If God leads, would you relocate to the church plant area to help for a few years or months? If God calls you, He'll provide a way. As your church and denomination send new church planters, will you personally encourage just one of them?

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Davis is an author, speaker and wife of the North American Mission Board vice president for the Midwest region. Visit her website, www.keeponshining.com. She and her husband have helped plant several churches.)

Important announcement

Beginning October 1 you will see significant changes in the *Biblical Recorder*. The printed edition will have a new look. The paper size will be slightly smaller and much brighter. Simultaneously, our totally redesigned website will be launched. The speed and appearance of the website will be very different. We believe you will like what you see. Pray for the ministry of the *Biblical Recorder*. It is a privilege to serve the churches of our state with news and stories to edify your lives and glorify the God who redeemed us through His only Son.



(ISSN 0279-8182)

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

Volume 177 No. 18
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 847-6939
BRnow.org

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

Board of Directors

Gerald Hodges, chair; Richard Hicks, vice chair; Robert Hefner, secretary; Jo Andrews; Paul Arnold; J.C. Bradley; Tony Brewington; Stephen Burrow; Dennis Harrell; Chester Jones; Dennis Thurman; Pat Vines; Don Warren; Larry Whichard.

Editor Emeritus

R.G. Puckett, Editor 1982-1998

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

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

Lesson for September 11**Formations****Lesson for September 18****Gideon Tests God****Focal Passage: Judges 6:25-40**

When we invite the Lord Jesus into our lives, we begin a journey of faith. In our spiritual journey, sometimes the paths we are to travel are not clear to us. At times, we sense that we are lost. Uncertainty sets in, and we grow fearful and insecure.

In this series of lessons, we are traveling with Gideon on his journey of faith. Last week, we learned that God approached this timid, fearful farmer as he was beating out his wheat in a winepress, and called him to be a "mighty warrior" (6:12). In spite of all his fears, Gideon was willing to step out and obey the Lord.

Today, we continue to walk with Gideon as he takes steps toward fulfilling God's call to him. His first step of faith was to take a stand in his own village before he faced the enemy on the battlefield (v. 25-32).

The assignment wasn't an easy one. God told him to destroy the altar dedicated to Baal, build an altar to the Lord, and sacrifice one of his father's valuable bulls, using the wood of the Asherah pole for fuel.

Gideon obeyed, but he fearfully carried out his instructions at night. He did so with 10 servants to help bolster his flagging faith. He lacked confidence. He was weak and timid; but he obeyed.

After a good first step at home, Gideon was ready to take the next step in his faith journey (v. 33-35). The Midianites and Amalekites were preparing to attack the Israelites.

We read that "the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon" (v. 34). Literally, the Spirit "clothed Gideon." The word translated "clothed" referred to a man putting on his clothes (Gen. 28:20) or a warrior putting on a suit of armor (Is. 59:17). The Abiezrites, together with their allies (Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali), positioned themselves to follow Gideon.

At this point Gideon became nervous and hesitated (v. 36-40). Gideon asked God to make a fleece of wool wet with dew one morning, then totally dry the next morning. Gideon received the sign that he asked for from God, and then went out to war, defeating the forces of Midian.

Gideon tested God, but Deuteronomy 6:16 clearly states: "Do not test the Lord your God as you did at Massah." Although we are not to seek signs, God knows that, like Gideon, we are fearful and timid at times.

May He grant us the grace to know Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly. Amen.



DuPre Sanders
pastor, Roxboro
Baptist Church

Gideon Leads the Attack**Focal Passages: Judges 7:1-8, 19-23**

When we first looked at Gideon two Sundays ago, we learned the importance of seeing ourselves from God's perspective. We saw Gideon portrayed as a fearful farmer hiding from the Midianites; but when the Lord appeared to Gideon, He declared Gideon to be a mighty warrior.

Last week, before going to war, Gideon tested God twice with the fleece. In our lesson for today, it is God's turn to test Gideon.

In Judges 7:2, God shocked Gideon: "The troops with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand. Israel would only take the credit away from me, saying, 'My own hand has delivered me.'"

Gideon must have questioned, "What Lord? Too many men?" Gideon was the commander of an army with 32,000 troops, while the Midianite army numbered at least 135,000 (Judges 8:10).

When given the opportunity, 22,000 men left Gideon's army because they were too afraid to fight. The 10,000 that remained were taken to the river for a drink. Some knelt on the bank, put their faces in the water, and lapped like dogs. Some of the soldiers bent over, cupped

their hands, and brought the water up to their mouths.

From this exercise, the Lord shrank Gideon's army to 300 men!

Gideon must have really been scared now, facing those thousands of enemy troops with just 300 men. How could he possibly experience victory against such crushing odds?

Haven't we found ourselves in similar situations?

Many centuries later the apostle Paul wrote that God is more concerned with our spiritual strength than our physical power. Paul illustrated it with his own example, revealing his request of God to heal him from a physical debilitation. God did not heal Paul, but responded: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).

For this battle, the Lord told Gideon to use a form of psychological warfare. Each soldier was given a trumpet and a torch enclosed in a jar. In the middle of the night they surrounded the enemy. When the signal was given, the soldiers broke the jars, revealed their torches, blew on the trumpets, and shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

Gideon led the attack, but God was leading Gideon as the Israelites were victorious in battle. Like Gideon, may we learn to be obedient, facing our battles in trust that God will lead us through in His way to His victory.

Look for changes on this page

In the Sept. 17 issue of the Biblical Recorder you will see the Oct. 2 lesson for Explore the Bible, a curriculum published by LifeWay. The Sept. 17 issue will have the last lesson from Formations, a curriculum printed by Smyth & Helwys Publishing. This lesson will be dated for Sept. 25. LifeWay's Bible Studies for Life will continue to be printed.

Lesson for September 11**Bible Studies for Life****Lesson for September 18****Grow in Spiritual Maturity****Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 3:1-17**

While rummaging through an old trunk, I discovered my birth announcement. Among other things, it stated my weight and length. No doubt my doctor observed me periodically to determine whether my growth progressed normally. Concern to the contrary would have triggered immediate action. My story would have appeared in medical journals and tabloids, along with photographs of "the baby who never grew!"

In contrast, when I was born spiritually, I received little assistance in promoting my spiritual growth as God requires, "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, (growing) into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness" (Eph. 4:13).

Afterward, when I united with a church, only a few members lined up to welcome me into the fellowship. Perhaps to the majority I was just a college student who would graduate soon and move away; therefore they felt little responsibility to get to know me and help me grow in Christ. Without a class for new members, I remained on "the spiritual delivery room table" until I married a seminarian whose sermons shaped my theology and spurred my spiritual growth. Eventually I claimed the definition of Christian growth as "journeying steadfastly in the direction of Christ-

likeness." Paul's advice to Timothy challenged me to grow as it gave me guidance, urged me to keep my faith strong, discern and flee false teachings, and hold fast to truth and Christian morals (2 Timothy).

I could not play with evil influences and expect them not to influence me. I could not read defiling literature and be none the worse for it. Sin always exacts its price.

When a cadet was being expelled from the Air Force Academy for cheating, he argued, "There are not 10 men in this academy who would not cheat on an exam."

To that his superior responded, "Has it occurred to you that you could have been one of those 10?"

Paul advised Timothy to flee youthful lusts, follow after the good, and hold fast to Scripture (3:14-17). He reminded Timothy that the Scriptures had been his from childhood, providing wisdom unto salvation, usefulness for

teaching the truth, and direction for correcting error.

Someone said, "Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional." God

disagrees. He commands, "Like newborn infants, desire the unadulterated spiritual milk, so that you may grow by it in your salvation, since you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:2-3).

***"All Scripture is inspired
by God and profitable
for teaching ..."***

— 2 Timothy 3:16a

Find Your Place of Service**Focal Passage: Romans 12:3-15**

While our daughter Melanie was in labor, Jack and I made ourselves "small" in her hospital room. We wanted to be present to welcome this newborn with no past, only a future, into our family.

As Nathanael inhaled his first breath, the doctor and nurse hovered to assist him in getting a healthy start in life.

The following Sunday, we returned to the church Jack served as interim pastor. At the invitation, a woman named Janie responded.

She had just breathed spiritually for the first time. She, too, was a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

The members lined up and welcomed her into the church, but because Janie was an adult, the church failed to recognize her as the spiritual infant she was.

At first Janie was regular in worship, but soon her attendance became sporadic.

In time, she stopped coming. Knowing how critical the months are following an adult's spiritual birth, we kept in touch, but in time, without being assimilated, she dropped out of church.

Months later, a church leader asked me whether I remembered a young woman who once sat in the middle of the worship center during church. Snapping his fingers, he said, "Oh, you know, What's-Her-Name?"

I compared Janie's spiritual birth to

Nathanael's physical birth. How impossible it would have been for his excited siblings ever to address him as "What's-His-Name." But by failing to assimilate Janie, the church silently communicated, "From now on, you're on your own."

Hopefully your church maintains a heightened alert to the needs of new Christians as they find their place of service. Both church and new members bear responsibility.

New members should introduce themselves, understanding that members have forgotten how it feels to be new.

They attend every session of the new members' class and refer to the church as we, not they. They note activities listed in the church bulletin that they can participate in and study the church's pictorial directory to put names with faces. They attend fellowships and meals, mingling with different people each time.

The church's responsibility includes introducing themselves until new members can call their names.

They invite new members to socials, offer rides or directions, and include new members in their conversations. The church draws new members into tasks in the church so they can find their paths to service through their talents and spiritual gifts (Romans 12:4-5).

Spiritual gifts are listed in Ephesians 4:11, 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, and Romans 12:6-8.

Reviewing these lists might reveal gifts you need to rediscover and put to use for God's glory.



Catherine Painter
Author, speaker
from Raleigh

9/11 took disaster relief to new level

By Joe Conway
Baptist Press

Imagine India's Yamuna River without the Taj Mahal, or Paris without the Eiffel Tower. The loss of the World Trade Center's twin towers left a similarly unimaginable hole in the American landscape and psyche.

Sept. 11, 2001's terrorist assaults on the United States changed more than the lower Manhattan skyline.

The unprecedented attacks that ended so tragically in New York City and in Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania also forever changed the face of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

Out of chaos came advancements that few disaster response pioneers would have dared dream. In the decade following 9/11, tens of thousands of Southern Baptists became trained disaster relief volunteers; relationships were forged and deepened with faith-based groups, law enforcement and government entities; and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) gained recognition and influence.

That influence grew from the respect victims and other responders gave SBDR volunteers, who have used those opportunities to present the gospel and seen thousands come to faith in Christ. The SBDR logo — now widely recognized — opened doors for a historic response to Hurricane Katrina. It continues to remove barriers.

North Carolina Baptist Men was in the thick of the response in Washington, D.C., and New York. By Sept. 12 there was a team at the Pentagon watching the sun rise along with the smoldering remains.

Skip Greene, of First Baptist Church in Boone, was leading the team in charge of organizing meals for first responders.

"I saw a lot of emotion in those men's and women's eyes," said Greene in one of the videos made after the attack. "Our prayer is that we never have to go but the reality is that we live in a hurting world."

Greene has been involved in disaster relief work since the early 80s. Because the crews were working so hard to feed people, they had no idea what was going on in the world. "You knew more about what was going on than we did," Greene said.

This response was different than a



U.S. Air Force photo by Denise Gould

REMEMBERING — On the fifth anniversary of 9/11, high-wattage spotlights pierce the darkness from Ground Zero in New York, symbolizing a determination not to retreat in the face of fear. The terrorist attack brought about significant changes in how Baptists respond to disaster.

hurricane or flooding, however. "Our nation was attacked," Greene said.

Each meal you might sit with a responder pulling out bodies from the rubble or hear a story of how a person should have been in the spot where the plane hit but went to the restroom.

A vivid memory for Greene was a parking lot near the Pentagon. Greene remembers 13 cars in the lot one day.

"All I could think was that they were victims," he said.

"We stopped and prayed over those cars."

As leader of the disaster relief team for the North American Mission Board, Mickey Caison often is at the center of disaster response and for development of the ministry.

Like many Americans on the East Coast that morning, Caison was in his office working on something that quickly became less important.

"It is difficult to believe that it has been 10 years (since 9/11)," Caison said. "The memories still flood in. A co-worker came into my office and asked to turn on the television. The first tower was burning. A short time later, the dozen people standing in my office gasped as the second jet hit. My heart sank."

Months earlier, Caison had participated in discussions with the New York City Office of Emergency Management in a meeting held in one of the other World Trade Center buildings.

'Seen as strong leaders'

A cooperative agreement between the Salvation Army and the North American Mission Board in 2002 followed the pattern of similar agreements with the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency and other response organizations.

"We are seen as strong leaders in the response community," Caison said. "We probably mobilize more trained and credentialed volunteers than anyone else.... Southern Baptists have a passion to live out their relationship with Christ and they choose to demonstrate it."

Another area of change since 9/11 is training — the desire of people wanting to be trained and willing to respond in an organized way, Caison added.

In 2001 there were 24,874 trained Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers. Today there are more than 82,000. The first year Southern Baptists provided more than 2 million meals in disaster response was 2001. In 2004, that number was 3.5 million. In 2005, the year of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, Southern Baptist volunteers prepared more than 17 million meals.

The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief fleet — units equipped by churches, associations and state conventions for mass feeding and a range of disaster relief services, from chainsaw response to childcare — has grown from 335 in 2001 to 1,552 in 2011.

Hurricane Katrina and 2005 are the benchmarks for Southern Baptist disaster response, but it was 9/11 that set the stage to make those responses possible. Some services now expected from Southern Baptist disaster response did not exist prior to 9/11.

"A unique ministry came out of the response to New York," said Gaylon Moss, disaster relief coordinator for North Carolina Southern Baptists. "North Carolina volunteers assisted

with the apartment clean-up and provided some base camp logistics. One of our on-site coordinators, Beddie Tarlton, contacted Richard Brunson (North Carolina Baptist Men executive director) regarding the need to wash clothes for the Red Cross volunteers. The laundry unit was built with three washers and two dryers. This was the beginning of the organized laundry ministry for Southern Baptists."

North Carolina's first unit was followed by six more. Southern Baptists now have 21 laundry units in their disaster response fleet. Brunson said the disaster also helped formalize the ministry more. "It made us aware of new ways to minister," Brunson said.

In the three months following Sept. 11 North Carolina Baptists had 600 volunteers who had worked in New York and at the Pentagon.

Tom Beam, student mission mobilization consultant with the Baptist Men, was one of the N.C. Baptists who spent time at the Pentagon. He served as a white hat coordinating 24-hours of feeding with two shifts of volunteers.

"We were feeding those that were securing the area, military personnel as well as investigators," Beam said. "You were constantly wondering if there was going to be other retaliations."

It was an unsettling time for people because the country was considering war or at least a retaliation for the terrorist attack.

Planning remembrance

Greene's church is planning a special service Sept. 11 called "We Remember." A special cross, only one of four made out of the Pentagon rubble, has been moved to Boone from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina offices in Cary. The cross was presented to North Carolina Baptist Men in 2002 on the anniversary of the attack.

Greene's trying to pull the whole Region 7 team back together. During the special services — two morning services — a number of people will share reactions and what they remember of the first few days.

"It changed everyone of us," Greene said.

Other churches have special sermons or times prepared to recognize the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Some will be participating in a simulcast featuring Anne Graham Lotz and Joel Rosenberg. The two are hosting "A Wake-Up Call for God's People." Visit annegrahamlotz.org for more information.

Copies of the videos are available on YouTube or on DVD from the North Carolina Baptist Men. Visit ncmissions.org.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Conway is a writer for the North American Mission Board. Dianna L. Cagle, the Biblical Recorder's assistant managing editor, contributed to this report.)



HELPING — Volunteers from North Carolina serve meals to search and rescue teams at the Pentagon after the 9/11 terrorist attack there as part of Southern Baptists' disaster relief efforts.



Photo by James Dotson

ILLUSTRATING — Beddie Tarlton of Grifton, director of a North Carolina disaster relief laundry and shower unit stationed in New York City after 9/11, creates a custom painting on the laundry bag of each volunteer whose clothes her unit washed and folded.

Teen girls challenged to missional living at Blume

By Julie Walters

Woman's Missionary Union

Approximately 2,350 girls in grades 7–12 and their leaders, along with some collegiate young women, gathered for Blume where they were encouraged to appreciate their spiritual and missions heritage and consider ways they could share Christ with others and live a legacy of faith ... even now in their junior high, high school and college years.

Blume, a three-day missions event for teen girls sponsored by national WMU, took place July 13–16 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Each general session featured high-energy music led by Christian recording artist Cindy Johnson and her band from Winston-Salem, N.C., along with this year's six National Acteens Panelists; a message from author and keynote speaker Chandra Peele of Houston, Texas; messages from a host of international and North American missionaries; and theme interpretation through painting by artist Rianna Freeman of Lafayette, La.

Two of the National Acteens Panelists are from North Carolina: Kianni Curry and Cassie Taylor, both of University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte. North Carolina ranked third in participants with 234, behind South Carolina and Texas.

A focus on "living a legacy" was introduced by the 2011 National Acteens Panelists as they talked about the beginnings of WMU and the legacy of missions they enjoy today thanks to



GATHERING — Acteens and their leaders from Enon Baptist Church in Morganton have fun in the hallways between sessions.

missions advocates in WMU who came before them.

Fan the flame

Citing 2 Timothy 1:3–19, the Scripture focus of Blume, keynote speaker Chandra Peele challenged the girls to fan the flame and not be afraid of sharing how Jesus had changed their lives.

"What gift has God put in you that God is fanning the flame on right now?" Peele asked. "But when you think about fanning the flame, what comes next?"

"Fear," she said. "Fear sets in and shuts you down. Satan loves to do that because fear can keep us from all kinds of things."

Kym Mitchell and Suzanne Reece of national WMU introduced the Power

Project, an avenue for Acteens to address human trafficking. In January — human trafficking awareness month — Acteens will be encouraged to learn about the issue; look around their community for ways to educate or minister; and love their neighbor by planning a mission action project to do something about human trafficking.

But during Blume, girls and their leaders got a head start as they learned about the reality of human trafficking through general sessions, an interactive experience, and from missionary speakers who are addressing the issue now.

Exploring cultures

WMU partnered with Disney's YES (Youth Education Series) program to

provide an interactive cultural experience at Epcot customized for Blume participants.

At each of the three featured countries, the girls also spent time with a Blume facilitator for a biblical component in which they explored the theme for Acteens this year — G3: The Power of a Girl to Change the World. G3 encourages girls to focus on three girls: herself, a girl next door, and a girl on the other side of the world.

Giving opportunities

Acteens were encouraged to bring hygiene items, wash cloths, clothes, sneakers, and other items with them to Blume to sort and give to local ministries.

With more than 24,000 donated items, the girls were able to assemble in excess of 3,000 hygiene kits that were given to the Greater Orlando Baptist Association (GOBA). Additional clothing and household items the girls brought, along with nearly \$1,500 in Wal-Mart gift cards they donated, went to the Osceola Christian Ministry Center, a local center operated by First Baptist Church of Kissimmee that ministers to the homeless and underemployed through a variety of free services.

Participants were also given the opportunity to make a difference in the life of another girl across the world by giving to the Beginning of Life Foundation in Moldova, a ministry that helps prevent people of all ages from being victims of trafficking.

Blume participants gave \$20,758.19 to support the Beginning of Life Foundation, and that total will be matched by First Fruits, Inc.

WHAT COMPELS US?



COMPELLED BY CHRIST.

We can get involved in missions and help others get involved.

COMPELLED BY LOVE.

When we love people as Jesus did, we want to relieve suffering as He did.

COMPELLED BY LOSTNESS.

North Carolina's 5.6 million lost people should compel us to share our faith and to start new churches.

What compels you?
Give to the North
Carolina Missions
Offering this month!

COMPELLED

BY CHRIST. BY LOVE. BY LOSTNESS.
2 Corinthians 5:14

2011 GOAL \$2,100,000

Go to www.ncmissionsoffering.org to see the many missions programs your church can support.