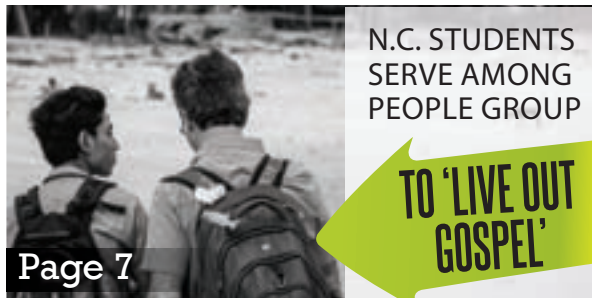




CHARLOTTE CONGREGATION REBORN AS MEETING PLACE CHURCH

Page 6



N.C. STUDENTS
SERVE AMONG
PEOPLE GROUP

TO 'LIVE OUT
GOSPEL'

Page 7

BR BIBLICAL RECORDEER

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 180 NO. 19 • **BRnow.org**

The Aug. 27 election of David Platt as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board (IMB) brought praise and calls for prayer from Southern Baptists. He succeeds Tom Elliff who served as IMB president since March 2011.

"I do not know a more godly man or missions-driven pastor," said Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) president, Danny Akin. "I believe he will mobilize us like never before to take the gospel to the nations. I am more excited to be a Southern Baptist than at any time in my lifetime."

Platt will be leaving his position as pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.

The 169-year-old largest and oldest missionary-sending entity boasts more than 4,800 international missionaries worldwide. Notable leaders like Paige Patterson have confessed that Platt was not their first choice. Patterson, now president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, "All critics beginning with me must bury our reservations and get on our knees in behalf of this talented young man who now assumes this role."

Since his presidency was made public, some have highlighted Platt's youth and lack of qualifications in international missions. In response, Platt said he has much to learn, and he looks "forward to listening in the days ahead to missionaries on the field, listening to pastors and getting a picture of how we can best mobilize churches here for missions."

"[David's] appointment to this position is so encouraging to me on numerous levels," said Tony Merida, pastor of Imago Dei in Raleigh and associate professor of preaching at SEBTS, who has known Platt for more than 15 years. "Here's a theologically brilliant man. Here's a man of integrity. Here's a faithful husband and father. Here's a man who understands the centrality of the local church. Here's a man who will mobilize thousands of younger men and women. ... These are exciting days."

See Platt page 2

N.C., SBC LEADERS SPEAK OUT

DAVID PLATT IS NEW IMB PRESIDENT

By **MICHAEL MCEWEN** | BR Content Editor



IMB photo by Chris Carter

Life-saving supplies delivered to Iraq's displaced

By **MARK KELLY** | BGR, Baptist Press

Life-saving relief supplies are being delivered to Iraqi Christians and other minorities forcibly displaced in northern Iraq by radical Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Islamists.

Many of these families have gone for three weeks with little to eat, said Abraham*, who leads work in the Middle East for Baptist Global Response (BGR). He reports these persecuted Christians believe they are facing extinction and he worries that Christians in the West do not know of their suffering.



"We entered this one camp, and they said, 'So far we are just eating rice and some watery tomato soup. We have only had meat once. A guy came and he gave us some chicken. Just for a day,'" Abraham said.

"It touched my heart, to know we could provide some good healthy nutrition for these people," he added. "It brought joy to their hearts for us to bring beans and other food. Just to make them feel they are normal and loved."

See Hunger page 4

NCMO moves churches from 'the pew to people in need'

By **MICHAEL MCEWEN** | BR Content Editor

After storms destroy households and businesses, disaster relief volunteers from Baptists On Mission (BOM) arrive to provide organization, equipment and strategy for displaced individuals and families to help rebuild more than homes – they show up to help rebuild livelihoods.

Likely one of the most visible ministries of BOM – formerly, North Carolina Baptist Men – is disaster relief. It involves thousands of men, women and student volunteers in 14 ministries.

In September, North Carolina Baptists have an opportunity to give

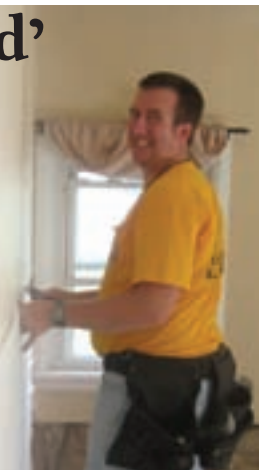
to the North Carolina Mission Offering (NCMO), a special offering that supports mission and ministry initiatives including BOM.

Gaylon Moss, disaster relief coordinator for BOM, said, "The NCMO provides the necessary resources for us to develop the mechanisms required to be involved in mission. It helps us help churches move from the pew to the people in need."

The 2014 theme for NCMO is "Choose Now."

BOM works with various disaster organizations like the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, N.C. Emergency Management and others to provide relief to those afflicted by disaster.

See NCMO page 3



Is homosexuality a secondary issue?

The culture police and liberal Christian leaders are trying to convince Christians to give up our opposition to homosexual marriage. According to them we should roll over and play dead since it is “inevitable” and since “everyone” is embracing the movement.

The same voices told us the populace will always embrace abortion. Their artificial defense has fallen like Walmart prices. Through medical facts, compassionate ministry and biblical grace, abortion statistics have dropped dramatically in the past decade. The younger generation has joined pro-life forces, and in the last three years more pro-life laws have been passed than in the three preceding decades.

Recently I attended Alex McFarland’s “Truth for a New Generation” conference in Spartanburg, S.C. The annual event consistently headlines some of the best minds and strongest hearts to help Christians respond to cultural challenges.

One of this year’s keynote speakers was Sean McDowell, the son of famed author and apologist, Josh McDowell. He is also assistant professor of apologetics at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.

I have listened to some bright Christian leaders address the subject of homo-

sexuality, and I have been helped by the writings of others. But no one has covered this issue more thoroughly and more biblically than the younger McDowell.

This is a tough subject. It may seem simple to us, but it has been made more



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

complex by the general embrace of well-meaning people, the perceived hatred of homosexuals from the Christian community and the shortage of the complete teaching of scripture on the matter. This is not a subject we can afford to minimize or ignore.

McDowell said, “The reason I speak on this issue is I fear God more than I fear men. I do not live my life for human approval. I try to live my life to be faithful to what God’s called me to do.”

He offered a strong case for the uniqueness of sexual sin. The Apostle Paul said it is the only sin that you commit against your own body. He also provides some interesting insights into the question, “Are all sins equal?”

But, McDowell’s most captivating discussion responds to the question, “Is homosexuality a secondary issue?”

He said in the past six months two prominent pastors have published books in which they said, “Homosexuality is a secondary issue and we just need to

move beyond it, and disagree about it just like we might disagree about the role of women in the church, the age of the earth, Calvinism or Arminianism – we just need to disagree and move on. It is a secondary issue.”

There are secondary issues. That is what Paul addressed in Romans 14:2-5. But is homosexuality one of those?

“I’ve read everything I can get my hands on, on both sides of this issue,” McDowell said, “and I keep coming back to Isaiah 20:12. ‘Beware those who call good evil or who call evil good.’ Do you know what that means? It means if God really blesses same-sex unions that are faithful and monogamous, then by you and I calling it sin, we are calling something good, evil.

“But, if God has designed all sexual relations to be between a man and a woman in a committed monogamous relationship for life, then those who say that God blesses same sex unions ... are calling something evil, good,” he added.

“There is no middle ground on this issue. There is no ‘third way.’ And the question is, ‘What does the scripture teach?’”

“When we know the truth of how something is designed and we use it accordingly, we are set free,” McDowell said. “That’s why Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.”

He said we must resolve a few questions, “Is there a truth and a design about sexuality? Is there a Designer who has spoken on this issue and revealed for us how we ought to live? If there is no God, then we get to design and make it up as we go along. But if there is a God, then we are only truly free when we follow His design for our lives and for the issue of sexuality”

McDowell listed five important conclusions from his research, First, “There is not a single passage anywhere in the Bible that supports homosexuality. Not one – Old Testament or the New Testament.” Second, “Until the middle of the 20th century not a single church leader affirmed homosexuality. I couldn’t find any, Jewish or Christian, that affirmed it,” he said.

Third, “Every regulation in the Bible assumes male-female sex. The underlying assumption is that sexuality is between male and female.” Fourth, “Every Proverb in the Bible, every single wise saying, assumes heterosexuality.” And fifth, “Even the Ten Commandments assume heterosexuality.”

This young apologist’s sound presentation was impressive and thorough. If you want biblical answers for this issue, I strongly encourage you to order the audio or video of McDowell’s message at services@rhino-technologies.com. **BR**

Platt Continued from page 1

Ethan Moore, contributing writer to SBC Voices, noted in a blog on the site that an important action by the IMB board was lost in the hype of Platt’s election.

This action is an “announcement ... to alter funding patterns for short-term field personnel,” he wrote.

The funding is a new pilot program that may “represent a tremendous philosophical shift for the organization.”

The pilot includes the two-to-three year plans like the International Service Corps, the Masters and the Journeyman programs. It will begin with candidates in March 2015.

According to an IMB press release, the pilot is founded on the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention’s Mission Service Corps model, where “more than 50 percent of

short-term missionaries’ financial support will continue to be provided by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The remainder, set at \$15,000 per person per year for the pilot, will be raised by the missionaries themselves.”

Moore said that well-known “policies forbid missionaries from requesting funds for personal support. Field workers usually ask churches to continue their support through the CP and the [Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions], though the IMB does accept special gifts to for specific types of work and specific missionaries.”

Jay Wolf, administration committee chair of IMB and pastor of First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., said, “The objective is simple: we want to put more peo-

ple on the field. We want to attack lostness, and right now we don’t have the financial resources to do that. So we need to be creative and do more with less.”

Executive-director treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, Milton Hollifield believes Platt will bring fresh eyes to the IMB while focusing its energies to assist churches in fulfilling their divinely appointed mission. He said, “As IMB president, David will bring the focus of the board in line with the mission of the board. This alignment will serve Southern Baptists well, but most of all will greatly enhance our efforts to make disciples of all nations.

“I ask every North Carolina Baptist to join me in praying for David Platt and all of our IMB missionaries.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Full story online at BRnow.org.) **BR**

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NCMO

Continued from page 1

One of the goals of BOM is to mobilize church members and to coordinate projects to accomplish kingdom work in the affected areas. After record-setting amounts of rainfall penetrated many areas in Michigan, this flooding disaster opened the door for BOM's disaster relief ministry.

Greg Riggs, site coordinator for the Dearborn, Mich., area, has been providing assistance to a predominantly Arab neighborhood in the Dearborn and Dearborn Heights areas.

After this region experienced an eight-inch rainfall in a brief period of time, Riggs said they have been providing disaster relief work since early August. "We've been taking out moulding, debris, sofas and furniture in order to sanitize the homes so [families] can start putting stuff back in."

Most experienced two-to-four feet of water, but there were some cases where 14 feet of water breached households.

More than 30,000 Muslims live in Dearborn. It is the second largest community of Muslims in the United States, and it also hosts the largest Shia mosque in the U.S., the Islamic Center of America.

Riggs said, "Everyone we've encoun-

tered has been very friendly and open. ... It's been a really good relationship.

"This is the first time for a lot of these people [that] we've been able to get into their homes. ... Because of this flood, we can build relationships with these people that the churches haven't been able to do."

The BOM disaster relief team has trained more than 14,000 volunteers for disaster response.

In 2013, thousands of BOM volunteers prepared more than 600,000 meals and carried out hundreds of cleanup projects that sometimes require heavy equipment, careful management, advance planning and motivated volunteers who know what to do.

Brian Davis, associate executive-director treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said, "What many do not realize is that when disasters strike, [BOM] cannot wait on special offerings or other designated gifts to fuel and fund the response for the need is immediate."

In 2010, BOM volunteers responded to the earthquake that devastated Haiti. This year already, volunteers have served numerous locations in North Carolina damaged by ice storms and tornadoes.

And after Hurricane Sandy hit the eastern seaboard in October 2012, teams still continue to assist in relief efforts.

Tom Leeper, a layman at Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden, is a BOM volunteer serving in the cleanup and restoration work in Seaside Heights, N.J.

"The tenets of our church at Biltmore Baptist are to reach up, reach out and reach in," he said.

"We try to keep those as equally yoked as we can. We have a real passion for helping folks, and disaster relief and rebuild is a passion of those who go on these trips."

Two years after Hurricane Sandy, a number of individuals and families are still waiting for their homes and businesses to receive repairs.

Officials estimate that Superstorm Sandy damaged or destroyed 305,000 housing units in New York, and in New Jersey, more than 346,000 households were destroyed or damaged. Sandy is the second-costliest storm in U.S. history – only behind 2005's Hurricane Katrina. In January 2013, President Barack Obama signed and Congress approved a \$50 billion Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund that 19 federal agencies received to help in the rebuild.

Later this month, about a dozen individuals from Biltmore Baptist will add another trip to the eight they've already tallied. In the first four to five trips, the group removed debris and cleaned up areas dismantled by Sandy.

But now, they have transitioned into a "rebuild" phase diligent in structural repair. They do everything from installing dry wall and cabinets, as well as painting and other construction.

Leeper noted that many currently live in motels or with family members, so they are anxious to be "home."

While assisting in Seaside Heights, the Biltmore volunteers also share the gospel with those they encounter.

"We usually say we're the hands and feet of Christ, but I think He expects us to be His voice as well," said Leeper.

The largest portion of NCMO's \$2.1 million goal supports BOM – approximately 41 percent of the offering. Davis said, "giving through the NCMO provides mission critical funds up front ... ready for immediate response in the affected communities.

"Please do not wait until the next hurricane, tornado, ice storm, etc. to give. Support the NCMO today."

Visit ncmissionsoffering.com. **BR**

Let the **REDEEMED** of the Lord say so...

"I didn't know a lot about hope when I was 10 years old. I didn't have any hope." - Joe Knight, in care 1960 - 1963

Joe came to Baptist Children's Homes' Mills Home campus with only one change of clothes and, as he describes, it was the first time he recalls sleeping "between two sheets." Today, Joe owns a landscaping company. He maintains the grounds at Mills Home caring for the campus that cared for him as a boy. "This is God's place," Joe says. "I came to know my Lord and Savior right here."

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Hunger

Continued from page 1

Many of these families were urban professionals who ran businesses and owned homes.

When violence reached their majority-Christian neighborhood, however, they had only minutes to flee. An estimated 60,000 people left in the space of a few hours, most with only the clothes on their backs.

Several families pooled their resources and managed to rent an apartment, Abraham said. Eight families shared two floors of an unfinished house.

“We entered this place, and it’s totally empty. It’s just a floor and concrete walls,” he said.

“To look at these children, to look in the eyes of a defeated father who cannot provide for his family, the least we could do was we bought carpet so it can be a little more comfortable for them than sleeping on the floor. Pillows. Blankets. Basic things.”

Baptist Global Response has been providing relief to refugees and displaced families throughout the Middle East for years now, Abraham said. But the ISIS advance across northern Iraq has compounded one crisis with another.

“That makes it more tragic, in a sense, but at the same time it helps us because we already have work, we already have projects on the ground, to pool our efforts together, to pool our teams together,” he said.

“Now some of our national team members are forcibly displaced themselves,

becoming victims of the crisis as well.”

BGR is drawing on resources provided by Global Hunger Relief (GHR) to provide food, water, baby formula, propane burners and temporary shelter.

They also have been helping families obtain cooling units to provide relief from scorching summer heat.

“The heat is suffocating. The temperature is in the hundreds and it’s a dusty environment. So you can see a baby, 25 days old, they cannot endure this,” Abraham said.

“So we try to have a water cooling system to help them in their own tent.”

Although their Christian community is one of the most ancient in the world, these families are wondering what will happen to them, Abraham said.

“I promised I would make their story known, that people would know these Christians exist, they are part of this land, they are an ancient people,” he said. “To them this is the birthplace of Christianity. They fear they are at the point of extinction. They say, ‘Don’t forget all about us.’”

Crucial resources for the relief effort are coming from GHR, the Southern Baptist channel for giving to hunger needs across North America and around the world.

Donations to GHR will be emphasized when many Southern Baptist churches observe World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 12.

“Global Hunger Relief helps us tremendously,” Abraham said.

“They fear they are at the point of extinction.”
– Abraham*



Amid the woes of onslaught by radical ISIS Islamists, a displaced Iraqi woman from one of the country's religious minorities watches over several refugee children as they nap in a barren apartment in northern Iraq. (BGR photo by Joseph Rose)

“I encourage churches and whoever is listening to us to give to Global Hunger Relief because without it we will not be able to help a lot of these people. We need to advocate, we need to pray, but we also need to be generous.

“This kind of thing is not much sacrifice on our part.

“I hope we will stand as an advocate, as caring Southern Baptists, to meet the needs of these people, giving a cup of water in the name of Jesus. That’s what it is all about.”

Visit globalhungerrelief.com.

*Full name withheld for security reasons.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Mark Kelly writes for Baptist Global Response.) **BR**



Baptist Global Response is drawing on resources provided by Global Hunger Relief to provide food, water, baby formula, propane burners and temporary shelter to forcibly displaced families in northern Iraq. They also have been helping families obtain cooling units to provide relief from scorching summer heat. (BGR photo)

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The gospel and the call to hunger relief

In the New Testament, Jesus and his disciples were often thought to be crazy. Bloody crosses and empty tombs and Jew/Gentile unity – all of these things sounded insane to surrounding world.

Not only that, but these Christians were forever concerning themselves not with the powerful and the influential but rather with orphans with widows, serving the vulnerable and needy, feeding the hungry. These Christians always seemed to be identifying with the least “useful” people in society – those who had no influence or wealth, those who could offer nothing in return. It all seemed so strange, so counter-intuitive.

And that’s precisely the point.

The gospel everywhere upends the world’s expectations. After all, who would have thought that the ruler of the universe would be born in a feeding trough to a peasant girl suspected of infidelity? Who would have thought that tax collectors and persecutors and day laborers would be the pillars upon which the church would be built?

The power of the gospel is often seen the most clearly when it is seen in all its strangeness. The message of the gospel explains the reason why we care for those in need: it is precisely because we believe Jesus’ teaching that “the last shall be first” (Matt 20:16), and we believe that the kind of other-directed servant leadership our Lord demonstrated is the same kind we ourselves are to model.

And this is one of the reasons why the church has,

and must, concern itself with feeding the hungry. Hungry people – and there are over one billion men, women, and children suffering from hunger around the world – are not just issues; they are people, in need of the grace and love of Christ, bearing the image of God, and needing the message and hope of the gospel.

So hunger must not be an abstract, faceless concept for those of us in Christ. But how should we go about thinking about the call for the church to care for those in need in the context of our mission?

We should begin by redefining our “neighbor” to include more than the families next door and the people down the street. We’re not the first ones who need a change of heart on this issue. Think about Jesus’ answer to the question, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” That’s a question we hear repeatedly in the Scriptures. One would expect Jesus to respond as Paul and Silas did – believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. Instead, Jesus asked about the man’s understanding of the Law, and the man replied: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus affirmed his response, then pressed toward the man’s next question: “And who is my neighbor?” The lawyer was skillfully attempting to “justify himself,” (Luke 10:29), but Jesus did what he always does – he exposes idolatry and points out one’s obstacles to following Christ. For this man it was his rejection of his

neighbor. In this same passage, we see something else. Often, when responding to the vulnerable, our greatest obstacle isn’t the question of knowing what to do. Our greatest obstacle is fear. The Samaritan in Jesus’ parable has every reason to be afraid on the Road to Jericho. The presence of a beaten man tells him there are robbers around, potentially hiding in the caves around him. Fear, though, is cast out by love; love is not cast out by fear.

The Samaritan has no reason to claim accountability for this terrorized neighbor. He does so because he treats him, a stranger, as though he were kin. The lawyer questioning Jesus rightly sees this as showing mercy (Luke 10:37). And Jesus says simply, “Go and do likewise.” To be faithful to our Lord, we must show mercy and grace to our neighbor.

Some may fear that one small group or one church won’t be able to make a difference when facing a problem so overwhelming. And yet, through the cooperative initiative of Global Hunger Relief (GHR), Southern Baptists have already organized to take aim at the critical hunger needs around the world.

GHR is one of the most effective channels for donating toward the global hunger crisis. All of the funds given to GHR go directly toward meeting hunger needs, whether by providing disaster relief, addressing chronic hunger, eliminating urban food deserts, helping women rescued from sex trafficking and much more. It is a concrete way Southern Baptists cannot just care for an issue in the abstract, but be a gospel witness to vulnerable ones in need.

See Relief page 7



RUSSELL MOORE
Guest column

Emmanuel Church reborn as Meeting Place

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

What should a traditional, white Southern Baptist congregation do when they can no longer sustain their ministries or their facilities, the community around them looks nothing like their membership, and they know they are dying? Emmanuel Baptist Church was a thriving fellowship in rural, northwest Mecklenburg County. But after 61 years of ministry the church's leaders faced some very painful decisions.

In June, by unanimous vote, Emmanuel's property was deeded to Meeting Place Church, an African-American church plant in cooperation with Shady Brook Baptist Church and the Metro-
lina Baptist Association (MBA). Church planter Vince Riley, a former Charlotte police officer who became an associate pastor, and served as a crusade director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, is now the lead pastor of Meeting Place.

Glenn Flowe, Emmanuel's interim pastor, said, "On our campus right now we have the Meeting Place Church, Emmanuel Church, a Hispanic church, and a Christian school is meeting in some of our facilities." By agreement, Emmanuel



Charlotte churches work together to make the gospel known in their neighborhood and ensure the nations are reached for Christ. (Contributed photo)

will continue to meet in their facilities, but will cease to exist as a church in five years.

"I can honestly say that with a situ-

ation like this, involving so many major decisions and changes, I don't see how it could have worked out any better,"

Flowe said. "We are extremely happy.

And keep in mind we still have people in our church who are charter members."

"It's amazing how happy our people

See Meeting page 9

Church a big part of pastor's life story

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

The history of Meeting Place is a big part of Vince Riley's life story. A native of Charlotte, he gave his life to Christ at 18 in a pastor's living room. Riley grew up in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion church. For 10 years he was a police officer in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police department.

Riley resigned from the police department to join the staff of Charlotte's Nations Ford Community as associate pastor of evangelism and outreach. Phillip Davis, a former vice president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, is the senior pastor.

Ten years later in 2002 the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association asked Riley to become a director of crusades, planning and coordinating festival events for Franklin Graham and Will Graham. He served there for eight years. "I traveled with the Billy Graham Association doing crusades in the United States and Canada, but my heart began to be turned back home," Riley said. "As I was seeing people come to the Lord in the crusades my heart was torn for the people in my own community. ... I was convicted because I had people in my own backyard who didn't know Christ."

During weekend trips to Charlotte he met with friends who were interested in launching a church plant. He shared his vision for a new church plant with Bob Lowman, director of missions for Metro-
lina Baptist Association, and began having Bible studies in the

Metro-
lina Baptist Association building in 2006.

Lowman introduced Riley to George Sherman, pastor of Shady Brook Baptist Church northwest of Charlotte. "I had a great meeting with pastor Sherman," Riley said. "We connected. George told me that when he first came to Shady Brook the church's vision was to be diverse, and they want to encompass people from all of the community."

Sherman went to the church leadership and said, "Do you remember when I first became your pastor, you said you wanted to be diverse and expand? We now have a great opportunity to do that. An African-American church wants to meet in our building."

"He went to bat for us and the church agreed to let us meet there rent-free for about a year," Riley said. "God blessed us and their church even helped us reach the community. We formed a wonderful partnership Shady Brook and pastor George Sermon. After a year we were able to move to our own location for about five years."

Meeting Place's new location was the abandoned Coolwood library in a shopping center. "We fixed it up and made it into a sanctuary," Riley said. "We were there for about five years until we started having conversation with Bob and with pastor Glenn and the leaders at Emmanuel." (See story above.)

Riley told the story behind the church's name. "When I was in Winnipeg, Canada, one weekend, the rest of the Graham team had left, I was there alone," he said. "It was snowing like crazy. I was questioning God



Vince Riley, left, along with Bob Lowman, center, and Glenn Flowe, right, worked together to ensure the future of Meeting Place Church and a gradual closing of Emmanuel Baptist Church. (Contributed photo)

about why I was there. Being from the South I have to tell you, I'm not use to cold weather. So I'm thinking to myself, what I doing here?"

"You know when you ask a question like, that God has answers for you and He began to speak to my heart. He kept saying the harvest field is in my own backyard. And that kept running through my mind all weekend."

That Sunday Riley attended a church in Winnipeg called the Meeting Place Church. "It was a unique place, it was very diverse, the worship was great and I thought this is a cool name," he said.

Later that week in his devotion he read Exodus 33:7. The scripture said it was Moses' custom to go into the tent of meeting to consult with the Lord. "I had an epiphany at that moment," he said. "I thought that is what the meeting place should be about. People should come and meet with the Lord. So the name meeting place was born out of that scripture." **BR**



N.C. students serve among T people in Southeast Asia

By PAIGE TURNER | International Mission Board

When she arrived with the group a little before 10 p.m. the village wasn't dark and somber like she expected. Lights inside the house were on, and when it came time for worship songs the group of about 30 was anything but quiet.

"I had in my mind we needed to be quiet, to turn the lights off," said Autumn James.* "But they sing the loudest of anyone I've ever met."

Those gathered for house church that night live every day in the face of an oppressive government and military, all because they are from minority people groups.

"They still praised God," James said. "I was impressed by the T people living their lives so boldly. It changed my perspective on worship."

James met many T people this summer in the two weeks she spent helping lead a five-member team of college students from North Carolina to research the people group. The T people are an unreached, unengaged people group in Southeast Asia with less than 1 percent of the population believing in Jesus.

James met a young girl during house church whose smile and joyful countenance immediately captured her attention. But that joy turned to despair as soon as people began sharing prayer requests for friends who recently took jobs on fishing boats.

Fishing boat jobs require working seven days a week with only four hours off each day, if the boat owner allows time off at all. Some workers are treated as slaves and sold from one boat to the next without ever being allowed off the boats.

James and the team saw how even through these trials, the T people remain steadfast in their faith.

The students focused their research on the T people in an effort to work alongside Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Old Town embraced the people group about four years ago and have focused their time in one Southeast



This woman lives in a T people village so remote that the only way to get there is by walking or riding motorcycles. Lack of accessibility is one reason this people group is unreached and unengaged with the gospel.

Asian country. Students traveled to cities in a neighboring country, working to find other areas where the T people live.

The trip to Southeast Asia marked the culmination of a three-year training for the students sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Through the training, known as the Next Generation Missional Journey, the students engaged in hands-on missions locally, nationally and internationally.

Their research will help Old Town, and other churches, continue to advance the gospel among the T people.

But the students discovered they gained a lot more than just research data. See what the students had to say about their experiences:

See Hope page 10

Coats for the City deadline is Oct. 31

BSC Communications

The third annual "Coats for the City" is scheduled for Dec. 11-13 in New York City. Coats for the City is an event hosted in partnership between the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) Office of Great Commission Partnerships and the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA).

Coats for the City provides warm coats to people in New York and opportunities for local churches and church planters to meet local residents and share the gospel in a city where it is estimated that less than three percent of the population know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

During last year's event, North Carolina Baptists collected and helped distribute more than 5,000 coats, Bibles and Jesus films at 14 distribution sites across all five boroughs of New York City. The goal for 2014 is to distribute 30,000 coats, hats and gloves and to give either a Bible or Jesus film in the language of the person receiving the coat.

"When you give to Coats for the City, you are partnering with churches and church plants in New York City that are making a difference in one of the world's most influential cities," said Chuck Register, BSC executive leader for church planting and missions partnerships. "This is a strategic opportunity for North Carolina Baptists to impact lostness in a city that desperately needs the gospel."

N.C. Baptists can participate in Coats for the City in a number of ways, beginning by collecting coats. Churches are asked to collect new or gently used coats, sorted into heavy-duty lawn bags for men, women and children and deliver them to a number of statewide collection centers by Oct. 31. BSC staffers will then pick up the coats and deliver them by truck to New York. N.C. Baptists are also encouraged to help distribute the coats in New York. Volunteers who want to help distribute the coats are asked to commit to: arrive in New York by the evening of Dec. 11; attend a Dec. 12 training session in New York; be prepared to pray and share the gospel with those they engage as they distribute coats Dec. 13. Housing for 40 volunteers will be available in the MNYBA office in Manhattan; other housing can be arranged as needed. Volunteers will need to pay for transportation, lodging and meals.

For more information about Coats for the City, visit ncbaptist.org/coats or contact Abby Edwards at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5536, or email at aedwards@ncbaptist.org. **B**

Relief

Continued from page 5

Our response to those in need must not be, simply, "Be warmed and filled" (Jas 2:16). We must love our neighbors – in every tribe, nation and hemisphere. Let's embrace the strangeness to which our Lord calls us. Let's be a people who care for those in need, who have compassion and love for our neighbors as ourselves.

The world may think this strange. But this strangeness will also be perceived by those to whom we minister, who may in turn come to receive an incredible gospel.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Russell Moore is president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. On World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 12, Southern Baptist congregations will address the hunger crisis across North America and around the world. Donations received are channeled through Global Hunger Relief (formerly World Hunger Fund), which uses 100 percent of each gift to meet hunger needs. For more information, visit www.globalhungerrelief.com.) **B**

Happiness Retreats: 40th year helping special people

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

Call her Anna. She sits at a table and smiles when the teacher gives her paint, a brush and a sheet of paper. She struggles to hold the brush properly and move it, but the teacher helps her manage.

Anna concentrates, her forehead wrinkled, as she paints the paper with bright blue paint, getting some on the table. Again, the teacher shows her how to get paint on the brush and work it across the board and says softly, “You just need a little paint on your brush.”

Bit by bit, the “secret” message about Jesus becomes clear on the special paper.

The paint project is part of a Vacation Bible School set of materials, much like children have used in churches across North Carolina this summer.

But Anna is not a child. She is a woman in her forties. She has limited cognitive ability. She cannot manage on her own. She needs help to get through each day; that’s why she lives in a group home.

North Carolina has many men and women like Anna. Getting dressed, getting a bath, getting food – these are all challenging tasks for them.

One of Donnie Wiltshire’s ministry goals has long been to make sure that North Carolina Baptists do not overlook Anna and her kin. He often reminds churches what Jesus said, basically that how we treat the “least of these” is how we treat Him.

That, he believes, makes Happiness Retreats important. “The ministry has been possible down through the years because of the ongoing support of North Carolina Baptists through their Cooperative Program giving,” Wiltshire said.

The class where Anna learned to paint was part of a Happiness Retreat. This year North Carolina Baptists sponsored five of these three-day retreats for people with special needs, including one at Truett Camp in Hayesville and others at Caraway Conference Center near Asheville.

More than 700 people attended this year. It’s a unique ministry few other organizations can match. Campers attending the Hayesville retreat come from across western North Carolina, from as far as Gastonia.

This is an important year for the Happiness Retreat – it is their fortieth anniversary.

“We started way back in 1974 at Caswell,” Wiltshire said. Over the years the



Campers at a Happiness Retreat July 31 at Caraway Conference Center participate in a class in creative movement. More than 700 special needs adults attended Happiness Retreats this year. See more photos at BRnow.org/Photo-Gallery. (BSC photos by Mike Creswell)

retreats have taken on great importance for Baptist churches who minister to people with special needs.

Some of those who teach and lead in the retreats have been serving for many years. Patsy Koutsogeorgas, who taught this year at both the Truett and Caraway retreats, has taught every year since 1976. She is a member of Mulberry Baptist Church in Charlotte.

This year marks Eric Vernon’s nineteenth year serving with the retreats. He and a team from First Baptist Church, Sanford, served in the Caraway retreats.

His church team has the campers gather under a tent for Bible study, then they gather to move a brightly-colored parachute up and down as they move the campers from one side to the other. Vernon takes a moment to play catch, shake hands and encourage a

young camper. Volunteer Kathy McSwain puts an arm around the shoulder of a camper, again to offer encouragement.

“The volunteers and staff seek to create a place of joy for special needs people and to connect them to Christ,” Wiltshire said. Patient, repeated affirmations are a big part of the effort.

There is much talking to the campers, but not all of the communicating is verbal. Many campers communicate with sign language, gestures or their own language of sounds.

Wiltshire said they had to put a day between the four back-to-back retreats at Caraway to give the volunteers a chance to rest, because the retreat days and nights are long, with non-stop activities. The first retreat was held in early June at Truett Camp.

a parent. A lot of our campers come out of group homes and their professional caregivers come with them. We also have people from the churches that have ongoing ministries to people with special needs,” he said.

Wiltshire’s ministry with the convention is to help churches minister to people with all sorts of needs.

He works with the Deaf and can communicate with sign language; more than 100 churches across the state have ministries to the Deaf.

He also helps churches minister to the blind. He helps churches that want to teach people to read and write – an increasingly important ministry as the state’s immigrant population has soared in recent years.

But the Happiness Retreats have long been one of his most rewarding ministries.

Several classes group those with varying abilities. Some campers have physical disabilities and need help walking or can move only in wheelchairs. Some campers wear helmets because they often fall.

At Truett, the campers taught by Myra Robinson all applauded when she told them she had New Testaments for them. She is a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Betty Hill was animated as she taught a Bible story to the campers. Hands rose as she asked questions. A member of Love Baptist Church in Monroe, Hill taught this year in all five retreats.

One young man has done well; he gets to select a stuffed toy from a table piled high with them. He chooses one after long consideration. Volunteer Carolyn Vick stands by to help.

As the last retreat wound down in early August, tired staff and happy campers headed home, and for the fortieth year, the Happiness Retreats had lived up to their name. **BR**

**“The volunteers and staff seek to create a place of joy ...”
– Donnie Wiltshire**



Teacher Betty Hills, a member of Love Baptist Church in Monroe, talks to a class during a Happiness Retreat June 6-8 at Truett Camp in Hayesville. This is the 40th year camps have been taking place in North Carolina.



North Carolina Baptists were able to go into Hungarian schools, teach English camps and distribute Bibles. (Photo by Kim Ogburn)

N.C. Baptists launch English Bible camps in Hungarian schools

By MEREDITH BRUNSON | Special to the *Recorder*

A classroom full of Hungarian middle schoolers leaned in to hear the story of Jesus' birth as North Carolina volunteers explained it to them. Many were hearing that story for the first time. The students then acted out the story with their classmates and memorized Bible verses in Hungarian and in English.

All the while, the teachers in the back were meticulously taking notes; many of them were hearing the stories for the first time as well.

This scene took place in June when North Carolina Baptist volunteers traveled to Hungary to launch one of the most exciting projects in Baptist history: an English Bible camp held in public schools. Nowhere else in the world does an opportunity like this exist, and Baptists are making the most of it.

All of this is possible thanks to a law passed by the Hungarian government in 2012 that shifts the responsibility of each public school from the government to a non-profit organization. Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBAid), a partner of Baptists on Mission (NCBM), saw the opportunity and took on 49 of the poorest schools in Hungary, containing a total of 17,000 children.

These schools are called "B49" (the "B" stands for Baptist), and many of them have a high percentage of Roma children.

HBAid provides the schools with food and educational materials, and also provides them with opportunities to learn about God. Since HBAid's involvement with the schools began in 2012, more than 1,000 people have made decisions to follow Christ.

Teresa and Alicia Jones, a mother and daughter who serve and minister to the Roma people through NCBM, came up with the idea of furthering the ministry by holding English Bible camps in the schools throughout the summer.

In June and July, two North Carolina teams (mostly from Fairview Baptist Church in Apex) traveled to Hungary to launch the first English Bible camps in two different schools.

The first team went to a school in the most unreached region in Hungary. The region has 100,000 people, but few have ever stepped foot in the one evangelical church there.

This was the first evangelical presence the children in the school had ever been exposed to.

On the final day of the first camp, parents were invited to see a program put on by their children about what they had learned during the week. At the end of the performance, members of the North Carolina team gave a gospel presentation to the parents as well.

In the village where the second English Bible camp was held, the North Carolina team watered gospel seeds that had recently been planted in the community by HBAid – and many there were receptive to the gospel.

"I watched in amazement as the principal and his wife, teachers of the school, workers from the cafeteria and parents together with their children flooded to the front of the gymnasium in response (to the altar call)," Alicia Jones said.

"More than 150 stood together, praying to receive Christ and afterwards began crying, dancing and celebrating their newfound faith."

With such a tremendous spiritual response from the schools, HBAid recognizes that follow-up will be essential in discipling new believers. HBAid President Sándor Szenczy's goal is to start B49 school churches in September. Church services will be held in the schools' gymnasiums, and students, teachers and their families will have a place to grow in their faith. Imagine the amazing things God will do through planting churches in public schools!

To continue this effort in the Roma communities, North Carolina Baptists are very much needed in Hungary. Reaching Roma communities for Christ involves igniting spiritual interest in the communities, forming deeper relationships with the Roma people and planting churches. North Carolina volunteers are especially needed in these communities to ignite interest in the gospel through English Bible camps. Volunteers are also needed as teachers and church planters, as well as for medical and VBS teams. **BR**

Meeting Continued from page 6

are about what they've done. When our church services are over on Sunday morning we walk out into the parking lot, and even though we have only six or eight cars for our congregation, the parking lot is filled. It is very gratifying to us.

"Our people are tickled to death."

Flowe, a seasoned pastor with more than 50 years of ministry, retired in 2003 after 29 years at another Charlotte congregation. This is his third call as Emmanuel's interim pastor.

A few years ago the church woke up to the reality that their community had changed. A survey revealed the neighborhood was approximately 66 percent black and 7 percent Hispanic.

"The remaining white population was primarily senior adults who had lived there many years and had already settled into a church congregation," Flowe said. "We knew it would be very unlikely we could reach that community for Christ."

Emmanuel struggled through some difficult years, according to Flowe. "The situation was very bleak humanly speaking. The first Sunday I came as interim there were about 16 people in attendance. There was some disunity, some hurt, but the Lord brought healing to us."

The church had no youth, no children, no choir and one adult Sunday School class.

Revitalization was an option. They considered a partnership with a larger church. "We talked to at least two churches about the potential of merging or finding someone who would come along side of us. But nothing was working out," Flowe said.

Emmanuel's leaders invited Bob Lowman, director of missions for MBA, to help them explore options. "Bob Lowman has been extremely instrumental in leading us through this transition," Flowe said. "He has been very encouraging and understanding of our situation. He knew there would be pain with the separation and transition."

At the same time, Lowman was talking with Vince Riley about the growth pains of Meeting Place. The young church was meeting in an abandoned library not far from Emmanuel. Lowman arranged a meeting with the two churches' leadership.

Riley was pleased with the initial meeting. "We were impressed with their heart for the Lord and their openness to even sit down and talk about the possibility of a partnership," he said. "We had no idea what to expect, we were just praying for the best outcome. We had a great meeting, and we walked away excited about the possibilities."

Then a phone call from Emmanuel put everything on hold. The leaders wanted to explore other options. "We were very disappointed that things were put on hold but we continued to pray and knew that God was doing something," Riley said.

"We felt our hearts were knitted with pastor Glenn and the leadership at Emmanuel, so we began to pray about all the possibilities." Several months passed with no contact.

Flowe and Lowman continued to explore options for the church's future. No plan seemed to fit. Finally, Flowe said, "I think I'm going to go back to the deacons and tell them the church needs to dissolve and give the property to the association for a church plant."

Lowman said, "If that's what you want to do, let us

See Meeting page 10

Meeting Continued from page 9

know. We can handle that, but that's your call."

When Flowe told the deacons what he thought, they said, "What was it Bob Lowman said about Meeting Place?"

Once again, the leaders of Emanuel invited the Meeting Place leadership back for further talks and a workable plan grew out of the discussions.

Meeting Place has now assumed ownership and financial obligations of the six-acre property including utilities and maintenance. Emmanuel is meeting in the church's sanctuary. Meeting Place assembles in the Family Life Center, and a Hispanic church worships in the facilities. Flowe said, "At the end of five years on Emmanuel's 66th anniversary, it will simply cease to exist."

He added, "We ought to be meeting in one of the classrooms and Meeting Place should be in the sanctuary. But you have older people who built the sanctuary and they have a lot of ties to this place. Out of deference to the people of Emmanuel, Meeting Place gave us the sanctuary. They have taken into consideration the thoughts and feelings of the people. This

has won over the hearts of our people. We don't feel like someone has come in and run over us or taken over. We developed a plan [with] combined activities, but we would have separate governance. That was the magic key that reopened the discussion."

"When we came back to the table, Emmanuel gave us a proposal that was beyond our wildest imagination," Riley said. "It was one of those Ephesians 3:20 moments that God is 'able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think.' It was more than we can ask or imagine. We were just overwhelmed by the generosity of the proposal. ... Our folks love their folks, and their folks love our folks. If there can be a picture of what heaven can be, come to the Meeting Place/Emmanuel campus and see what God is doing."

Flowe s talked to fellow pastors who are in situations where the church is declining, the prospects for growth are not there, and the mindset is "we'll go as long as we can and the last one out can turn out the lights and lock the door." The people of Emmanuel "rejected that

course outright from the very beginning," he said. They want to be proactive.

"I heard our folks say over and over, 'Emmanuel started in that community to be an instrument to glorify God, and we want to go out as an instrument that's glorifying God.'"

There were painful decisions and thoughts of what might have been. "If you know you are being led by the Holy Spirit," Flowe said, "then whatever you have to surrender or however you move on, these things are not just randomly happening. They are happening under the controlling, sovereign hand of God. Therefore it is a good thing. We are just bathing in the afterglow of this surrender."

Reflecting on the process, Lowman added, "It is hard for a church to go



Emmanuel Baptist Church makes room for Meeting Place as well as a Hispanic church in its facilities. (Contributed photo)

through a decision-making process like this where they're signing away things they worked to build. In this case, they were not signing it away for no reason; they were doing it for a Kingdom purpose. That is something we kept coming back to – this is about the Kingdom. Everybody is united around that." **BR**

Hope Continued from page 7

Autumn James: More than a face Church planting intern, New York City

Although she helped with the students' trip last year to research unreached people groups in New York City, graduated from a North Carolina seminary and now serves with a church plant in New York City, Autumn James' time in Southeast Asia taught her something different.

"You don't naturally think to find unreached people, or to do anything about it," James said. "They're just faces. But behind their faces are people groups who have never heard the gospel."

James left Southeast Asia resolved to return to New York and notice the people and faces around her who are different – especially T people who may be living in her city.

Those faces represent lives of struggle, yet great joy.

"The fears I have are null and void in the power of the gospel," James said. "The T people truly live in the hope of the gospel."

Sara Martin*: Obeying the call College junior, North Carolina State University

Sara Martin thought she had it all figured out. She came into the three-year missions journey ready to serve God as a teacher.

One night during the first year, during a retreat for the students, a speaker shared about unreached people groups. The Holy Spirit's presence so overwhelmed Martin that she left the meeting room and went to pray. She knew God was calling her to international missions.

"I know the Lord will take me where I need to go as long as I'm working for His purpose," she said.

For Martin, the next few years in the missions jour-

ney, and especially time in Southeast Asia, showed her the importance of basic spiritual disciplines when it comes to reaching people with the gospel.

"You have to build trust," she said. "I now see the value in a conversation and understanding where people are coming from."

Martin also saw the need to equip new believers to share their faith among their people group.

"I didn't really understand discipleship; it was a foreign concept," she said. "Now, I see the value in investing in others and how they can then be molded. It's not 'go and leave.' It's so much more."

Claire Campbell*: A different kind of missionary College freshman, Gaston Community College

At age 15 Claire Campbell was the youngest of the bunch to start the missions journey. By then she had already participated in several international mission trips—but none like Southeast Asia.

On this trip she met people who had never heard the gospel, and she realized that while the gospel message doesn't change, the approach must.

"If I hadn't done the missions journey and come to Southeast Asia I'm not sure what kind of missionary I would have become," Campbell said. "You can't approach everyone the same. You can't effectively approach a Hispanic community the same way you would a T people Buddhist community."

Campbell also learned from believers in Southeast Asia – who often pay a price for their faith – what it means to truly treasure Jesus.

"Back home we get so caught up in routine. For the people we met, their faith means so much to them," she

said.

Although Campbell has wanted to be a missionary since she was a child, sharing her testimony before a group of people has always made her anxious.

"Too many times in the States I would worry about 'getting it right;' doing everything in the right order," she said. "In Southeast Asia I saw that sharing my testimony is about sharing my heart. I learned to be genuine. I had to put my faith in Him and not myself."

Kevin Williams*: Lasting impact College junior, Gardner-Webb University Youth pastor

One afternoon in Southeast Asia, as he helped her practice during the English as a Second Language class, a young girl quite adamantly told Kevin Williams she wanted to be a missionary. The girl moved from a neighboring country just a few years ago and wants to someday return home and share the gospel.

The bold confession of a child challenged Williams to do more to equip the students in his youth ministry back home.

"Before, I was trying to better the youth ministry for the ministry itself," Williams said. "Now, I am learning to really invest in the students."

Williams also learned that while action is important, a verbal gospel witness is a must – especially for unreached people groups.

"Missions is no longer, 'Let's go and do something nice and hope it lasts.' Missions is connecting God and people," he said. "If we really believe He is the only way, we have to take Jesus to those who have never heard."

*Name changed

(EDITOR'S NOTE – There will be more stories about Old Town Baptist Church in a future issue.) **BR**

Book compares struggles of pastor with Job

Ron Dunn: His Life and Mission by Ron Owens (B&H Publishers, June 2013)

It seems fitting there is a biography that connects a pastor's life with that of the Old Testament figure Job. Job was a man of sorrows who, though godly, endured great trials. The pastorate, possibly the loneliest of professions, is a calling to godly living, trials and sorrow. Ron Dunn's life was one of godly living and great sorrow. This makes a biography about his life both interesting and fitting.

Coming into ministry after Dunn had already departed this life, I was unaware of his ministry and influence.

However, it does not take many pages into Ron Owens' biography on the 20th century preacher to see why he was a much beloved pastor, evangelist, father, husband and friend.

Dunn came from humble beginnings and maintained that humility even as he became a widely respected minister.

To capture who he was, Owens takes a unique approach. He traces the entirety of Dunn's ministry through personal stories from those closest to him. We are

given intimate glances into his pastoral work and personal struggles.

Those who knew him best recount for us the highs and lows of Dunn's decades in ministry.

The reader is able to connect the personal life of Dunn with his preaching ministry. The author has gathered a wonderful selection of sermons preached at critical junctures of Dunn's ministry.

We can see within his pulpit ministry his wrestling with the joy and grief that accompanied him. Dunn wrestled with the suicide of his son and his own depression.

We are given a unique glimpse at how his struggles effected his ministry and how he was comforted by the power of Christ's work in his life.

The author provides testimony after testimony from the people who had been his deacons, Sunday School teachers and assistants.

They provide a wonderful testimony of a man who had devoted himself deeply to the work of the ministry and to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This book tells a great testimony of

how God can use pastors who open themselves to the direction of the heavenly Father.

Ron Dunn was not special, at least in any sense that should cause him to stand out from the others around him.

However, he remained ever-dedicated to carrying out the work God called him to. Though there were clearly times when it seemed the world was crashing down, Ron Dunn stayed the course and finished the race Christ set before him.

The most powerful testimony in the entire biography is of Dunn's last sermon. It was not preached in some high and lofty First Baptist Church of Somewhere Special or in front

of thousands of people. He had done both. His last sermon was preached from a bed, with only his wife in attendance.

He had one final sermon to complete his series from Paul's letter to the Philippian church. So the night before he died, he preached his last sermon to his wife as she sat beside his hospital bed.

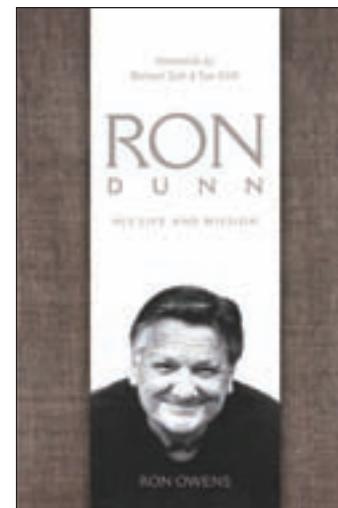
My personal admonition to pastors is: do not live to earn a biography that bears your name when you leave this world. Live in such a way that if someone wrote about you, it will record that even

your departure from this life continued to bring glory to your Creator.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Micheal Pardue is pastor of First Baptist Icard, Connelly Springs.) **BR**



MICHEAL PARDUE
Book Review



Awestruck from Gibsonville leads a time of music and worship at last year's event. They return to Unite this year. (BCH photo)

Children's Homes brings back Unite youth event

BCH Communications

Residents of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) and youth from surrounding churches came together last year for Unite, a first-year event focused on evangelism, music and fellowship. Excitement is now building for Unite 2014, which takes place on Sat., Oct. 18 at BCH's Mills Home in Thomasville.

Much of the enthusiasm for the free event centers on this year's featured speaker Jonathan Evans, chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys and former NFL player.

"Our children are our future, and it's important for God's people to step in with His power to help guide them and families towards Christ," Evans said.

"We need to encourage them to move from where they are to where God desires them to be."

Evans is the son of Tony Evans, renowned evangelical leader
See Unite page 15



JONATHAN EVANS

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Excelling in mobilization

North Carolina Baptists often talk about getting people mobilized for service. The process of mobilization involves preparation for service, bringing resources together, and making someone or something capable of moving.

A great organization that excels in mobilization is Baptists on Mission, also known as N.C. Baptist Men (NCBM). Every year, NCBM mobilizes thousands of Baptist men and women for missions and ministry. This organization provides disaster relief training events several times a year across the state and has trained more than 14,000 men and women in disaster response. NCBM also provides chaplaincy training and work skills needed in disaster situations.

NCBM leaders excel in clearing the way for volunteers to be able to serve.

They coordinate with other disaster relief agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, in addition to a long list of state and national government disaster response entities.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Earlier this year, NCBM sent a trained team of volunteers to assemble an entire hospital in hurricane-stricken Mississippi. This team of North Carolina Baptist volunteers was the official expert assembler of a FEMA-provided hospital that had been assigned to the North Carolina state disaster relief agency. It is amazing how NCBM is trusted in our nation!

That level of trust illustrates how highly valued and respected NCBM is for its service and professionalism.

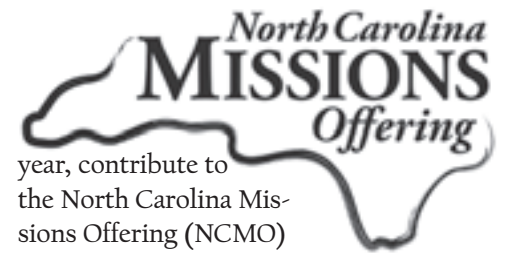
Having the right equipment is also an important part of mobilization. Here again, NCBM excels. It has specially designed mobile kitchens, 18-wheeler

trucks, water tankers and related hardware. Within a few hours, NCBM can send a fully trained, fully equipped team into a disaster area to begin feeding tens of thousands of hungry people. It is remarkable that NCBM can accomplish so much with fewer than a dozen paid staff headquartered in the Baptist Building in Cary.

The secret of NCBM's success is found in a deep commitment to Christ and a fervent passion for helping hurting people that is embedded in the hearts of North Carolina Baptist volunteers.

Although disaster relief is the best-known and most public ministry of NCBM, there are more than a dozen other ministries in which it also excels in mobilizing volunteers for service. As an example, NCBM mobilizes nearly 1,000 volunteers each year to serve in impoverished communities in the Appalachian Mountains.

If you want NCBM to continue mobilizing thousands of volunteers each



year, contribute to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) in September. This special offering is the primary funding source for NCBM but it also fuels other important missions-focused ministries across our state, including church planting, association mission projects and mission camps for youth.

Church leaders, please let your people know about the NCMO offering and allow them an opportunity to follow the Spirit's leading in their giving. We can exceed the goal of \$ 2.1 million and impact more lives when we each do our part.

If you would like to learn more about the NCMO, please visit ncmissionsoffering.org. For more information on NCBM, go to baptistsonmission.org. **BR**

My quest in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

It was the latter part of the week when I started seeing the Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) Ice Bucket Challenge videos pop up in my Facebook newsfeed. Within 36 hours these posts were nearly all that I saw. It was a brilliant campaign that has raised more than \$100 million!

As a ministry leader, I anticipated being challenged so I had some homework to know more about the ALS Association (ALSA). Years ago I figured out that nearly all national organizations that do medical research for cures and treatments of diseases supported embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). Later I learned that many organizations give raised funds to Planned Parenthood. Since then, I've made it a practice to research every organization I support to see if any of my money supports that which destroys human life. When I researched ALSA, as I expected, they were in full support of ESCR. It was an easy decision to refrain from participating.

I was shocked as I saw supporters of First Choice and Christian leaders who are prolific taking the Ice Bucket Challenge. It was then that my quest began. I assumed that they could not possibly know they were supporting ESCR.

I immediately became the killjoy of Facebook as I began posting, private messaging, texting, and emailing friends, supporters, and pastors to inform people of the ESCR link as I saw them get challenged. I wrote my church leaders and said "You don't want to do this, please don't do this!"

From my vantage point, it was equally plausible for them to dump ice water on their head and then donate to a local abortion clinic. Intentionally ending a life anytime from day one of conception to a 100-year-old's last breath is all equally wrong – it is all murder whether it happens in a lab, an abortion clinic, a person's home or a hospital bed.

Human life matters. Period. I wasn't willing to stand

by quietly and watch the Bride of Christ whom I adore contribute to the culture of death.

Christians need to hear the truth of an undeniable reality of a disregard for life; there seems to be a knowledge gap of life issues of today and a plethora of terrible ethical philosophies that serve as slippery slopes to the church. Those whose responses affirmed life were at a loss of how to defend their stance or explain how ESCR worked. While many commended me for diligently defending life, not many of them seemed to take on the fight themselves.



AMBER LEHMAN
Guest column

How did the church get here on the critical issue of human life? I believe there are two main reasons:

First, the church rarely talks about life issues or even the basic doctrine of imago Dei. If you just asked yourself "what is imago Dei?" then you are case in point. Your church may be lacking substantial discussion on what it means to be made in the image of God. A person has value because he or she is fashioned in the image of God. The church should be the place where saints are

equipped to engage the culture consistently with God's truth and biblical values.

Engaging the culture well demands that we know what to believe and why, how to take action responsibly for the causes for which we care and how to engage people in productive discussions around sensitive cultural issues while sharing the message and the love of Christ.

Second, we have somehow adopted a philosophy of ministry and giving that believes that all causes are of the same value and urgency. We have fallen prey to being driven to engage a cause simply by how passionate we feel about it and how engaging the cause makes us feel. This is a dangerous way to steward the resources God has given us.

So how can we pick when there are so many causes and so many needs?

First, we pick by seeking God's Word to see what God cares about and what He commands us to do.

Second, we look at what is going on in our age and determine (a) what is going on that only God's people care about; and, (b) what is an urgent and present danger.

Once the causal criteria are figured out, then these causes become top priorities.

Stewardship demands that we look beyond our emotions and the fun trends of the day.

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge made me aware of a terrible disease and for that I am thankful. My donation to help find a cure for ALS as well as other debilitating disease will go to the John Paul II Medical Research Institute (<http://www.jp2mri.org/>), where they are committed to ethical medical research for cures and treatments of multiple diseases. While I care about helping end the suffering of ALS, I also care about defending innocent LIFE even in its smallest form.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Amber Lehman holds a bachelor's degree in biblical studies and will gain her master of arts in Christian ethics upon completion of her thesis from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has been leading First Choice Pregnancy Solutions in Wake Forest since January 2006. To make a donation to First Choice please visit www.FirstChoiceNC.org. Also, be sure to sign up for First Choice's charity golf tournament Sept. 15 at firstchoicenc.org/events/. Amber's personal abortion story can be found at firstchoicepregnancysolutions.blogspot.com/2013/08/forgiven-much.html. Southeastern Seminary provided the photo.) **BR**

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or Biblical Recorder, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.

CHURCH NEWS



Sandy Creek Baptist Association, Sanford

A team from the Sandy Creek Baptist Association traveled to Jonesville, Va., to assist the Powell River Baptist Association with its annual shoe fair. Children from the Jonesville area came to the associational office complex and were fitted with shoes for the school year. A total of 435 pairs of shoes were fitted and given along with socks to each child. The Sandy Creek association has partnered with the Powell River Baptist Association to provide aide to that area that has seen great loss of jobs over the past few years. From left: Eric Davidson, director of missions of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association; Curtis Brown; Joy Scott, Jimmy Solomon, Wanda Howard and Sharon Howell. Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church, Sanford, was the coordinating church for this project.

Submissions

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

Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance. All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited. Include cost and contact information in your email or correspondence. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

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NEWS AND INFORMATION



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AROUND THE STATE

Staff change

STEVEN WALSH has been called as pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Hickory. He previously pastored at Southside Baptist Church, Greensboro for 14 years.

Brookdale Baptist Church, Siler City has called **ROB ROBERTS** as pastor. Roberts previously served as director of missions for Chowan Baptist Association.

ERIC DAVIDSON has been called by the Sandy Creek Baptist Association as the new associational missionary. Davidson has acted as interim in this position since July 2013, and prior to that pastored at Mays Chapel Baptist Church, Bear Creek.

Anniversary

YEOPIM BAPTIST CHURCH, Edenton, will celebrate its 250th anniversary Oct. 12. The worship service starts at 11 a.m. with music and messages by former pastors Stanley Nixon and Gary Stanley. Dinner will be served on the grounds followed by a presentation of church history. There is a commemorative cookbook available that includes church history and pictures of past and current members (cost = \$15). Contact Pastor Joseph E. Buck Sr. for more information at (252) 465-8710.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

SEBTS hosts 9Marks conference

The 6th Annual 9Marks conference will take place again Sept. 26-27 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The conference will discuss church membership and some of the common questions that accompany that issue. It will begin at 10 a.m. Friday.

Speakers will include Danny Akin, Thabiti Anyabwile, Alistair Begg, Mark Dever, Ligon Duncan and Jonathan Leeman. Cost for groups is \$35, \$65 for general and \$50 for students. Visit <http://www.sebts.edu/news-resources/conferences/9marks/default.aspx>.

Start a collegiate movement for Jesus

The Collegiate Partnerships Team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) is hosting Converge365 to highlight different models of collegiate ministry by featuring seven practitioners using these models of ministry. Participants will have the opportunity to respond to the presenters and ask questions.

The conference features many leaders including Brian Frye, national collegiate strategist for the North American Mission Board; Stephen Wagoner, lead pastor of Church of the Triad in Greensboro; Kelton Hinton, director of missions of Johnston Baptist Association; Gene Parr, Morehead State University in Kentucky; Joy Turner, Baptist University of Oklahoma; Josh Hyde, lead pastor of Campus Church at Western Carolina in Sylva; Reggie Hunt, pastor of Cornerstone Summit in Boone and Appalachian State University football chaplain; Frank White, BSC staff; Rick Hughes, BSC staff; Faith Beam, Campbell University; and Seth Norris, pastor of Perkinsville Baptist Church in Boone.

The event is set for Sept. 26-27 at N.C. Central University in Durham. The cost is \$50. Teams who register three persons will receive a fourth registration free. The conference will be limited to the first 180 people who register. Register at ncbaptist.org/converge or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5536.

Assn. plans Hendersonville women's event

Women of Carolina is inviting all women to attend the 2014 Women's Conference "A Merry Heart" on Sept. 26-27 at Fruitland Baptist Bible College in Hendersonville. The theme is laughter and you are encouraged to be a part of this awesome time of fellowship, laughter, training and spiritual enrichment. The keynote speaker will be Merrie Johnson who has served in full-time ministry for 30 years in youth, discipleship and women's ministries. The early bird price is \$25 or \$30 after Sept. 15. The conference will be Friday at 6-9 p.m. and

Saturday from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To register call (828) 693-4274, email cbal877@gmail.com or visit ChristianHappenings.com (a 15 percent fee applies). Lodging can be reserved at the Comfort Inn for \$65 a night. For more information and a list of breakout sessions visit cbanc.org.

Southeastern offers free online courses

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) is now offering Massive Open Online Classes (MOOC) designed to equip church leaders and members in order to grow as disciples and fulfill the Great Commission. MOOC is a new way of viewing lecture content from top ranked universities for free. These classes feature the same lecture content as the classes at SEBTS.

Whether they are used for individual study, small group curriculum or leadership development, these courses will be a valuable tool for you and your church. Registration is easy, and classes are at your own pace.

Current course offerings are Hermeneutics: Teaching & Interpreting Scripture; Reading & Interpreting the Bible in Spanish (Leyendo E Interpretando la Biblia); Missions & Evangelism for the Local Church; Theology & Culture (launching in October 2014).

Visit sebts.edu/mooc. Contact distancelearning@sebts.edu or (866) 816-0273.

Apologetics conference coming to Charlotte

The 21st Annual National Conference on Christian Apologetics is coming to Charlotte Oct. 10-11. The conference will address a variety of topics including God, science, Christianity, culture and historical apologetics.

The speakers will include Gary Habermas, Hugh Ross, J. Warner Wallace, Michael Behe, Nathaniel Jeanson, Norman Geisler, Richard Land, Sean McDowell and Walter Kaiser. The cost is \$85 for adults and \$55 for students with lunch available for \$7.50 each day.

For a detailed schedule, directions, hotel information and registration visit <http://conference.ses.edu/>.

BCH plans Super Senior Fest

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina is holding a Super Senior Fest Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Kennedy Home Gymnasium in Kingston. Music will be provided by gospel quartet The Rick Webb Family, and speakers will include Michael C. Blackwell and Tom Denton. A number of additional professionals will lead a variety of breakout sessions. Tours of Kennedy Home's historic Cedar Dell Hall are available. Lunch will be served. The cost for the day's activities is \$9 per person. Call (336) 474-1209. Visit bchfamily.org/involved/seniorfest.

September 21

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

September 28

Connected in Growth

Focal Passage: Ephesians 4:11-16

Church members need one another in order to grow in Christ. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his classic book *Life Together* stresses the importance of community: “Let him who is not in community beware of being alone. Into the community you were called, the call was not meant for you alone; in the community of the called you bear your cross, you struggle, you pray.”

Our passage this week begins in verse 11, where we learn that the “He” is Christ (v. 7), who has gifted those in His body with specific callings – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers – for a specific purpose. They are to use their gifts to equip the saints for the work of ministry (v. 12). It’s important to note that the Greek word for “ministry” in this verse is *diakonias*. (Other translations may render it “service” because of the root word, *diakoneo*, which means to serve or to minister). It may be tempting, at first glance, to take the view of “leave it to the professionals; to those in vocational ministry.” Especially for someone who reads the specific callings and thinks, “Okay, that doesn’t include me [sigh of relief].” Well, actually it does.

The original language shows us Christ has gifted what we would deem as “leaders” [or even “professionals”] in the church to equip us to do ministry. That’s also the purpose Paul has given for the specific giftings.

Not only does he give a purpose for the various callings, Paul also lists reasons for our works of service – so the body of Christ may build up to maturity, to complete unity and into the fullness of Christ (v. 12-13). We are to strive and support each other as we grow toward spiritual maturity.

The last portion of our passage emphasizes the need for teamwork with the use of the first person plural, “we are to grow up” (v. 15). We are supporting ligaments, dependent on one another to grow and build up the body into Him who is the Head, Christ. Are you in community with other believers? Are you viewing your ministry with the purpose Paul outlines in this passage? Name three people in your life who God has used to equip you. Then list three people who you can minister to and support in their journey toward spiritual maturity.



HILARY RATCHFORD
Writer, Southeastern
Seminary student

Focal Passage: Ephesians 4:25-32

Our words matter. Do you believe this? I’m sure you do because you can think of an instance where poorly chosen words, either spoken by you or someone else, have caused hurt and or even damaged a relationship. On the flip side, you can also probably still hear the words of those that have spoken blessing over you, or as we read last week, have spoken “the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).

Over the past couple weeks, the apostle Paul has focused on the corporate implications of what it means to be the Church, i.e. the need for unity and maturity. This week, Paul hones in on the individual and the responsibility that *each* church member has with one another. He clues us in on this by addressing “each one” or “each of you” (v. 25) to speak with integrity. Each person within the body must put off falsehood and speak truthfully.

He also gives instructions in verse 29 to speak with the purpose of building up others. The old adage, “If you don’t

have anything nice to say, don’t say it at all,” actually parallels Biblical truth. Only speak what is helpful for building others up, according to their needs, so it may benefit those who listen. Have you viewed what you’re about to say through that perspective before?

Not only do “reckless words pierce like a sword (Proverbs 12:18),” they also grieve the Holy Spirit. Remember in the beginning of Ephesians 4 that we, as the Church, are called to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit (v. 3). A rash word is not only divisive in the body, it also grieves God. Therefore, in order to fully edify others with our speech, we must speak kindly, compassionately, and with grace. We must rid ourselves of the unwholesome talk that comes out in the form of bitterness, anger, slander and instead demonstrate grace by forgiving others, just as we have been forgiven (v. 31-32). Remember, our words do matter. We can choose to speak life over someone or death. James, the brother of Jesus, said, “*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness... This should not be*” (James 3:9-10). How can you use your words to demonstrate both love for God and others this week?

September 21

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

September 28

Why One of Us?

Focal Passage: Hebrews 2:14-18

Back in November 1995 a song called “One of Us” made its way into the Billboard Top 40. The song was by a relatively unknown artist named Joan Osborne. It was her first top 10 hit and the only one of her career. What is interesting is the content of the song. The title is the end of a question that is asked throughout the song. That question is “what if God was one of us?” The song wonders what it would be like if God were one of us. How would we respond to him? What kinds of things might he do?

The Bible has answered that question definitively. In Hebrews 2:14-16, the writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus was, in fact, God in the flesh. He became “one of us” so that He might destroy the one who holds the power of death. It was necessary for Jesus to “share” in our humanity in order to reverse the effects of the Fall. Adam had failed and plunged all humanity into corruption. Only one who was “like us” could rescue us and defeat the enemy that had defeated Adam.

In Hebrews 2:17-18 we learn that Jesus also had to become like one of us so that he could become our high priest. Because He took on human flesh, He is a high priest who is merciful. While we are often tempted to think of Jesus’ divinity, it is His humanity that allows Him to empathize with us.

He understands what it means to face weakness, doubt, difficulty, hunger and temptation. Fortunately for us, He faced those things and overcame them. Because He is our perfect high priest, He is able to make atonement for us. But, as our high priest, Jesus did not offer an animal, but Himself as the perfect Lamb of God.

What if God was one of us? He was. God took on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, the God-man. And because He did, the one who became like us was able to deliver us. And, because He became like us, He is able to help us when we are tempted.



ROB POCHEK
Senior Pastor, Raleigh
Road Baptist Church,
Wilson

Focal Passage: Hebrews 3:7-15

It is said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. It is an axiom that is all too accurate today. Indeed, we see it in our world on a regular basis. And, the older I get the

more I find myself shaking my head at decisions that have already proven to be disastrous. Sometimes those decisions are made by folks in the church, with terrifying consequences.

The writer of Hebrews was sending a letter to a group of Christians who were about to make a terrible decision. As unbelievable as it may seem, they were actually considering turning their backs on the salvation found in Christ, in favor of returning to Judaism. The writer of Hebrews saw this for exactly what it was: hardening their hearts, just as their forefathers had done. In Hebrews 3:7-11, he uses Psalm 95 as a reminder to them of the tragic consequences of doing such a thing.

Watch Out!

If they followed the example of their forefathers they would reveal that they have not known God’s ways and they would not be allowed to enter His rest.

The writer of Hebrews is unafraid of warning them clearly. He minces no words as he tells them (v. 12) that it is possible to be in the assembly of the saints, but have an unbelieving heart that would lead you to “fall away” from the living God.

Dare I say that we need more of that in our midst. We need more warning that if you depart from the saints by turning your back on the salvation offered in Christ, you are falling away from the living God. Such warnings are not incompatible with God’s grace, but demanded by it.

But, the writer of Hebrews also knows that there is a powerful aid available to help us stay faithful to Christ. That aid is the encouragement and exhortation of our brothers and sisters in Christ. He calls us to an urgency about the message of salvation that is too often lacking. An urgency to respond “today” as long as it is called “today.”

Unite

Continued from page 11

from Dallas, Texas. In addition to his duties as chaplain, the former fullback speaks at numerous events and is passionate about mentoring youth in his home church. Evans will have the op-

portunity to bring that passion to middle and high school-aged youth attending Unite. "Hope is critical for young people. If you lose hope you've lost a lot," Evans explains. "Providing them hope through

God's Word and through Jesus Christ is the most important thing they could experience at Unite."

Unite's mission is to bring youth, churches and the community together for the cause of Christ. "It's not about sameness of person, but sameness of purpose," Evans said. "God makes Himself evident through unity. The Bible talks about the oneness of the body of Christ and the importance of every piece of the body."

Evans is not the only new participant at this year's event. Joining him is Flame of God, a North Carolina-based Christian rap artist, singer; author Roberta Brunck, a former BCH resident; and Liberty University's S.O.A.R. Dunk, an acrobatic basketball team. Awestruck, the contemporary worship band from Awestruck Church in Gibsonville, is returning to this year's Unite. The group became involved with BCH when singer/songwriter Tyler Ricketts, who serves as Worship Pastor for Awestruck Church, reached out to the Children's Homes in 2013.

"Awestruck's desire to use their talents to impact the lives of BCH's boys and girls made Unite possible," says BCH's Tabitha Ward who coordinates the event. "They've been a sparkplug that has allowed us to bring so many others together to share God's love with our residents and youth in the community."

Unite begins at 12:30 p.m. with free food, inflatable games and other activities. A dodgeball tourney for groups that have pre-registered also begins at 12:30. S.O.A.R. Dunk performs at 2:45. The food area and all other activities end at 3:00 p.m. for the start of the main program.

Despite rainy conditions, 900 youth and adults attended Unite last year.

At the end of the event, 51 middle school and high school students, including a number of BCH's boys and girls, made decisions for Christ. Ward is hopeful for even greater results this year. The planning team, which has been meeting since early 2014, is encouraging churches and their youth to pray and invite others to the event.

"We want to challenge youth who will be attending to boldly pray every day for at least one unchurched friend and invite them to Unite," Ward says. "There's nothing more incredible than seeing God work in the hearts of children to forever change their lives."

Unite is a free event. To register for the event, the dodgeball tournament (space is limited to 16 teams), or to volunteer, visit www.standupunite.com. For more information, contact Ward at tward@bchfamily.org or (336) 313-9512.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Christian rap artist HumbleTip will not be performing at this year's Unite.) **BR**

— I want to be a part of it —

In just a matter of days Embrace will lead its third mission trip to New York City. As this team prepares to venture into one of the world's largest cities, it is with one goal in mind: to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The ladies on this team want to be a part of what God is doing in NYC.

I never cease to be amazed at how God can use the life of one person to further His Kingdom. This summer I have been studying the Gospel of John and many times my study has stopped at Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman in John 4. This lady came to Christ and went into her town and told the men, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" (John 4:29, NASB).

Amazingly, John 4:39 tells us that "many of the Samaritans believed in Him

because of the word of the woman who testified."

She was not shy about sharing her new relationship with Christ because she wanted others to experience Jesus the same way she had. John 4:42 continues the story further that the lady's fellow Samaritans were telling her, "It is no longer because what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."



ASHLEY ALLEN

This one lady was a part of seeing God's Kingdom expand. Don't you want to be a part of it, too?

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Ashley Allen is consultant for Embrace

Women's Ministry for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach her at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5559. Read her blog at www.worthyofthecalling.com.)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

First Baptist Church Kershaw, SC, part of South Carolina Baptist Convention is receiving resumes through October 10, 2014, for the position of **full-time senior pastor**. Seminary degree and pastoral experience required. Send resume by mail to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 67, Kershaw, SC 29067, or email to fbckershaw@windstream.net.

Association

The Columbus Baptist Association is seeking a new **Director of Missions** who can help lead our associational churches to partner together to fulfill the Great Commission. Those desiring to submit a resume can send the resume to Rev. Ken Baker, 11338 Swamp Fox Hwy. W., Cerro Gordo, NC 28430, or preferably email them to cbasearchteam@gmail.com. Resumes must be received by September 30, 2014.

Church Staff

Enterprise Baptist Church is a conservative, missions-minded congregation located in Littleton, NC. We are currently in search of a **full-time Minister of Children and Youth**. This Minister's focus will be meeting the spiritual needs of the children and youth served by the Church, from birth through college. The Minister will work with families, Church leaders and volunteers as we seek to help our young people become followers of Christ. Please send a letter of interest with a resume to: Enterprise Baptist Church, 404 Enterprise Church Rd., Littleton, NC 27850 (attn: Senior Pastor) or to pastor.darren@embarqmail.com.

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Samaria Baptist Church, Raleigh, seeks **part-time minister of music piano/organist** to provide choir direction and music for Sunday morning service, Wednesday night rehearsal and special events. Type of music traditional with an occasional blend of praise/worship. Prefer 4 year degree in music education or will except 5 years music experience. Send resume: Attention Human Resources, Samaria Baptist Church, 3621 Poole Rd., Raleigh NC 27610. Accepting resumes thru Oct. 15, 2014.

Emmaus Baptist Church, Pittsboro, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time Youth/Music Pastor** who walks with the Lord on a daily basis through Bible study and fervent prayer. Detailed job description available upon request. Submit resume to 2430 Silk Hope Gum Springs Rd., Pittsboro NC 27312, or emmauspreach@embarqmail.com. For additional info: www.emmausbaptchurch.org.

Woodland Baptist, Waynesville, NC, is seeking a **bi-vocational Worship Leader**. WBC is SBC, affirming the 2000 BFM using blended music. Seeking a man who has a desire to lead worship with gospel centered music. Some experience needed, education a plus. Possibility of combining Student Ministry in Spring 2015 for full-time position; woodlandbaptist545@gmail.com.

First Baptist of Kinston, NC, is hiring a **full-time Minister of Music and Families**. We're a committed SBC church with a focus on missions and revitalization. The ideal candidate should have the ability to lead a blended/unified service that ministers to all ages in the congregation. He should also have a heart for families in the church and desire to help lead parents and volunteers in building the youth and children's programs. Those interested in this position should be committed to the authority of God's Word and affirm the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Please submit resumes to pastor@kinstonfbc.org.

Miscellaneous

NCBAM will conduct Leadership Training at the Fall Festival of Fellowship at Caraway in October. The focus will be on new models of ministry where aging adults take the lead and are engaged. Call 1.877.506.2226 for info.

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

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