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# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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## imb HOSTS EMERITI CELEBRATION AT RIDGECREST

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Production Editor

**P**eople in ministry often joke about retirement because serving God remains a lifetime commitment.

For 31 new emeriti missionaries from the International Mission Board (IMB), God plans to continue to use them, if they are willing.

"You, like Paul, found many ways to stay in place," said Drew Carson,\* a leader with the IMB, to the emeritus missionaries gathered Sept. 11-14 at Ridgcrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, N.C.

[See Emeriti page 8](#)



Diane Pace, from left, Sali,\* Bev Vaughn and Ann Verlander squeeze together for a selfie at Ridgcrest Conference Center during the Celebration of Emeriti for former missionaries of the International Mission Board. The ladies served together in West Africa. \*Names changed (IMB photo by Chris Carter\*)

## BAPTIST DR NOT LETTING UP AFTER IRMA, HARVEY

By BRANDON ELROD | NAMB

**S**outhern Baptist Disaster Relief continues to deploy volunteers to help respond to immediate needs in Florida and the Caribbean left by Hurricane Irma while still maintaining focus on enormous needs from Hurricane

Harvey in Houston, south Texas and Louisiana.

In Florida, seven Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) feeding units from several states in the Southeast have arrived as well as some from the Northeast.



Among churches damaged by Hurricane Irma was First Baptist Church in Lake Wales, Fla., some 60 miles east of Tampa. (Florida Baptist Convention photo)

Many began feeding Sept. 15. Two days earlier, a crew from the Baptist General Association of Virginia prepared 1,200 meals in Palm Coast.

Florida SBDR volunteers already have initiated cleanup and recovery operations in pockets around the state, from Jacksonville to Naples. Crews from other states will arrive over the course of the next week.

Mark Wakefield, who oversees Alabama Baptist disaster relief, led a team down to assist in Florida. "We're deploying to Fort Meyers," he said, "and we're happy to be serving our brothers and sisters in Florida. We should be feeding by Friday."

In the days following Hurricane Irma's landfall in Florida, damage assessment

teams generally came back with better news than had been expected prior to the storm.

Irma nearly leveled several islands in the Florida Keys, however, and widespread power outages remain a serious concern throughout the state.

As of Sept. 14, Keys residents south from Marathon had not been allowed to return to their homes.

*The Miami Herald* reported that only emergency services, disaster services and supplies were allowed to move into the Lower Keys as 911 services, electricity and water had not yet been restored.

**See DR page 2**

**"THEY ARE  
WORKING  
IN SURVIVAL  
MODE IN THE KEYS."  
- Delton Beall**



# Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future

People often ask me what the “secret” to enduring faith is. They want to make it all the way with Jesus, but they’re afraid that something might derail them along the way. When they ask this, I know they’re expecting some spiritual advice – possibly a theological truth or a key spiritual discipline. I’m all for theological truth and spiritual disciplines. But if there is a secret ingredient to enduring faith, it’s this: Your friends are your future.

Friendship may not be the most important factor in your spiritual life. But it’s certainly one of the most overlooked. That’s why I refer to it as a secret ingredient to enduring faith.

Christians know they need to read the Bible – even if they don’t do it. They know that they should believe certain things about God. But somehow they forget that they’re social creatures, shaped by the people closest to them.

The way King Solomon put it was, “*The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm*” (Proverbs 13:20 CSB). In other words, show me your friends, and I’ll show you your future.

I can’t tell you how often people simply ignore this. They get really motivated to become something great for God, but because that decision never affects

their friendships, their intentions never become reality.

One of my mentors in college told me, “For most decisions in your life, it’s not the big dreams you dream but the small decisions you make.”



**J.D. GREEAR**  
Guest Column

There is probably no better application of that than in our friendships. Our future is shaped less by our dreams and ambitions of what we’ll do for God and more by the company we choose to keep in the present.

Now, whenever I mention this, people ask, “Pastor J.D., are you saying that we shouldn’t have non-Christian friends?” Not exactly. To answer that, I often think of friendship in three concentric circles (I’m pretty sure I got this from Andy Stanley, but I can’t remember):

In the innermost circle, intimacy, you have a small group of friends – probably just three or four – that profoundly shape you, and vice versa.

If you’re married, your spouse goes in this circle. These need to be people that share the ultimate convictions you have. These are the ones that forecast your future.

In the next circle, influence, you have a larger number of friends. You influence them, and they influence you – not as deeply as your closest friends, but still in meaningful ways. Most of these ought to be Christians.

**“Our future is shaped less by our dreams and ambitions of what we’ll do for God and more by the company we choose to keep in the present.”**

In the outermost circle, care, you have the largest number of friends, including more casual acquaintances. These are people that you love and care for. You legitimately want the best for them and are willing to sacrifice for them, sometimes in stunning ways. But the shaping influence, in both directions, is lower. These can, and should, be Christians as well as non-Christians.

The mistake I often see isn’t that Christians have too many non-Christian friends but that people who should be in the care or influence circles are actually in the intimacy circle.

One of the most heart-breaking ways I see Christians flout this is in dating. Your spouse should be your closest and most influential friend. And yet, I so often see Christians pursuing romantic relationships with non-Christians. I want to shake them and ask, “Do you have any idea what you are doing to your future?”

You say, “Well, I think this relationship is different.”

You imagine that you really can change your boyfriend. Things just feel so right

when you’re together. Plus, you know about that one couple where it actually worked out: He became a Christian, they got married, and everybody lived happily ever after. And yes, God’s grace is amazing. I have seen him dramatically change people you’d never expect.

If you are currently married to a non-Christian, obey Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 7, stay true to your spouse, and pray like crazy for God to move. But why would you jump into that situation on purpose?

Do you know what it’s called when you willfully break God’s rules and then look to him to fix everything? It’s called mocking. And God will not be mocked.

Besides, is this really a gamble you want to take? Now that I’m a father, I realize that the single most important person in the lives of my children is my wife.

If you’re dating a non-Christian, you’re implicitly saying that you don’t really care about the salvation of your future kids. Don’t gamble with your kids’ eternity for the sake of a romantic thrill that won’t last anyway.

Sermons might inspire you, but it’s your community that shapes you. So in your friendships – your marriage chief among them – choose with wisdom. Your future will thank you.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – J. D. Greear is the pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. This article was first published at JDGreear.com/blog. Used by permission.) **BR**

**DR** Continued from page 1

Delton Beall, team strategist for disaster relief with the Florida Baptist Convention, reported in a conference call with SBDR personnel, “The military is having to get people in and out. They are working in survival mode in the Keys.”

Several shelters have been set up to accommodate those who are still unable to return to their homes in the Keys. Reuters reported that Hurricane Irma is responsible for 82 deaths in the United States and in the Caribbean. There have been at least 32 deaths in Florida and seven in Georgia and South Carolina. More than half of the fatalities attributed to the storm happened in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The situation has been so difficult in the Caribbean that SBDR workers had not been able to get to the Virgin Islands as of Sept. 14. An Alabama disaster relief kitchen that had been en route to Puerto Rico has instead been directed to the Virgin Islands after it became clear the need there was far greater.

## Long road to recovery in Texas

Feeding units in Texas have started to consolidate their work as people leave shelters to return home or make other arrangements after Harvey’s widespread flooding. Even as thousands of homes still need initial mud-out work, a few are ready for rebuild efforts, with

months of work ahead. Through church-to-church partnerships, several churches from around the United States have sent teams to communities in disaster zones. In addition, three Houston-area Southern Baptist churches – Champion Forest, Bayou City Fellowship and Houston’s First Baptist – have already completed more than 1,350 home mud-outs by volunteers from their churches.

To help get more boots on the ground, the North American Mission Board has been mobilizing churches and volunteers who do not have disaster relief training through its Send Relief ministry.

Visiting [sendrelief.net](http://sendrelief.net) to donate or volunteer. **BR**

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# IN FOCUS

A WORD FROM OUR LEADER

## Praying for a great move of God

Each year I look forward to our state convention's annual meeting as we join together over the course of two days to worship, fellowship and conduct convention business. I am especially looking forward to this year's meeting because of a special event that will be taking place during our time together in Greensboro on Nov. 6-7.



**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**  
BSC executive  
director-treasurer

On Tues., Nov. 7, the entire evening session will be devoted to a time of prayer for revival and spiritual awakening for our state, our nation and our world. We are calling this special service "Broken Before the Throne: A Prayer Gathering."

I want to call on every pastor, staff member, church leader and lay person from North Carolina Baptist churches to join me for this prayer gathering in Greensboro. This special service of prayer aligns with the overall theme of this year's annual meeting, which is "Return to Me" based on Zechariah 1:3.

Much prayer has already been devoted to this year's meeting in general and for this prayer gathering in particular, and it's been clear that the Lord has been working in the hearts of various individuals who have a role in planning the annual meeting's theme, schedule and related activities.

As we look forward to November, my prayer is that God would move in a mighty and powerful way in our lives as individuals and in the lives of our churches. If we are going to impact our world for Christ and see revival and spiritual awakening come, it must first start in the hearts of God's people.

To collectively focus our hearts and minds on the Lord, we are once again inviting North Carolina Baptists to join together in 30 days of focused prayer during the month of October as we lead up to the annual meeting in November. Chris Schofield, who leads the state convention's Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening, has written a powerful daily devotional that can be of great assistance during this prayer emphasis.

The devotional is aligned with the annual meeting's theme and theme verse, and it includes daily scripture and devotional readings, as well as daily prayer prompts. Each N.C. Baptist church has been mailed a copy of this resource, and it is also available as a free download at [prayfor30days.org](http://prayfor30days.org). Additional printed copies are also available for purchase for \$2 each. In addition, the [prayfor30days.org](http://prayfor30days.org) website has information about how you can request the devotions and prayer prompts be delivered to you by email or text message.

We are also inviting N.C. Baptists to designate Sun., Nov. 5 as a day of prayer and fasting for a refreshing, life-changing work of God's Spirit within us. We're encouraging pastors and churches to devote some or all of their worship service just prior to the start of the annual meeting to pray for revival and spiritual awakening.

I sincerely hope that you will mark your calendar and join me in Greensboro this November. I am praying that this meeting and prayer gathering will be a moment that we can look back to years from now as the beginning of a great move of God's Spirit within NC Baptists and our churches. Will you join me?

"Return to Me,' ... 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord of hosts" - Zechariah 1:3b (NKJV). **BR**

## A lifelong journey

It was in my senior year at the University of Hawaii at Hilo that I first felt the burden God laid on my heart. His call to full-time ministry came at a time when I was seeking God's will as to what I should do after graduation. After a few months of prayer and confirmation, I surrendered to God's will to enter the gospel ministry and committed to trusting my life into His hands.

The problem was, while I knew that I ought to study further and attend seminary, I had no idea which seminary I should attend. I researched 33 seminaries across the country but soon realized that there was no way I could afford the tuition. I recall back in those days (the early '70s) that seminary tuition averaged around \$2,500 annually. Even with the GI Bill assistance I was qualified to receive, it still wasn't enough to get me to the mainland.

As I faced this dead end, I walked into the Baptist Student Union (BSU) one afternoon where I spent time playing ping-pong with friends. I was looking for Josephine Harris, the Hilo campus BSU director, who was also a veteran Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionary. I still remember it as if it were yesterday.

As soon as I opened my mouth to share with Ms. Harris about my desire to attend seminary, she jumped up from her chair and ran into her library, returning with a row of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) postcards she wanted to show me. She could hardly contain her excitement as she introduced me for the very first time to SWBTS. She even assured me, "My brother, Dr. James Harris, is the pastor of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth. I will call him to make sure he welcomes you when you arrive there!"

So in the fall of 1973, I set out from my little town of Hilo, Hawaii, and began a lifelong journey of following God's leading into the gospel ministry.

I arrived at SWBTS, the largest semi-



### October is CP month

nary in America at the time, and officially enrolled as a graduate student. Back then, I remember that the student matriculation fee was only \$100 per semester. Even with my GI Bill benefit, there would have been no way for me to attend seminary without the Cooperative Program (CP) scholarship for Southern Baptist seminaries. Looking back, I thank God for Ms. Harris who introduced me to her beloved alma mater that blessed day I walked into the BSU. God used her to change the course of my life. I realized my indebtedness to her and took the opportunity to visit with her when she retired to New Mexico after many years of serving as a missionary in Hawaii. I also visited her in Virginia before she passed on to glory.

I graduated from SWBTS in 1976 as a member of an illustrious class that included Frank Page, current president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, and many other leaders and pastors who have faithfully journeyed together these past 40-plus years.

During my second year at SWBTS, I began to attend First Baptist Church in Dallas where I met W.A. Criswell, who became a lifelong mentor to me. Upon my graduation, I was ordained at First Baptist - a memorable day when Dr. Paige Patterson preached at the ordination service.

See Journey page 12

(Why did preachers take interims....)



## Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

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PRAY FOR 30 DAYS



# Pastors, leaders need to make faith at home a priority

BSC Communications

**M**ark Holmen is a husband, father, speaker, author and consultant. He currently serves as executive director of Faith at Home Ministries based in Crosslake, Minn., which seeks to equip congregations to make the home the primary place where faith is nurtured and lived out. Previously, Holmen served as senior pastor of Ventura Missionary Church in Ventura, Calif.

Holmen and Doug Bischoff, who serves on the pastoral staff at First Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, will be sharing on “How to Make Family Ministry a Reality in Your Church” at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Faith at Home Fall Conference Series Oct. 13-14 at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia, N.C.

Holmen took some time to answer a few questions regarding his ministry and the upcoming conference.

**Q:** In light of the current cultural trends, what are the biggest obstacles for families today?

**A:** Busyness. The impact social media is having on us. The trend to quit

and move on to someone else rather than remain.

**Q:** What challenges do pastors face in helping families see the need to be disciple-makers of their homes?

**A:** Parents want their kids to know, love and follow Jesus and yet they truly believe the best way to accomplish this is by outsourcing it to churches with good programs and leadership for their children and teens. Many parents today were not raised with parents who were their primary spiritual influence nor did they experience faith being discussed and nurtured at home, so this becomes a significant challenge because allowing the church to take the lead seems like the best and most natural option for parents.



MARK HOLMEN

**Q:** How should a church consider structuring its staff and events around encouraging and equipping families to be the primary disciple-makers of their homes?

**A:** It’s all in! Every staff member and ministry is responsible for having some sort of faith at home focus so that the people who engage in our church

## Chowan’s president to transition roles

Chowan University Relations

**I**n a statement released by Board Chair W. Frank Rose Jr. on Sept. 14, the Chowan University Board of Trustees announced that M. Christopher White will transition from the role of president to chancellor at the end of the academic year. White will have served Chowan as president for 15 years, a period of the institution’s most significant growth. Including his prior service at another university, his presidential career will have spanned 32 years.

“Chris White’s leadership rescued our school and has truly transformed the University, solidifying its place among North Carolina’s leading colleges and universities,” Rose said.

White’s tenure as president ushered

in a new era of growth and prosperity. When he arrived in July 2003 the school was in dire financial straits. Under his leadership, Chowan emerged with financial strength, completing every fiscal year comfortably in the black. Both the enrollment and the endowment more than doubled, with enrollment currently exceeding 1,500 students for the third consecutive year. The academic program was upgraded to university status. As chancellor, White will advise the new president, work closely with the development office in securing major gifts, and continue to be a goodwill ambassador for the University in the region.

White will remain as president until the new leader is identified. **BR**

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are consistently and repeatedly being inspired, motivated and equipped.

**Q:** What encouragement would you give to a pastor who is not sure where to begin with family ministry in their church?

**A:** I wouldn’t call it family ministry but instead make faith at home a component of the church’s discipleship strategy. I would also utilize the Faith Life survey ([faithlife.me](http://faithlife.me)) to provide the evidence that would support the need for a faith at home strategy.

When pastors and church leadership really see what is and is not happening in the homes of their church attendees, this becomes game-changing data and information.

**Q:** Why should pastors and staff members come to the Faith at Home Conference?

## SOMETHING IS OFF

**R**ecently my wife and I went to the Grand Canyon. But when we arrived, something was out of place. The Cookie Monster. In all of his fuzzy blue glory, he was standing near the visitor center.

It took us a few minutes to realize it was only a man dressed up in a costume to get tips.

He wasn’t really part of the scenery at all. Then we saw a sign near him that read, “Free expression area for those wanting to express their First Amendment rights.” Uh, what?

Almost every day, I see something awry in many of our churches, too. Unresolved conflict piling higher and higher. Nothing new, right?

People have always had conflict with one another. Church fights often end in church splits.

Church splits create more churches (almost sounds good). But we know better.

Two sides in a church can’t get along. Eventually one group leaves and starts another church, just down the street. Everything resolved, right? Wrong.

The conflict doesn’t end there. The resulting hurt and lack of forgiveness can go on for years, even decades.

Poorly handled conflict empties out

**A:** American Christianity is declining, and even for those who attend church it is becoming a one-hour, consumeristic expression whereby we “act” like a Christian for an hour and then live our lives a completely different way the rest of the week. All pastors want their people to be 24/7 faith-at-home-focused followers of Christ and not just one-hour consumers of church.

Yet, when you ask them, “What is your strategy to make the home the primary place where faith is lived and nurtured?” they usually don’t have much to say. This Faith at Home Conference will change that. It will give every pastor and leader that comes what they need to develop a customized and sustainable faith at home initiative that will be woven into their discipleship process.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – For more information or to register for the Faith at Home Network Fall Conference Series, visit [ncbaptist.org/faithathome](http://ncbaptist.org/faithathome).) **BR**

a church faster than anything else. And young people who witnessed conflicts in church have repeatedly said they experienced long-term hurt, extreme disappointment and a loss of faith. So who can blame them for leaving?

But don’t stop there. Look at what happens later to their children and grandchildren who will grow up outside of the faith.

We grieve, but we really should be honest about our role in all this. Our “free expression area,” where we have proclaimed our “rights,” has cost us greatly.

So, wouldn’t it have been better if instead of attacking or running away from conflict, we learned to handle it in a healthy, biblical way

– in a way that provides opportunities to glorify God, serve other people and grow to be like Christ?

Sure, building a culture of peace is hard work. But how much has peace-faking and peace-breaking cost us?

Visit the Peacemaker Ministries website at [peacemakers.net](http://peacemakers.net) for some helpful resources, and let us know if we can assist your church create a culture of peace.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Eddie Thompson is a pastoral ministries consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Contact him at [ethompson@ncbaptist.org](mailto:ethompson@ncbaptist.org) or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5644.)



EDDIE THOMPSON



# Baptists lend hand to ‘Dreamers’

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

**H**ispanic Christian communities in North Carolina are pulling together in support of young undocumented immigrants as they deal with uncertainty caused by the Trump administration’s announcement Sept. 5 that it would phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Luis Tejera, campus pastor for Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, met the following week with more than two-dozen students and young adults that were shielded from immediate deportation by the Obama-era policy.

They were concerned, Tejera said, but the group of “Dreamers,” as they are commonly called, understood the “dynamics of the situation in the political arena.”

The DACA program relied on White House administrative discretion to allow 800,000 young adults to live and work in the United States, since they were brought into the country illegally as children, through no fault of their own.

A six-month delay was included in the phase-out process to keep protections in place for DACA recipients while lawmakers develop replacement legislation.

Tejera also said the group from Hickory Grove was aware that “God is in control” and is striving to “wait in Him.”

David Duarte, Hispanic campus pastor for Daystar Church in Greensboro, expressed his support for Dreamers during a Sunday morning service Sept. 10. He also provided informational documents about immigration to attendees.

“It was a hard hit to our dreamers,” Duarte told the *Biblical Recorder*. “They’re facing a lot of insecurity.

“My biggest concern is the sense of security people have. This is really affecting the way we minister to Hispanics.”

In early 2017, two Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) staffers began helping churches discover how to serve people in their communities with immigration-related needs through education, raising awareness of missions opportunities and referrals to legal advocates for adjustment of citizenship status issues.

Larry Phillips, BSC immigration ministries strategist, holds a certification from the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP), which allows him to assist applicants in the immigration process.

Antonio Santos, BSC Hispanic strategy coordinator,

is also applying for the OLAP certification and, with Phillips, conducts general training sessions for congregations. “The convention has seen the need to help our churches understand the immigration issue from a biblical standpoint,” Santos told the *Recorder*.

“It’s a venue for them to do ministry, to reach out to a segment of the population that usually flies under the radar.

“It also allows local churches to build bridges with people living in fear and anxiety, develop trust with the community and provide a social service that will create opportunities to share the gospel.”

Phillips and Santos will lead two breakout sessions – one each in Spanish and English – discussing practical applications of a biblical understanding of immigration during the BSC annual meeting Nov. 7 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C.

Southern Baptists across the United States, including Félix Cabrera, lead pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central in Oklahoma City, Okla., and co-founder of the Hispanic Baptist Pastors Alliance, have signed onto letters from the Evangelical Immigration Table (EIT) to President Donald Trump and congressional leaders that called for legislation to protect DACA recipients. **BR**

## LifeWay, Gaines partner to create prayer resource

By **JOY ALLMOND** | Baptist Press

**L**ifeWay Christian Resources has partnered with Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president Steve Gaines to create a six-session Bible study, *Pray Like This: Living the Lord’s Prayer*, scheduled for release Oct. 1.

This Bible study is designed to bring a deep understanding of the text, theology and application of the Lord’s Prayer. It is a follow-up to the SBC’s 2017 annual meeting, themed “Pray! For Such a Time as This.”

“Nothing is more vital to the advancement of the gospel than rallying God’s people to pray,” said Gaines, who served as general editor of the study.

“Prayer changes everything. When we pray, God does things that He would not have done had we not prayed. When

God’s people agree in prayer ... there is spiritual synergy.

“The power of our prayers multiplies exponentially.”

Small groups or individuals will see video interview segments with leaders like J.D. Greear, Kelly Minter, H.B. Charles, Ronnie Floyd, Lisa Harper and Robby Gallaty.

Participants will walk through Jesus’ model prayer from Matthew 6 and will have personal study aids to help them dive deeper into the scriptures and understand the importance of prayer.

The study will also cover critical prayer topics, such as intercession, praise, confession and spiritual warfare, and will emphasize recognition of God as Father and Provider.

Greear, one of the featured leaders in the series of videos, said it is especially important for the church to be in prayer

now. “Prayer has preceded every great move of God in history,” said Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

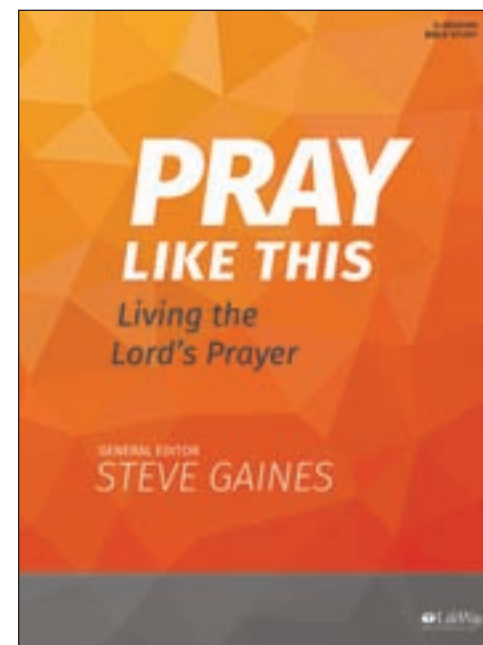
“Of Acts’ 28 chapters, we find the church praying corporately in 26 [of the chapters]. If we want power like theirs, we need prayer like theirs. Prayer doesn’t bring the awakening – it is the awakening.”

Pastor and contributor H.B. Charles said he believes *Pray Like This* is an important resource for churches and Bible study groups.

“It is both biblical – focusing on the Lord’s Prayer – and practical,” said Charles, pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. “It does not merely teach what prayer is. It motivates us to pray!”

Gaines, pastor of Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., said he hopes to see a movement of God reminiscent of that in the early church.

“What would happen if Christians across America and around the world became committed to prayer?” he asked.



“Only God knows, but I believe it would be similar to what happened in the Book of Acts.

“May God use *Pray Like This: Living the Lord’s Prayer* to such a glorious end, and may it serve as a catalyst for spiritual awakening in our day!”

For more information, or to pre-order the leader kit and Bible study book, visit [LifeWay.com/PrayLikeThis](http://LifeWay.com/PrayLikeThis). **BR**

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# Camp Change teaches children biblical stewardship

By KRISTA PIERCE | Special to the Recorder

In this age of entitlement, many people argue societal norms tell us we are owed certain privileges simply because we exist. Parents have unknowingly fed this sense of entitlement by providing children with far more than what is necessary, and they are now seeing undesirable behaviors associated with this idea of deserving something for nothing.

That is what inspired financial planner Amanda Burke and Rebecca Lindhout, minister of children and education at Antioch Baptist Church in Mamers, to work together to create Camp Change, a five-day counter-culture course in the basics of finance, geared toward children ages 6 to 12.

Burke and Lindhout designed Camp Change to teach children what it is like to earn money, to spend money and to use their financial resources to glorify God.

“Current culture teaches our children instant gratification,” said Burke. “At Camp Change, we show children what it’s like to earn money, just how much it costs to run a household and also to spend responsibly and to give. Teaching children these core principles early on will help them develop the necessary skills to be faithful stewards later in life. Education is key.”

Lindhout saw Camp Change as an opportunity to teach biblical principles like tithing but also to address a deeper spiritual matter – contentment.

“Camp Change was born out of conversations with parents about great kids who are greatly discontent and entitled,” Lindhout said.

“We talked about how enough is never enough and how there’s always that one more thing that our children think they need to have to be happy. We thought, ‘how did we get here?’”

Lindhout said she and Burke started with a list of questions: What would it take for our kids to understand the value of a dollar? How would their futures realign with God’s purpose for them if our children learned responsibility to God and others through their finances? How much peace would our families experience if our children knew what it means to be content apart from “things?”

“What we were trying to teach them was to be responsible stewards of what God has given them by teaching them contentment with God means we don’t have to fill our lives with things,” Lindhout said. Things aren’t “where we find our sense of peace and contentment, wholeness and goodness.”

Burke said as a financial planner, she sees how early ideas about money shape each person’s financial future.

“Children often demand more than the necessities from parents,” Burke said. “Because of this idea of entitlement, they never fully develop into financially stable adults later in life. And parents are feeling pressured to conform to the cultural standard of providing children with much more than they need.”

Camp Change was held each day for a week in June from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration was capped at 30 campers who started each day with a time of worship. Lessons about money were enhanced with games and creative activities.

Lindhout said the curriculum for the camp was put together from a combination of resources, such as Financial Peace Junior, MoneyPalooza!, Kidpreneurs, Piggy Bank University and “a lot of it was just self-created.” They taught students “in very kid-friendly ways, very adult concepts like responsibility and gratitude.”

Throughout the week, students played Moneypalooza!, a free budgeting resource and board game from Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh, in which they earned a commission for their “jobs” around the church and had to decide how to use their money. To win the game, students had to pay God first through tithing 10 percent, put money into savings and spend responsibly. By the end of the week, many students opted to give a percentage of their earnings to the church for the installation of a playground.

A major theme of Camp Change was educating children on the concept of needs and wants.

“Children don’t fully understand the financial obligations their parents must meet to keep a home functioning,” Burke said. “If we can shape our children’s expectations and model healthy financial behaviors, we can begin to change our culture.”

At the end of the week, campers used a portion of their earned commission to spend on a field trip to Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh where campers had fun learning and playing in the Moneypalooza! exhibit, among others.

Lindhout said they plan to host the camp again next summer. “We felt God working and saw what works and what didn’t work. Our goal for next year is to create more of our own material.” Burke is also excited about the camp and is already meeting with leaders to discuss next year’s camp. “The goal is to double the numbers,” Burke stated. “We just need more volunteers next year.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Krista Pierce is a stay-at-home mom and former journalist. She is a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Mamers. Laura Crowther, Biblical Recorder editorial aide, contributed to this story.) **BR**



Children at Antioch Baptist Church’s Camp Change learn about basic finance. The Mamers church teaches children ages 6 to 12 what it is like to earn money, to spend money and to use their financial resources to glorify God. (Contributed photo)



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# Mitchell County churches partner for community VBS

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR Staff Writer

A few weeks before the Great American Eclipse brought thousands of people from all over the country to cities in its path of totality, another galaxy-themed event drew more than 100 children from around Mitchell County to the Buladean Community Center in Bakersville, N.C.

For the fourth year, Big Rock Creek Baptist Church in Bakersville, N.C., partnered with three other local churches of different denominations for a community-wide Vacation Bible School (VBS) July 31-Aug. 4.

Samantha Anderson, a member of Big Rock Creek, served as VBS coordinator. She met with pastors and members from Big Rock Creek, Buladean Presbyterian Church, Middle District Free Will Baptist Church and Roan's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church to plan the "Galactic Surveyors" event. The churches first began organizing community VBS a few years ago, after the nearby Buladean Elementary School permanently closed. The building became a community center. "The school building was vacant. We thought it would be a good way to keep the community spirit alive," Anderson told the *Biblical Recorder*. "At least we could bring kids in the community together."

Anderson's own two daughters attended VBS and now go to school with students from other churches who were also at VBS.

"It's a blessing that they understand that we're all in this together regardless of the name of your church. ... They understand that we all are believers in Christ," she said.

Anderson said the partnerships between community churches are "stronger than ever." Because the churches were of different sizes, coordinators opened up volunteer positions for members to choose. "When you put people in places they feel they can best use their talents, they're much more excited," she said.

Each of the four churches were responsible for one night of food, and all four contributed to order pizza on the final night. Scott Jenkins, pastor of Middle District, reflected on the week in multiple Facebook posts and said, "Praise God for churches that can work together for the great goal of furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ. ... It truly blesses my soul to see churches coming together to further the Kingdom of God on earth." **BR**

# Harvey-battered churches sue for FEMA funds

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

Three small churches damaged in Hurricane Harvey's unprecedented Texas deluge are jointly suing a U.S. government agency for access to public recovery funds.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) religiously discriminates against churches by preventing them from seeking disaster recovery funding available to other nonprofits, the Becket law firm alleges in the suit filed Sept. 5 in Houston federal court.

The churches, Rockport First Assembly of God in Rockport, and Houston-area Harvest Family Church and Hi-Way Tabernacle, augment their case with a June U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming a church's right to participate in generally available programs on equal footing with secular organizations. None of the churches are Southern Baptist.

FEMA summarily bars churches from seeking emergency aid because churches primarily use their buildings for religious purposes, Becket said in its press release announcing the case.

"FEMA's policy violates the Constitution, as the Supreme Court recently ruled 7-2 in *Trinity Lutheran*," the law firm said.

In *Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer*, the court said Missouri violated the church's right to exercise its faith freely by barring it from participating in a government-run, playground resurfacing program.

FEMA regularly uses houses of worship as relief shelters as it used Hi-Way Tabernacle after Harvey, Becket said. Three feet of floodwater accumulated in Hi-Way Tabernacle's sanctuary.

Repeatedly, FEMA has denied aid to houses of worship after such disasters as 2005's Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

The suit, *Harvest Family Church v. Federal Emergency Management Agency*, was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. **BR**

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# Emeriti

Continued from page 1

“Paul could have left ... but he chose to stay the course,” Carson said, referring to 1 Corinthians 16:8-9, a text he says has been an encouragement and exhortation to him the last couple of years. “Your ministry of staying the course has also helped the IMB stay the course.”

The gathering, called Celebration of Emeriti, occurs every five years. This year’s event brought together about 950 emeritus missionaries. Around 1,200 were originally scheduled to come to the four-day event, but weather and health issues kept some away. Hurricane Irma’s path through Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee forced several airports to close, resulting in many canceled flights.

Combined, the emeritus missionaries in attendance served 25,297 years. There are approximately 18,500 IMB alumni, of which 2,250 have emeritus status. Before IMB’s 2015 Voluntary Retirement Incentive (VRI), a missionary reached emeritus status by serving at least 25 years and being 55 years old (or one of a couple). Since the VRI, emeritus status is reached by serving 15 years and being at least 50 years old. Alumni include all mid- and long-term former missionaries.

## Feel the music

Pearl Vernon,\* who served 31 years in the Middle East, was one of the recent emeriti recognized in a service Sept. 11. Vernon, who is living in her home state of Florida, learned that Irma damaged the garage in the mission house where she is living, causing her vehicle to be totaled.

While she was in the Middle East, she worked in music and drama. “I knew God wanted me to serve overseas,” she said, but she waited eight years for the right request – a music and drama teacher.

While she had been a band teacher at her hometown high school, Vernon wasn’t sure she would be able to have a band in the Middle East, but she took a few instruments in case an opportunity arose.

A colleague on the mission field shared a newspaper article about a member of the ruling family looking for people with music backgrounds. That article led to Vernon being “in on the ground floor of the National Music Conservatory, and that paralleled my development of the music program at the school.”

The conservatory offered the only comprehensive music program in the Middle East. “I could have been enveloped in the music,” Vernon said. “I could have very easily lost my way as far as why I was there. God impressed upon me ... I was there to share Jesus, and music was my avenue.”

She introduced a “talk time” to her students, which consisted of her sharing a parable or biblical story, and the students spent time discussing it.

When Vernon knew she was leaving, she wanted the talk times to continue. She was pleased when her successor sent her the schedule with talk times included.

“God built this program,” she told them. “You leave Him out of the equation, the program will fall.”

Back in her hometown, Vernon is looking for a position in music. She says she would love to teach at the college level again. “I know, without a doubt, God will, when the path and the time is right, ... it will just open up,” she said. “When He’s ready for something, the doors open, and you go through.”

Meanwhile, she is active in her church, where she started a handbell choir.

Vernon laments that “America is not the place I left,” but she hopes she can be a light within her community for God’s truth.

“He can use a musician,” she said. “He can use a plumber. Whatever your skills and talents are, He can use that to increase His Kingdom.”

## Serving in South Asia

Darren and Yvonne Cantwell\* who were serving in South Asia when they retired recently, now live in Alabama. He serves as the pastor of mobilization at a church in Alabama.

Growing up in Tucson, Ariz., Darren learned about people groups and reaching the nations with the gospel while he was in college. He talked to his pastor and was introduced to the IMB Journeyman program, where he served in Scotland. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) in Fort Worth, Texas, where he met his wife, Yvonne.

She was raised as a missionary kid in Indonesia. Her parents served 29 years with IMB, and she would often talk about her parents’ work. “In my mind, that’s what it was, my parents’ work,” she said. But after spending time in Taiwan as a summer missionary, she felt called to share the gospel across cultures.

She was a student at Samford University at the time. When she graduated, she worked at the national Woman’s Missionary Union in Birmingham for a while before going to SWBTS.

In an interview with the *Biblical Recorder*, Yvonne reminisced that it was her senior year in college – Dec. 31, 1979 – that she signed a public profession of her call to missions. When she met Darren in seminary seven years later, they discovered a card he had signed one day later – Jan. 1, 1980 – indicating that he would go anywhere God called him.

When the wall came down in Berlin in 1989, Darren wanted to go, but God kept closing the door to all the jobs for which they applied.



“We prayed, ‘Lord, where in the world do you want us to go?’” he said, admitting that was a dangerous prayer.

They served in Pakistan for eight years before God called them to their next assignment. In 1999, they moved to Richmond, Va., to work at IMB as candidate consultants. After three years and several requests, the couple moved to the Pacific Rim to work with Muslims in Southeast Asia.

After five years, Darren and Yvonne were having a visa issue and had to move to Singapore where Darren was asked to be interim regional leader for that region. He later became the South Asia affinity group leader after a reorganization.

“We never thought it would be possible to go back, but the Lord opened that door,” said Darren. They were concerned about uprooting their children again, but the Lord moved them to South Asia in 2009, and they began serving in 2010.

“Every time, the Lord kind of brought these things to us, we never sought out any of these changes,” he said.

Last year both had a word from the Lord that it was time to step aside. “For me,” Darren said, it was about letting “the next generation lead.”

They were on stateside assignment for a year while Darren was working on his dissertation. He was then offered the job in Alabama. Yvonne described coming back to America as a “cross-cultural experience.” Darren says they are still in the “honeymoon stage” where everything works, like electricity and plumbing.

## Staying the course

Carson thanked the retired field personnel.

He recalled the 2004 murders of Christian workers Larry and Jean Elliott, Karen Watson and David McDonnall in Iraq. Such a tragedy brought his third-grade daughter from death to life. She decided that day to follow God.

In mentioning many barriers and adversaries that face mission personnel, Carson said the IMB tries to train workers “how to walk wisely but confidently.”

Still, he said, the “greatest adversary we have is in our own hearts.”

## ‘Breathtaking’ service

One day (Sept. 12) after attending the memorial service for a “dear brother” in Alabama, David Platt, IMB president, addressed the emeriti in the dining hall.

He shared of his brother in Christ, Jonathan Bean, who was on staff at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, where Platt served prior to the IMB.

He said Bean, who had been battling cancer for the last seven years, is “probably the one person who’s taught me more about missions than anyone else in my life.”

Being among so many retired missionaries makes Platt feel grateful for where God has him.

“This is what matters,” he said. “You have given your lives. I look over 170 years [of IMB history], and I see a legacy of faithful gospel proclamation. That ... is breathtaking.”

He shared out of 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 and pointed to being faithful as the one criteria to judge success as a believer and a missionary. “We trust God,” he said. “We plead with God for fruitfulness.”

Platt described the local church as God’s agent for sending missionaries. IMB exists to equip churches to send out more missionaries, marketplace missionaries, retirees and others.

“We have limited ability to send out fully supported missionaries around the world,” he admitted.

But in the IMB, there’s a new push to be limitless, to exhaust all avenues of sending people to spread God’s message.

He introduced IMB’s vice presidents to the missionaries, who spoke about how IMB partners with Southern Baptists in global engagement, training, mobilization and support services. Platt talked about a plurality of leaders. “It’s never just about the Spirit of God in one person,” he said.

In another address to the emeritus missionaries, Platt preached out of Esther 4 describing himself as a dwarf standing on giants’ shoulders. “I praise God for His grace represented all around this room,” he said. Reflecting on his three years as president, he shared a couple of truths God has taught him.



# Platt urges new missionaries to look to Jesus

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Production Editor

“He’s called your name,” David Platt told 51 new missionary appointees Sept. 13. “You are His.”

The appointees, along with friends and family and about 950 emeritus missionaries were part of a Sending Celebration at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, N.C.

Platt, the International Mission Board’s (IMB) president, shared from Hebrews 11-12, describing men and women of faith.

“God is saying to you: Never stop looking to Jesus” Platt said.

David Flannery, former student pastor at Mountain View Baptist Church in

Hamptonville, N.C., credited his dad’s military career with opening his eyes “to the lostness in Europe.”

He and his wife, Danielle, plan to take their son, Kaleb, with them to Italy. Danielle said her time in France as an exchange student helped solidify her call to the international mission field.

“Through the outreach focus of our sending church, God has confirmed our call to European missions,” she said.

The couple, who is expecting their second child, will be serving in Milan.

North Carolina has three other appointee couples, all going to secure areas. Samuel and Hannah Lull,\* Liam and Emily Holloway\* and Thomas and Emma Parker\* are going to three different areas: Northern

Africa and Middle East, Central Asia and Southeast Asia, respectively.

Story after story was shared of how God gripped each appointee. While each has their own story, Platt emphasized that they are going out to share “the greatest news in all the world.”

He asked them to think back to the first time they knew of their sin before a holy God. “He’s the founder of your faith,” he said. “He’s the perfecter of your faith.”

While Hebrews shares quite a list of patriarchs, early fathers and mothers of faith, Platt warns not to “start to think those are giants of faith.”

“The Israelites?” Platt asked. “Would we call them giants of faith?”

“They complained about everything, in spite of God’s faithfulness in bringing them out from under Pharaoh’s rule.

“Faith isn’t about what any one can do,” he said. “Faith is about what God can do through any one.

“The whole picture is, you’ve got people of faith just holding onto His promises.”

He reminded them to stay in God’s Word, resting on those promises.

“No matter what happens to you, He has your back,” Platt said.

Listing some missionaries who had died serving overseas, Platt shared that when the appointees go to field-personnel orientation in Virginia, “you’ll see a list of men and women who were living by faith when they died.”

“His power will strengthen you in your weakness,” he said. “His promises will never let you down. Never stop looking to Jesus.”

\* Names changed. **BR**



Danielle and David Flannery share about their call to the international mission field. The Flannerys are sent by Mountain View Baptist Church in Hamptonville, N.C., to share the gospel with European Peoples. (IMB photo by Chris Carter\*)

## IMB celebrates missionaries, approves balanced budget

By JULIE MCGOWAN | IMB

International Mission Board (IMB) trustees gathered at Ridgecrest Conference Center Sept. 11-13 to celebrate more than 25,000 years of service by emeritus missionaries while approving the appointment of 51 new personnel to take the gospel to unreached people and places.

The fall meeting near Asheville, N.C., also included orientation for 11 new trustees; approval of a balanced budget for 2017-18; and concerted prayer for specific needs representing every region of the world.

During the Sept. 13 plenary session of the meeting, IMB President David Platt introduced the 2017-18 proposed budget, balanced with receipts and expenses both projected at \$262 million.

Platt said the IMB’s priorities for the budget are to sustain an increasingly efficient and effective organization; undergird the existing mission force and staff; replenish the current mission force in response to natural attrition; and expand the future mission force with the remaining budget. The budget is based on a new fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2017-Sept. 30, 2018, which aligns IMB’s financial year with other Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities. The new fiscal year was approved at the SBC in Phoenix.

The IMB budgeting process follows five core principles: uses

realistic to conservative projections for receipts (projecting Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts at \$153 million for 2017-18); maintains contingency reserves at an appropriate level (set at 5.5 months, which falls within SBC Executive Committee guidelines); excludes property sales from budget receipts or expenses; spends 100 percent of Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts on the mission field; and presents a balanced budget for approval each year (\$262 million for 2017-18).

In addition to reports by the trustee standing committees, trustee chairman Hance Dilbeck presented two sets of minutes for approval: minutes from the June 12 trustee meeting held in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting; and minutes from an Aug. 24 IMB trustee executive committee meeting. During the August meeting, the executive committee of the IMB trustees agreed to evaluate Platt’s involvement as teaching pastor at McLean Bible Church during a provisional period.

The week also included orientation for 11 trustees elected in June, including Will Gatling, associate pastor of missions of Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. IMB trustees will meet via video conference Nov. 14 to approve new missionary appointees. The official launch date for the 2017 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is Oct. 1. Go to [IMB.org/LMCO](http://IMB.org/LMCO) to find the new resources for your church’s mission offering. **BR**



The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supports the work of missionaries serving the International Mission Board. This year’s Week of Prayer is Dec. 3-10. Giving supports more than 3,600 missionaries and continues Southern Baptist’s 172-year commitment to missions. (IMB graphic)

1.) God is sovereignly orchestrating all of history for the accomplishment of His purpose.

2.) Each of us has a part to play in the accomplishment of that purpose.

“Nothing is outside His control,” he said, pointing to Acts 17 where God has determined boundaries. “People are longing for hope.”

Naming several world leaders, including President Donald Trump, Platt said God has them all in the palm of His hand.

With the financial realities of the IMB, Platt admits some problems needed to be addressed: using the sale of properties to pay for expenses; the chronic problem of not meeting its budget; and using reserve funds to offset the cost of sending more missionaries. “We asked everyone to ... go to the Lord ... put a blank check before Him,” Platt said. They implored each person to seek God individually to make those tough decisions. He talked about the challenge, heartache and emotions and pointed to Romans 8:28. “All things, even the things we don’t understand,” he said, work together for His purpose.

Esther risked her life for her people, just like IMB missionaries are asked to do.

“We’re saying we’ll do whatever it takes,” he said. Platt encouraged those making a transition. “Where you live right now is not an accident,” he said. “He has put you where you are.”

He encouraged the retired missionaries to be mobilizers in their churches, “leveraging all that God has entrusted to you.”

### Keep running

In the last session Sept. 14, Platt called on the retired missionaries to keep running the race. He shared from the “meaty” chapter 15 from 1 Corinthians.

“You and I are not here on this earth for very long,” he said. “Don’t waste it.”

He reminded them that there are many lost “right now, separated from God.”

“Biblical Christianity is about laying down our rights,” Platt stressed. “It’s about sacrificing comforts.

“Keep running the race all the way until the end. Make His gospel known, knowing that your labor is not in vain.”

\* Names changed. **BR**



# NCMO gifts help church planting efforts

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

Every Easter, three congregations located hundreds of miles apart join together in a single service to worship and celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

The congregations are part of three different church plants known as Lifezone Fellowship. Pastor and church planter Noel De Asis planted the first Lifezone Fellowship in Durham in 2010 and later planted additional churches in Fayetteville and Jacksonville.

The Easter worship services held at the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell illustrate the unity and diversity of the body of Christ.

The gathering also illustrates the importance and the need for multiplying church plants in North Carolina.

“Different churches reach different people,” says Mark Gray, who leads the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSC) Church Planting Team.

“And statistics repeatedly demonstrate that new church plants are one of the most effective ways to reach new people with the gospel of Christ.”

Gray’s team works with churches, Baptist associations and church-planting networks to facilitate the launch of new churches.

Since 2007, the state convention has helped more than 1,000 new churches across the state get started, which is an average of more than 100 new churches that are started annually.

In 2016 alone, the convention worked with 99 new churches – 67 new church plants and 32 new affiliate churches. These churches receive training, coaching and support to help them reach their communities for Christ.

The North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) is vital to the convention’s church planting efforts. NCMO provides nearly one-third of the BSC Church Planting Team’s budget each year. This year, 28 percent of the funds received through the offering will go toward planting new churches in North Carolina.

“We are thankful for the generosity of North Carolina Baptists whose gifts help make church planting possible through the NCMO,” Gray said.

From July 2016 to June 2017, new churches have reported more than 4,400 professions of faith.

And many of the new churches are seeking to reach individuals from North Carolina’s growing international population.

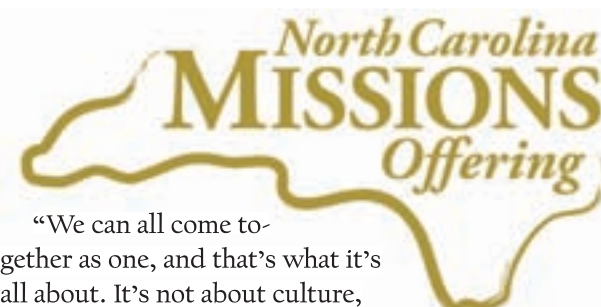
Of the new churches that the BSC Church Planting Team worked with in 2016, 70 percent were non-Anglo congregations with a primary language other than English.

Those churches are representative of the Lifezone Fellowship congregations, whose members come from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

“That’s the beautiful thing about Christianity,” said one Lifezone member who attended this past year’s combined Easter worship service at Fort Caswell.



When individuals give to the North Carolina Missions Offering, some of those funds go toward planting churches all across the state. (BSC screenshot)



“We can all come together as one, and that’s what it’s all about. It’s not about culture, black, white or whatever.

“It’s all about Jesus Christ.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – To watch a video about Lifezone Fellowship, visit [vimeo.com/channels/ncmo](http://vimeo.com/channels/ncmo). To learn more about the North Carolina Missions Offering, visit [ncmissionsoffering.org](http://ncmissionsoffering.org).) **BR**

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# Uganda seminary leaders report growth

BR Staff

**B**ill Greenwood, a retired pastor from Kernersville, N.C., served as an adjunct professor at Uganda Baptist Seminary (UBS) in Jinja, Uganda, in 2015. He and his wife, Sheryl, recently hosted a gathering for Jack Frost, founder and former principal of UBS, and Anthony Shelton, current UBS principal. The Sheltons were on stateside assignment and have since returned to Uganda.

Frost and his wife, Evelyn, returned to the United States in 2015 and retired from the International Mission Board (IMB) last year. They returned to Greensboro, N.C., and are members of Friendly Avenue Baptist Church. Jack founded UBS in 1988 as a ministry of the IMB Baptist Mission of Uganda and the Baptist Union of Uganda. Evelyn served as the nurse on campus.

Frost told the *Biblical Recorder* that the seminary continues to see significant growth under Shelton's leadership. When Frost left Uganda, only the diploma and certificate of theology were accredited by the Uganda National Council for Higher Education. The bachelor of theology was still in consideration.

"It was earlier this year that they accredited the degree of bachelor of theolo-



From left, Misti and Anthony Shelton with their daughters Karis and Sophia, Sheryl and Bill Greenwood and Evelyn and Jack Frost. The Sheltons returned to Uganda in early August. (Contributed photo)

gy," Frost said. "That happened formally after we came back and the Sheltons were leading on."

About 280 bivocational students are enrolled in the seminary. More than 40 percent of students come from nearby

countries: Kenya, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Students go to UBS three times a year for four-week terms.

Shelton and Frost said many students return to their home villages and start churches and Bible training centers, which UBS oversees, for leaders who cannot travel to Jinja. According to ministry reports, UBS has more than 1,000 alumni serving throughout East Africa. They have led thousands to Christ through outreach ministry and planted more than 100 churches.

UBS maintains a partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, N.C. John Ewart, associate vice president for Global Theological Initiatives and Ministry Centers at SEBTS, periodically leads a group of professors in Jinja to teach classes. Greenwood said UBS welcomes volunteer pastors as visiting professors, as well

as medical professionals to volunteer in the clinic.

The IMB funds salaries of two missionaries who manage UBS' administration and upkeep, but it does not cover other operating expenses. UBS relies on gifts from churches and individuals to cover professors' salaries, food, lodging, transportation and scholarships. Most of the faculty and staff are Ugandan, Frost said.

"Many of the students are farmers," Greenwood said. "Most have four to six children and take in an orphan or two." They depend on donations to keep tuition costs as low as possible.

To support UBS, go to [imb.org/give](http://imb.org/give) and indicate your gift to go to Uganda Baptist Seminary. Pastors interested in serving as volunteer professors can email [ugandabaptistseminary@gmail.com](mailto:ugandabaptistseminary@gmail.com). For more information about the seminary, visit their Facebook page and website, [ugandabaptistseminary.org](http://ugandabaptistseminary.org). **BR**

## Oklahoma Baptist executive to retire

Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

**A**nthony L. Jordan, who has served as executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) since April 1996, announced Sept. 12 his plans to retire next year. Jordan's nearly 22-year tenure stands as the longest of any to hold that role in Oklahoma. He announced his decision to retire during the BGCO Board of Directors meeting.

"This has been the journey of a lifetime," Jordan shared in his remarks to the board. "I could never have imagined the

remarkable opportunities afforded me in this leadership role. Without question, it has been both humbling and exhilarating. Oklahoma Baptists are the finest and most generous people on earth. No man could have a more rewarding experience than to lead such a great people."

During the meeting, Joe Ligon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Marlow, who serves as the BGCO president, led the board to elect an executive search committee, in accordance with BGCO bylaws, to search for a candidate to fulfill Jordan's role upon his official retirement on April 15, 2018. **BR**



## Z.J. CUNNINGHAM

### JACKSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Z.J. Cunningham is starting a new church on the growing outskirts of Jacksonville. Engulf Church offers contemporary worship, and you can wear your jeans to church like Z.J. does.

But their motto says it all: "We cannot be satisfied until the whole city has heard the name of Jesus and has experienced His love."

Join thousands of North Carolina Baptists in praying for this new church the week of Sept. 24.

Download the files for **52 Sundays** now at [www.ncbaptist.org/52sundays](http://www.ncbaptist.org/52sundays) — and lead your entire church to pray every Sunday for your missionaries!





# Pew: Reformation theology waning among Protestants

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

Five hundred years after the start of the Protestant Reformation, a majority of U.S. Protestants reportedly reject the Reformation doctrines of *sola fide* (the belief men and women are saved by faith alone) and *sola scriptura* (the belief scripture is the only infallible guide for faith and practice).

That's the finding of the Pew Research Center, which also found a majority of western European Protestants reject *sola fide* and that theological differences between Protestants and Catholics seem to be narrowing in many cases.

"The result of the survey ... in America and Europe is not particularly surprising," said Paige Patterson, a participant during the 1990s in a five-year theological dialogue between eight Southern Baptist leaders and eight representatives of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Although such surveys have little relevance on the vitality of faith and are often skewed in various ways, there is a sense in which both groups surveyed are correct. Certainly, Catholicism and Protestantism are more alike than any

other expressions of religion in the world in their confidence that the Bible is in some sense the Word of God, that Jesus of Nazareth is the center of the Christian faith, in their confidence in the doctrine of the Trinity ... and in their general concept of sin defined as rebellion against God," Patterson told Baptist Press (BP) in written comments.

"On the other hand, the survey also demonstrates the extent of biblical illiteracy," said Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Regarding salvation, two separate Pew surveys conducted in the U.S. and Europe and released Aug. 31 found:

- Less than half (46%) of U.S. Protestants hold the Reformation doctrine that faith alone is needed to attain salvation. More than half (52%) espouse the historically Catholic doctrine that good deeds and faith are required to get into heaven.
- A full 81 percent of U.S. Catholics say good deeds and faith are required to get into heaven. Just 17 percent of Catholics say salvation comes by faith alone.
- In Europe, 29 percent of Protestants and 26 percent of Catholics espouse belief in salvation by faith alone.

## 'Here I stand': A reformation for every generation

The trumpets blared as the covered wagon passed through the city gate. Thousands lined the streets to catch a glimpse of their hero, many more waving pictures of him from windows and rooftops. It was the evening of Wednesday, April 16, 1521, and Martin Luther was entering the city of Worms.

It looked like a triumphal entry. Yet Luther knew where triumphal entries could lead. The reality was, he was coming to be tried for his life, and, like Jesus, he was expecting death.

Teaching that a sinner, merely by trusting Christ, could, despite all his or her sins, have utter confidence before God, he had brought down on himself the fury of the church.

His books had already been thrown onto bonfires, and most expected that in a few days he would be joining them.

Luther, however, was determined to defend his teaching: "Christ lives," he said, "and we shall enter Worms in spite of all the gates of hell."

The next day, the imperial herald came to Luther's lodging to escort him to the trial. The crowds were so dense that he was forced to sneak Luther through

some back alleys to the bishop's palace. Even so, they did not go unnoticed, many scrambling over the rooftops in their eagerness to see.

At four in the afternoon, Luther entered the hall; and for the first time the miner's son from Saxony, dressed in his humble monk's habit, faced Charles V,



MICHAEL REEVES  
Guest Column

the Holy Roman Emperor, lord of Spain, Austria, Burgundy, southern and northern Italy, the Netherlands and "God's Viceroy on earth."

On seeing the monk, the emperor, a fierce defender of the church, mumbled, "He will not make a heretic out of me."

Luther was ordered not to speak until bidden. Then the emperor's spokesman, pointing at a pile of Luther's books on a table in front of him, told him that he had been summoned to see whether he would acknowledge the books that had been published in his name, and if so, whether he would recant.

In a soft voice that people strained to hear, Luther admitted that the books were his. But then, to the shock of all, he asked for more time to decide whether he needed to recant.

It looked like he was going to back

See Stand page 15

Contrary to the majority of Protestants in the U.S. and Europe, the Augsburg Confession of Faith – a classic 1530 Lutheran confession of faith – stated, "Men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith."

In contrast, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that while "no one can merit the initial grace of forgiveness and justification," humans can "merit for ourselves and for others the graces needed for ... the attainment of eternal life."

Concerning the authority of scripture, Pew found:

- Just 46 percent of U.S. Protestants believe the Bible provides all religious guidance Christians need. More than half (52%) say believers need guidance from church teachings and traditions as well.
- Three-quarters (75%) of U.S. Catholics say Christians need guidance from church traditions and teachings in addition to the Bible. Just 21 percent of Catholics say the Bible provides all needed religious guidance.

Protestants traditionally have believed, as stated in the 1646 Westminster Confession of Faith, "The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from

scripture."

In contrast, the Catholic Church holds according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the church "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy scriptures alone. Both scripture and tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."

Only 30 percent of U.S. Protestants believe in both *sola fide* and *sola scriptura*, according to Pew.

In the western European survey, most Catholics and most Protestants in every nation said they believe the two Christian groups are more theologically similar than different.

"The poll," Patterson said, "is a source of challenge to Baptists to be sure that we prepare our people adequately in the doctrinal commitments that we have."

The European surveys were conducted via telephone April 11-Aug. 2, with 24,599 respondents from 15 countries. The U.S. survey of 5,198 panelists was conducted online May 30-Aug. 9.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service. This year, Baptist Press is publishing a series of stories leading up to the 500th anniversary of when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany, Oct. 31, 1517.) **BR**

## Journey Continued from page 3

Although I had planned to return to Hilo to plant house churches, God had other plans.

In Los Angeles, while serving at a Korean Baptist church, I met my wife, Rebekah, who currently serves as a Southern Baptist chaplain at Harvard University. Together, we followed God's call to the University of California, Berkeley, campus and on March 1, 1981, we started Berkland Baptist Church, a local church-based campus ministry to raise up leaders in the 21st century.

In the early days of our church, my young family of five was financially supported by CP, for which we were so grateful. The CP encouraged our small congregation of college students and supported our college outreach efforts. But after a year and a half, I chose to give up the CP funding so other church planters who had a greater need for financial support could receive more.

Within the first 10 years, by God's help, our small congregation of Asian-American students, young adults and families grew to over 500. Berkland Baptist Church (BBC) was one of the

fastest growing churches in the California Southern Baptist Convention and received several awards and distinctions. As a second-generation English-speaking Asian-American church, we went on to plant more than 40 churches over the next 36 years during my pastoral tenure, driven by the commitment to missions both at home and abroad.

In 1991, Rebekah and I chose to entrust the Berkeley church to one of our home-grown disciples and follow God's call to Boston, where we planted our first East Coast church and launched similar church-based campus ministries on many universities in the Boston area. As the founding pastor of BBC and of Antioch Baptist Church, I have taught and trained all the younger pastors who have followed in my footsteps to give to the SBC's Cooperative Program which allows for more effective mission work around the world in obedience to the Great Commission until Christ's return.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Longtime pastor Paul Kim currently is the Asian-American relations consultant with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.) **BR**



## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituary

**JOHN WARREN STEEN JR.**, 91, died Sept. 3 in Brentwood, Tenn., one day after his 65th wedding anniversary.

A Mississippi native, he attended Mississippi College, Baylor University, Southern Seminary and Union Seminary. He received an honorary doctorate from the Atlanta School of Law. He was a Navy veteran of World War II where he served as an assistant chaplain and organist/pianist.

Early in his career, Steen was pastor of Oaklawn Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, and First Baptist Church, Clayton. He also served churches in Texas and Georgia.

In 1970, he was called to the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in Nashville, Tenn., as an editor of adult Bible study curriculum. He was named as the founding editor of *Mature Living* magazine, which is celebrating its 40th year this year.

Later, he was editor for the United Methodist Publishing House, where he continued to write devotionals into his mid-80s.

He authored four books, many articles and founded the Grand Ole Christian Writers Workshop. Starting piano lessons at the age of 5, he was an accomplished pianist and continued to play into the last month before he died. He also learned to play the cello in his 50s.

An active member of Immanuel Baptist Church for 47 years, he served as deacon, worked with missions welcoming the first Vietnamese refugees to Nashville, went on several international mission trips and played cello in the string ensemble. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Lipham Steen; three children, J. Warren Steen of Winston-Salem, Annell Steen Fields of Crossville, Tenn., Lucinda Steen Stewart of Nashville, Tenn.; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to: Immanuel Baptist Church music ministry, 222 Belle Meade Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37205; or the Nashville Symphony, Schermerhorn Symphony Center, One Symphony Place, Nashville, TN 37201-2031.



JOHN STEEN JR.

### Staff change

Calvary Baptist Church, Reidsville, has called **CLINT LITTLE** as associate pastor of discipleship and youth. This is his first ministry position.

### Retirement

**THAD DOWDLE** has retired as professor from Fruitland Baptist Bible College, Hendersonville, after serving in various capacities for more than 30 years. Dowdle earned a doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary. He served as pastor at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Franklin; Yellow Mountain Baptist Church, Cullowhee; Calvary Baptist Church, Tylertown, Miss.; Oakley Baptist Church, Asheville; College Avenue Baptist Church, Lenoir; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Hendersonville; and interim pastor at Cedar Springs Baptist Church, Zirconia. Dowdle was also involved in full-time itinerant ministry, evangelism and speaking at revivals and Bible conferences. He served as a professor and academic vice president at Fruitland. He and his wife, Shirley, live in Hendersonville. He is available for pulpit supply. Contact (828) 692-6323.

### 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 for style and length. Include cost and contact information in your email or correspondence.

Send to [dianna@BRnow.org](mailto:dianna@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

Have story ideas? Send to [editor@BRnow.org](mailto:editor@BRnow.org).

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AND INFORMATION



## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

# Fall Festival of FELLOWSHIP for SENIOR ADULTS

The Senior Adult Fall Festival of Fellowship promises great food and accommodations along with some possible changing leaves. But the Oct. 2-5 event, which is sponsored by Caraway Conference Center and North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM), offers Bible

study, worship and more fun. The price is \$240 per person for lodging, meals and program fee. For the first time, NCBAM is offering a health fair to provide a variety of services for seniors. This year's theme is "Heart, Soul and Strength." Contact (336) 629-2374 to register.



The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is hosting Hispanic Pastors & Wives Retreat. Join participants for a special retreat of spiritual renewal, marriage enrichment, ministry networking, strategic training and planning toward

the edification of God's Kingdom. Cost is \$25 per adult and \$20 per child ages 6-12. The retreat will be offered Oct 20-21 at Fort Caswell, Oak Island and Oct. 27-28 at Hickory La Quinta Inns & Suites, Conover. Visit [ncbaptist.org/hpwr](http://ncbaptist.org/hpwr).



Family Foundations, a ministry of North Carolina Baptists on Mission, is sponsoring Marriage 2:24 Fall Retreat Nov. 10-11 at Caraway Conference Center, Sophia. Marriage 2:24 is based on Genesis 2:24.

The retreat is designed as a fun and

inspiring marriage retreat where couples will experience group listening sessions, as well as downtime with their special loved one. Cost is \$225 per couple and includes accommodations, three meals and a program fee. Visit [baptistsonmission.org/marriage224](http://baptistsonmission.org/marriage224).



The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is sponsoring "Empowering You to Become a Better Disciple" conference Dec. 1-2 at The Creek Church in Charlotte. The purpose of this conference is to get equipped to become a better

disciple and disciple-maker. Participants will gather with leaders from across the state to discover how to truly be Christ's disciple who makes disciples. Cost is \$50 per person before Nov. 13 or \$60 after. Register at [ncbaptist.org/empoweringyou](http://ncbaptist.org/empoweringyou).

**ADVERTISE - (919) 459-5691**



October 1

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

October 8

Battle Armor

Focal passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year, and one of the many reasons is football season. In the game of football, the coach gives you all the equipment you need to both protect yourself and be capable of going on the attack.

Ephesians 6:10-20 says Christians are given a helmet, shield, belt of truth and sword of the Spirit.

Like a good coach, God has given us everything we need for the battle we face.

I am a middle school football chaplain, and I noticed before the first game there were players who were scared. I asked them why, since they had been given everything they need. The same is true for believers. God equips us for the spiritual battles we face.

There are a few things we need to know when it comes to this battle. First, it is a spiritual battle: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood... but against the spiritual forces of evil” (Ephesians 6:12). We

“In the Spirit, we lack nothing to protect us from sin and spiritual death.”

fight spiritual forces, not humans. The second thing we need to know is God equips us and protects us completely. “In all circumstances,” Paul said in verse 16, God has given us what we need to overcome the temptations of evil powers in this world. In the Spirit, we lack nothing to protect us from sin and spiritual death. Third, equipped by God, we can act in boldness and confidence. Paul, who is in chains, said, “...be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.” He calls these saints to act with boldness, as he demonstrates. We too should act with boldness, opening our mouths “boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,” because we know God is always with us. And unlike the middle school football team about to take the field, we know who wins.

Focal passage: Matthew 4:1-10

This time of year is known as hurricane season. If you have watched the news over the past few weeks, you have seen some powerful storms that have affected the United States. These storms can be devastating and cause untold damage. Many times they can be deadly, so people in the storm’s path are warned to prepare and evacuate before it’s too late. Plans made by different states save numerous lives.

When facing storms of such magnitude, we need a battle plan. The same should be said when battling the evil forces of this world. Jesus, our perfect example, demonstrates how to weather spiritual attacks. Satan will try and tempt us in crafty ways. The first way we notice Satan tempting Jesus is by appealing to his physical needs: “And after fasting forty days and forty



MATTHEW JACOBS  
Associate pastor,  
First Baptist Church,  
Crossnore

Battle Plan

nights he was hungry” (Matthew 4:2). Satan enticed him to turn stones into bread, yet Jesus responded with scripture, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Satan also tempted Him by questioning God’s Word. This is not a new tactic. Satan did just the same in the Garden of Eden when he persuaded Eve. Again Jesus responds, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test” (Matthew 4:7). Jesus uses the word of God to defend against Satan’s misuse of God’s Word.

Jesus’ third temptation was to worship something other than God. “I will give you everything if you will worship me,” Satan said. A third time Jesus used the Word of God to defend against the attacks of the tempter. So, what does this say to us? In the same way we prepare for hurricanes with a plan, when facing the attacks of Satan we must have a defensible course of action. As Jesus quoted scripture in response to every attack Satan threw at Him, we too must be prepared with the knowledge of God’s Word to successfully face the temptations of Satan.

October 1

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

October 8

Sufficient

Focal Passage: Exodus 16:1-5, 11-20

Remarkable. God has just pulled off one of the most astounding rescue efforts known to man. He sent plagues upon Israel’s enemies. He spared her children from death. He protected her from Pharaoh’s army. He parted the Red Sea. Yet, she grumbles against Moses and Aaron. “Would that we had died in Egypt!” Enter grace. God’s passion for His glory and His love for His people are always put on display in the life of Israel by works of grace. Time and again He proves Himself to be all-sufficient to fulfill His sovereign purposes and to provide for the good of His children, in spite of Israel’s sin. Manna and quail in the wilderness served as a daily testimony to His presence and providence in her life as well as a test of her faithful obedience to Him. Parents can identify here, I think. Our children are never satisfied, are they? My two-year-old wakes up every morning crying, “Umm, umm. Eat!” while her brother grabs the remote and demands his cereal bar and milk. At bedtime, a similar scene plays out.

“I’m still hungry!” “I want a glass of water!” “Umm, umm, eat!” My wife and I have provided for their needs throughout the day, making sure they have a good breakfast, lunch and dinner and even a snack or two. Still, they grumble, and we show grace. We provide for their needs while at the same time offering correction to curb their sin patterns and stir their affections and trust. We know how to provide good gifts to our children because we love them. The result? “Thank you, Daddy.” Jesus says in Matthew 7:11, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” Believer, you need not worry about tomorrow. The God who provided manna and quail will provide for you too. As He does, I pray that you will respond with a grateful heart as you walk in loving obedience to His commands.



CASEY SHORT  
Pastor,  
Reddicks Grove Baptist  
Church, Williamston

Focal Passage: Exodus 20:1-17

In M. Night Shyamalan’s critically acclaimed 2002 film, “Signs,” Mel Gibson plays Graham Hess, a grieving widower who is forced to reckon with God after the death of his wife. Seemingly random details abound in the film, set against the backdrop of an alien attack on mankind: a daughter who leaves full glasses of water throughout the house, a son who struggles with asthma, a single live-in brother-in-law who failed to achieve his dream of becoming a major league baseball player. The narrative climaxes when an alien threatens to kill Graham’s son. Graham recalls an ominous statement made to him by his wife as she died. Suddenly, all of the random details come into focus. All was for a purpose, that Graham would remember her words and save himself and his family. The aliens were allergic to water. His son’s asthma would prevent their toxin from infiltrating his lungs. The would-be sports star could

Commanded

strike down the enemy with the prized bat that hung upon the wall. The context surrounding Exodus 20:1-17 indicates God’s law was given for a purpose, to remind Israel of all that God had done and to warn her of all that He expected in return – love of Him and love of fellow man. To heed the warning and to obey was to save oneself. Of course, we know the law could not produce such obedience because of sin (Romans 8:3). In fact, the law that should have produced obedience aroused “sinful passions” leading to death (Romans 7:5). God’s holy standard hasn’t changed. But it is made available in Jesus who fulfilled the Law for us. In Him, we are free to joyfully obey the commands of God. Only in Christ can we truly love God with all our heart, soul and might, rejecting other gods and false idols and bringing honor to His name as we rest in him. Only in Christ can we truly love our fellow man, giving honor to those in authority, valuing human life, respecting our neighbors and pursuing peace, contentment and justice. And when we fail, we can rest knowing that Christ’s perfect obedience covers his people.



# Stand

Continued from page 12

down. In fact, Luther had been expecting to deal with specific things he had taught; he had not anticipated that he might be asked to reject everything he had ever written. That needed further consideration.

He was grudgingly given one day to reflect, and after that, he was warned, he should expect the worst if he did not repent.

The following day, it was six in the evening before Luther was readmitted into the emperor's presence. The hall was packed, and in the gathering gloom torches had been lit, making it stiflingly hot. As a result, Luther was perspiring heavily.

Looking at him, everyone expected an abject apology as he begged forgiveness for his heinous heresy. But the moment he opened his mouth it was clear that was not to be. This time he spoke in a loud and ringing voice. He announced that he could not retract his attacks upon false teaching, for that would give even more rein to those who thus destroyed Christianity.

"Good God, what sort of tool of evil and tyranny I then would be!"

Despite an angry shout of "No!" from the emperor, Luther went on, demanding that, if he be wrong, he be refuted with scripture; then, he promised, he would be the first to burn his books.

For the last time he was asked if he would retract his errors, and then he concluded:

"I am bound by the scriptures I have quoted, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen."

It was no mere bluster. For Luther, it was the word of God that had freed him and saved him.

He had no other security. But with it, he had the courage to stand when the emperor's spokesman responded by blasting him with his arrogance for believing he was the only one to know the truth.

Indeed, at that point he did seem to be standing against the whole world.

Two soldiers then escorted Luther from the hall, amid shouts of "To the pyre with him!"

A large crowd followed them to his quarters. When he got there, he raised his hands, smiled and shouted, "I've come through! I've come through!"; then, turning to a friend, he told him that, even if he had a thousand heads, he would rather have them all lopped off than abandon his gospel.

Back in the hall, the emperor declared that one monk who stood against all Christendom had to be wrong, and therefore he had determined "to stake on this cause my kingdoms and seignories, my friends, my body and blood, my life and soul."

The lines were drawn. The Reformation had begun. And that evening, Luther had done more than write a page of history; he had thrown out a challenge for every generation.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – This article is adapted from the prologue of *The Unquenchable Flame: Discovering the Heart of the Reformation* by Michael Reeves, published by B&H Academic. October 31, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the day Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany.) **BR**

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

Chimney Rock Baptist Church in Lake Lure, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor**. We are a small and unique church located in a beautiful mountain community between Chimney Rock Village and Lake Lure. We prefer an experienced pastor aligned with the Southern Baptist doctrines of faith. He should demonstrate an excellence in teaching and preaching the inerrant Word of God, and be responsible for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and engaging in pastoral care ministries. We seek a man of prayer with strong leadership ability. Please email resume and video to [office@chimneyrockbaptistchurch.com](mailto:office@chimneyrockbaptistchurch.com) to apply.

Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, is seeking an experienced **Senior Pastor** to be a spiritual leader to our 400-member congregation, a mentor to our associate pastors and ministerial staff, and a catalyst to foster a new vision for reaching the unchurched. To access the Senior Pastor Profile, Church Profile, and Application, please visit <http://foresthills.org/careers> by November 15, 2017.

**Full-time Pastor.** Traditional SBC church near Florence, SC, seeking a full-time pastor. Average worship attendance is 150. Mail resume to: Pastor Search Committee, 1303 Olanta Hwy., Effingham, SC 29541, or email to [barbara\\_peedee@bellsouth.net](mailto:barbara_peedee@bellsouth.net).

Amissville Baptist Church, in Amissville, Virginia, is seeking a **Senior Pastor (Lead Elder)**. He must have a passion for the church and the advancement of God's Kingdom. The congregation is seeking a pastor who adheres to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, who believes in an elder-led church governance. ABC is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention through the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. The candidate should have served as a senior pastor at least 5 years, and earned a M.Div. from a Southern Baptist seminary. Send curriculum vitae and inquiries to Pastor Search Chair, Mark Hockensmith, [Muddypaw@infionline.net](mailto:Muddypaw@infionline.net) by September 29, 2017, which will begin the PSC's review of all resumes.

### Church Staff

Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Hiddenite, NC, is seeking a **full-time Youth and Children's Pastor**. The candidate should be a graduate of an accredited school with a degree in a ministry-related field. The candidate should be in alignment with the BF&M (2000) and supportive of SSBC's statement of beliefs as found at [sulphurspringsbc.com](http://sulphurspringsbc.com). Interested applicants can send resume to [sulphurspringsbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:sulphurspringsbc@bellsouth.net).



**ASSOCIATE/STUDENT MINISTRIES PASTOR.** Calvary Baptist Church, Roanoke Rapids, NC, is seeking a full-time associate pastor who has a passion to proclaim Jesus Christ, a servant's heart for ministry, a strong desire to minister to teenagers and a magnetic personality with an infectious zeal for the Lord. He must be a self-starter who is motivated and goal-oriented. He must possess the ability and organizational skills to balance youth ministry and associate pastor related responsibilities. He must have a strong walk with the Lord and a solid family life. He must meet the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9. The salary and benefits package will be discussed in a scheduled phone interview. If a second interview is scheduled, the church will arrange for the applicant's travel and secure his accommodations to meet with the senior pastor. He must also be ready to teach the teen's Sunday School class on the weekend of his visit. The applicant must have at least five years in church ministry and working with youth in grades 7-12. Full-time ministry experience is preferred but not required. A letter of recommendation from his pastor is requested to highlight the applicant's scope of ministry. All applicants should submit a resume with references to Pastor Randy Martin by email at [pastorrandy@cbcrr.org](mailto:pastorrandy@cbcrr.org) or by mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 1405 Bolling Road, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870. Phone 252-537-9828.

Shady Grove Baptist Church in Belton, SC, is seeking a **full-time Minister of Children, Youth and Families**. A full job description is available upon request. Resumes can be sent to [daryle@sgbc.net](mailto:daryle@sgbc.net) or mailed to Shady Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 806, Belton, SC 29627.

### Miscellaneous

**1999 International Harvester 30 passenger bus.** We lost our CDL driver and need to sell the bus. If interested e-mail [srllynn@charter.net](mailto:srllynn@charter.net) or call 704-483-1324. Best offer. New Hope Baptist Church Inc., Denver, NC.

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# Marion pastor: Tabernacle teaches discipleship

By MIKE CONLEY | Special to the Recorder

A western North Carolina bi-vocational pastor has spent countless hours crafting a unique, illustrative tool for teaching the Bible. Terry Cheek, pastor of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Marion, built a scale model of the Old Testament Tabernacle.

“The theology of the Bible is illustrated in the Tabernacle,” he said.

The Tabernacle was the mobile center of worship that God instructed Moses to build for the children of Israel. It was considered to be God’s presence among His people. The Israelites used it through their wilderness wandering. It is described in detail in the Book of Exodus and other parts of the Bible.

“Over 40 chapters in the Bible are devoted to it,” said Cheek. “This goes back 3,500 years, approximately. When Moses was on Mount Sinai, he got the image of the Tabernacle.”

“*And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them,*” reads the Book of Exodus. “*According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.*”

The Tabernacle was a place where sacrificial offerings were presented to God by the chief priest. In the innermost section was the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was housed.

Exodus 25:22 says, “*And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.*”

This portable, tent-like structure was transported by the Israelites on their journey through the desert wilderness, and they took it with them when they conquered the promised land of Canaan. Joshua had it placed at Shiloh, where it remained for more than 300 years. The Tabernacle was eventually replaced by King Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling-place of God.

This model of the Tabernacle began 10 years ago as a result of Cheek’s studies at Covington Bible College in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“When I was in seminary, I had to have a subject for a doctoral dissertation,” he said.

Cheek began to think about the Tabernacle and how it shows the typology of Christ. He thought this would make a great subject for his dissertation and a model of the Tabernacle would help him illustrate its important lessons.

He began researching the Tabernacle, learning what it looked like based on

the Bible’s descriptions. At the same time, he wrote his doctoral dissertation, which ended up having more than 57,200 words.

“I was doing this simultaneously,” he said. “I got an A for all of that.”

Cheek graduated from the seminary in 2008. The model sat around for a few years.

“Recently I was thinking, what would make a good teaching tool for discipleship in the church?” said Cheek. “Lori mentioned the tabernacle. I thought about how the three points of salvation, sanctification and service would make a good springboard for an illustrated model for discipleship and the Great Commission in the local church.

“My wife and I got out the model, made it presentable and after working on the message, we decided to present it to the church.”

Lori made cloth covers for the model. Cheek said Lori has contributed a lot to this project and helps him transport it. It is 54 inches long and 34 inches wide.

He also has some acacia wood, which is repeatedly mentioned in the Book of Exodus when describing the construction of the Tabernacle. In the King James Version, it is called shittim wood. His sample of this wood comes from the Sinai area, where the Tabernacle was built 3,500 years ago.

Through this model, Cheek is able to not only talk about what the Tabernacle meant to the Israelites, but also how it is symbolic of what Jesus did for us through His life and sacrifice. It is extremely useful for children’s sermons, Bible studies, revivals and Vacation Bible School lessons.

“There’s nothing allegorical about it,” he said. “It’s all very sincere. I find it very helpful.”

For example, the Tabernacle had only one entrance, which was a narrow gate. For Cheek, this helps him illustrate an important lesson about coming to God.

“When you come through that gate, you know that Jesus is that straight and narrow gate,” he said.

“I feel the Old Testament typology of Christ doesn’t receive the attention today that it got a generation ago. It’s so rich with the theology of scripture. There is so much the local church can learn from it today.”

Cheek said the Tabernacle illustrates salvation through the animal sacrifice and how it relates to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ. The furnishings and the layout of the Tabernacle are pictures of sanctification and the priesthood.

“Then in the book of Hebrews, we understand that now we are the priesthood of Christ. This relates to our testimony,



Terry Cheek, seen here with his wife, Lori, uses the Tabernacle model to teach evangelism and discipleship at his church, Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Marion. (McDowell News photo by Mike Conley)

the Great Commission and the call of discipleship.”

In June, Cheek presented his model of the Tabernacle to the congregation at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church for the first time and preached on its meaning. The Sunday morning message is available on his website, [theinspiringword.org](http://theinspiringword.org).

“I am really excited to see the response,” he said.

He also showed his model on Chris-

tian TV station WGGS in Greenville, S.C.

He and Lori appeared on Niteline, a primetime variety program that features gospel music, biblical teaching, practical helps for Christians and prayer and counseling by trained phone workers, according to the station’s website.

Cheek said the station heard about him and his model and wanted to put it on the evening show. That opened other doors, including a presentation at Washington Baptist Church in Greer, S.C.

“It is amazing what God’s Word has revealed through this study,” said Cheek. “Lori and I now see God using the Tabernacle model as a ministry of discipleship to the local church and evangelism to the community through the local church.”

Cheek has served for 12 years as an electronics technician for N.C.’s Marion Correctional Institution. Contact him at [terrycheek63@gmail.com](mailto:terrycheek63@gmail.com) or call (828) 460-6120. His website is [theinspiringword.org](http://theinspiringword.org).

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Mike Conley is a staff writer for McDowell News, where this story originally appeared. K. Allan Blume, Biblical Recorder editor, contributed to this story.) **B**