



## Miraculous recovery

Barry Nealy recently told how his motorcycle accident has opened up opportunities to share his faith. Page 6



# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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## HEART FOR ORPHANS: Gripped by James 1:27, N.C. worship leader starts an orphanage

By DON GRAHAM | IMB

Ajay Kumar stands straight as a rod in a line of green-sweated boys during a school presentation near Katihar, India. The show is serious business, complete with singing and an audience of honored American guests. But when the teacher calls Ajay's name, the 9-year-old's solemn face slips into a wide, infectious grin. This is his moment, and he knows it. Ajay steps forward, takes a deep breath and begins his monologue.

See Orphans page 9



Matt Papa, worship leader at The Summit Church in Raleigh, plays the “slap game” with a handful of orphans at Compassion Children's Home. (Photo by Joseph Rose)

## MY HOPE with BILLY GRAHAM

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

Will North Carolina be a key swing state that could have a major impact on the nation's future? Those organizing My Hope with Billy Graham seem to think so, but they are not talking about politics and the upcoming presidential election.

More than a year from now, in coordination with Billy Graham's 95th birthday in November 2013, the Charlotte-based Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will launch a nationwide effort to share the gospel in living rooms around the nation through the help of televisions, computers, smart phones and various

## N.C. could be 'epicenter of great national movement'

other wireless devices. Some organizers believe My Hope could be Graham's “final call to America to turn to God.”

Graham, who is best known for sharing the gospel in packed stadiums around the world, will focus on what some are calling “the living room crusades.”

Preston Parrish, vice president of My Hope, contends North Carolina churches will play a key role in spearheading the effort through prayer and driving support for the campaign.

“North Carolina, and specifically North Carolina Baptists, represent a swing constituency that can help set the pace

See Graham page 8





# Committee on Nominations Report

The Committee on Nominations is charged with the task of receiving and reviewing the numerous recommendations provided by North Carolina Baptists for service on the Board of Directors and committees of the Convention as well as the boards of the institutions and agencies of the Convention. The committee begins its work with the recommendations sent by North Carolina Baptists and only when exhausted, or in the event too few recommendations have been received for a specific place of service, the committee seeks to find candidates who meet the qualifications for service as outlined in the Convention bylaws.

The full report from the Committee on Nominations can be found on the BSCNC's annual meeting website, in [this issue] of the *Biblical Recorder*, on the *Biblical Recorder* website, and in the Book of Reports provided to each messenger who completes their registration at the annual meeting.

On behalf of the committee members listed below, I want to thank each North Carolina Baptist who completed and submitted a recommendation. It is not too early to begin thinking about those individuals whom you wish to recommend for consideration by the 2013 Committee on Nominations. Please continue to submit your recommendations, as your input is essential to the committee's work and the ongoing effectiveness of the missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

H. LeRoy Burke, Chair

## 2012 Committee on Nominations Members

Becky Black, Knightdale; David Blackburn, Jefferson; LeRoy Burke, Lumberton; Joan Daniel, Durham; Shawn Dobbs, Lumberton; Faye Edwards, Beulaville; Jose Espinal, Shelby; Elizabeth Faw, Staley; James Horton, Edenton; Duane Kuykendall, Hickory; Brian Langley, Kure Beach; Charlie Martin, Winston-Salem; Ricky Mason, Maggie Valley; Cameron McGill, Dublin; Hannah Modrell, Hendersonville; Bill Saylor, Charlotte; David Turner, Elizabeth City

The Committee on Nominations report follows the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSCNC) bylaws directive to "nominate persons for election by the Convention to the committees listed in Article I.C.1 (b) – (d) of these Bylaws, such other committees as may be assigned to it, the chair of such Convention committees, the boards of trustees and directors of all institutions and agencies of the Convention, the Board, and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention."

Among other considerations for nominees, the bylaws state "It is desirable that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of members nominated to all committees of the Convention, the Board, the boards of trustees and directors of the Convention's institutions and agencies shall come from churches with a membership under four hundred (400)." This is indicated in the Committee's report by (O) for 400 and over and by (U) for under 400 in church membership.

The bylaws further direct that, "The Committee on Nominations shall include in its report at a minimum the name, church, home town, association, occupation, and sex of each nominee, the name of the committee or board on which the nominee is to serve together with such summary information as will make clear to this Convention the diversity and breadth of representation provided by the slates of nominees."

## Board of Directors, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

**Region 1** – No vacancies

**Region 2** – Bob Garbett, New Hope (U), Richlands, New River, minister, male; Lou Jean Manning, Robersonville First (U), Robersonville, South Roanoke, lay person, female; Scott Setzer, Second Baptist (O), Washington, South Roanoke, minister, male

**Region 3** – Jason Bland, Southport (O), Southport, Brunswick, minister, male; Kelly Bullard, Temple (O), Hope Mills, New South River, minister, male; Brian Kinlaw, Southview (O), Hope Mills, New South River, minister, male

**Region 4** – Logan Dagley, (2014 unexpired term of David Horner), The Summit Church (O), Durham, Yates, minister, male; Eric Griffin, (2013 unexpired term of Timmy Blair), Hocutt (O), Clayton, Johnston, lay person, male; Larry Lyon, North Wake (O), Wake Forest, Raleigh, lay person, male; Dwayne Milioni, Open Door (O), Raleigh, Raleigh, minister, male; Danny Poyner, Cary First (O), Cary, Raleigh, minister, male; Bill Sanderson, (2014 unexpired term of Brian Langley), Hephzibah (O), Wendell, Raleigh, minister, male; Tim Wheeler, Olive Branch (U), Durham, Yates, minister, male

**Region 5** – Russ Reaves, (2013 unexpired term of Doug Davis), Immanuel (U), Greensboro, Piedmont, minister, male; Randy Storz, (2014 unexpired term of Barry Clement), Mount Olive (O), King, Pilot Mountain, minister, male

**Region 6** – Jonathan Boyd Sr., (2015 unexpired term of Tim Jernigan), True Vine Restoration Ministries (U), Gastonia, Metrolina, minister, male; Terry Casino, Concord Community Church (U), Shelby, Cabarrus, minister, male; Grant

Giesler, Hickory Grove (O), Concord, Metrolina, minister, male

**Region 7** – Byron Greene, Wilkesboro Baptist (O), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, minister, male; Carson Moseley, Three Forks (O), Taylorsville, Alexander, minister, male; David "Bud" Russell, Mount Vernon (O), Vilas, Three Forks, minister, male

**Region 8** – Dena Alley, Woodlawn (O), Newton, Catawba Valley, lay person, female; Bobby Henderson, Monticello (U), Statesville, South Yadkin, minister, male; Andy Royals, Salem (O), Lincoln, South Fork, minister, male

**Region 9** – Gordon Benton, Beech Glen (U), Weaverville, French Broad, minister, male; Tony Honeycutt, Big Rock Creek (U), Bakersville, Mitchell, lay person, male; Randy Melton, Reed Memorial (O), Asheville, Buncombe, minister, male; Steve Williams, Pine Branch (U), Bakersville, Mitchell, minister, male

**Region 10** – Gerald Morris, Lovedale (U), Cullowhee, Tuckasegee, minister, male; David Powell, Cowee (O), Franklin, Macon, minister, male

## Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Pam Annas, Fellowship (O), Hudson, Caldwell, lay person, female; Jacque Burgess, Apex (O), Apex, Raleigh, lay person, female; Jesse Croom, Edenton (O), Edenton, Chowan, minister, male; Jim Dyer, (2014 unexpired term of Wiley Doby), Christ (O), Wake Forest, NC Miscellaneous, lay person, male; Stella Harris, Green Street (O), Greensboro, Piedmont, lay person, female; Renea Henderson, Cross Road (O), Asheboro, Randolph, lay person, female; Roy Howell, Green Level (U), Apex, Raleigh, lay person, male; Amelia Johnson, Cowee (O), Franklin, Macon, lay person, female; Sandy Saunders, Snyder Memorial (O), Fayetteville, New South River, minister, male; Iola Walton, Carthage First (U), Carthage, Sandhills, lay person, female

## Biblical Recorder

Kevin Clubb, Cape Carteret (O), Newport, Atlantic, minister, male; Buford E. "Gene" Fowler Jr., Mount Vernon (O), Boone, Three Forks, lay person, male; Robert Ivey, (2014 unexpired term of Tony Brewington), Freedom Biker (U), Fayetteville, New South River, minister, male; Jerry Stephens, Journey Church (U), Morganton, Catawba River, lay person, male; Ed Trull, Holly Springs (O), Franklin, Macon, minister, male



## North Carolina Baptist Foundation

Tom Dimmock, Trinity (O), Raleigh, Raleigh, lay person, male; Fred Graf, North Wilkesboro First (O), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, lay person, male; Betsy McSwain, Earlys (U), Ahoskie, West Chowan, lay person, female; Robert Simons, Roxboro (O), Roxboro, Beulah, lay person, male; Ray Talley, Etowah (O), Etowah, Carolina, minister, male

## North Carolina Baptist Hospital

Kathryn Hamrick, Boiling Springs (O), Shelby, Greater Cleveland, lay person, female

## Committee on Convention Meetings

Ryan Bennett, Central (U), Salisbury, Liberty, minister, male; Phillip Brande, Farmington (U), Mocksville, South Yadkin, minister, male; James Fisher, Saint Paul (O), Greensboro, Piedmont, minister, male; Peter McDonald, Midway (O), Columbus, Polk, minister, male; Josh Phillips, Cherry Grove (O), Tabor City, Columbus, minister, male; John W. Porter Jr., (2013 unexpired term of Brandon Blair), Riegelwood (O), Riegelwood, Columbus, minister, male; Jonathan Taylor, Westwood (U), Roxboro, Beulah, minister, male; Joel Stephens, Chair, Westfield (O), Westfield, Surry, minister, male

## Committee on Resolutions and Memorials

Jeff Broadwell, Long Branch (O), Lumberton, Robeson, minister, male; William Cain, The Bridge Community Church (U), Fayetteville, New South River, lay person, male; Donald Goforth, Great Marsh (U), St. Pauls, Robeson, minister, male; Bob Weathers, Chair, Shallotte First (O), Shallotte, Brunswick, minister, male

## Historical Committee

Susan Bales, Bethlehem (O), Clayton, Raleigh, lay person, female; William Belk, Macedonia (U), Monroe, Union, minister, male; Nathan Morton, Burgaw (U), Burgaw, Wilmington, minister, male; Brad Paradis, Faith (O), Youngsville, Raleigh, minister, male; Albie Brice, Chair, Philadelphia (U), Rocky Mount, Tar River, minister, male

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## CHURCH NEWS



### Nations Ford Community Church, Charlotte

The Male Leadership Academy of Charlotte (MLAC) began Aug. 27 with grades K-third grade. Founded by Phillip M. Davis, senior pastor of Nations Ford Community Church, Charlotte, 100 men, at left, greeted the students as they entered the school. The men, who are from all walks of life and careers, lined the hallways to offer cheers, handshakes and encouragement. The school plans to add a grade each year.



### Trinity Baptist Church, Mooresville

On Sept. 2, Hugh Cooper, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Mooresville, presented a certificate to Shannon Wilson recognizing her North Carolina Baptist Scholarship. Wilson is a freshman at Campbell University in Buies Creek.



### Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Olin

Members of Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Olin, celebrated a note burning during its homecoming Aug. 19. Doug Holland, chairman of deacons; Glenn Dancy III, pastor; and Wayne Dagenhardt, building committee chairman, burn the note during the Sunday morning service. The note was for the church's sanctuary which was completed in 2010.



### First Baptist Church, Indian Trail

Metrolina Christian Academy (MCA) announced recently that its new outdoor athletic complex is named after Mike Whitson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Indian Trail. MCA is a ministry of the church. The Michael T. Whitson Athletic Complex has football and soccer fields. A softball field is under construction and work on a baseball field is expected to begin in the coming months. "Pastor Mike has been used by God to change the spiritual landscape of Union County these last 29 years, and we are thrilled as a school to honor him for his vision to establish Metrolina as one of the premier Christian schools in the southeast," said Rick Calloway, MCA's head of school. "The newly named facility will enable MCA to positively impact the lives of our students and families through the field of athletics for many years to come." The signage presentation was made at the Metrolina Warriors varsity football team's first home game on Aug. 24.




### Mount Home Baptist Church, Morganton


The Woman's Missionary Union of Mount Home Baptist Church, Morganton, marked its 100th anniversary Aug. 26. Wanda Lee, National WMU executive director, spoke at the church's 10:30 a.m. service, and along with Robin Bass, WMU-NC interim executive director-treasurer, attended an afternoon reception. Above, the 2012 WMU Council (from left): Betty Ross; Velma Haynes; Betty Lawing; Dian Ramsey; Gail Lawing, director; and Jean Smith.

## Central North Carolina Bible Conference


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## 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. Because we are a statewide newspaper, events included are usually beyond the local church level.

All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited. Send to [dianna@BRnow.org](mailto:dianna@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.



## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

### Citizenship event planned in Burnsville

Mark Creech, K. Allan Blume and Tami Fitzgerald will lead An Evening of Salt and Light: A Christian Citizenship Conference Sept. 30 at Burnsville Town Center in Burnsville. It is about "How to Be a Christian and Survive an Election Season" including special music by Gary Norton. Creech is executive director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina; Blume is editor of the *Biblical Recorder*; and Fitzgerald is chairwoman of N.C. Values Coalition and chairwoman of Vote FOR Marriage N.C. The event is free to the public and hosted by Christian Action League of N.C. and Mayland Citizens for Faith and Family Values. Contact Garland Honeycutt: (828) 688-3141.

### Worship camp aimed at Sandhills region

Worship leaders in the Sandhills region are welcome to Worship Leader Boot Camp on Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Southern Pines. Leaders will learn the basic theology of worship, leadership growth, selecting songs, formats and styles of worship, mechanics of worship, and corporate worship in practice. Kenny Lamm of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will lead the event. The cost is \$25 through Oct. 12, then \$30. Learn more and register online at *RenewingWorshipNC.org*. Click "events."

### Unevent offers Sabbath for women

Nov. 1-4, The Unevent with Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina will be at Camp Mundo Vista in Sophia. The Unevent is for those "desiring a Sabbath." The getaway experience will have no schedule, but opportunity to attend prayer stations, craft stations, see movies, play games and more. Women will also be able to talk with a life coach for spiritual direction. Young women (ages 18-35) and professional women of any age are welcome to register at *wmunc.org*. Click "events." Register by Oct. 12. The event cost depends on length of stay. Contact Julie Keith for price information: (336) 992-6814 or *jkeith@wmunc.org*.

### Churches to gather for WFU football day

Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem will hold its annual Church ACC Football Day Nov. 3 at BB&T Field. The game features WFU vs. Boston College and begins at 3:30 p.m. The program is scheduled to start approximately 2-1/2 to 3 hours before game time (subject to change due to TV scheduling).

Sponsored by the N.C. Baptist Men and WFU, this is a day of fun, fellowship and football for all church groups. The cost is \$25 per person including the

program fee, lunch and game.

Group leaders with a group of 25 or more will receive "Deacon Benefits": WFU schedule poster and 2 tickets to a WFU men's basketball game. Register with N.C. Baptist Men's Tom Beam at *tbeam@ncbaptist.org* or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5626, or Lynn Tharrington at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5599. The deadline to reserve tickets is Oct. 19.

### Amazon Basin speaker available

Interested in learning about work in the Amazon Basin? Contact Steve and Paula King. The couple will be in North Carolina and available between Oct. 8, 2012, to Dec. 3, 2013 to share about that area of the world. Contact them at *sumaj-man@gmail.com* or call (336) 398-6251.

### Seniors retreat set in December

Christmas by the Sea senior adult retreats will be Dec. 3-5, 5-7 and 10-12. At the North Carolina Baptist Assembly, Caswell, seniors will see the Alabama Theatre Christmas Show, and meals will be provided. The cost is \$156 per person, and a deposit is due 60 days before the retreat. Contact (910) 278-9501.

### Church renewal training, celebration

Dec. 30-Jan. 1, renewal team members, renewal coordinators and those interested in getting involved with church renewal weekends are welcome to The Gathering, a New Year's church renewal event at the N.C. Baptist Assembly, Oak Island.

Activities include celebrating the New Year, a talent show, church renewal journey training and more. It will be led by Rick Astle, president of Rick Astle Ministries, and Renea Henderson will lead worship.

For more information contact Bob Foy at (919) 459-5569, *bfoy@ncbaptist.org*. The cost is \$115 per person including lodging and 5 meals. Register with the N.C. Baptist Assembly at (910) 278-9501.

### Ridgecrest to hold prayer retreat for pastors

Ridgecrest Conference Center, Black Mountain, will host the Pastor and Staff Prayer Retreat, Empowered Again, on Jan. 15-16. Speakers will include Mel Blackaby, Chris Schofield, and Richard Owen Roberts. Chad Pollard will lead worship. The cost is \$100 per person per night or \$136 for 2 per room. If you're interested in CDs of the speakers, contact Betsy Roland at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513. Register with Ridgecrest at (800) 588-7222, and visit *www.praync.org*.

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## Moody honors Gary Chapman

Baptist Press

**M**oody Bible Institute and its seminary have established The Gary D. Chapman Chair for Marriage and Family, which has been endowed by a gift from Chapman, a 1958 graduate of Moody, and his wife Karolyn. It is the first endowed chair in Moody's 126-year history, according to an Aug. 28 news release, and will serve as Moody's "voice on marriage and family."

Chapman, author of *The 5 Love Languages* and 27 other books along with five video series, is a nationally known marriage and family speaker and senior associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. *The 5 Love Languages* has been translated into 36 languages.

Recruitment for a professor for the chair is expected to be completed by July 1 of next year.

Chapman said he and his wife, Karolyn, of 45 years are praying "that God will use this chair to further equip students to

have God-honoring marriages and learn how to help others do the same."

They have two adult children and two grandchildren.

The endowed chair "uniquely and strategically combines education, radio and publishing to utilize Moody's media platforms, reaching a broad audience

with the biblical perspective on marriage and family," the news release stated. "The responsibilities of this chair will include teaching courses in counseling and marriage and family each semester at [Moody Theological Seminary]; guest lecturing in Moody's undergraduate school; serving as a regular voice on Moody Radio; and publishing with Moody Publishers on marriage and family topics."

In addition to graduating from Moody, Chapman holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in anthropology from Wheaton College in Illinois and Wake Forest University, respectively.

He also has M.R.E. and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.



GARY CHAPMAN

## Southwestern offers revival preachers

**C**hurches can join Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in promoting spiritual awakening across the United States by hosting preachers during Revive this Nation, March 10-13, 2013.

Revive this Nation is open to churches in all 50 states and Southwestern aims to send preachers to every state.

"We want partner churches who will join us in prayer for God to revive our nation and who will invite people to come hear the gospel preached," Thomas White, vice president for student services and communications, said.

During Revive this Nation 2012, the seminary sent out 102 preachers, who led 131 people to accept Christ as Savior

and engaged more than 1,100 people in personal evangelism.

Churches can request revival preachers and download resources at *swbts.edu/rtn*. Southwestern will pay for the roundtrip transportation of preachers to and from the revival locations. Churches provide housing, meals and local transportation.



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## College students on fire

In 1787, Hampton-Sydney College experienced an extraordinary movement of God in revival and awakening as four young men gathered to pray, study God's Word and worship. They first met in a nearby forest, then a dorm room. Because of their piety and passion they were ridiculed by fellow students and labeled as fanatics. The president, John Brown Smith, was broken that the young men were being persecuted because of their desire for revival and awakening. He reprimanded the persecutors and invited William Hill, Cary Allen, James Blythe and Clement Read to join

him in his parlor for prayer the following Saturday.

Revival soon broke out on campus with many students being converted to Christ.

The awakening, due to testimonies being shared by students in various church settings, eventually spread to surrounding counties. The campus itself was visited by unusual movements of God periodically over the next few decades. These four young men were greatly used during the Second Great Awakening to impact many lives for Christ because of their faith and passion to see God transform the lives of fellow classmates.



Chris Schofield

### Prayer Points

- Pray for God to use your passion for prayer, His Word and worship to ignite a revival
- Pray for the Lord to raise up college students who have a passion for awakening

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



## Charlotte LifeWay changes location

Grand opening celebration spans through Oct. 13 for Charlotte's LifeWay Christian Store. The 5,328-square-foot store, which officially opened Sept. 14, is one of 14 LifeWay Christian Stores in North Carolina and one of 160 stores the chain operates in 26 states.

"It has been our pleasure to serve the

Charlotte community for more than 50 years," said Rob Rose, manager of the store. The old location closed Sept. 11 to allow staff members to finalize preparations for the re-opening. The new location is in North Charlotte off Northlake Centre Parkway in the Northcrest Shopping Center.

## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituary

**JAMES C. CAMMACK**, 94, died Sept. 14 after a brief illness.

A graduate of Baylor University and Southern Seminary, Cammack was pastor of First Baptist Church, Smithfield, and First Baptist Church, Rock Hill, S.C., before his 30-year pastorate at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville (1957-'87).

He was named pastor emeritus at Snyder. He was trustee for Wake Forest University, Campbell University, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He also served on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of N.C. and was president of the Executive Committee of the General Board.

His leadership roles in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina also included serving as president of the N.C. Baptist Pastors' Conference and chairman of the Board of Directors of the *Biblical Recorder*.

He was instrumental in beginning three other churches in the Fayetteville area.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; his son Chris Cammack of Wilmington; and a grandson.

Memorials to: James C. Cammack Institute of Preaching at Campbell University School of Divinity, P.O. Box 4050, Buies Creek, NC 27506, or Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, 701 Westmont Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28305.

**JOHN POND** has been called to Chowan University, Murfreesboro, as assistant professor of religion and philosophy, missions studies. He is assisting Chowan with its new minor in missions studies program. Pond was director of missions for West Chowan Baptist Association, Ahoskie.

Watkins Chapel Baptist Church, Middlesex, has called **MIKE CARTER** as senior pastor and **MAURICE HARRIS** as worship leader, minister of music and youth. Carter was pastor of Boones Neck Baptist Church, Supply. Harris was on staff with New Life Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama.

**HARRY SMITH** has been called to Ephesus Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, as bi-vocational pastor. Smith was most recently interim pastor for International Baptist Church of Dusseldorf, Germany.

### License

**MICHAEL BROWN**, a member of Trinity Baptist Church, Mooresville, was licensed to the gospel ministry recently. A former State Bureau of Investigation agent, he now serves as chaplain at Northeast Medical Center in Concord.



MICHAEL BROWN

### Staff changes



DWAYNE BURKS

**DWAYNE BURKS**, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Gastonia, has been named as facilitator for Gaston County Faith Network.

Drexel First Baptist Church has called **AMY**

**BROWN** as associate pastor of youth and education. This is Brown's first staff position with a church.

### Homecoming/anniversary

**WORD OF LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rolesville, will celebrate its homecoming Oct. 14. Sunday School is at 10 a.m. with worship at 10:45 a.m. A covered dish meal will follow. Contact (919) 602-2811.

**PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**, Caswell, will celebrate its 150th anniversary during its homecoming service Oct. 14. Service begins with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. followed by former pastor Ken Clark (1994-2002) preaching at 11 a.m. A covered dish meal follows the service. Contact (336) 388-5159.

## why is there a baptist children's homes?



**ANSWER:** Baptist Children's Homes exists because North Carolina is a mission field populated with children who are hurting emotionally, suffering physically, and are in desperate need of a safe haven. They are often unchurched and unaware of the transforming love of Jesus.

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# DOM's recovery from motorcycle accident called a miracle

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

**M**ost of the medical professionals who helped save Barry Nealy's life thought he was a "dead man."

But less than a year after a horrific motorcycle accident that nearly claimed his life, Nealy is back to work – with a slight limp and some minor aches – as director of missions for the Three Forks Baptist Association in Boone. He and his wife, Donna, remain thankful to God and the support of friends for his recovery.

"I can't explain why [God chose to] save the life of a guy who is over 60," said the 65-year-old Nealy, who spoke during a chapel service a few weeks ago at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Cary.

"Truly, many people thought he was a dead man," said Donna, who also spoke during the service. "[But] God had other plans."

On March 22, Nealy crashed his 1980 Yamaha XS 1100 into a Ford sedan on a mountain road 12 miles west of Boone. The accident happened about 20 minutes away from the couple's home. The impact sent Nealy over the handlebars and head first into the windshield of the oncoming car. The trooper on the scene estimated that the combined speed of the two vehicles was about 70 miles per hour. The other motorist suffered only minor injuries.

"I don't really know if we were going that fast or not," said Nealy, who has no memory of the accident. "They transported me by helicopter, and they didn't think I'd make it to the hospital."

Nealy was airlifted to Johnson City Medical Center in Tennessee where doctors performed emergency surgery. He remained in the Intensive Care Unit there for 15 days. Nealy remembered waking up with tubes in his lungs and being hooked up to a ventilator. In addition to both of his lungs collapsing, his injuries included a fractured left collarbone, a "crushed" pelvis and a damaged femoral artery that caused "a lot of internal bleeding." Some speculated whether he'd be able to use his left foot again.

Doctors later told Nealy they didn't think he'd make it 48 hours after surgery.

"Thankfully ... they didn't say that to my wife," Nealy said.

Donna, shared how the support of so many people helped her through the difficult days following the accident.

"The network was amazing," she said. "All along God sent people our way ... some I knew, some I didn't. Once I knew word had gotten out, and people were praying for us, I knew [God] was holding my hand. I had peace that passes understanding."

Nealy remained hospitalized for a total of 35 days. He wore a neck brace as a precaution for seven weeks following the accident, but he did not suffer any serious injuries to his neck.

Nealy said he occasionally talks to the medical personnel and ambulance workers who helped him on that horrible day in March. Many of them have surprised looks on their faces. Nealy admits to being surprised himself.

"I didn't break a finger nail. I didn't chip a tooth," Nealy said during the chapel service. "I didn't have any damage to my neck."

Though he gives all credit to God for his recovery, Nealy remains thankful for the medical personnel who



Barry and Donna Nealy shared their story during chapel at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Nealy, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association, was nearly killed in a motorcycle accident in March. (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

cared for him. He said the accident gave him a new perspective and appreciation for those who help others on a daily basis and receive little credit for their efforts.

"If you've been in the ministry for 45 minutes you've been there," he said. "If you're in the ministry, you're in the process of saving people's eternal lives and some of them don't care if they know your name. But the important thing is the One who called you knows your name."

"What God did for me a few months ago, that's what God did for me a number of years back before that in a whole different way," said Nealy, recalling how God also saved him spiritually through Jesus Christ.

While Nealy was in the hospital he found opportunities to share his faith with the hospital staff. Those conversations included one with a doctor who grew up Buddhist. Nealy pointed his doctor to the Bible and prays he will become involved in a small group that is going on near his home. "It was a great opportunity to point out [the] Truth," Nealy said.

Though most may never go through an accident like Nealy, he described it as just "one of many experiences" people go through in life. And he hopes this experience will allow him more opportunities to point people to Jesus.

Earlier this month, Nealy wrote a first-person article for the *Watauga Democrat*, a local newspaper. In the article he shared the following:

"Life is not automatic and my recovery, after five months, goes forward with some struggle, but it is worthwhile. Many have prayed for me and shared with me their encouragement.

"A few have threatened me if I ever think about riding a motorcycle again ... I am thankful for the concern and prayers of hundreds of people. The Valley of Death has opened, for me, into 'The Way, the Truth and the Life.'" **BR**

## FBC Hendersonville hosts IMB service

By TESS RIVERS | Baptist Press

**A**s a college student traveling abroad in Cambodia, Hope Denaham\* happened upon a 4-year-old girl in an alley.

"She reached her arms out to me, and I held her for an hour," Denaham recalled.

"I wondered if she had ever been held in her life."

Denaham grew up internationally, but she had no desire to live overseas, much less serve as an international missionary. But her encounter with the little girl and the heartbreak of human need changed her.

"While holding the child in my arms, I knew that God was calling me to reach the broken and forgotten," she said.

Denaham, who will serve in South Asia, was one of 54 men and women appointed as missionaries by International Mission Board (IMB) trustees during a Sept. 12 service at First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, N.C. While their stories are unique, their call is the same: to take the Good News to the nations.

After returning from a second



A member of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, N.C., presents a flag Sept. 12 during a service that saw the appointment of 54 new IMB missionaries. (Photo by Michael Logan)

trip to Asia where she worked in orphanages and refugee camps, Denaham realized she could never go back to "life as normal."

"I saw that His desire was for all peoples to know Him ... and my call was to share Christ with the lost," she said.

The appointment service was during the same week that more than 1,000 current IMB emeriti missionaries attended a weeklong event at nearby LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center.

IMB President Tom Elliff reminded the audience that reaching the remaining 3,167 unengaged, unreached people groups will require more than the nearly 5,000 active IMB missionaries can provide.

"We are counting on the churches," Elliff said.

"The Great Commission is everyone's job."

Taking the gospel to the hardest-to-reach places involves great challenges and personal sacrifice, Elliff acknowledged.

Referencing the recent death of Cheryll Harvey, a Southern Baptist representative in Jordan, Elliff said, "Maybe you are saying, 'This is hard for me.'"

Preaching from Hebrews 12, Elliff challenged the new missionaries to look to Jesus in every situation.

"When you are asking, 'Dear God, why am I here?' look to Jesus," he said. "Look to Jesus because of who He is, what He did and why He did it.

"Don't quit! The answer in every instance is Jesus. He is the answer a lost world is waiting to hear."

\*Names changed.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Tess Rivers is an International Mission Board writer.) **BR**



# N.C. Baptist finds relief in helping others

By CAROL LAYTON | NCBAM

**B**ob Wilder from Trinity Baptist Church in Trinity typifies many well-aging North Carolina Baptists reaching out to others in the name of Jesus. To help some of those in need, Wilder assembled a team – with an average age of 70 – from his church that specializes in spreading the love of Jesus with nail guns and miter saws.

All the men are retired, but none of them were professional builders. They learned the way most men do – from fathers, friends and from taking care of their own homes. “We’ve all built a playhouse and a chicken coup or two,” quips the 79-year-old Wilder.

Wilder’s team built two wheelchair ramps for Rampin’ Up! – an event sponsored by North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) and North Carolina Baptist Men. The event was held April 28 in conjunction with Operation Inasmuch, a one-day initiative that encourages

churches across the state to participate in neighborhood service projects. Nearly 3,000 volunteers from around the state built a total of 327 wheelchair ramps during the record-setting event.

Wilder first learned of NCBAM when Debbie Pilson, the ministry’s central regional director spoke at his church. Wilder says, “NCBAM is a wonderful ministry. It gets down to where the rubber meets the road with the needs in the area. Sometimes needs can get lost, but with NCBAM you’ve got the organization. You just have to plug in and go.”

Wilder saw Rampin’ Up! as a catalyst for the men of his church.

“I’m optimistic that Rampin’ Up! changed things,” he said. “It opened another door. It showed me there are men ready and wanting to help.

“Before, I called on only one or two people, and I sometimes felt they were overburdened. Rampin’ Up! inspired people and gave the men a lot of enjoyment. One of their wives thanked me – saying that her husband was just so excited about it.”

In addition to helping older adults, one of the ramps Wilder’s team built was for 16-year-old Eric Workman of Denton. Because of a near-drowning incident when Workman was 2 years old, he is



Bob Wilder spends time each week helping people in his community. He and men from Trinity Baptist Church in Trinity built Dora Kale a wheelchair ramp as part of Rampin’ Up! The record-setting event held April 28 increased awareness of the need for wheelchair ramps and highlighted the great volunteer spirit of North Carolina Baptists. (Contributed photo)

now confined to a stretcher wheelchair. For six years his mother, Lahoma Workman, desired a wheelchair ramp for her son.

Workman says the ramp made life better for the teenager.

“Eric loves to get outside,” she said. “This new, wider ramp has made it easier to get him on the porch and in the house. The men did a wonderful job.

“They built it offsite and installed it here. We don’t have to struggle anymore. It’s been a blessing.”

Wilder’s team also built a ramp for Dora Kale in Lexington.

Prior to an automobile accident in February, 70-year-old Kale had been very active – holding a part-time job and teaching aerobic classes six days a week at churches and senior centers.

Kale had been using a “make-do” system that friends put in place the day she was discharged from rehab.

“My ramp now is much safer and nicer. The men did a great job. I’m tickled with it!” she said.

Wilder is quick to confirm that it’s more blessed to give than receive.

“We worked hard all day but when we saw Ms. Kale’s face as she rolled onto her ramp – she was speechless and her face shone like a young girl’s. When you see something like that, it’s icing on the cake for everyone there.”

Wilder leads his church’s men to complete large projects like ramps, gutters and roofing problems, but he often handles small home repairs himself. Many aging adults in Wilder’s commu-

nity cannot afford to pay for professional home repair estimates – let alone services. Wilder keeps a five-gallon bucket stocked with \$35 worth of miscellaneous plumbing supplies that lasts him several months.

“Ninety-five percent of the time, I can use a 15-cent washer to fix a leaky faucet. When you stop the drip, they’re in awe. When you do something that’s beyond someone else’s ability, it’s hard to articulate how much joy that gives me.”

The joy that Wilder receives from ministry is evident in the good-natured friendliness he exudes.

It is clear Wilder is not one to repair a drippy spigot, tip his hat, and move on. He’s often been known to spend more time in conversation – something that many aging adults hunger for – than the time it takes him to fix a problem.

Wilder shares his testimony of God’s faithfulness with those struggling with uncertainty and loss. “People need to know that somebody believes in the guidance of the Lord. I try to reassure people that the Lord has a hand in all that goes on in our lives.”

Though Wilder receives dozens of calls each week from people in need, Wilder said he never tires of helping others.

“It’s not stressful; it’s a relief,” he said. “I worked a highly stressful job all my life. Void time is not something I handle very well.

“To see someone who I’ve helped just a little bit – to see their burden lifted – I just can’t imagine life any other way.” **BR**

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# Spiritual awakening emphasis to highlight annual meeting

BSC Communications

**T**he 182nd Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will be Nov. 12-13 and include worship services, break out sessions and special related meetings.

The annual meeting will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center. The meeting begins Monday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. and ends Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 8:50 p.m. Registration opens Monday at 4 p.m. and closes 30 minutes after the general session that evening. Registration opens Tuesday at 8 a.m. and closes once the business session concludes that evening.

## Awaken

This year's annual meeting theme is "Awaken," based on Romans 13:11-14. The theme encourages all North Carolina Baptists to pursue revival and spiritual awakening in an effort to reach the 5.6 million people in North Carolina, and six billion worldwide, who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

BSC leadership is praying that this year's meeting will encourage a revival among churches across the state. Prior to the annual meeting, North Carolina Baptists are asked to commit to pray every day during October for spiritual awakening. Brian Davis, BSC executive leader for administration, said the need for spiritual awakening is great.

"Never before have the people in this state been surrounded by such spiritual darkness and overwhelming numbers of lostness," he said. "The Committee on Con-

vention Meetings felt strongly that God is directing the theme of awakening to stir God's people into action for His Kingdom."

Davis added that many North Carolina Baptists have already committed to pray for spiritual revival. "We are excited to see so many people respond and commit to praying for awakening in the months leading up to the annual meeting," he said.

## Special worship

Messengers to this year's meeting will participate in two special worship services. The Monday evening session will feature a special service devoted to spiritual awakening including worship, theme interpretation, prayer and a sermon from Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer.

During the Tuesday evening session attendees will participate in a North American Mission Board (NAMB) Commissioning Service.

Michael Sowers, BSC senior consultant for Great Commission Partnerships, said the commissioning service will be a time to remind North Carolina Baptists of the urgency to take the gospel to people who need to hear. "We have people living in this country who represent unreached people groups from all throughout the world," Sowers said.

## Related meetings

The Pastor's Conference will be held at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. The event is free and registration is not required. The conference starts Sunday evening,

Nov. 11, and concludes Monday afternoon, Nov. 12.

Messengers are invited to explore mission opportunities from the BSC, NAMB and the International Mission Board, as well as networking opportunities with other pastors and leaders, during the Great Commission Partnership Missions Breakfast Nov. 13 at 7 a.m. Featured speakers include Jeff Christopherson, regional vice president of Canada and northeast region for the North American Mission Board, and Mark Harrison, missions pastor at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. The breakfast is free but registration is required and space is limited.

## Breakout sessions

A variety of breakout sessions will be offered Tuesday afternoon. Topics include "Pursuing Godliness as You Lead Others," "Disciple-making in 3D," "The Billy Graham 'My Hope' Evangelistic Emphasis," "Church Renewal and Revitalization," "Stewardship: Lost in Translation" and "Awaken: God's Time to Wake Up and Pray."

## Exhibit hall

The exhibit hall includes more than 100 exhibits featuring BSC ministry groups and institutions and agencies, as well as exhibits offering various resources to churches such as insurance, church building and planning, and website development. The exhibit hall is open Monday from 4 p.m. until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the evening session, and Tuesday from 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

For more about the annual meeting, including directions and hotel information, visit [ncannualmeeting.org](http://ncannualmeeting.org). **BR**

# Graham

Continued from page 1

and develop the momentum for this gospel effort across our nation," Parrish said. "We're asking every single person in North Carolina who loves Jesus Christ to begin getting involved right now with their prayers. "We're praying that the beginning, the epicenter of this great national movement, will indeed be right here in North Carolina."

## What is My Hope with Billy Graham?

For the past decade, My Hope has been used in 57 nations around the world as a video-based tool for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Video footage of Billy Graham passionately sharing the hope of Jesus Christ has been shown in more than 4.2 million homes with 305,000 churches participating. And since then an average of 2.2 decisions per home have accepted Jesus as their Savior. This successful approach is now being prepared to hit households in the United States and will center around one week next November.

"My Hope with Billy Graham is a massive effort to reach people at a grass roots level across our nation with the gospel of Jesus Christ," Parrish said.

According to materials provided by My Hope organizers, Christians are encouraged to invite friends and family to their homes to hear the gospel message through various media programs.

Each host also will share their own story of how they met Jesus and invite their friends to pray to receive Christ. The host family will follow up with new believers and encourage them to become part of a local church. Before My Hope kicks off, Christians will receive training to host small groups. These host families will be called "Matthews."

"It's biblical," said Parrish, who shared how Matthew in scripture invited friends into his home and shared the gospel. The effort, he said, is focused around building off of relationships that are already in place or those that are being established now and in the months leading up to next fall.

"The beauty of this strategy is when individuals come into a home to hear the gospel and respond to Christ, they're already connected with a family, a small group that is in a church. And then that church is able to continue on with the follow-up and nurture of individuals."

## A nation in need of the gospel

Those involved with the project say the timing of My Hope couldn't be better.

This summer Graham released a prayer letter addressing his concern for the nation. In the letter Graham wrote: "My heart aches for America and its deceived people. The wonderful news is that our Lord is a God of mercy, and He responds to repentance."

Graham recalled how his late wife, Ruth, once expressed concerns about the "downward spiral" of the nation's moral standards.

In his letter, Graham quoted her as saying, "If God doesn't punish America, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah."

"I wonder what Ruth would think of America if she were alive today?" he asked. "In the years since she made that remark, millions of babies have been aborted and our nation seems largely unconcerned. Self-centered indulgence, pride, and a lack of shame over sin are now emblems of the American lifestyle."

Graham made headlines earlier this year when he publically supported North Carolina's marriage amendment, defining marriage between a man and a woman in the state's constitution.

"At 93, I never thought we would have to debate the definition of marriage," he said in a statement. "The Bible is clear – God's definition of marriage is between a man and a woman."

The amendment went on to pass with an overwhelming majority of the vote.

In late July, Graham again emerged in the headlines after he released a statement defending Chick-fil-A. The fast-food chain came under fire for an interview with the *Biblical Recorder* when Chick-fil-A's president said he supported a traditional, biblical view of marriage.

"I want to express my support for my good friends Truett Cathy and his son Dan Cathy, and for their strong stand for the Christian faith," he said in a statement.

In today's society, more than ever, Parrish said people need a clear articulation of the gospel and the Truth that Christ has to offer. "I think all of us who love this nation, who call this nation home, are concerned about spiritual developments in our nation," Parrish said.

"We see rising secularism. We see increasing nominalism in the Christian church. We see a surge of anti-Christian religions here. ... All of this is dramatically altering the spiritual fabric of our nation as we have known it for so many years. It is a great concern."

## Time to respond

Though My Hope won't officially launch until next year, Parrish said churches and small group ministries can begin to get involved now and in the months to come through prayer, by receiving training and through relationship building.

"[Sharing the gospel is] really something Christians are to be engaged in ... day by day as they are going in the context of their life and relationships."

For more information about My Hope and how you can get involved, go to [myhopewithbillygraham.org](http://myhopewithbillygraham.org). **BR**



# Orphans

Continued from page 1

“When I was at home, there was no one to love me,” he says. “Both of my parents remarried and abandoned me. So our village used me to look after their dogs and buffaloes.”

These aren’t lines from a play — it’s real life. Ajay is an orphan. His “school” is Compassion Children’s Home, an orphanage run by his teacher/foster father/orphanage director, Mukesh Soren. The visiting Americans are a volunteer team from The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., led by Summit’s worship leader and Christian recording artist, Matt Papa.

Papa’s untamed shock of red hair, scruffy beard and bright blue eyes stand out among the jet-black locks of the presentation’s largely Indian audience. But Papa doesn’t mind the extra attention, especially from the orphans. Indeed, he’s traveled halfway around the world because these are *his* children.

Papa, 28, is part of OneLife, an International Mission Board (IMB) initiative that develops student advocates in support of global causes.

Three years ago, Papa helped Mukesh and his wife, Jasmine, start the orphanage, which is now part of OneLife’s “One Orphanage” project. It’s Papa’s job to drum up support for the orphanage by raising awareness, money and recruiting student volunteers. He knows the need is dire.

India is the world’s second-largest country, home to more than 1.2 billion people. More than 31 million of them are orphans, according to UNICEF.

“The thing that has always struck me about India is the combination and culmination of spiritual and physical poverty,” Papa says.

“A lot of these children are condemned forever to beg for money. That’s all they can do and that is all they will ever be able to do.”

Most of the orphans share similar stories. Besides being forced to beg, many, like Ajay, were treated as virtual slaves by neighbors or relatives, paid only with enough food to keep them alive. Few knew how to read or write; most had no education at all.

“There is no one to hug them. There is no one to show them the right direction,” Mukesh says.

“And in India, at the age of 6 or 7 years old, they use drugs. They drink alcohol. And they spoil their lives.”

As the presentation continues, Papa listens intently to the orphans’ testimonies, his face full of compassion.

## Eternal homes

But Mukesh and Papa aren’t satisfied with providing only earthly homes for these children.



Camera-shy Sabita Kumar, 11, peeks from a doorway at Compassion Children’s Home. “Please pray for my brother and sister who are still Hindu, that they will also accept the Lord Jesus Christ,” Sabita says. (Photo by Joseph Rose)

Both men are deeply invested in the orphans’ eternal futures, too.

“Jesus has a purpose and a plan for their lives,” Mukesh explains. “They have to know that Jesus is the Way, Truth and the Life ... that through Jesus only, we have salvation.”

## Forging a partnership

About five years ago while Papa’s band was touring India, he hired Mukesh as a translator. The two stayed in touch via Facebook. Then, during a trip to India two years later, Papa reconnected with Mukesh and discovered why God had brought them together — both men have a heart for orphans.

“James 1:27 gripped my heart,” Papa explains, quoting the verse from memory: “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God is caring for orphans and widows in their distress and keeping one’s self unstained by the world.”

At nearly the same time, halfway around the world, God was tugging at Mukesh’s heart from Matthew 9:35-36, where Jesus is preaching and healing across Galilee: “When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd.”

With Papa’s promise of financial support, Mukesh and Jasmine, his wife who was orphaned at 12, launched Compassion Children’s Home in January 2009, using their own home as the orphanage. They’ve since taken in seven orphaned children, six boys and one girl, all under age 12.

On the outside, Compassion Children’s Home is a drab concrete cube with a half-finished second story. But Jasmine’s touches have made the inside bright, clean and relatively comfortable.

There are soft beds that the boys share, clean water via a hand-pumped well and hot, nutritious meals — even a soccer field.

But with seven children, the orphanage is already near capacity. That’s one of the reasons Papa has come. He’s personally financing the construction of a new orphanage that will house roughly 30 orphans, 15 boys and 15 girls, including five widows who will help care for them.

A planned second phase of construction promises to create room for 50 more — roughly 80 children total. It’s a drop in the bucket when weighed against India’s 31 million orphans, but Papa says that’s not the point.

“Jesus took 12 and changed the world. ... And whether or not they go on to be huge world changers, they are 30 souls who need the gospel.”

Papa has designated \$25,000 of his own money to cover the cost of the construction, and he’s eager to see what his investment has bought him. The day after the children’s presentation, Papa and the team from The Summit Church head to the orphanage site, a vacant lot between farmers’ fields off a quiet dirt road.

Construction began months ago. By now, the building’s foundation should be complete as well as the reinforced concrete columns that will support its second story.

“One of my albums that I made a little while back, a [record] label picked it up and my wife, Lauren, and I got a chunk of money that we weren’t expecting,” Papa explains.

They began to pray about how the Lord wanted them to use it. He told them to build an orphanage.

“The question that God taught me to ask was, ‘God, are you using me for Your kingdom or am I using You for mine?’” Papa says. “As Christians we are blessed to be a blessing. ... Find your standard of living. And when God blesses you, don’t change it. Change how much you can give to bless others.”

## ‘Ministry is messy’

Though he knows a lot about music, Papa admits he has zero experience starting orphanages — particularly in India.

“It’s totally outrageous. ... I’m thinking some days, ‘What am I doing?’” he says. “I’m 28 years old, and my wife and I have

yet to adopt a child, much less build an orphanage.”

As the SUV rolls to a stop in front of the construction site, it’s clear that inexperience has cost him.

Papa stares at a heap of bricks and mangled rebar — the remains of some of the building’s support columns, none of which remain standing. There’s no foundation, either. His discouragement and frustration are obvious, but Papa remains upbeat.

“Ministry is messy,” he says. “If somebody were to drive by this place right now they would see twisted rebar. Bricks piled up. Uneven ground. But I see children who have been abandoned. Who have been forsaken. ... I see them here, loved on, cared for, safe, protected and, most of all, disciplined and growing and seeking God.”

The damage isn’t a complete surprise. Papa says there have been “hiccups” from the beginning — from stolen building materials and crooked contractors to a freak storm that toppled some of the columns. Fortunately the mess has cost Papa only about \$5,000 of the \$25,000 he’s planned to spend.

Still, there are even bigger hurdles. Once the orphanage is finished, Papa and Mukesh have to figure out how to sustain it. Though Papa’s band provides most of the financial support for the seven children Mukesh and Jasmine have now, the band can’t support 30, much less 80. That’s why Papa doesn’t want the ministry to depend on donations.

“How is this going to be a self-sustaining model?” he wonders. “We have poured ourselves into this. We did a tour this past fall and raised funds ... about \$11,000 for the orphanage.” But the band can’t stay on the road forever, and in order to survive, Papa knows Compassion Children’s Home has to outgrow The Matt Papa Band. Ultimately, both Papa and Mukesh believe it’s a matter of faith.

“We’re a vapor. We have got 60 or 70 some years on this planet, and we never get another chance, ever. That’s it. And I don’t want to waste it,” Papa says.

“Here and now, what I have to do is leverage my life. Leverage my gifts, my music, for the sake of this place right here, for the sake of these children. ... That’s why I’m here.”

Want to be a part of OneLife’s “One Orphanage” project? You can give, go or simply spread the word. Learn more at [onelifematters.org](http://onelifematters.org) or email [go@onelifematters.org](mailto:go@onelifematters.org). A recent single by Matt Papa, “The Reward of His Suffering,” is available at [thereward.org](http://thereward.org). All proceeds go to support missions. Visit [mattpapa.com](http://mattpapa.com).

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Don Graham is a senior writer at IMB.) **BR**



# Roy Fish ‘loved all the right things’

By KEITH COLLIER | Baptist Press

“Without hyperbole, I can truthfully say I never met a man greater than Roy Fish,” Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn., said in eulogizing the distinguished professor of evangelism emeritus during a memorial service at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Faculty, former students, denominational leaders and pastors from across the country joined with family members to honor Fish at the seminary’s campus Sept. 14 in Fort Worth, Texas. Fish, 82, died Sept. 10.

“He loved all the right things in the right way,” said Gaines, who served as Fish’s grader for seven years while earning a master’s and doctorate from Southwestern. “He loved Jesus first; he loved his family second; he loved his ministry after that. He loved students, he loved this school and he loved the Southern Baptist Convention.

“He turned down job positions where he could make more money than he made as a seminary professor,” Gaines continued, “but the wealth he turned down is not worthy to be compared to the riches he poured into students decade after decade. Nor is it comparable to millions who’ve heard the gospel because of him training thousands of preachers. He was where he was supposed to be; he belonged at Southwestern.”

Roy Fish’s son Steve spoke of growing up in the Fish household with a dad who was a man of prayer and a passionate evangelist. He recalled numerous times when his father would share the gospel with neighbors, strangers, waitresses and people they met on family vacations.

“This man was not sharing the gospel because it was his job; it wasn’t his profession,” Steve Fish said of his father. “It wasn’t something he wanted to leave behind on vacation. It was his passion. It was his life. It was his very breath.”

Steve Fish recalled how his father knew the spiritual condition of all his neighbors and how he loved and prayed for each one of them regularly. Even in his final days in the hospital, Roy Fish asked every nurse who attended him if she had a relationship with Jesus Christ.

All but one professed to know Christ, and he was burdened for that one who was still lost.

Fish reminded those in the memorial service about the power of the gospel that his father preached and how it continues to thrive. He pointed to 2 Timothy 2:1 as a reminder of Roy Fish’s legacy.

“The legacy that Roy Fish carried did not go with him to the grave,” Steve said in reference to the gospel. “That legacy is in this room right now. That legacy has been imparted to us, that something amazingly precious has been imparted to us through this man. No amount of money can buy the spiritual things that have been entrusted to us.

“We are not here this morning to simply honor and remember the life of a man, but we are here before the Lord to take up that legacy. We are here to respond afresh to heaven’s call.”

During those final days, as family gathered at his bedside, Fish asked for them to open his Bible and place his finger on 1 John 5:13, which says, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”

He also asked Steve to read aloud 2 Timothy 4:6-8,

which says, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”

Roy Fish served Southwestern for nearly 50 years and had occupied the L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism (“The Chair of Fire”) for many years. Preaching in churches around the world, his name has become synonymous with “evangelism” throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

After earning a bachelor’s degree at the University of Arkansas in 1952, Fish moved to Southwestern Seminary, where he earned his bachelor of divinity (equivalent to the M.Div.) and his doctor of theology.

As a professor at Southwestern, Fish impacted the lives of thousands of students, many who credit their professor with instilling a fire for evangelism in their souls. For many years, Fish organized the annual spring break revival practicum (now called Revive This Nation) as the seminary sent out hundreds of student preachers across the United States to preach revivals in local churches.

Fish held several prominent denominational positions, including interim president of the North American Mission Board and second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He served as pastor or interim pastor at more than 20 churches, and he spoke and preached at conventions, conferences and churches on every continent except Antarctica. He authored several books and numerous articles and essays on evangelism.

Fish also received various awards, including the



Longtime evangelism professor Roy Fish preaches during a chapel held in his honor at Southwestern Seminary in this 2007 file photo. (SWBTS photo)

W.A. Criswell Lifetime Award in Evangelism from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) and the Charles G. Finney Award for Evangelism in Theological Education. In 2006, the SBTC established the Roy Fish Evangelism Award.

In 2005, Southwestern honored Fish when the seminary’s division of evangelism and missions in the school of theology was reorganized and named the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions.

Fish is survived by his wife Jean Holley Fish; their four children, Steve Fish, Holli Lancaster, Jeff Fish and Jennifer Pastoor; and 15 grandchildren.

A video of the memorial service can be accessed at <http://www.swbts.edu/RoyFishMemorial>.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Keith Collier is director of news and information at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.) **BR**



## World Missions Week

There were 580 participants in World Missions Week Aug. 6-11 at Caswell. The week usually draws 1,000 people. Leaders say the numbers were off because of the late date of the weeklong missions event. The week has programming for all ages. While the North Carolina Baptist Men lead the efforts to organize the week, they work with Baptist Campus Ministry leaders from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina as well. David Nassar led the main sessions and Christian band Rush of Fools provided the music. The band performed Friday at a concert that drew 260 more people. (Contributed photo)



# Church leaders trained by IMB to ‘equip and release’

By **MELISSA LILLEY** | BSC Communications

**D**uring a Bible study in Southeast Asia James\* asked people to raise their hand if they had been persecuted for their faith. After no one raised their hand, he asked the question again, and still no hands were raised.

Confused by the response, James tried a different approach. He asked if anyone in the group had been sent to prison for their faith, or suffered physical pain for their faith. People raised their hands.

James explained that this group didn’t consider trials to be persecution. “They saw persecution as a normal part of their faith,” he said.

James, an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary in Southeast Asia, shared this experience during the Sept. 18 Embrace Southeast Asian Peoples USA Training at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

Southeast Asia is home to 347 unreached, unengaged people groups (UUPGs), and 218 live in areas of high government restriction. Among the 347 people groups, 13 live in extreme physical conditions, 32 in areas of high social hostility, and 263 are without access to Scripture in their heart language.

Through its “Embrace” emphasis the IMB is helping churches all across the country engage unreached, unengaged people groups in Southeast Asia and throughout the world with the gospel. UUPGs have a Christian population of less than two percent and no church planting methodology that is consistent with evangelical faith.

Reaching these people groups is not easy. “Are you ready for persecution? Are you ready for it for national brothers and sisters who come to faith? When you share the gospel and people come to faith, persecution is going to happen,”

James said. But persecution is not an excuse to stay home.

“Missions in its purest sense means going where the gospel is not,” said Phil Nelson, IMB church missional strategist. “Jesus said to make disciples among all people. We have our marching orders straight from Scripture.”

North Carolina Baptists are on a journey to embrace 250 UUPGs by the year 2021. About a year and a half ago Old Town Baptist began its journey to share the gospel among the T people in Southeast Asia. “If they don’t have access to the good news of Jesus they can’t fulfill the passion of the heart of God,” said Mark Harrison, missions pastor at Old Town. During the training Harrison shared how God led Old Town to the T people and how God affirmed their obedience along the way.

“You have to be convinced this is what God wants you to do or you will not succeed. If you do this just for novelty or fun or anything else, that will not sustain you,” Harrison said.

## T4T discipleship

Believers are called to share the gospel among unreached people and to then make disciples of those who come to faith in Jesus Christ. James said believers would not be as effective as possible for the Kingdom without a strategy and process for working among unreached people.

During the training James walked participants through a process known as T4T ([t4tonline.org](http://t4tonline.org)) that is being used all over the world and resulting in thousands of new churches. During the T4T (“Training for Trainers”) process a leader meets with a small group of believers, training them in how to share their testimony, how to witness to lost people and how to disciple believers.

The goal of T4T is to train and disciple a believer so that the believer is able to start other T4T groups that will result in more T4T groups. The expectation is that everyone who is disciplined and trained in a T4T group will in turn witness, disciple and train others who come to faith in Jesus. “It’s about multiplying disciples and leading to a church planting movement,” James said. “Everyone who is saved knows enough to go and share their faith.”

T4T encourages leaders to think strategically about reaching various population segments and casting a vision that gives everyone in the people group opportunity to hear the gospel. “We like to bask in the glory of a movement in one area when there are still more lost people to reach,” James said.

## A reproducible process

Foundational to the T4T process is reproducibility. Trainers must teach people in their groups evangelism strategies that they can then not only use themselves, but also teach someone else how to use.

Trainers must train people in effective discipleship and how to study and feed themselves from God’s Word.

Accountability is also a key T4T component. Everyone in a T4T group is challenged to share the gospel with people every week and to share those experiences with their group. James said if people are not held accountable they are less likely to actually put into practice the evangelism and discipleship lessons they learn in the group.

## Equip and release

Engaging unreached people groups will take time and Robert Clark, who is training leaders in Southeast Asia,

encouraged believers not to be discouraged if people do not immediately come to faith.

“We need to go with expectancy,” he said. “But it’s not a one-man show. God will use you, and other people and other things, as part of the process of bringing people into the Kingdom. Wherever a person is, we can help him take one step closer to salvation in Jesus.”

Equipping and releasing believers to share their faith among lost people

should be a key component in any strategy for reaching UUPGs. However, Clark said many churches fail to live out the truth of the priesthood of all believers. When that happens, “our strategy to reach the world is to come hear our pastor,” Clark said.

“The pastor becomes the superstar of the church and that puts a lot of pressure on the pastor. A lot of pastors burn out because they live under a burden God never intended them to carry,” he said.

“The pastor’s role is to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. It is not about bringing more people to us; it is about equipping and releasing people into the world,” Clark said.

“Equip and release lay people to start new churches in new places and continually repeat that process generation after generation.”

To learn more about engaging unreached people groups in Southeast Asia and throughout the world visit [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp) or [imb.org](http://imb.org). The Baptist State Convention’s Church Planting & Missions Development Group will host a series of T4T training events next year across the state. More information will be available soon at [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp).

\*Name changed **BR**



**ROBERT CLARK**

# Chick-fil-A’s Dan Cathy: We have made no concessions

By **MICHAEL FOUST** | Baptist Press

**F**ollowing reports that Chick-fil-A had agreed to stop funding certain traditional family groups in order to get approval for a new Chicago restaurant, company President Dan Cathy said Sept. 21 the restaurant made no concessions and “we remain true to who we are.”

Cathy’s statement, posted on Mike Huckabee’s website, came one day after the company released its own statement saying that its corporate giving has “been mischaracterized” for many months and that it will continue to fund programs that “strengthen and enrich marriages.”

Said Cathy, “There continues to be erroneous implications in the media that Chick-fil-A changed our practices and priorities in order to obtain permission for a

new restaurant in Chicago. That is incorrect. Chick-fil-A made no such concessions, and we remain true to who we are and who we have been.”

Focus on the Family President Jim Daly – whose organization supposedly had been de-funded by Chick-fil-A – also has spoken up for the company. And gay activist groups – who initially applauded Chick-fil-A’s supposed move – now are criticizing the restaurant once again.

Chick-fil-A was facing a backlash after Chicago Alderman Joe Moreno and an Illinois gay activist group announced in Sept. 19 news reports that Chick-fil-A had agreed to no longer fund groups opposed to gay marriage. That alleged agreement led Moreno – who had criticized Chick-fil-A for its president’s comments affirming the traditional marriage – to stop blocking a new franchise from being built. In comments to the *Chicago Tribune*, Moreno called it a “big win.”

Media stories nationwide then gave Chick-fil-A another public relations headache. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*’s headline read, “Chick-fil-A said to change stance.” *The Los Angeles Times*’ headline: “Chick-fil-A promises to stop giving money to anti-gay groups.”

The problem? Chick-fil-A’s base of support remains largely in conservative states, and those customers hardly consider Focus on the Family and other groups “anti-gay.” Many felt Chick-fil-A had caved.

Earlier this summer, hundreds of thousands of customers took part in Chick-fil-A Appreciation after company president Dan Cathy was criticized for comments supporting the biblical definition of marriage. Chick-fil-A’s stance on values is well-known: It is closed on Sundays, and its corporate statement includes the desire to “glorify God.”

See Chick-fil-A page 15



# Five things I wish I had known as a young pastor

Baptist Press

I left my breakfast meeting with a young pastor and realized, with a measure of sadness, that I was no longer a “young pastor.” He was facing a number of ministry challenges that seemed very familiar to me.

As I shared with him some of the lessons I had learned, he remarked, “I wish I had known this three years ago.” It occurred to me that the lessons I shared with him were ones that I wish I had been told when a small country church that allowed a rough, unrefined college student to get his feet wet in ministry. As I look back, there are (at least) five things I wish I had been aware of when I was just starting out:

**1. You are pastoring a parade.** The first time I had a family leave the church I was leading, I was personally hurt. I thought that I had really messed up as a pastor, or in my more frustrated moments, I thought that they “just didn’t get it.” What I failed to realize is that, sometimes, God removes people from your ministry for your benefit. And, I am sure, sometimes he moves them for their benefit! It was John Maxwell I first heard say, “every pastor pastors a parade ... people are always coming and going.”

As I have watched people “come and go” over the years, I have learned to trust solely in the Lord to bring people that would add benefit to the church. It is, after all, his church to build. Indeed, God often removes someone in order to drive us to Him, and then blesses us with someone else who adds tremendous value to the church. So, as a young pastor, be prepared for the fact that people will come and go, and trust that God is doing so for your benefit and for the good of the body.

**2. The people who demand the most serve the least.** As a young pastor, my assumption was that the people who gave and served most faithfully would demand most of my attention. The truth was the exact

opposite. The people who demand the most are typically those who give the least and serve the least. And, upon reflection, that makes sense.

When people are faithful and obedient to give of themselves and their resources to advance God’s Kingdom, they are far less inclined to believe they should have a pastor’s undivided attention. So, don’t be surprised when those most disappointed in you and who criticize you the harshest are those who have the least invested in the ministry of the local church.

**3. You will see ugly behavior.** I have to be honest; this lesson comes from my wife. I asked her what she wished she would have known when we first started out. Her comment was, “you will see the ugliest behavior you can imagine in the church.” Now, please don’t think of my wife as a bitter crank. She is not. Rather, as the wife of a young pastor, she

was not prepared for the “ugly behavior” that she saw. As a young pastor it is important to remember that you are not the only one who hears the criticism of others. You need to be sure to help your family understand that such behavior is sin, and we ought not return sinful behavior with sinful behavior. Instead, let the Lord defend you as you exhibit Christlike-ness in the face of criticism.

**4. You are irreplaceable (but not at church).** A lot of pastors act as if they are irreplaceable at the church they are serving. That is why they cancel or postpone family outings and activities to attend to the latest need of a church member. But, being irreplaceable at the church is not what is intended here. Rather, you are irreplaceable at home.

Think about it: You likely were not the first pastor of the church you are serving and hopefully you won’t

be the last. But your roles as husband and father are the only truly unique roles you will have in life. I first heard this idea from Andy Stanley at a critical time in my life. I spent nearly half of my pastoral ministry taking my family for granted as I tried to be the pastor everyone else wanted me to be. Thankfully, I have learned that it does not profit us to grow a “successful” church and lose our family. A careful examination of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 2:6 illustrates the importance the Lord places on you faithfully discharging your duties as husband and father as a prerequisite to serving as a pastor.

**5. Preach the Word.** Every year the market is filled with the latest books on how to grow a church. Some of that advice is really good, being based on solid research into churches that are growing. Others are not so good. The temptation for young pastors is to find a concept or idea that they resonate with and decide to run with it. Or, worse, they simply attempt to copy what is working somewhere else.

However, while there is much to gain from missiologists and church growth practitioners, there is one thing that must not be forgotten. The only thing we have to say that is of any value to our people is found in the Word of God. No church growth gimmicks, slick presentations, or changes in style can replace the power of the man of God, hidden behind the cross, preaching Christ from all of scripture.

When I was a younger pastor, I wish I had been warned

about these things. As a more experienced pastor, I have to remind myself of them constantly. Regardless of which describes you, may we all be mindful to “not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Rob Pochek is senior pastor at Raleigh Road Baptist Church in Wilson, N.C.) **BR**



**ROB POCHEK**  
Guest Column

**“A lot of pastors act as if they are irreplaceable at the church ... But your roles as husband and father are the only truly unique roles you will have in life.”**

## October is pastor appreciation month

Scripture passages in the Pauline epistles reveal that this apostle truly loved people. In Philippians 1, Paul writes about how these believers have a special place in his heart and how he always thinks about them and prays for them. In Colossians 2, Paul expresses his deep desire for the Colossae church to be rooted in Jesus Christ.

Paul possessed the heart of a pastor. He cared deeply for the people among whom he ministered and even for believers he had not yet met but desired to meet and encourage. Paul endured physical suffering and many hardships for the sake of taking the gospel to people who needed to hear it.

As October is pastor appreciation month, I want to devote this column to making sure our pastors know how valuable their ministry is to God’s Church. I am grateful for the pas-

tors all across our state who are investing their lives in leading and serving others through the local church.

Week after week North Carolina Baptist pastors faithfully teach their people God’s inspired Word. They stand up for truth and reveal the treasures found in

Holy Scripture. Pastors help their people grow in their understanding of Jesus Christ, mature in the faith and grow in their relationship with the Savior.

Pastors have other responsibilities in addition to preaching and teaching. They visit people in the hospital, provide marriage counseling, perform weddings, comfort those who are grieving, preach funerals, serve in the community, disciple leaders, and the list

could go on and on. In a recent column I mentioned how this state convention includes about 1,400 churches served by



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

a bivocational pastor. This means that in addition to their work in the public sector these pastors often also have added responsibilities such as leading worship singing, bookkeeping and church facility upkeep.

I hope you show appreciation for your pastor year round, but allow me to encourage you to make a special effort during October to let him know you are grateful for him. The pastorate can indeed be lonely. There are occasions when some pastors become discouraged and feel like they are burned out because of heavy responsibilities. Some feel they

do not have close friends or people they can confide in or those who will offer encouragement. Are you aware that the pastor’s wife and children often sacrifice family time in order for him to meet the needs of his people?

Pray for your pastor and follow his leadership as he seeks guidance from the Lord. God has graciously given us pastors to help us along our spiritual faith journey. Tell your pastor this month how thankful you are for him.

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” 1 Timothy 5:17 **BR**

### Submissions for Tar Heel Voices (letters to the editor)

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# A crisis of truth in media

If you attended church as a child, you will likely remember the song, “Be careful little feet where you go... be careful little hands what you do ... be careful little ears what you hear ...” Does that strike a familiar chord? It’s time to pull that song out of the past, dust it off and sing it again, especially the verse, “be careful little ears what you hear.”

We are bombarded with so many messages from a multitude of voices every day. We are deceived if we assume that all of those messages are true. We are wise if we apply serious discernment, examining the source and questioning the accuracy of everything we read or hear.

Scripture frequently addresses the importance of listening to the right voices. The first word of the first Psalm promises blessings to those who do not follow the advice of wicked, ungodly voices. It says, “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked...” (Psalm 1:1).

Conversely, “not blessed” is the person who believes everything he hears. He or she will certainly suffer the consequences of the lie.

Recently, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid repeatedly stated that an unnamed person said presidential candidate Mitt Romney has not paid taxes in years. With total lack of integrity many media outlets reported the unsubstantiated accusation as truth. At bare minimum, it was gossip, slander at worst.

This is only one example of the avalanche of material dishonestly reported by media sources.

Joseph Goebbels was the propaganda minister in Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945. He is credited with this statement:

“If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the

State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State.”

Has truth become the enemy of the media? Most media outlets have degenerated from a place of respect and integrity, to a source of raw gossip. Where it was a neutral, trusted source of facts, the profession has fallen to a propaganda machine for the liberal worldview. Apparently, not everyone is buying it.

According to a Gallup poll conducted September 6-9, only 8 percent of Americans say they have a “great deal” of trust in the news media, down from 11 percent the previous year. The poll reported that 60 percent trust the media “none at all” or “not very much,” with only 32 percent saying they trust the media a “fair amount.” That is a record low for the 40 years that Gallup has been polling on the question. The media is suffering an unprecedented crisis of integrity.

My personal experience with secular media confirms the results of the Gallup poll.

A controversy over Chick-fil-A’s Christian principles erupted in July over distortions promoted by the liberal

media. It began when I interviewed the company’s president, Dan Cathy, on June 20. The story was published in the July 7 printed edition of the *Biblical Recorder* and posted on our website July 2. Baptist Press picked up our story and ran it on July 16.

Because Cathy stated his support for traditional marriage, *The Huffington Post* and other liberal media outlets saw an opportunity to advance the gay agenda. They changed the headline and re-wrote Dan Cathy’s quote, giving the appearance that Cathy addressed gay marriage in that interview.

Mark Hemmingway writes for the *Weekly Standard*. In a web post on July 24 titled “Media Invents Story That Chick-fil-A President Condemned Gay Marriage” he wrote, “Last week, reports emerged that Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy had condemned gay marriage. It’s no secret that the company is run by devout Christians, but this still caused an uproar. Boston’s mayor threatened to deny the company business permits, celebrities condemned the company, and the Muppets announced the fast food chain wouldn’t be able to license any new toys for their kids meals. One small problem: The president of Chick-fil-A never actually said anything condemning gay marriage.”

Hemmingway was one of few in the media who got it right. Sadly, some religious media reported the “gay agenda” distortion.

Others took the high road, accurately reporting the facts. Writers for the *Charlotte Observer* and *Greensboro News & Record* reported the truth about Cathy’s comments. Respected journalist Terry Mattingly of *GetReligion.org* also wrote clear, accurate accounts of the Chick-fil-A controversy.

I received calls from journalists around the country and participated in radio shows in Boston, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and other cities. A few reporters called for clarification on Cathy’s comments. Most ignored the facts and regurgitated the liberal line.

The public spoke loudly on August 1, a day Mike Huckabee launched and dubbed as “Chick-fil-A Appreciation

Day.” The restaurant was overrun with loyal patrons and many of their stores ran out of food.

The day had nothing to do with “gay marriage.” It had everything to do with Americans’ desire to support the voice of freedom. No one was engaged in “hate speech” as they enjoyed their chicken that day. Most had reached the point of the proverbial “last straw.” Tired of media distortions, they politely spoke with the deafening sounds of the cash register. Chick-fil-A, truth and freedom won.

Apparently someone in the “gay agenda” camp wanted to turn Chick-fil-A’s loyal customers against the company. On Sept. 19, *The Huffington Post* ran a story titled, “Chick-Fil-A Agrees To Cease Funding To Anti-Gay Organizations, Chicago LGBT Group Claims.” The story was not true.

The next day Cathy released a statement which said in part, “There continues to be erroneous implications in the media that Chick-fil-A changed our practices and priorities in order to obtain permission for a new restaurant in Chicago. That is incorrect. Chick-fil-A made no such concessions, and we remain true to who we are and who we have been.”

I encourage caution and skepticism when you receive media reports. On a scale of one to 10, my confidence in the liberal media has gone from zero to minus one.

Truth is the foundation of civilization. If it is removed, business suffers, government fails and relationships disintegrate. Nothing works in the absence of truth.

The crisis of credibility in media means those of us who serve as Christians in journalism have an opportunity to define responsibility in media. It also means there is increased necessity for believers to examine everything we read or hear. Gullibility is not acceptable.

Paul warned Timothy, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things ...” (2 Timothy 4:3-5, NKJ).

May we be found faithful to truth and credible in communicating it. **BR**



**K. ALLAN BLUME**  
Editor

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October 7

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

October 14

## From Failure to Salvation

**Focal Passages:** John 4:7-18, 25-26, 39

**H**ave you ever had a thirst you couldn't quench? Tea and soft drinks didn't hit the spot, and neither did water.

Eventually you realized the hunger for other things (popcorn, country ham, etc.) was creating that thirst.

The woman at the well was the epitome of "looking for love in all the wrong places." Jesus eventually revealed that she had sought fulfillment in the arms of multiple men, yet remained dissatisfied. The woman at the well was seeking to meet a physical need, but water would never fix her predicament.

Jesus told her He could take away her true thirst forever.

The more someone fails to find satisfaction in worldly pursuits, the more he should welcome the message of completeness in Christ.

When I was studying music in college, I arrived for my voice lesson one day to find my teacher eager to discuss spiritual matters.

He was rumored to be a homosexual and had been offended as a young man by hypocritical demonstrations of Christianity.

We took the entire hour to talk about

Christianity, and I shared the gospel in detail.

The next week I arrived for my voice lesson and the teacher joyfully announced the solution to his plight: "I'm going to become Catholic!" He had little interest in the doctrinal distinctives of Catholicism.

Sadly, he chose to embrace religious formality instead of a relationship with Christ. Similarly, the woman at the well was excited about a perpetual source of water but still struggled to see her real need.

We can imagine that the woman at the well spent many hours of her life talking about the newest love of her life. By the grace of God, wasted words and wasted passion were replaced by the wonderful proclamation of the gospel. Where we once focused our time and energy on sin, we can now use our voices and opportunities to share the good news of Jesus and His life-transforming power.

Adrian Rogers once said, "I read other books but the Bible reads me."

No doubt the woman at the well would have said the same thing about Jesus.



**TROY RUST**  
Senior pastor, Somerset  
Baptist Church,  
Roxboro

**Focal Passages:** Genesis 15:4-6; 16:1-5; 17:3-6, 15-19

**I**t's much easier to sing, "Have Faith in God," than to put it into practice.

Abram questioned God's fulfillment of His covenant with him, because he had no son and appeared to be passing his estate to a household servant.

Despite appearances, God promised Abram he would have a son and descendants as numerous as the stars. Abram had two options – faith and sight.

Although he saw no basis for the fulfillment of God's promise, Abram believed God and was declared righteous by faith.

The significance of Abram's response can be clearly seen as Paul references it (Romans 4:1-3; Galatians 3:6-14) to demonstrate the doctrine of justification by faith.

Trusting God can become more difficult with the passage of time. After 10 years of waiting, Abram took matters into his own hands.

Although Sarai cooked up the idea

to give her maid Hagar as a wife for her husband, Abram should have held tightly to God's promise instead of attempting the quick fix set before him.

Instead of creating an heir, Abram created a rift in his marriage and set in motion an age-old conflict.

He mistakenly thought he just needed a son, but God purposed to provide an heir, the son of promise.

We shouldn't be surprised when our attempts to fix things put us in a "fix," instead of in the center of God's will.

At the age of 86 Abram experienced the implosion of Sarai's plan for a son. At the ripe age of 99 God reaffirmed His promise to Abram and changed his name to prepare for the miraculous occasion.

Abram ("exalted father") was changed to Abraham ("father of a multitude") to display God's plan to birth nations and kings through him.

Even though Abraham laughed at the idea of Sarah giving birth in her old age and longed for Ishmael to be the son of promise, God fulfilled His promise through Isaac.

Whenever our faith wavers, and we go down dead end side roads, we can be sure that the straight and narrow path of faith always leads back to God's plan.

October 7

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

October 14

## Living at Home

**Focal Passage:** 1 Peter 3:1-12

**P**eter's words to husbands and wives about the honorable home are just as timely today as they were when he first penned them. There has been an onslaught of political and cultural conversation over marriage recently. It's easy for us as Christians to fight for marriage in the public square, but how many of us are just as invested in our own marriages? In this passage Peter calls women to cultivate an inner spiritual beauty and calls men to be understanding and honor their wives as gifts from God.

Let's be honest, there are times in marriage, even a Christian marriage, when upholding the biblical picture of marriage is not so easy. The relationship is often difficult and painful. While marriage may be hard, the calling is also rewarding and wondrous. In his book *The Meaning of Marriage*, Tim Keller writes that the purpose of marriage "... is for helping each other to become our future glory-selves, the new creations that God will eventually make

us." Not only does this mission benefit our own marriages, but also displays the power of the gospel to a confused world. The respectful and pure conduct that Peter calls for demonstrates God's intention for marriage.

A Christian understanding of the home is often unintelligible to those who are not of the faith.

Why would we expect them to understand? But the confident yet humble power of the gospel on display between a husband and a wife is arresting to those looking on. Imagine how beautiful it would be if in our marriages we strived to have unity, sympathy, love, tenderness and humility. There is no six-step program to achieve this type of marriage. Simple behavior modification will not produce lasting change.

Only the gospel will allow us to have the loss of pride and self-will that enables us to humbly serve the other.



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

**Focal Passage:** 1 Peter 3:13-22

**F**ear can be crippling. Most counselors will point out that in order to trace the roots of our fears, and find their deeper meaning, we must look

in two directions: outward to dangers and inward to our own anxieties. It's not a stretch to say that Peter's original readers wrestled with both external and internal fears as they endured suffering for their faith. What will happen to us? Will I be able to remain steadfast? How should we battle fear?

According to Peter, we should counter fears with the promises of God. Ed Clowney puts it this way: Peter "... is assuring them that, under God's care and blessing, no evil can befall them ... God's vindication and protection will preserve the heirs of his blessing." How wonderful! Sure, there may be times where we are troubled,

persecuted or must endure suffering – perhaps even for doing good. But in those times we can rest assured that we are ultimately secure in Christ.

Christ suffered the cross and shame so that we could be secure in God. If we can take the gospel and our identity in Christ to every fear – external and internal – the perfect love of God will destroy them. Moreover, Christ now sits at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities and powers having been subjected to Him. Christ reins. What then shall we fear? Ultimately fear and suffering in this life are temporary.

When set against the grand story of the world, the severity of present-day troubles is alleviated, though not denied. We can bring our fears in perspective and rest when we consider that Christ has taken care of our deepest needs and that His Spirit ministers to us in our time of trouble.

For this reason we are able to lift our voices and proclaim "... no guilt in life, no fear in death. This is the power of Christ in me!"

## Living Without Fear



# Chick-fil-A

Continued from page 11

In the 24 hours after the story out of Chicago broke, Chick-fil-A's Facebook page was flooded with criticism of the new policy. Chick-fil-A released a statement Sept. 20, saying that "for many months now, Chick-fil-A's corporate giving has been mischaracterized."

"And while our sincere intent has been to remain out of this political and social debate, events from Chicago this week have once again resulted in questions around our giving," the statement said. "A part of our corporate commitment is to be responsible stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Because of this commitment, Chick-fil-A's giving heritage is focused on programs that educate youth, strengthen families and enrich marriages, and support communities. We will continue to focus our giving in those areas. Our intent is not to support political or social agendas."

The company also released a document that had been

referenced in the media called "Chick-fil-A: Who We Are." In it, the company repeats language from this summer and says its tradition is to "treat every person with honor, dignity and respect – regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender."

The Who We Are document also says Chick-fil-A "supports programs and marriage retreats to help strengthen and enrich marriages," which more than 4,000 couples attend annually. The document did not address whether Chick-fil-A has indeed agreed to stop funding certain groups. It's also unclear how the company's policy will appease gay activist groups.

In fact, the Human Rights Campaign – the nation's largest gay group – expressed disappointment in Chick-fil-A's new statement, particularly its pledge to fund marriage enrichment programs.

Focus on the Family's Daly said in an article at Focus

on the Family's CitizenLink that he supports the company. He did not directly address whether Chick-fil-A was no longer funding Focus on the Family.

"I feel bad the Cathys are having once again to endure media accounts mischaracterizing their values and charitable efforts – and, unfortunately, I know how they feel," Daly said. "How is an organization that helps save one marriage every six minutes and helps parents navigate through a crisis involving their children every 90 seconds deemed 'anti' anything but 'anti-family breakdown'?" Daly concluded.

Gay groups also were upset that Dan Cathy was helping raise money for traditional groups, including taking part in a Sept. 18 WinShape Ride for the Family fundraiser. The money, the Advocate said, will benefit the Marriage and Family Foundation, which it said funds the Marriage CoMission, a traditional group. **B**

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Mt Carmel Baptist Church, SBC church in Troy, NC, is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Five years minimum experience is required. Seminary degree and references are required. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Mt Carmel Baptist Church, PO Box 903, Troy, NC 27371 or e-mail [mlucas433@yahoo.com](mailto:mlucas433@yahoo.com).

Raleigh White Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia, is currently accepting resumes for a **full-time Pastor**. Candidates should have experience in a pastoral position and seminary degree. Resumes are being accepted through November 15th and may be emailed to [raleighwhitebaptist@gmail.com](mailto:raleighwhitebaptist@gmail.com) or mailed to Raleigh White Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search, 2804 Phillips Drive, Albany, GA 31721.

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### Denominational

Evangelical Non-Profit Seeks **Executive Director**. Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship [BMDF] is a ministry committed to loving God and people through healthcare missions. We are Christian healthcare professionals of all types, medical and dental residents, and students – intentionally focused on sharing the Gospel through: short-term healthcare projects, international partnerships, U.S. church-based free clinics, disaster relief, as well as by encouraging and collaborating with long-term healthcare missionaries on the field. Our ideal Executive Director will have: a passion for missions, an ability to plan and motivate volunteers, and a capacity to oversee a growing 600+ member organization. Knowledge of the healthcare industry, comfort with financial management and fund-raising, and familiarity with our Baptist heritage is a plus. Find BMDF's complete EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROFILE under the "Leader Profile" link on our homepage at [www.bmdf.org](http://www.bmdf.org). Send resumes to BMDF's Search Committee Chair, Dr. Greg Osborne at [greg@osbornedds.com](mailto:greg@osbornedds.com).

### Church Staff

Bethany Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music and Worship** to plan, direct and coordinate worship for both contemporary and traditional services. See website for more details: [bethanybaptistws.com](http://bethanybaptistws.com). Prior experience is desired. Please send resume to Becky Anderson, Bethany Baptist Church, 600 Old Hollow Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105.

East Taylorsville Baptist Church seeks a **full-time Minister of Music/Senior Adults**. Interested candidates should submit resumes to ETBC Paid Personnel Committee, PO Box 906, Taylorsville, NC 28681.

The First Baptist Church of Matthews, North Carolina, is seeking a **full-time minister to children**. The preferable candidate will have a seminary degree, a contagious enthusiasm for children's ministry and the ability to develop, communicate and implement a vision and strategic plan for children's ministry within the overall vision of family ministry at First Baptist Church Matthews. We desire a philosophy of ministry that is God-centered, biblically saturated and culturally relevant. Your cover letter and resume should be sent to Frank Norwood at [fnorwood@fbcmatthews.org](mailto:fnorwood@fbcmatthews.org). Please see our website at [www.fbcmatthews.org](http://www.fbcmatthews.org). Please do not call the church or send your information by snail mail. If you feel the Lord may be leading you toward such a ministry position please send a cover letter and resume as a MS Word document via email.

Hocutt Baptist Church in Clayton, NC, is searching for a **full-time Children's Pastor**. This person will have oversight of all children's ministries. Candidates should have a minimum of 2 years experience and seminary degree. Send resumes to: [resumes@hocuttbaptist.com](mailto:resumes@hocuttbaptist.com).

Union Grove Baptist Church located in Salemburg, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor** with duties in youth ministry & administration. We are praying for a biblically qualified, mission minded man with a passion for making disciples and believes the Bible to be God's inspired, inerrant and infallible Word. Send resumes or questions to Allen West at [awest.ugbc@gmail.com](mailto:awest.ugbc@gmail.com) or 395 Vander Road, Salemburg, NC 28385.

### Miscellaneous

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# Youth weeks challenge students to apply God's Word

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

**W**hen Mary Beth McDowell went to Haiti earlier this year she saw for the first time what it means to really be in need. She saw people living in poverty and their desperate plea for help.

McDowell also saw something she had not expected: hope.

"You could see Jesus through people living there; they love the Lord," McDowell said. "I got a bigger glimpse of His faithfulness."

McDowell, a senior at Appalachian State University, met people who had few material possessions but loved Jesus Christ above all else.

McDowell served in Haiti alongside Merrie Johnson, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) senior consultant for student evangelism and ministry, and other members of Johnson's summer staff. Johnson coordinates BSC summer youth weeks at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, which draws nearly 7,000 middle and high school students each year.

In Haiti, the team partnered with Change This World to help distribute meals students packaged last year during the youth weeks. Last year the students gave more than \$62,000, making it possible to send 200,000 meals to Haiti.

This year, students gave \$75,000, making it possible to send 300,000 meals to Haiti.

"The students are the ones driving the increase in the number of meals and the size of the offering," Johnson said. "They came back this year saying they wanted to do more."

Johnson said that after students participated in the mission project last year they came back ready to make a difference. Students saved money throughout the year to bring to Caswell, and some led their churches to do fundraisers to help contribute to the offering.

The idea to use the youth weeks offering to partner with Change This World came from Johnson. She decided about two years ago that she wanted to do more

to help students realize what it means to have the identity of Jesus Christ. She wanted to help them find a way to give to others, and to share the gospel.

"Youth want their life to count, but they don't know how," she said. "They want to be part of something bigger than themselves. We are helping them under-

stand what it means to sacrifice, and to love as Jesus loves."

Ever since Johnson began coordinating youth weeks 11 years ago her goal has been to help youth understand that if they want their life to count for eternity, they must live for God's glory.

"I wanted youth weeks at Caswell to be a place where the Bible was taught and where people were equipped to be leaders," she said. "I wanted it to be a fun place, but [also] a place with a deeper purpose. I wanted students to know that their choices matter, and that those choices will take them closer to God or farther away from God."

This year during youth weeks more than 600 students responded to God's call on their lives to full-time vocational ministry.

Students are also coming to faith in Jesus Christ during youth weeks. Dennis Bain, youth Sunday School teacher at Macedonia Baptist Church in Gastonia, came as a chaperone for the third time this year. He shared about a student in the youth group who came to faith in Christ last year.

Bain said the student went home last summer and shared his faith with his parents and siblings. They began going to church with him, and his stepfather prayed to receive Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior and now participates in the church choir and praise band.

"His stepfather told me that if it hadn't been for Caswell he wouldn't be saved," Bain said. "Stories like this help me remember what I'm doing and why I'm here."

## A firm foundation

This year's theme was "He's got an app for that" and the theme Scripture was Colossians 3:17. Students learned to look to God's Word for help in any situation.

Wes Hamilton served as the camp speaker one week in July. He taught students that they must build their lives on the foundation of God's Word. "Jesus applies His Word to every area of life; His Word transforms every part of our life.

We are either building on that Word or building on the sand," he said. "It's the sand of our own opinion or the rock of God."

Hamilton explained to the youth that if they fail to apply God's Word to their lives they are just going through the motions of the Christian life. "You can



This summer during youth weeks, students raised \$75,000 and helped prepare 300,000 meals for Haiti, the most impoverished country in the western hemisphere. (BSC photo by Melissa Lilley)

be religious and rebellious at the same time," he said. "You can be moral and good and have a good reputation, and still be building your foundation on what you think is right – and not what God thinks is right."

Hamilton challenged the students to live for God and not for themselves, and to live for Him even when no one around them is walking with God.

"It's in those moments when you and God are alone that your character is shaped; those moments form you and sanctify you," Hamilton said.

"You must still treasure God and worship Him even when it buys you nothing from the outside; even when no one is watching you."

To learn more about youth ministry and events, visit [bedotell.com](http://bedotell.com). **BR**

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**"Youth want their life  
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— Merrie Johnson**