

### Getting ready for the annual meeting?

As the Baptist State Convention's annual meeting nears (Nov. 7-8), the *Biblical Recorder* carries information about changes to the BSC, candidates for offices as well as information about breakouts. **Pages 3-4 and 8-9.**

### Embracing New York

A team of North Carolina Baptist women spent a week in September serving in New York. They were part of the Baptist State Convention's Embrace ministry. **Page 20**

# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

OCTOBER 15, 2011 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 177 NO. 21 • **BR**now.org

## Reclaiming the younger generation

### N.C. Baptists make effort to draw, keep people in church

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

**T**he numbers of people dropping out of church can be overwhelming. A 2006 report showed 61 percent of regular attenders as teenagers left the church in their 20s. "Don't ever give up on them," said Pete Wilson, founding and senior pastor of Cross Point Church in Nashville, Tenn. Wilson was speaking at a national youth worker's conference. "Show them what their lives could be like with Christ." (See pages 14-15.)

Leaders in North Carolina are not giving up. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina offers assistance to churches to reach youth, college students and even younger church leaders. (See pages 2 and 10-17.) One of the recent efforts is the relaunching of the TarHeel Leadership Network. "It still retains the desire to invest in pastors," said Russ Conley, BSC senior consultant for leadership ministries. "It retains the format of pastors teaching pastors."

The network is by invitation only. Generally pastors who've gone through it recommend someone they think will benefit. Steve Corts, senior pastor of Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons, is following in the footsteps of his father, Mark

**Continued on page 10**

## BSC Board OKs study committee reports, budget

By **MELISSA LILLEY** | BSC Communications

**T**he Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) met Sept. 27-28 at Caraway Conference Center to hear ministry reports and to consider study committee reports as well as the 2012 budget.

### Budget

The Board approved the proposed 2012 Cooperative Program budget, a budget that reflects the first increase in ministry dollars since 2008. The \$33,500,000 budget is a 2.5 percent increase from the 2011 budget.

The budget includes an additional one-half percent increase in the allocation of funds that are sent to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). This is the seventh year in a row that the BSC has increased this percentage by one-half percent. The proposed allocation to the SBC is 35.5 percent.

This is the sixth year in a row that the budget has included an increase for church planting.

The budget will be presented for approval to messengers during the convention's annual meeting Nov. 7-8 in Greensboro.

Beverly Volz, BSC senior accountant, brought the financial report. Volz reported that through the end of August, Cooperative Program funds are \$19,823,939.59, a total that is 7.24 percent behind budget. A comparison of year-to-year receipts reveals that 2011 receipts

**Continued on page 18**



## IMB writer joins Recorder

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

A recent *Biblical Recorder* (BR) Board of Directors meeting resulted in a new addition to the BR staff.

Shawn Hendricks, a senior writer from the International Mission Board (IMB), will start as managing editor on Oct. 24.

"I am excited to welcome Shawn to the *Biblical Recorder* staff," said K. Allan Blume, editor/president of the *Biblical Recorder*. "He shares our vision for the Great Commission and brings valuable experience in journalism to this ministry. I believe North Carolina Baptists will appreciate his leadership and his perspective."

Hendricks has been at the IMB for almost 10 years. He has a communication arts degree with an emphasis on journalism from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and cut his teeth at the *State Gazette* in Dyersburg, Tenn., before working in public relations at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo.

He also was a writer at *Word & Way*, the Baptist paper in Jefferson City, Mo.

"It's an exciting time to join the *Biblical Recorder*," said Hendricks.

"God is doing some amazing things through North Carolina Baptists in this state, around the country and in other nations. I'm looking forward to being a part of the BR team and helping tell this story."

Hendricks said his time at the IMB gave him a front-row seat to how God is "impacting lives throughout the world."



SHAWN HENDRICKS

It's been a wonderful ride, and I've enjoyed seeing how God continues to transform lives."

The Baptist Communicators Association awarded Hendricks awards in features and news writing this year for coverage in Haiti.

He and his wife, Stephanie, have a daughter, Laura. For the past two years the Hendricks have been involved at Movement Church, a church plant in Richmond, Va.

The Board met Sept. 26 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro. During that same board meeting, the directors approved a move of the *Recorder* offices to the Baptist State Convention in Cary. (See page 17.) **BR**

## Raising a next generation mission leader

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

Mike Sowers prays a new training opportunity will attract and grow youth to be future church leaders.

"This is for serious students," said Sowers, senior consultant for the Office of Great Commission Partnerships at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). "To connect with this next generation we needed something that was deep, that was missional."

Birthing out of years of experience in youth ministry and missions, Sowers said he hopes the "Next Generation Missional Journey" will expand young people to think beyond their current church to state, national and international ministry before it is over. Beyond that, Sowers hopes the training these young people will receive will help them stay committed to God and His Kingdom purposes for the rest of their lives.

On Oct. 22 the inaugural group of nine students from across North Carolina will gather with their parents at the BSC building in Cary for its first meeting. It will be the first of at least three one-day

sessions during the year that the students are required to attend. Not only did each student have to apply for the program, but they were required to submit three references: parents, youth leader and one other person.

Sowers said this first class of five females and four males were recruited through mailouts to churches and word-of-mouth. It is a three-year commitment. In this first year, Sowers said students will focus on North Carolina. They will learn about the Great Commission, evangelism, urban and multicultural church planting and service. Year two focuses on North America, and year three on the ends of the earth. Sowers said besides the three meetings each year, students will work with a mentor at their church and will interact with leaders and other students via the internet.

"We're really hoping that at the end of this process they'll be a leader in missions at their church," he said. "We looked at the biblical model of Acts 1:8. We wanted to build a solid theologically based missiology."

Continued on page 10



# 2012 find it here

## EXPANDING THE KINGDOM

MISSIONS MOBILIZATION EMPHASIS

Find it Here: Expanding the Kingdom 2012 is about 5.6 million people in North Carolina, 258 million in North America, and 6 billion people throughout the world who do not have a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Don't miss the **Find it Here** presentation during the BSCNC annual meeting on Monday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

[www.finditherenc.org](http://www.finditherenc.org)



# Candidates for BSC offices



MARK E. HARRIS

## President

Mark E. Harris will be nominated for the office of president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). He is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte. A native of Winston-Salem, he has degrees from Appalachian State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of three churches – two of those in North Carolina – including 10 years at Center Grove Church in Clemmons. He served as chairman of the trustees of Southeastern Seminary. Marty Jacumin, senior pastor of Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh, will nominate Harris.

## Q ■ What is your vision for the BSC?

**A:** My vision is one of mobilization. When Milton Hollifield took the leadership as executive director-treasurer of the convention, he cast a vision that was crystal clear: “By God’s grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” I love that vision, and I want to do everything I can to help lead in fulfilling it. I want to be used as a catalyst, calling pastors and church leaders to see the situation of our culture and to recognize that business as usual will not get the job done. People have got to know and hear that the gospel of Jesus really does change people, and changed people live at a different level. It is not just a different or better life, but rather living life on a higher plane. I long to see all the

Messengers to the Baptist State Convention’s (BSC) annual meeting Nov. 7-8 will be voting on candidates for the convention’s three top offices: president, first vice president and second vice president. These candidates are currently running unopposed. The annual meeting will be at the Koury Conven-

tion Center in Greensboro. Visit [ncannualmeeting.com](http://ncannualmeeting.com) for more information.

See information related to the upcoming annual meeting on pages 1, 4, 8 and 9.

Look for more coverage of the upcoming meeting at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).

## First vice president

Conley J. (CJ) Bordeaux Sr. will be nominated as first vice president. He is the pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham. Gorman is the eighth church he has served in North Carolina. He is a graduate of Chowan College, Campbell University, Southeastern Seminary and Bethany Theological Seminary. CJ has been actively involved in Baptist work including service as a trustee of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Bobby Blanton, senior pastor of Lake Norman Baptist Church in Huntersville, will give the nominating speech.

## Q ■ What is your vision for the BSC?

**A:** Very simply it is this – that the churches that comprise the BSC become the greatest, most potent soul-winning agent for the Kingdom of God that the world has ever seen. It is so very easy to create programs and modules that teach us the “how to.” What we need is pastors, churches, associations, and a conven-

tion with a heart that has a laser focus on Christ’s purpose for coming to earth as found in Luke 19:10: “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost.” Outside that we are doing what we want rather than what the Father has given us order to do.

## Q ■ Do you believe in the vision of the BSC?

**A:** Absolutely! I fully support Milton Hollifield and his strong vision for our state convention, but I will add that one man’s vision will accomplish very little unless we, the pastors and churches, adopt it and make it our own. Hollifield has been given an awesome view of what North Carolina Baptists can be and can become. It is my prayer that we as officers and as a convention will “hitch our wagons” to his vision and see God accomplish great and mighty works here in North Carolina.

## Q ■ Is there anything you want to share with N.C. Baptists about yourself?

**A:** Yes, I am one of you. I have been all my life. I was born and raised in the home of a North Carolina Baptist pastor and have myself been one for 34 years. I admit that I was once critical of the direction I saw the BSC going.



CJ BORDEAUX SR.

But it is a new day. A fresh breath of God’s presence has blown upon this great state, and I am convinced that God wants to do great things here.

I love being involved, and I want more than anything to help make a difference in this state for

our Lord.

I have enjoyed serving as second vice president these past two years and look forward to the possibility of helping our state move forward for the cause of our Christ. ■

## Second vice president

Timmy D. Blair, Sr. will be nominated as second vice president. He is the pastor of Piney Grove Chapel Baptist in Angier. Blair has served one other N.C. church and one in South Carolina. He attended Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute and has degrees from Luther Rice Seminary and Luther Rice University. Piney Grove Chapel has been recognized for its growth and baptisms by the BSC, and the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth of Southern Seminary. He has actively served N.C. Baptists on several committees and currently serves on the BSC Board of Directors. Lee Pigg, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, will nominate Blair.

## Q ■ What is your vision for the BSC?

**A:** My vision for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is to see our churches become passionate about reaching our communities and state with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The purpose of why we do what we do must be evangelism. Whether we are starting new churches, strengthening existing churches, reaching the various people groups that now live in our state, our passion and goal for doing these things must be presenting people with the gospel. This vision will require more than a program or quick fix. Programs are only vehicles, and a vehicle without a motor will get us no-



TIMMY D. BLAIR SR.

where. The power that can propel us is the Holy Spirit. The task before us is greater than what we can accomplish on our own.

We must get back to asking the Holy Spirit to empower us so that we are able to do the supernatural and not just what we can do. Jesus said, “... lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are white for harvest!”

## Q ■ Do you believe in the vision of the BSC?

**A:** I am very thankful to Milton A. Hollifield Jr. for sharing with us the “Seven Pillars for Ministry.” This is a very bold vision that will help guide us into the future. These seven pillars give us strong biblical principles for our convention and churches to build on, and a vision for reaching North Carolina and beyond with the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is refreshing to see our convention put evangelism at the forefront of its mission.

## Q ■ Is there anything you want to share with N.C. Baptists about yourself?

**A:** I was born in North Carolina. Out of the 27 years that I have been a pastor, 26 of those years have been in North Carolina.

I have served at the church I currently pastor for 23 years. I love the Lord and my family. The greatest accomplishment for my wife and I have been raising our two boys who we are so proud of. ■

# N.C. Baptists to embrace unreached, unengaged

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

**N**orth Carolina Baptists are stepping up their missions involvement and responding to the command in scripture to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) has approved a recommendation that calls for the BSC to serve as a catalyst for the engagement of 250 unengaged, unreached people groups over the next 10 years by BSC churches. (See story, page 1.)

While the International Mission Board (IMB) and the BSC will partner to serve as resources and connecting points, responsibility for actually engaging these groups with the gospel will reside with North Carolina Baptist churches.

"Each church involved in this effort is going to claim a specific people group and commit to seeing a church planting movement take place among that people group. Yes, this means a lot of responsibility falls to the local church. But this is the most effective and biblical way to engage these people groups," said Mike Sowers, senior consultant for the BSC Office of Great Commission Partnerships (GCP).

The BSC's primary focus will be unengaged, unreached people groups in Southeast Asia. This area will serve as the point of emphasis for training and the IMB is ready to work with North Carolina Baptist churches throughout all stages of the engagement process, from informational sessions and conference calls to vision trips and on the field training.

Although the focus is Southeast Asia, North Carolina Baptist churches are not limited to only engaging groups in this region. "This is not a partnership, but an emphasis on unreached people," Sowers said. "We want churches to go where God has called them and we will work to provide them with the resources they need."

Through the GCP office, Sowers helps connect churches in missions partnerships in areas such as Boston; New York City; Toronto, Canada; and Moldova. He helps churches extend their missions involvement beyond a one time, short-term missions trip as they develop an effective missions strategy locally and globally.

Sowers said even though the emphasis on unengaged, unreached people is not a partnership he prays churches will still approach this opportunity with the intent to be strategic and long-term.

"We want churches to help facilitate, through prayer and mobilization, a church planting movement by multiplication. We want to see disciples making disciples within a people group," he said. "A self-sustaining, disciple-making process should be taking place."

Joe Dillon, IMB missional church strategist, shared during a recent "Impact Your World: Team Leader Training" event in High Point about the importance of creating self-sustaining ministry and disciple-making instead of a dependency on outside funding, volunteers or even physical structures such as church buildings. People groups cannot depend long-term on a church in America to sustain any type of church planting movement. That type of movement must be indigenous to the people group.

"Our job is to empower these people to be a disciple-making congregation. One-on-one discipleship is how we'll saturate the culture with the gospel," Dillon said.

Dillon also pointed out that 96 percent of mission teams from the United States travel to only two percent of lostness in the world. Engaging unreached people groups will help change that statistic and help get the gospel to more people who have never heard.

During the Southern Baptist Convention in June, the IMB made a plea for all Southern Baptist churches to embrace one of the 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups in the world. Since then,

the IMB's challenge to "embrace the ends of the earth" has come with additional training opportunities and resources to help churches get started.

The IMB ([imb.org](http://imb.org)) has made available small group prayer guides, worship guides, research about different people groups, and information about national "Embrace Equipping Conferences." Two equipping conferences are being held this year, and next year the BSC will host an event May 1-2 at First Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Sowers encourages churches that want to get involved to visit the IMB website and take advantage of these resources. He also encourages churches to sign up on the IMB site to indicate that they have selected a people group, as this will allow the IMB and BSC to connect churches with resources specific to that people group. Resources are also available at [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp).

"As believers in Jesus Christ, we cannot be content knowing there are people in this world who will die without ever hearing the name of Jesus Christ even once," Sowers said. "God has commissioned us to go into the world and to share the gospel, and the command was given to go everywhere. It's disobedience not to go."

Some people groups will be harder to engage because of challenges such as travel and access to the country. Some churches may need a creative platform in order to gain permission from the government to enter the country. Safety, security and logistics are all possible challenges.

"The task before us is not easy, but Jesus never said following Him would be easy," said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer. "Our Savior did promise that He would be with us and would empower us to accomplish His purposes if we will be obedient and yield to His leading. I am trusting God to guide our churches as they seek to expand His Kingdom by taking the gos-

pel to unreached and unengaged people groups."

Hollifield said he is praying for North Carolina Baptist churches all across the state to grasp the importance, and the urgency, of what they are being asked to do. "God's plan to redeem humanity and to get the gospel message to a dying world begins with His church. If we don't go, these people groups may never hear about salvation through Jesus Christ," he said.

"If they do not hear they cannot repent and trust Jesus as Savior. And if they do not repent and trust Him, the Bible says they will spend eternity in hell. We have been entrusted with the stewardship of the gospel. We cannot keep it to ourselves when people are dying and going to hell."

Critical to the success of engaging unreached, unengaged people groups is prayer. Chuck Register, BSC executive leader for church planting and missions development, encouraged North Carolina Baptists to begin their journey of embracing a people group with prayer.

"Our destination is determined by God. He guides our path, and we must be sensitive to His leading," Register said. "We cannot depend on ourselves to accomplish this task of seeing the nations come to Christ. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us can that happen. And that begins with us humbly coming before God and pleading for Him to pour out His power and grace."

Visit [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp). ■

## Pews Steeples & Baptistries

### Quality Refinishing KIVETT'S INC.

(800) 334-1139 • Clinton, NC  
[www.kivetts.com](http://www.kivetts.com)

## Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

Enroll now for New Quarter on January 3, 2012

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Study in a rich spiritual atmosphere
- Earn an associate's degree in Religion
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- Visit our beautiful campus near Hendersonville, N.C.
- "Evening Classes" now available – Tuesday & Thursday
- For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write:

David Horton, President,  
Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute  
1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792

Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

## Carpenter Bus Sales

going the extra mile since 1953

### Lowest Payments Ever!!

Capacity	2 Years	4 Years	6 Years
15 (#111161)	\$776	\$647	\$608
26 (#10316)	\$851	\$709	\$667
33 (#11074)	\$1,540	\$1,283	\$1,207
44 (#11076)	\$1,997	\$1,664	\$1,565

- (1) Over 150 New & Used Buses in Stock
- (2) Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer
- (3) Local Warranty Program

\*Price at signing includes first payment, \$1000 exception fee with no security deposit. Tax, tags and insurance are extra. \$1,000 first mile per year per bus. Customer is responsible for engine wear and engine oil change at \$3.00 per mile in excess of the 12,000 yearly first mile. Customer pickup and return location is Franklin, TN. No sales tax included. All stock units are subject to prior sale. End of lease return fee to Carpenter Bus Sales or purchase at fair-market value. Subject to credit approval by TCF Equipment Finance.

LifeWay  
CHURCH BUS SALES  
Biblical Solutions for Life

800-370-6180 • [www.CarpenterBus.com](http://www.CarpenterBus.com)



# Marler to serve N.C. Baptists in childhood ministry

Jan Marler began Oct. 1 working with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) on a contract basis in the area of childhood ministry. Marler, a former children's specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources, has more than 25 years of experience in childhood ministry at the local church and denominational level, including the publication of several resources for children's leaders.

Marler will serve in this position until the BSC hires an individual to fill the position permanently.

"I am looking forward to developing relationships with children's ministers, and to seeing them succeed and grow spiritually," Marler said. Marler is also looking forward to helping children's ministers as they reach out to children's families.

Marler will continue to live in Nashville, Tenn., but will be available for phone calls and email consultations on issues related to preschool and children's ministry. Next year she will also lead regional workshops for childhood

ministry leaders. Areas of emphasis in the workshops will include safety and security and practical skills for children's ministers.

"Jan Marler is a most capable and personable expert with whom you will enjoy connecting," said Brian Upshaw, BSC church ministry team leader. "We still intend to hire a full-time childhood ministry consultant, but in the interim, Jan will provide us with an expert in this area who is able to field the various day-to-day questions that arise regarding children's ministry."

"Numerous studies have expressed the crisis of college students and young adults who are leaving the church.

There is a growing understanding that much of that dropout can be avoided if a firm spiritual foundation is laid in childhood," Upshaw said.

Marler can be contacted at (919) 810-1466 or [jmarler@ncbaptist.org](mailto:jmarler@ncbaptist.org). Churches can also connect with her by contacting the BSC at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5646, or [aearle@ncbaptist.org](mailto:aearle@ncbaptist.org). **B3**



JAN MARLER

## AROUND THE STATE

### Staff changes

**JEFFREY WEBSTER** has been called by English Road Baptist Church, High Point, as pastor. Webster was the student pastor at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church.

Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, has called **BOB SETZER** as pastor. Setzer was the pastor of First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, Ga.

**KENNETH BENTON** has been called to Lee's Chapel Baptist Church, Middlesex, as pastor. Benton previously pastored a church in Columbus Baptist Association.

Former *Biblical Recorder* Editor **NORMAN JAMESON** has been called to Wake Forest University as assistant dean for development of the School of Divinity.

**MATTHEW PITTMAN** has been called by Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Raleigh, as music minister.

Pittman was previously the music minister for First Baptist Church, Greenville, Ga.



AL MARGUERAT



JOE KEEN

Wake Union Baptist Church, Wake Forest, has called **AL MARGUERAT** as pastor. Marguerat most recently served Triangle Baptist Church, Triangle, Va. The church also called **JOE KEEN** as worship leader. This is Keen's first ministry position.

**ALAN RUSHING** has been called as pastor to Foundation Baptist Church, Monroe. Rushing was the interim pastor for Foundation Baptist.

Athens Drive Baptist Church, Raleigh, has called **TIMOTHY HALL** as minister to youth and young adults. Hall was children's minister of Holly Springs Baptist Church, Holly Springs.

## CHURCH NEWS



### Hampstead Baptist Church, Hampstead

Hampstead Baptist Church, Hampstead, presented a plaque naming Melvin Hall pastor emeritus on Aug. 28. Tom Mahan, right, chairman of the deacons, presents Hall and his wife, Dot, the award. Hall completed a nine-month service as interim pastor and had led the church to a renewal of their commitment to reclaim their vision and focus in service for Christ. Hall previously served as the church's senior pastor (1993-'98). Hall is the second Hampstead leader to receive the honor.

## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

### Association plans revival

Rowan Southern Baptist Association has its fall revival Oct. 24-26. All meetings will be at 7 p.m. at Faith Baptist Church in Faith.

Mark Harris, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, will be the revival pastor.

There is a nursery provided for ages up to kindergarten. Contact (704) 637-3407.

### Pastor, staff prayer retreat at Ridgecrest

Ridgecrest will host Empowered: A 2012 NC Pastor/Staff Prayer Retreat on Jan. 10-11. This is an opportunity for any ministry staff or church prayer leaders. Speakers include John Franklin, Richard Owen Roberts, Chris Schofield, James Walker and Chad Pollard. Registration is \$99 (includes accommodations and two meals). Register through Ridgecrest at (800) 588-7222. Visit [praync.org](http://praync.org).



REGISTER ONLINE FOR \$20 AT [WWW.NCBAPTIST.ORG/PRAY2GO](http://WWW.NCBAPTIST.ORG/PRAY2GO)



**Mel Blackaby**  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Jonesboro, GA



**Jay Wolf**  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Montgomery, AL



**Roy Fish**  
Professor Emeritus  
Southwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
Ft. Worth, TX



**Chris Roberts**  
Worship Pastor  
Mud Creek Baptist Church  
Hendersonville, NC



**Gary Frost**  
President  
Concerts of Prayer  
Long Island City, NY



North Carolina Baptists  
Convention of North Carolina  
(919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org)  
The mission and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Mission Offering.

**MORNING SESSIONS**  
Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute  
1455 Gilliam Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

**EVENING SESSIONS**  
Mud Creek Baptist Church  
403 Rutledge Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28739-6243



# Pitts Baptist hosts evangelism training

By TARA WILLIS | Special to the Recorder

**W**hen was the last time you heard an 8-year-old say, “Why does tomorrow night’s service have to be shorter?”

Brianna Arrowood was overheard wishing that evangelism training could last longer at the “Every Believer a Witness” series at Pitts Baptist Church in Concord.

Brianna and her mom, Hannah, were among hundreds who recently learned biblically-based, practical, and sometimes hilarious ways to approach people with the gospel in their day-to-day lives.

The life-changing seminar was taught by Dennis Nunn, founder of Living the New Life Ministries, and native of Charlotte’s Derita Community. Dennis has identified four major reasons believers don’t regularly share the gospel: apathy, ignorance, fear and powerlessness. With boundless energy and enthusiasm, he motivated listeners with practical methods to begin conversations about Jesus without fear. Attendees left empowered to share the story of how the gospel changed their lives.

“The beauty of the conference is the way it instilled a new mindset for evangelism,” said Pastor Scott Davis. “We have to get back to fulfilling the Great Commission. At church we are often so busy, so caught up in good things, that we neglect the best thing. Dennis taught the church to not be so focused on technique, but on actually doing something. Spiritual leaders or children can use these methods which are simple and transferrable.”

During the first of four evening sessions, Dennis provided a simple, biblical model and walked attendees through the composition of their own story of how Jesus came into their lives. He encouraged people to go out the following day and simply ask someone they encountered, “Can I read you my story?”

Attendees came back the following night amazed at people’s responses to their non-threatening approach. On the second evening of the conference, Dennis reminded attendees their responsibility is to simply share the gospel and that God will change hearts. Even though we should expect to face some opposition, there is no pressure to perform; God simply wants us to share what He has done for us. Using dozens of examples from his own life, Dennis spent the next session presenting many practical, intentional ways to share your testimony. He gave examples of entertaining and

relaxed conversations he has instigated with co-workers, hotel employees, servers, neighbors, friends and family. He taught how to listen for openings to share the gospel and provided tips on how to discuss faith in everyday life.

Davis is thrilled by the interest so many have shown. He said, “The evidence that people were motivated was the great attendance each night.”

The conference was well attended by all ages, and the students of the church were especially engaged. One seventh-grader shared his story with nine classmates. Gary Cline, a Sunday School teacher, had the opportunity to hear Nunn train members of Mount Vernon Baptist in Boone last year, and was anxious to invite him to Concord. Cline has found that the training has helped him look for daily opportunities to share Jesus, and he loves finding ways to connect with people.

Nunn developed the “Every Believer A Witness” training seminar seven years ago to help create and maintain a culture of witnessing and evangelism. He realized that 90 percent of Sunday morning “pew-sitters” were not sharing their faith, and he never met a pastor who was satisfied with his evangelism program. He claims, “We will never get the majority of our people witnessing, and we will never fulfill the Great Commission, until our people come to see evangelism as best done in a conversation rather than a presentation.”

With his winsome personality and contagious enthusiasm, Dennis teaches people how to start faith-based conversations every day. Pastor Davis noticed that sharing the gospel is just “part of Dennis’ DNA.”

Nunn serves as a supportive coach to everyone he encounters, modeling the principles he teaches. He traveled to the Eastern European country of Moldova last year, and shared with 400 pastors who are now very anxious to hear the full “Every Believer a Witness” seminar. As a result, Nunn’s materials are being translated into Russian.

In November, Moldovan Pastor Victor Mirza will travel to the United States to spend a week with Nunn, then return



Dennis Nunn, founder of Living the New Life Ministries, drew a crowd at Pitts Baptist Church in Concord during his “Every Believer a Witness” series. (Photo by Jonathan Turner)

home to teach fellow pastors. Visit [livingthenewlife.org](http://livingthenewlife.org) to learn more. The training can be taught by a church’s senior pastor over six Sunday mornings, or can be taught by Nunn in the Sunday through Wednesday “revival” format.

Members of Pitts Baptist have found that sharing the gospel is easy, based on

Nunn’s assertion that “everybody loves a story.” Simply consider what your life was like before you met Jesus, how you came to accept the gospel, and what Jesus Christ has done in your life since.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Tara Willis is a freelance writer from Charlotte and member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church.) **B3**

**Greetings**  
from **Smoky Mountain Christian Village**

Hello, Linda and Mary!  
You won't believe the amazing deal I discovered - gorgeous mountain chalets in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee! Our group can come during the week days, so we'll get UNBELIEVABLE discounts! Each huge chalet has a fully outfitted kitchen, allowing us to cook for our group and save even more. Also, it's a short drive to wholesome attractions and big outlet malls. Visit [www.tsmcv.org](http://www.tsmcv.org), and imagine your group enjoying fun and fall colors at Smoky Mountain Christian Village, too!

Susan

**Smoky Mountain Christian Village**  
Serving Through Hospitality

866-844-9858  
email: [info@tsmcy.org](mailto:info@tsmcy.org)  
[www.tsmcy.org](http://www.tsmcy.org)  
2525 Goldrush Rd.  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

**Call today and mention this ad for the Biblical Recorder Special Rate!**

Christian Camp and Conference Association

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



# Caraway dedicates ministers' mountain retreat

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

**D**on and Mary Ann Warren want to honor their parents and provide a place of respite for North Carolina's ministers. As chairman of Caraway's New Beginnings Capital Campaign, Don took note that the master plan included a "mountain retreat" for pastors who need a place to get away.

Although the retreat house was not scheduled until the latter part of the campaign, Warren believes it is needed now. So he and his wife gave a gift in honor of their parents so the house would be built immediately. Construction began July 15 and was completed Sept. 26. The facility was dedicated Sept. 27.

A plaque on the Powell/Warren Mountain House reads, "The purpose for

the mountain house is to provide a clean, comfortable respite for North Carolina ministers to use for prayer, bible study, sermon preparation and rest."

"Today is a new beginning at Caraway," said Director Jimmy Huffman at the dedication service. "We are at a point in our history of almost 50 years where we are starting to revisit who we are and our purpose and what we mean to North Carolina Baptists. One of the visions that we have always had is to have a place where N.C. Baptist ministers can get away and be refreshed. Today that is a reality."

The house rests atop a mountain, overlooking much of Caraway's 1,100-acres of serene landscape. Steve Garner, Caraway's operations manager, was both architect and builder for the project. Other Caraway staff, Tommy Thompson and Charles



The Powell/Warren Mountain House was dedicated Sept. 27 at Caraway Conference Center. The mountain house is meant for a minister's retreat and is part of a \$7.5-million New Beginnings Capital Campaign, which is a three-phase building plan to expand and improve Caraway. Don and Mary Ann Warren, at left, named the cabin after their parents: Curtis Warren; Grace Warren; Bluford Powell; and Madie Powell. See [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org); click "Photo Gallery." (Photos by Mike Creswell)

Bullard, assisted in the construction.

Warren told about his wife's parents, Bluford and Madie Powell of Tallassee, Ala. Bluford, a worker at the Yates Power Company, died in an auto accident when Mary Ann was 13. Her mother owned a florist, and struggled to survive after Bluford's death.

Don's parents are Curtis and Grace Warren. "Curtis Warren had to drop out of school in ninth grade because his labor was needed on the farm," he explained. "Later he joined the Navy, then worked for Tallassee Mills in Alabama as a weaver, supervisor and later a department manager."

Grace Warren was a weaver for 26 years. "Mother was an unusually talented piano player. She was the only pianist and organist that East Tallassee Baptist Church ever knew for 66 years," Don said. "Daddy was a deacon and treasurer for the same period of time."

"Mother played for the silent movies as a girl. When she received the film canister at the show house, she opened it and took out the sheet music. At certain scenes, she played the appropriate music for the silent films."

Don Warren wants N.C. Baptists to know that, "60,000 boys have come on this property to the boys camp; 7,000 of those boys have made a profession of faith. That – I submit to you – is a good investment."

Warren and Huffman recognize that pastors are very busy and carry many responsibilities. They need times to be refreshed. One pastor asked Warren how to get his name on the list to stay in the new retreat home saying, "I have not had one day off in over a year, and I would like to have a place to rest."

## New Beginnings Capital Campaign

Various opportunities are available for individuals and groups to give to the Caraway Conference Center New Beginnings Capital Campaign.

Visit [caraway.org](http://caraway.org) or [blog.caraway.org](http://blog.caraway.org) for more information. Call (336) 629-2374 or send donations to P.O. Box 36, Asheboro, NC 27204.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, real estate or other items of value can be contributed through the N.C. Baptist Foundation, 205 Convention Dr., Cary, NC 27511. Call (800) 521-7334 for more information.

Warren strongly encourages N.C. Baptists to give generously to the campaign. Individuals and churches have an opportunity to honor special people and to provide facilities where lives will be changed for generations.

Executive Director-Treasurer Milton Hollifield led the prayer of dedication saying, "This facility will be used to bring great honor and glory to God."

Pastors who are interested in using the "mountain retreat" can call Caraway Conference Center at (336) 629-2374 or email [rskipper@caraway.org](mailto:rskipper@caraway.org). You must be a N.C. Baptist minister. Your spouse may stay with you, but children may not come. The first three nights of your stay are free, and meals are free in the cafeteria when the cafeteria is serving. A pastor may stay two additional nights for \$50 each night, with a total of five nights maximum stay. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance. **BR**

# A passion for problem solving.



## Quick thinking saves the day for a youth group.

"One of our customers called me on a Saturday needing original proof of insurance cards for their vehicle — just one hour before a youth trip to Canada was scheduled for departure. I was able to print the cards, but there was no way I could get them there in time. I asked about their travel route and was able to find a Church Mutual representative who was right on the way. So I sent the cards to him overnight, and the group picked them up the next morning before reaching Canada."

Tracey Jaeger, Church Mutual Customer Service Representative

We have a passion for solving problems. Call (800) 554-2642 or visit [www.churchmutual.com/analysis](http://www.churchmutual.com/analysis) to schedule a detailed, on-site risk and insurance needs analysis. It's a value-added service we offer at no extra charge.



Listening. Learning. Leading.®



## The minister's juggling act

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

It can be easy to forget how many responsibilities a pastor juggles on a daily basis. As a pastor, he has an enormous responsibility to care for his congregation by nourishing and protecting them with the truth of God's Word. He is also charged with leading and managing the affairs of the church, while loving the people and caring for their needs.

And his duties do not end when he leaves the office. Pastors may also be husbands and fathers and face many of the same responsibilities to their families as they do to the church.

Both responsibilities demand much of a pastor's time and energy. Somewhere along the way he must also find time to nourish his own soul by maintaining his personal walk with God.

Trying to manage all the different responsibilities is difficult, yet very

important, and the key to success begins at home.

"Your marriage is your first mission field. Keep it that way," said Eddie Thompson, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) marriage and family ministry senior consultant.

Thompson speaks from experience. He served as a pastor for 15 years, during which time he learned firsthand the pressures of being a pastor. Through the years he has seen too many men in ministry fail to make their families top priority. "The demands of ministry can be overwhelming. It is so easy to give our best to other people and give our family our leftovers," he said.

The stakes are high for everyone involved. "Pastors who fail to juggle all their responsibilities run the risk of losing their families, their churches, their reputations and their careers," Thompson said.

The balancing act is not limited to full-time pastors. Anyone serving in the local church, including lay people, can find it difficult to balance their service to the church with their family responsibilities. Thompson desires to see everyone involved in ministry learn how to avoid that mistake.

As part of his effort to help, Thompson will host one of the 19 breakout sessions during the BSC Annual Meeting Nov. 7-8 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

Thompson's session, "The Minister's Juggling Act," will focus on how people involved in ministry can find the right balance when it comes to serving their families, serving their churches and living for God.

It's a balance Thompson believes too many in ministry are unprepared for. "Attempting to balance church and family life is a lot more difficult than pastors

think it is," Thompson said. "I think pastors severely underestimate how difficult it is to balance all the things of life."

All too often pastors and church leaders fail to recognize the warning signs when they begin to slip out of balance by taking on too many responsibilities at once.

It's a common mistake that Thompson believes can be avoided when leaders keep a proper perspective on their abilities.

"We are not superman. We need to check our cape at the door," he said. "We are really human beings that have limited energy and strength. We need to make sure we use what we have in a way that gives God the most glory."

For more information on marriage and family ministries contact Eddie Thompson: (800) 395-5102, ext. 5644; [ethompson@ncbaptist.org](mailto:ethompson@ncbaptist.org). Visit [ncannualmeeting.org](http://ncannualmeeting.org) for a list of other breakout sessions. **BR**

## Becoming a church for ALL people

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

It's hard to deny that North Carolina is becoming more and more culturally diverse. In recent decades the state has absorbed a tremendous influx of people from all over the United States and all corners of the globe. Many of them have put down permanent roots, forever changing the cultural landscape of North Carolina.

Ken Tan, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) multicultural team leader, believes the cultural change is a great opportunity for churches to honor Jesus Christ by intentionally becoming multicultural. "Jesus commands us to make disciples of all people," Tan said. "All means all. If we truly embrace that we will do it. That's what Christ expects from us."

Tan knows more than anyone what it takes to make a church multicultural. He came to North Carolina from Georgia five years ago after serving with the North American Mission Board. While in Georgia, he helped lead a monocultural church through the successful transition of becoming multicultural.

He understands that transitioning from a monocultural to a multicultural church is not easy, but for Tan, the reward is worth the effort. "Our churches should reflect the Kingdom of Heaven on earth," he said. "If we start doing that we will experience a taste of heaven on earth."

Tan has been encouraged by an increased effort on the part of N.C. church leaders to reach the various people groups in their individual communities.

"Multicultural was not in the vocabulary among church planters and leaders five years ago," he said. "But now people are willing to try it."

Seeing people try multicultural ministry gets Tan excited. His infectious smile and high energy reveal the depth of passion he has for seeing churches reflect the cultural makeup of their communities.

He will be sharing that passion with church leaders from all across the state at one of the 19 breakout sessions during the BSC annual meeting Nov. 7-8 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Tan's session, "How to Become a Church for ALL People," will focus on starting or transitioning to a multicultural church.

Joining Tan at the session will be former NFL player Derwin Gray. He is the founding pastor of Transformation Church in Fort Mill, S.C.; a multicultural church that has grown to nearly 1,500 members since Gray planted the church in January 2010.


Together, Tan and Gray will share from their combined knowledge and years of experience about what it takes to become a multicultural church. They will highlight the keys to success and discuss the challenges of multicultural ministry and how to overcome them. It will be an opportunity for church leaders to learn from two successful multicultural leaders and to be challenged from God's Word on why it is important to be a church for all people.

"We will provide church leaders an opportunity to engage people who have done it," Tan said. "They will leave knowing that if they want to transition their church from monocultural to

multicultural, or plant a multicultural church, that the convention will be willing to come alongside them and provide resources."

Tan believes those resources will be in greater demand in the years to come as

North Carolina moves closer to multicultural status. He wants church leaders across the state to be ready to make the transition. For more information contact Tan: (800) 395-5102, ext. 5641, or [ktan@ncbaptist.org](mailto:ktan@ncbaptist.org). **BR**



### How many North Carolina Baptists does it take to set a world's record?

Join North Carolina Baptists around the state on April 28 for the biggest nail-gun shootin', two-by-four totin', ramp-raisin' marathon this state has ever seen! Become a part of **Rampin' Up!** in conjunction with **Operation Inasmuch** and help set a record for wheelchair ramps constructed in a single day across North Carolina.

Sign up at **[www.ncoperationinasmuch.org](http://www.ncoperationinasmuch.org)**! Ramp construction training is available. Call **1.877.506.2226** for more **Rampin' Up!** information.

It all adds up!  
Together, North Carolina Baptists will make a record-setting impact!

**Operation Inasmuch**  
[www.ncoperationinasmuch.org](http://www.ncoperationinasmuch.org)

**NCBAW**  
NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST AGING MINISTRY



# 2011 Proposed Amendments to the Governing Documents from the Board of Directors

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) Board of Directors will be bringing four proposed amendments to the governing documents for consideration by messengers attending the upcoming annual meeting of the Convention, November 7-8 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. The first motion proposes to amend Article VI. Members: Composition of the Articles of Incorporation. The remaining three motions propose to amend sections within Article II. G. 2 of the Bylaws. An explanation of the proposed amendments is provided below:

## Motion One – Articles of Incorporation

The first motion applies to the BSC Articles of Incorporation, Article VI. Membership: Composition; this amendment brings clarity to the understanding of “members” and “messengers.” The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws include both terms, and the two are understood to be used interchangeably. However, to bring clarity to the matter, the addition of a statement to this effect is proposed in this amendment. There is no change to the qualifications or identification of either the members of or the messengers to the annual meeting. Mes-

sengers are reminded that the approval of this motion will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

## Bylaw Amendments

Each proposed Bylaw amendment applies to Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute (Fruitland). The Board of Directors of Fruitland adopted a revised Constitution for Fruitland earlier this year. The BSC’s Board of Directors approved Fruitland’s new governing document at its May meeting. The three proposed bylaw amendments update and make consistent the BSC’s Bylaws with Fruitland’s revised Constitution. Each motion affects a section of Article II.B.2 of the BSC’s Bylaws and will require a simple majority to be approved.

## Motion Two

Motion two specifically addresses the continuation of membership on the Fruitland Board in the event a member relocates to another area within North Carolina. The proposed amendment to Bylaw Article II. G. 2. a.(v) makes the Fruitland Board membership requirements consistent with the BSC Board of Directors membership requirements. This is important as the Fruitland Board revised the Fruitland Constitution to in-

dicate that Fruitland Board membership qualifications would follow BSC Board of Directors membership qualifications. However, the current BSC Bylaw related to Fruitland Board membership contains language that contradicts this intention. Therefore, the BSC Bylaw related to this matter should be amended to remove the contradiction.

## Motion Three

The third motion is in essence a continuation of the steps taken in motion two: to make Fruitland Board membership requirements consistent with the BSC Board of Directors membership requirements. The proposed amendment to Bylaw Article II. G. 2. a.(vi) addresses the amount of time a member on the Fruitland Board must wait until he/she can be elected to another term of service. Currently, an individual must wait only one (1) year before they can be re-elected to another term of service. However, the members of the BSC Board of Directors must wait four (4) years before they can be re-elected.

The proposed amendment changes the waiting period to four (4) years for Fruitland Board members, thus bringing the qualifications for both boards into alignment.

## Motion Four

The final motion proposes the addition of a new section: Bylaw Article II. G. 2. b.(vii) to follow current Article II. G. 2. b.(vi).

The new section provides that Fruitland shall have the same financial and personnel policies as the remainder of the BSC. In contrast to the institutions and agencies of the Convention which are separate legal entities, Fruitland is owned by and is part of the BSC.

This amendment insures that all employees of the Convention, including those at Fruitland, operate under the same personnel policies, and that all funds received or paid by the BSC are covered by the same financial policies.

The presentation of these proposed amendments to the BSC’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws has been scheduled for the Tuesday morning session (Nov. 8) of the annual meeting. The presentation will take place as part of the report from the BSC Board of Directors during that session.

If you should have questions related to these proposals, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Davis at [bdavis@ncbaptist.org](mailto:bdavis@ncbaptist.org), or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5506.

For more about the annual meeting, visit [ncannualmeeting.org](http://ncannualmeeting.org). ■

## Proposed Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

### I. Proposed Amendment to Article VI of Articles of Incorporation:

#### Motion 1

*The Board of Directors moves that the first sentence of Article VI of the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.*

#### Current Reading:

#### Article VI. Members; Composition

The Convention shall be composed of the following members described in Sections A. and B. below:

#### New Reading:

#### Article VI. Members; Composition

The Convention shall be composed of the following members described in Sections A. and B. below (which members shall be referred to either as “members” or “messengers” in the Articles and Bylaws of the Convention):

### II. Proposed Amendment to Article II.G.2.a.(v) of the Bylaws:

#### Motion 2

*The Board of Directors moves that the second sentence of Article II. G.2.a.(v) of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety.*

#### Current Reading:

- (v) If for any reason a member of the Fruitland Directors shall cease to be a member of a church cooperating with this Convention, or shall remove residence from the state, membership on the Fruitland Directors will be thereby terminated. A member whose Board membership is terminated due to relocation within the state may continue his/her membership on the Fruitland Board of Directors until that term expires. Vacancies on the Fruitland Directors shall be filled by the Executive Committee between sessions of the Board;

#### New Reading:

- (v) If for any reason a member of the Fruitland Directors shall cease to be a member of a church cooperating with this Convention, or shall remove residence from the state, membership on the Fruitland Directors will be thereby terminated. Vacancies on the Fruitland Directors shall be filled by the Executive Committee between sessions of the Board;

### III. Proposed Amendment to Article II.G.2.a.(vi) of the Bylaws:

#### Motion 3

*The Board of Directors moves that Article II.G.2.a.(vi) of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.*

#### Current Reading:

- (vi) No person shall serve as a Fruitland Director for more than one (1) four-year term, may not be re-elected to the Board until one (1) year has elapsed; and

#### New Reading:

- (vi) No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the Fruitland Board after serving a full term of four (4) years until one (1) full term has elapsed; provided, however, that any Fruitland Board member who shall have been elected to fill a vacancy of less than two (2) years shall be eligible to be re-elected to a full term; and

### IV. Proposed Amendment to Add New Article II.G.2.b.(vii) to the Bylaws After the Existing Article II.G.2.b.(vi) as follows:

#### Motion 4

*The Board of Directors moves that the following new language be added to the Bylaws to become Article II.G.2.b.(vii).*

#### New Reading:

- (vii) The Convention’s financial and personnel policies shall be Fruitland’s financial and personnel policies.



# Raising a next generation mission leader

Continued from page 2

Sowers said students will learn the answers to some key questions: What does it mean to make disciples? What is missions? What is theology? Why do we do what we do?

"They're also going to be adopting a people group to learn about and pray about," Sowers said, part of the recent emphasis by the International Mission Board and the BSC to focus on unreached and unengaged people groups. (See page 4.) Sowers said the journey will utilize leaders across the state and partnerships with the BSC to train the students.

The students will have to raise support for travel and for that year's service requirement. The first year students will be connected with a North Carolina church planter for a two-week field experience. "The second year we're going to focus on the cities," Sowers said. "We're bringing in folks from our partner areas" (New York, Boston, Toronto and Moldova). The service project most likely will be in New York or Toronto, Canada.

During the third year, students will learn about crossing cultures, security issues and how to create platforms to engage people. "We feel like they are going to have enough tools in their tool box to

impact the world," he said.

The goal of the journey, as stated in some promotional literature, is that "God will raise up a new generation of mission leaders with an unwavering passion to reach the nations with the gospel ..."

Each year the students will have to read books to discuss with each other, their mentor and the leaders. Their main text will be the Bible. The youth will read the Bible each year along with other recommended books. Sowers said students can apply for credit at The College at Southeastern in Wake Forest.

"At the end of three years we will have students that are solid in their missiol-

ogy," Sowers said. There is a disconnect for a lot of students trying to make the transition from high school to college. "There's a void," he stressed.

The reason the convention is pouring resources into ministries like this is to try to reach "these bright stars that sometimes get lost in the shuffle," Sowers said.

The next class will be accepting applications through May 30, 2012. Students must have completed their sophomore year at the time of the fall session (October 2012). Contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5654; or [msowers@ncbaptist.org](mailto:msowers@ncbaptist.org). Visit [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp) or [twitter.com/GCPartnerships](http://twitter.com/GCPartnerships). ■

## Reclaiming the younger generation: N.C. Baptists make effort ...

Continued from page 1

Corts, who began the network in 1997. Corts estimates his father's ministry impacted more than 300 N.C. pastors before his death in 2006.

Corts worked with the Baptist State Convention to get it running again. Instead of having one teacher for most of the sessions, Corts and the BSC are bringing in leaders from across the state to tackle various topics such as handling conflict, time management, building strong ministry teams, building leadership capacity, enhancing preaching skills, developing a culture of evangelism, visionary leadership and effective strategic planning, and leadership development through discipleship.

In all, 10 classes will be offered throughout the year (September-August, with two breaks).

"A lot of the questions pastors were asking reflected either a lack of experience or lack of training at the seminary level," Corts said. "It meets a direct need that pastors have."

Corts said he was contacted by Lynn Sasser, BSC executive leader of congregational services, about restarting the training. Then Corts worked with Conley to make it happen. "The beauty of TarHeel Leadership Network is you're being taught and encouraged by someone who has done it, probably failed at it and learned from it," Corts said. The pastors, who will meet the first Thursday of the month, "are a good portrait of North Carolina. Already we are seeing growth."

Trained under Mark Corts, Jack Homesley, pastor of Christ Community Church in Huntersville, said his experience with TarHeel Leadership Network "was immeasurable for me."

Young in the ministry, Homesley said he was ill-equipped to be a pastor. To be able to go to this meeting once a month

kept Homesley going in ministry those days. Homesley celebrates his 21st year at the church this year.

"It just encouraged me and strengthened me in an incredible way," he said. Homesley said he tries to give back at his church by having a pastoral internship program, sharing some of the same truths he learned years ago.

Homesley will be leading one of the sessions this year. "I'm really burdened about coming and teaching ... because it was just a blessing to me," he said.

Carl Johnson, senior pastor at First Baptist Icard in Connellys Springs, is pumped about being involved. Invited by Conley, Johnson said God seized his heart in the first 30 minutes together at the September meeting during Cort's devotional about Moses.

"Moses' issue wasn't one of leadership but one of following," Johnson said. "There's been a growing unrest in my own ministry in trying to live out what God has called me to do. As a pastor I don't want to spend the rest of my life managing a religious institution. I want to pastor a gospel-transformed community."

Corts said, "It is a great way to demonstrate that the convention is willing and ready to collaborate and invest in (pastors)."

### Roundtables

Rick Hughes, a BSC senior consultant on discipleship, draws younger leaders to his missional discipleship roundtables.

Hughes said the roundtables were "not so much giving out a tremendous amount of material but it's a discussion."

Hughes hosted one of these at the 2010 BSC annual meeting during a breakout session time.

Others were held at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and in Wilkesboro. The next is scheduled in January at

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. "I think the key is being authentic and real,"

Hughes said. "The younger leaders are not as interested in programs as they are relationships. That's what I feel the connection is."

Conley mentioned several BSC staff members available to help with church health issues and strengthening churches, including younger leaders.

"The convention is very much committed to investing not only in that

younger generation but investing in existing congregations," Conley said.

The BSC is also planning to have some other roundtable meetings, possibly in 2012. Michael Barrett, pastor of Pleasant Garden Baptist Church in Pleasant Garden, is working with BSC leaders to plan topics.

Participants would pool their knowledge and learn from one another.

Contact (800) 395-5102, or visit [ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org). ■

## how can my church collect the best offering for Baptist Children's Homes?

Houseparent David Vandy and Oak Ranch resident Mike.

Thank you for participating!

Without Baptists' support of the offering,

Baptist Children's Homes would be unable to provide ministry and care to children. The Annual Offering is vital to changing lives!

### Share the ministry with your church...

- **Kick-Off Sunday:** Designate a Sunday that marks the beginning of prayer and preparation for collecting your offering. Create a display in your church. Announce your church's collection goal. **Baptist Children's Homes' 2011 offering goal is \$1,450,000.**
- **Free Materials:** Order offering posters, the new DVD, bulletin inserts, brochures, offering envelopes, the *Charity & Children* news publication. Download multimedia slides, ads, video and other materials at [www.bchfamily.org/offering](http://www.bchfamily.org/offering)
- **Invite a Speaker:** A Baptist Children's Homes representative will come and share the ministry at your church service. **Schedule a speaker by calling 1-800.476.3669 ext. 1209.**

Baptist Children's Homes' Week of Prayer is November 13 - 20.



In this issue of the *Biblical Recorder*, we examine how the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and its churches reach and keep the younger generation. Below is an excerpt from Pillar 7:

Most revolutionaries in church life do not recognize the need to network beyond affinity groups that are much smaller than the (Southern Baptist Convention). These church leaders are intellectually astute, highly motivated and suspicious of most people over 50 years of age. They take advantage of living in the information age and believe most resources are available via the internet. They receive most of their information about Baptist life by reading internet blogs of pastors and others who spend hours writing for cyberspace audiences.

Familiar with the methodologies of other churches, many regard much of the North Carolina Baptist religious system as archaic and meaningless. Waiting for a slow process to yield results is almost unthinkable. A new generation of Baptists is coming of age, and the BSC



must learn from church leaders who are young, effective, enthusiastic and greatly devoted to Christ. They can help bridge the generation gap and work toward a renewed vision of collaboration and vitality among the churches of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Connecting with this generation of church leaders is critical for our future existence as a vital convention of Baptist churches.

*"Are we a denomination of Pauls and Timothys or are we becoming more generationally fractured to the point where there is decreasing cooperation in reaching people for Christ?"*

— Thom S. Rainer, president & CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources



The *Biblical Recorder* staff, with help from Baptist State Convention leaders and churches, is highlighting each of the pillars adopted as the focus for the convention. This issue: pages 1-2 and 10-17.

1. Practice fervent prayer — July 23 issue
2. Promote evangelism & church growth — Aug. 6 issue
3. Strengthen existing churches — Aug. 20 issue
4. Plant new multiplication churches — Sept. 3 issue
5. Increase work with the international community — Sept. 17 issue
6. Escalate technology improvements & upgrade the web site — Oct. 1 issue
7. **Reclaim the younger generation of church leaders — This issue**

Has your church benefitted in any of these areas from the Convention? What resources have you found useful? Email [dianna@BRnow.org](mailto:dianna@BRnow.org) or call (919) 847-2127.

All these pillars are available online at [BRnow.org/resources/SevenPillars.aspx](http://BRnow.org/resources/SevenPillars.aspx).

If you have questions about how your church can work on any of these areas, contact the Baptist State Convention at (800) 395-5102 or visit [ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org).

## Leader: Reaching 20-somethings key to modern-day ministry

By LAURA MOORE | BR Editorial Aide

**"**If we don't get some 20-somethings we might not exist in 10 years," one pastor admitted at the "Reaching and Keeping 20-Somethings in Your Church" training session at the Raleigh Baptist Association's "Training Extravaganza" earlier this year.

Kelton Hilton, director of missions for Johnston Baptist Association, said his home church's college and career class had completely died over the summer.

These are problems that many of today's aging churches face.

Travis Williams, one of the pastors of Treasuring Christ Church (TCC) in Raleigh — a church of primarily young adults — offered a few key factors people in their 20s are looking for in a church.

Not only are these key factors that 20-somethings are looking for, but they are all steps that churches should be taking anyway to better reflect Christ's model of the church.

### Community

Speaking of 1 Peter 4:9 and 5:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:15 and others, Williams said, "A lot of the commands we have are community based."

Working to build a stronger community within your church is a win-win

because 20-somethings are seeking community, and the Lord commands believers to be a part of it.

One very impactful way that TCC does this is through community groups. The church's community groups range from eight to 15 people and typically meet one evening of the week to confess sin, pray together, have fellowship meals, etc. These are communities where people are seeking to go deep with each other, and that's different from what most Sunday School classes do. They do life together.

### Visible humility in leaders

Twenty-somethings see any leader pretending to know something that they really don't as a problem with pride.

They want to see their church leaders resembling Christ's model of humility such as in Philippians 2.

How do you develop humility in the spiritual leaders of your community?

Start asking people if they would become a mentor to someone in a younger generation.

Mentoring in itself can be humbling. They will find themselves sharing about mistakes they've made and trials they've

been through.

It's also important for leaders to invite people to correct them. Twenty-some-

things find it a very appealing quality to see a pastor who openly asks his congregation to show him anything they suspect is a recurring sin pattern in his life.

### Visible joy in God

Twenty-somethings are very open about their emotions and affections, Williams said, "But the challenge is many people in other generations don't enjoy showing affections ... It is biblical to be delighting in God, and that's what 20-somethings want to see."

Not only are they looking for delight in the Lord through the actions of church members, but they want to hear about it in teaching.

"Are you preaching to people encouraging them to do better or are you preaching magnifying who God is?" Williams said.

At his own church, the lessons are focused around helping people to see how wonderful God is, allowing that to stem into all aspects of life such as marriage and money.

For example, people can honor God with their purchases because they know more about who God is.

### Hands on ministries

As Jesus reached out to the outcasts in his time, "people in their 20s tend to want to reach people in

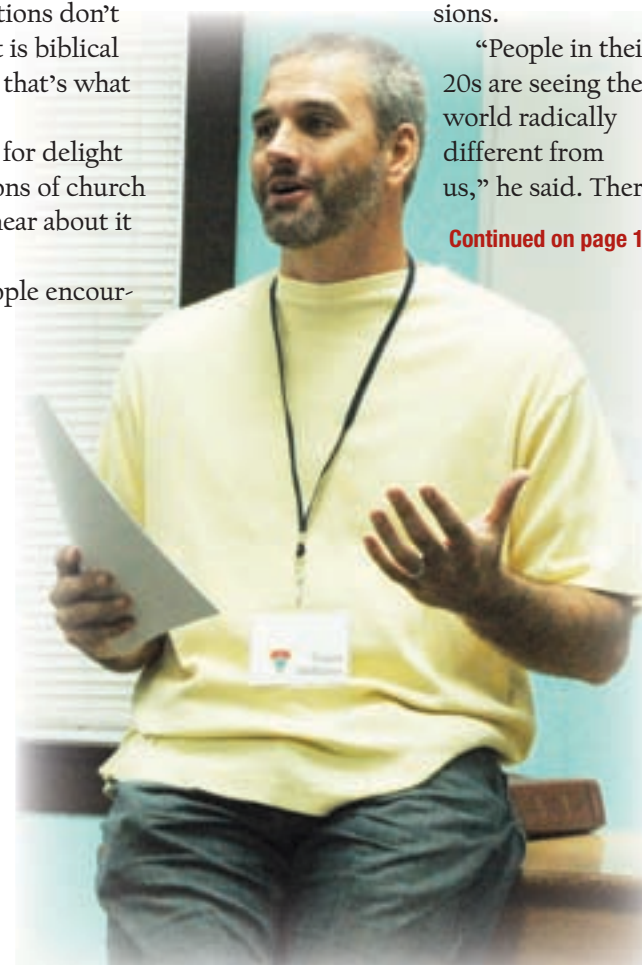
that society" as well, Williams said. His suggestion is to incorporate hands on ministries that agree with what Jesus was doing.

This includes an international spreading of the gospel.

People in their 20s travel a lot more than past generations have. They are more interested in international missions.

"People in their 20s are seeing the world radically different from us," he said. There

Continued on page 19



Travis Williams, a pastor of Treasuring Christ Church in Raleigh, leads a seminar about 20-somethings. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

**"Are you preaching to people encouraging them to do better or are you preaching magnifying who God is?"**  
— Travis Williams



# Celebrating what really matters in the lives of your children

**P**arents celebrate all kinds of things in the lives of their children: academic accomplishment, athletic ability, civic recognition, etc. Further, our children are most inclined to pursue the things we celebrate. If we celebrate their athletic ability, they will strive to be better athletes. If we celebrate their academic accomplishments, they will pursue academic excellence. These accomplishments, in and of themselves, are not bad. As Christian parents, however, our responsibility is to help them understand what is really important in life and to direct their pursuits accordingly.

## The goal

The most important thing we can model, and encourage our children to pursue, is living our lives for God's glory by loving Him supremely and serving Him faithfully. We model this by telling our children of our love for God and showing that love for Him by living our lives for His mission. In other words, our children see us living not for time, but for eternity; not pursuing things the world says are important, but pursuing God's mission and what He says is important. We encourage our children to live this way as we equip them to know and love God and celebrate their progress in serving Him.

## An example

We had the opportunity to celebrate such an occurrence in the life of our oldest son (recently). There were many things we could have celebrated. He decided that, rather than playing football, he would rather focus on school work and spending more time with family, including extended family in Alabama. He is growing in personal responsibility as well. He got his driver's permit, and flew to Alabama by himself, including having to make a connection in the Atlanta airport. All of those accomplishments are worthy of celebrating.

The thing that brought the greatest joy to my heart, however, was the text message I received when he landed in Alabama. It read, "... (I) witnessed to a guy this past flight. :)" I promptly sent back a message saying I wanted to hear about it. (Later) he told me about his conversation with (this) man in his late 50s who was travelling to Alabama for his business. The conversation started by Josh describing the difference in flying time to Alabama, versus flying to El Salvador. This allowed Josh to share not only about El Salvador, but about his

purpose for going. In this conversation, Josh was gracious but thorough. When Josh asked the man if he had surrendered his life to Christ, the man shared with him about being baptized as a child. Josh responded, "you do understand that baptism does not save you, right?" The conversation continued amiably, concluding with the man indicating that he had a relationship with Christ and Josh admonishing him to spend time daily in God's Word and in regular fellowship with other believers in a local church. When they got off the plane, the man left thanking Josh for sharing with him in this way.



**RANDY MANN**  
Guest Column

Needless to say, I was more proud of my son than words could express. I celebrated his faithfulness to live as a follower of Christ

and encouraged him to continue allowing God to use his life for God's glory. The point of writing this post is not to say that Melanie and I are perfect examples of Christian parents. We are not. We often blow it. Just ask our kids. My point is not to say that Josh is the perfect example of a Christian teenager. He doesn't always get it right either. My point is simply this. We are normal parents with a normal son who are seeking together to glorify, trust and serve a great God who is faithful to do what He says He will do when we simply walk in obedience to Him.

## An admonition

For those of you who have kids, I would encourage you to:

1. Let your children see you glorifying God with your life by loving God supremely and serving Him faithfully.
2. Encourage your children to live their lives for God's glory in all things, rather than simply pursuing temporal accomplishments. Let them see you pursuing this priority in your life as well.
3. Pursue spiritual growth together as a family, hearing from each other and praying for each other.
4. Celebrate spiritual successes. And, with the same fervency, hold one another accountable and encourage one another.

As parents, we have no greater responsibility than leading our children to know, love, obey and glorify God with all of their lives. At the same time, we have no greater joy than celebrating the obvious progress we see them making toward that end.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Randy Mann is minister of education and evangelism at Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Raleigh. He is writing the Explore the Bible Sunday School lessons for the Recorder. He blogs at [randymann.net](http://randymann.net).) **BR**



Rachel Lee Carter feels God is using her profession to reach others for Christ. (Contributed photos)



# Modeling modesty

My story:  
Rachel Lee Carter

**Q:** Tell a little about your background. How did you come to know Christ?

**A:** My senior year of high school, when most girls are preparing to go to college, I was shuttling back and forth to New York City to model for magazines. Though I had grown up going to church, I hadn't really given my life to God. I acted one way at church and another the rest of the week.

After graduating, I moved to New York in hopes of "making it big."

At first I thought I was living a life of freedom – doing anything I wanted without having to report my activities to anyone or without having to ask permission to do anything I wanted to do.

I thought I had the world by the tail, but it had me. I was full of pride. I was going places I shouldn't have been going, doing things I shouldn't have been doing, with people I shouldn't have been with.

Everything on the outside looked fine, but on the inside I was miserable and empty. In the still of the night, my heart ached for a relationship with the Jesus that I learned about as a child. I remembered half-heartedly making a decision to follow Jesus years before, but my choices did not reflect that I was born again.

God's love for me poured out as He intervened and began taking things out of my life that were separating me from Him. I started gaining weight, my skin began to break out, bookings were few and far between, and my bank account began to dry up.

On a rare booking, I met two Christian models who shared similar stories of running from or questioning God. Their transparency comforted me. They encouraged me to confess my doubts to God and tell Him I was searching for truth.

I ached for what they had.

It took me getting honest with myself before I was able to get honest with God. That night, I realized I didn't deserve God's favor or His heaven. I read John 3 and Romans 6:23 over and over. I was a sinner and a hypocrite. But it was the best realization I could have had – after all, a person can't be found if he doesn't know he is lost. So, as a broken, humbled 19-year-old, I prayed to receive this gift of God – to be born again – and He changed the course of my life forever.

After that, I left modeling to go to Word of Life Bible Institute to better prepare myself for where God would send me next. Little did I know that He

**R**achel Lee Carter is a conference speaker, Bible teacher, author and international professional model. As a modesty conscious model of more than 20 years, Carter has worked for clients such as Cover Girl, Tommy Hilfiger, Reebok, Jones New York, Perry Ellis, Chico's, DKNY, and many others. She is a graduate of the Word of Life Bible Institute in Schroon Lake, N.Y., where she studied systematic theology and Bible survey. After hearing God's call on her life as a professional Christian model, she re-entered the fashion industry.

Rachel is the president of Modeling Christ (*ModelingChrist.com*), an organization addressing the issues and needs of both participants in the modeling industry and the world it influences. She has become a popular women's and youth conference speaker addressing issues like modesty, purity, evangelism and embracing one's past. She is also a former contestant of the Miss Teen USA and Mrs. United States pageants. She wrote *Fashioned by Faith: An International Model Uncovers the Truth about Modesty and Style*, (Thomas Nelson, May 2011). Rachel and her husband, Daryl, are members at Tri-City Baptist Church in Conover.

would send me back into modeling where my industry would become my ministry.

**Q:** How has your career contacts broadened your ministry reach?

**A:** I have unprecedented access into the fashion industry to share Christ with make-up artists, photographers, stylists and other models. I'm like a mobile-missionary. Wherever the booking, whomever the client, that's my assignment.

**Q:** Why do you think your talks, books, etc., seem to strike a chord with women and young ladies today?

**A:** We all know the fashion industry has influence on our society, but as a professional model, I can use that influence in a positive way. Women and girls are eager to hear what I have to teach them about fashion, so I use that opportunity to share with them the specifics of how they can be stylish while maintaining their integrity through modesty. I also share my experiences in the fashion industry and how God has used those events to teach me about His love, forgiveness and purpose for my life.

**Q:** What do you think it will take to reach and keep the younger generation now?

**A:** Transparency. The Bible teaches us to boast not in ourselves, but in the cross, and in our weaknesses. When we share truth with anyone – especially the younger generation – coupled with real life experience and transparency, people respond.

The problem is, teens don't think we understand what they're going through because we typically cover up where we've been. This doesn't mean we share sordid details of our lives in sin, but we can admit failures and how God is still in the business of resurrecting.

**Q:** Do you think it would have caught your attention at a younger age?

**A:** Yes. In my teen years, 20s or today, I still look for authenticity. Anyone can tell us how we're supposed to be, but give me someone who has lived it and can share that journey with me. That gives me hope that I can do the same. As a speaker – on or off the stage – authenticity and transparency are two of the greatest tools I have to effectively share Christ.

**Q:** As a part of your ministry, modesty plays a huge role. Why do you think it's important?

**A:** Most women know they're supposed to dress modestly, but few know how or why. I start with God's mandate on modesty through His Word, and then go into detail about how we as women can apply that to our hearts and our hemlines. Specifics on wardrobe tweaking, male testimonials and strategies on dressing and shopping are also involved.

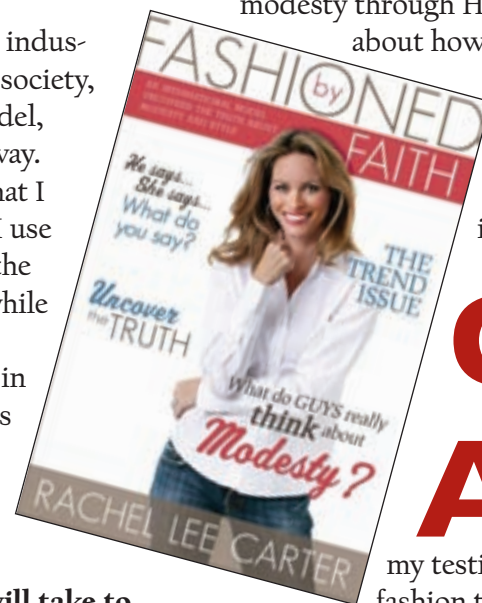
**Q:** How did your book come about? What has been the response?

**A:** I have been speaking on modesty for some time, but I wanted to provide my testimony, experience and modesty fashion tips along with God's Word and guys' perspectives all in one resource: *Fashioned by Faith* (Thomas Nelson, 2011).

The response has been great, including a large amount of media exposure. It's humbling, and I'm grateful.

**Q:** What are your goals for the future?

**A:** Right now, I am spending much of my time speaking in churches and at youth and women's groups throughout the state and country. By focusing on modesty, we can put together fashion shows, mother-daughter banquets, retreats or conferences. In the future, I will still be speaking, but would also love to expand our ministry by creating a fashion label. Because I'm just as passionate about promoting purity, I'm also working on my next book surrounding that theme. **BR**





# Youth workers urged to use influence to guide next generation

By KELLY SHROUT | LifeWay Communications

**P**ete Wilson, founding and senior pastor of Cross Point Church in Nashville, Tenn., believes influence is a gift from God, and one that must be cultivated.

Speaking to student ministers during the opening night of LifeWay's National Youth Worker's Conference held Sept. 12-14, Wilson exhorted the crowd to cultivate the gift of influence by living authentically, loving deeply and lavishing hope.

Wilson examined how influence, the theme of the three-day conference held at the home office of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn., has the propensity to change the lives of young people.

"Live authentically," Wilson said. "Your young people want to see that you don't have it all together. They need to see that we are all sinners saved by grace."

Wilson also challenged the youth workers to love deeply.

"We need to care more about making a difference than making a point," Wilson said, mentioning that Jesus often created an environment where people could belong before they believed.

"Grace with footnotes, asterisks or prerequisites is anything but grace," he added.

Concluding his remarks,

Wilson pressed the ministers to lavish hope on students in their care.

"Don't ever give up on them," he said. "Part of my job as a pastor is defining reality and using my influence to reveal possibilities. Practice the art of possibilities with your students. Show them what their lives could be like with Christ. Show them what they might not be able to see on their own."

Heath Eslinger, head coach of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, spoke from Matthew 5 and addressed how Christ changed the attitudes of those in his circle of influence.

In the same manner, he said, youth workers must change the attitudes of those with whom they work.

"We change the attitudes with education," Eslinger said. "Jesus began by addressing issues that needed to be addressed."

Beyond education, Christ also demonstrated the truths He proclaimed and urged His followers to go and share the gospel.

"Set up an infrastructure for people to be successful and tell them to go and do it," Eslinger said.

Nate Carr, 1988 Olympic Medalist in wrestling, taught a breakout session on how prayer is essential to gaining influence.

"As an athlete, I needed a strong body, strong mind and strong heart," Carr said. "When I gave my life to Christ, God told me that I needed to change my training ground. God told me to leave the gym and train with Him."

Spiritual training begins with prayer, Carr said. Carr shared his testimony of how spending hours in prayer changed his life and broadened his influence.

"As you spend time in prayer, you can't remain the same," he said. "Your circle of influence will grow and your relationships will heal. Prayer keeps you focused

and brings things out of your heart."

Carr encouraged the youth workers to fervently pray for their students and to "take the faces of your young people with you as you bring them before the Lord."

Author and speaker Kelly Minter offered insights from Nehemiah.

"You are people who have chosen the hard job, much like Nehemiah," she said. "When your students see the level of sacrifice you have made for them, you will be able to influence them as far as the eye can see."

Minter encouraged the youth workers to care deeply about the things of God.

"It is virtually impossible to influence people about things we don't care about," she said. "We have to be people of God's heart. We see in Nehemiah that before anyone can have an influence, they must care."

David Cook, sports and performance psychology expert, shared how God called him to use his influence to write a book, *Golf's Sacred Journey: Seven Days at the Links of Utopia*, which ultimately turned into a Christian film "Seven Days in Utopia" starring Robert Duvall. "Don't get struck by fear," Cook told the student workers. "Remember that one life can change someone's eternity."



Nate Carr, left, 1988 Olympic medalist in wrestling, teaches a breakout session on how prayer is essential to gaining influence. Jeff Pratt, LifeWay student ministry, joins him. (Photo by James Yates)

The conference concluded with a presentation from LifeWay's President and CEO Thom S. Rainer and his youngest son Jess Rainer, administration and outreach pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., that focused on the Millennials, the generation born between 1980-2000.

The father-son team shared insights from a book they cowrote: *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation*. (See story, page 15.)

Featured musicians: The Chris White Band and Jake Gullledge. The Skit Guys, a Christian comedy and drama duo, performed and served as conference hosts. **BR**

## Study probes why college students leave church

By PIET LEVY | Religion News Service

**M**illions of college freshmen are overwhelmed right now trying to make new friends, adjusting to more rigorous school work and learning to live away from home. Whether they also find time for church during their first two weeks on campus will set the mold for the rest of their college years, according to new research.

These findings come from a six-year study of approximately 500 Christian youth group members, conducted by Fuller Theological Seminary's Fuller Youth Institute in Pasadena, Calif.

The study's results were released Sept. 17 in *Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids*.

The book examines why, according to a 2006 report by Christian research firm Barna Group, 61 percent of 20-somethings who regularly attended church as teenagers later left the pews.

The study implies that parents and church leaders need to do a better job preparing high school seniors to maintain their faith. Only one out of every seven students surveyed said they were well equipped for college, and less than 50 percent of seniors with doubts talked about them with others, said Kara Powell, executive director at Fuller Youth Institute, and co-author of *Sticky Faith*.

What also hinders students is being too dependent on youth faith group worship. Nearly 60 percent of se-

niors surveyed attended intergenerational worship and possessed a higher faith maturity in college, Powell said.

Nevertheless, 40 percent of freshman said they had difficulty finding a church in college, Powell said, and students' perception of faith made it all too easy for them to shove it aside.

"Students' view of faith was that it was like a jacket, something they can take on and off if they feel like it," Powell said.

"One of the heartbreaking things, and why that two-week window is so influential, is that students feel guilty when they make mistakes and feel hypocritical and so full of remorse that they don't feel like they can then show up at church."

Powell suggested that parents share their own transitional experiences, and discuss their mistakes and good choices, so their kids can trust to share their concerns and struggles with them.

Parents should also go visit churches with their kids near their college campuses, or visit new churches close to home, to prepare them for finding a new place of worship.

Youth pastors should also nudge seniors to think about what they should look for in a new church and how they can be active Christians in college, said Jonathan Morrow, a youth-oriented equipping pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and author of the book *Welcome to College: A Christ-Follower's Guide for the Journey*. **BR**





# Rainers: Millennials must see relevancy in their faith

By KELLY SHROUT | LifeWay Communications

**T**he Millennial generation will not accept business as usual when it comes to matters of Christianity. They must know that their faith makes a difference.

Thom S. Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, and his son Jess Rainer, administration and outreach pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., unpacked valuable data about Millennials during LifeWay's National Youth Worker's Conference.

The three-day event held Sept. 12-14 at LifeWay's home office in Nashville was geared to help leaders develop the spiritual lives of students in their ministries. It featured experts in student ministry and 34 breakout sessions relevant to youth work.

Millennials, described as the group born between the years 1980-2000, follows Generation X and is the largest generation in American history.

Despite being more than 78 million strong, only 15 percent of Millennials profess to be Christian, a trend the Rainers hope to reverse by educating leaders on how to reach them.

"This generation is making a huge impact," Jess said, citing the example of the number of Millennials who participated in the 2008 presidential election. "They are sending shockwaves through out global society."

Jess explained that the older half of the generation is exiting college and are "redefining adulthood," determined to make a statement.

The youngest members of The Millennials are 10-year-old future leaders, and this is where youth workers fit in.

To help youth ministers grapple with the realities of this generation, Jess unpacked five defining characteristics of Millennials.

The characteristics are based on research from *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation*, a book Jess

coauthored with his father. After interviewing 1,200 Millennials, the Rainers discovered generational distinctives.

First, Millennials are both a hopeful and self-burdened generation. An overwhelming 96 percent of respondents believe they will do something great in their lifetime.

"You are in a great place at a great time because even though a low percent of this generation is Christian they are a generation that is ready to make a difference," Thom said.

Growing up as a Millennial, Jess said he heard that he could do anything he wanted to do. Success was achievable, and he was responsible for making the world a better place. For Millennials, this burden to make a difference comes from within, Jess described.

Second, Millennials are technologically and social media savvy. Of the 1,200 Millennials surveyed, 70 percent said their cell phones are a vital part of their lives.

"Technology is huge for this generation," Jess said, mentioning that more than half of Millennials are active users of Facebook.

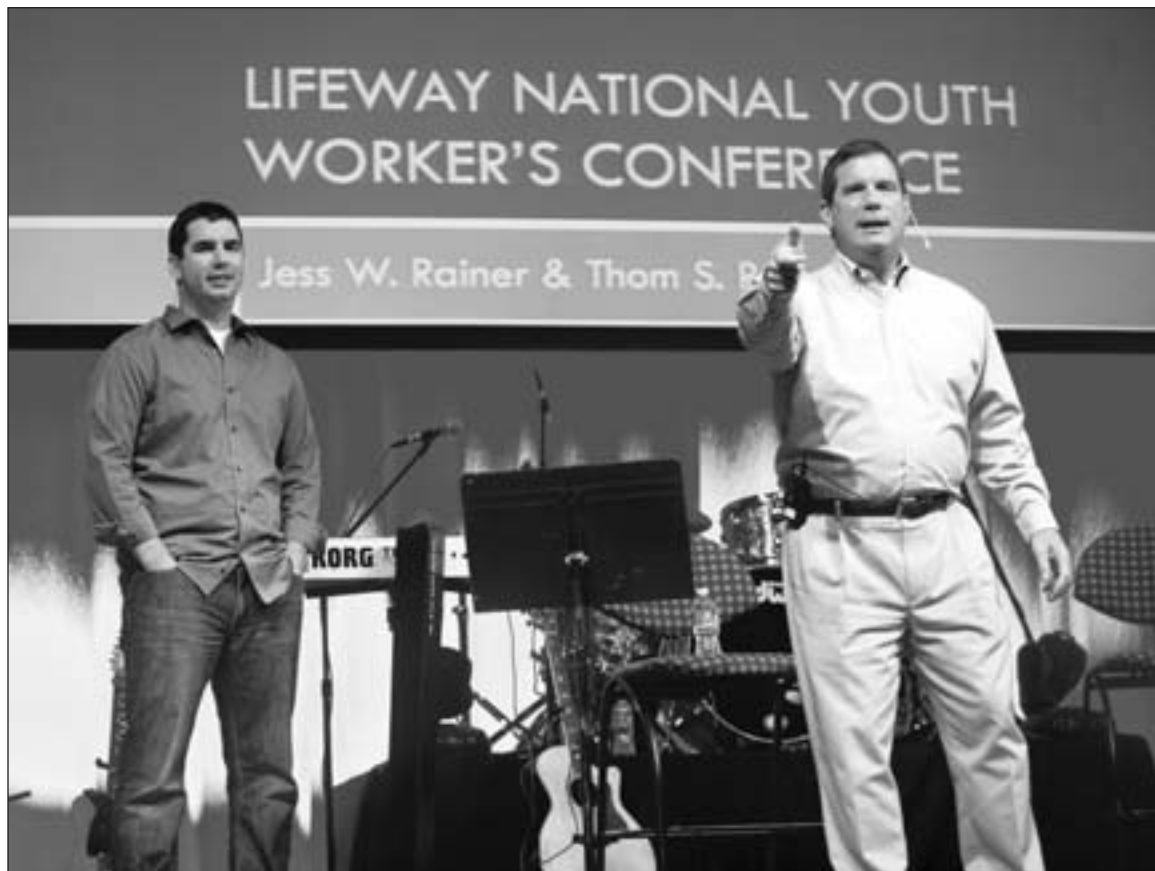
"Social media is an intricate part of their lives."

Third, Millennials value learning through formal and informal education.

"The Millennials are the most educated generation in American history," Jess said.

Beyond formal degrees, Millennials value informal education through mentorships.

"We as Millennials want someone to invest in our lives," he said. "We want people to come alongside us and mentor



Thom S. Rainer, right, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, and his son Jess Rainer, administration and outreach pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., unpacked valuable data about Millennials during LifeWay's National Youth Worker's Conference in Nashville, Tenn. (Photo by James Yates)

us. This is where youth workers come in."

Fourth, Millennials are disconnected spiritually. More than that, Millennials are disconnected religiously, Thom explained.

The Boomer generation, the group born between the years 1946-1964, began to move toward antagonism toward Christianity, Thom said.

"We were the generation that doubted institutions like church and government," he added. "We began to have a negative attitude toward Christianity. At least when you're antagonistic you are engaged. This generation, as a whole, is so disconnected that their attitude is not antagonism, it's apathy. Therefore, you cannot expect them to show up in church because they are supposed to."

This is a generation that needs to hear that faith makes a difference, he added. "This is a generation that is not going to be satisfied with 'churchianity' as usual," Thom said. "They're not going through the motions like what much of my generation has done in the name of Christian faith."

Showing them the relevancy of faith is key to reaching Millennials.

"That means that faith has to make a difference in their community and to the nations," Thom said.

Fifth, the Rainers explained that

relationships are paramount to Millennials, with 61 percent of respondents citing their family as their most important relationship.

"There's nothing more important to Millennials than family," Jess explained. "If you're wondering where to start with Millennials, start with their family."

The Rainers ended by challenging the youth workers to reach both the Christian and non-Christian Millennials.

For Christian Millennials, leaders must reject status quo, inward focus and superficiality. "Millennials want to dive in deep," Jess said. "They realize that life is brief. They want to get to work."

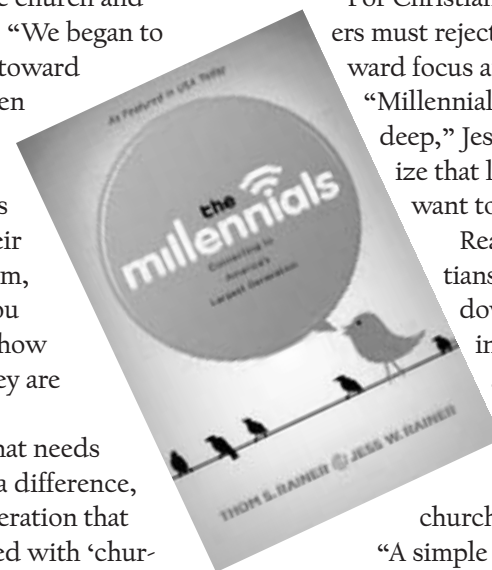
Reaching non-Christians means tearing down the wall of indifference. Jess also encouraged youth workers to simply invite Millennials to church.

"A simple invitation goes a long way," Jess said, adding that humility and transparency also help to reach non-Christians.

"Just remember that Millennials are connected through media and committed to family and peers," he added.

"You are in a great position of leadership with this generation," Thom said. "If they come to know Christ, they can turn the world upside down." ■

**"This generation is making a huge impact. They are sending shockwaves through our global society."**  
— Jess Rainer



**Interstate Transportation Equipment, Inc.**

The South's Oldest Bus Company Since 1947

interstatetransportation.com

New and Used Buses

Financing Programs Available

HIGH POINT, NC • 800.726.0779



# Reclaiming the younger generation of church leaders

The seventh pillar for ministry for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) elicited much discussion during the Vision Fulfillment Forums that were conducted across North Carolina this year. Various questions were raised related to convention efforts to engage young leaders, but underlying each was a single emphasis: “The convention must take bold steps to engage young leaders in convention missions and ministries.”

Since 2006, the convention during its annual meeting has seen a significant increase in young church leaders participating in the program. In 2006, seven individuals under the age of 40 were involved in the proceedings, and in 2010 that number increased to 16. Efforts have also been made to enlist individuals with whom many younger leaders resonate to address the convention messengers.

The convention is served by a board of directors and various committees that do the work of the convention between its annual meeting. Therefore, another valid question is, “What are the convention’s board and committees doing to engage young leaders?”

In 2006, the committee on nominations included 20 members, yet only three were 40 or younger when elected; that’s 15 percent of the committee’s membership that year. In 2011, the committee included 22 members and seven members were 40 or younger when elected; that’s 31 percent of the committee.

A comparison and contrast of the board’s composition in 2006 and 2011 shows the board now enjoys a greater number of young leaders. In 2006, the board included seven members who were

40 or younger when elected. The number of board members in 2006, excluding *ex-officio* members, was 103; meaning that six percent of the board members were 40 or younger when elected. Fast forward to 2010, and the change is striking. In 2011, 32 members of the board were 40 or younger when elected to serve. The current number of board members is 112, excluding *ex-officio* members, meaning 28 percent of the members were under age 40 when elected.

The board then elects from among its membership an executive committee. While the board meets quarterly, this committee meets as many as 10 times per year. In 2006, the executive committee did not include a single member from the board who was 40 or younger when elected. However, the 2011 executive committee includes six members, or 37 percent, who were 40 or younger when elected.

Another valid question to ask is, “Is the convention employing younger staff?” Since 2006, as vacancies have occurred, 12 program staff positions have been filled by individuals who were 40 or younger when hired. I am included in that number; I was 36 when hired.

But the employment of younger leaders in convention service is not enough.

The convention staff has employed a “lens” through which we are trying to examine each ministry offering. Our staff members are expected to review current efforts and plan new efforts with younger church leaders in mind. Therefore, we utilize technology, address topics and

issues, and communicate from a perspective that we hope younger leaders appreciate. Convention staff realizes that



**BRIAN DAVIS**  
Guest Column

younger church leaders will seek resources and seek to network with ministries that share like vision and philosophy, even if that means leaving traditional networks. The BSC and the Southern Baptist Convention are only examples of the many ministries with which younger leaders network; we no longer are the exclusive network for missions and ministries.

However, and this fact cannot be lost, the greatest change agent in Baptist life is the local church. Therefore, we must ask, “What are the conventions churches doing to engage young leaders?” While some might be tempted to simply reply, “We’ve called a young preacher!” that response is incomplete. The local church must do more to connect because it is the place where young leaders develop. That development must begin before a young person begins to wrestle with a potential call to ministry.

Considering a few questions may

help churches wrestle with how they will engage young leaders. First, does your church have a plan for identifying potential leaders among its teenagers and intentional steps to develop them spiritually for future leadership? Second, who are the leaders who possess the wisdom and discernment to help a young person wrestle through God’s plan? Third, once a young person expresses a sense of calling, what steps does your church take to prepare them?

There is neither a silver bullet nor a one-size fits-all approach that churches must employ to engage the next generation of church leaders. Depending on context, culture and community, each local church may approach this matter uniquely. However, what is of great importance is that each church engage, develop and involve the next generation of church leaders before they disengage from the church. Convention staff does not have all of the answers, but we stand ready to assist each congregation in this endeavor.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Brian K. Davis is executive leader for administration and convention relations at the BSC.) ■

## Brian Davis’ recommended resources

1) *Mentor Like Jesus* by Regi Campbell

2) *Transparenting – Mentoring the Next Generation* by Steve Keels and Dan Vorm. This book is great for parents/churches to get them thinking about their mentoring of pre-adolescents.

3) **Building Church Leaders website** ([buildingchurchleaders.com](http://buildingchurchleaders.com)) has a tab titled “Leadership” and a selection titled “Raising Up New Leaders” that often has good entries challenging churches and ministry leaders in identifying, developing, and mentoring young leaders.

4) *Christianity Today’s Leadership Journal* offers articles on mentoring young leaders. Visit [christianitytoday.com/le/resources/mentoring.html](http://christianitytoday.com/le/resources/mentoring.html).

## Investing in the future

Throughout the beginning of my journey in pastoral ministry I was blessed to have older, godly men in my life. These men came alongside me and listened to me, prayed with me and taught me from God’s Word. They were friends as well as teachers.

I am thankful to God for these people. But I must tell you that I did not seek out these relationships; these men came to me. They sought me out and let me know they wanted to invest in my life.

If we are truly going to reclaim a generation of young leaders we must go to them. We must reach out to them and be sure they understand that we want to know them.

They need to know we value them as an equal in Christian ministry. It’s about truly investing in their lives.

If something doesn’t change we’re go-

ing to be in trouble in the near future. If you look around your church this Sunday many of you will notice more older adults in attendance than younger adults.

Although we have made great progress in recent years involving younger leaders in our state convention’s annual meeting, we still have much room for improvement.

I do not believe the reason younger leaders are not more involved is because they do not care. I believe they do care, and care a great deal, about advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ here and around the world. Yes, I recognize that some of their methods and ideas do not always match my preferences and opinions, but

that does not necessarily mean they are wrong. There are many good things we can learn from them. Must we remind



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

ourselves that Jesus was around 30 years of age when He began His earthly ministry? The traditional church leaders of that day thought His belief system was very radical.

The problem is, we do not always do the job we should in helping the younger generation of Christ followers understand our vision and purpose. Young leaders want to invest their time in what they believe is really important – in what is eternal.

They want to be involved in outreach that is focused on the gospel. They want to be involved and invest, but

they must be convinced that it’s all for Kingdom purposes.

Our future depends on engaging young leaders. Our state is full of passionate, young leaders who love Jesus and His church.

This year I encourage you to bring a younger leader with you to our annual meeting Nov. 7-8. But please, do more than that. Please listen to them and get to know them. Yes, you can teach them some things. They can also teach you many things. They can bring a fresh perspective and renewed passion that many of us so desperately need. Invest your life in them as an investment in our future as Baptists. ■

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

– 1 Timothy 4:12



# Are we willing to reach them?

**T**he last of the seven pillars may be called a “no brainer,” but you may not know it by observing the way many churches operate. It is time to look carefully at how (or if) we are impacting all generations.

Our sin nature is programmed for an inward, selfish focus. That nature craves personal satisfaction. It demands that I have my way, and that those in my circle submit to my preferences. We believe that our way of doing things is the “right way.” It is the way we grew up; it is the way we were taught; it is the way we have always done it. And, that makes it right – at least in our own eyes.

As those desires spill over into the workings of our churches, spiritual vitality is not only quenched, it is destroyed. Strong-willed sinners can easily dominate the direction of a local church, closing the door to the lost and shutting out the younger generation. When the doors of the church eventually close, everyone asks, “What happened?”

Rob Zinn, the pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif., preached the convention sermon at the 2007 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. In his message, he asked a probing question. “Would you give anything to save the life of a son or daughter if you have the power to do so? If your grandson was dying of a disease, and you could change that by sacrificing a kidney or donating bone marrow, would you do it?” The obvious answer is, “Of course!” A hard-hitting question followed. “If your son’s, daughter’s or grandchildren’s eternity could be determined by your willingness to give up your choice of Christian music or your style of worship would you be willing to surrender your preferences for their spiritual needs?”

That is convicting! What am I willing to do, without compromising biblical truth, for the sake of reaching the next generation? Be careful how you respond

to Zinn’s challenge. We cannot equate our preferences with biblical truth.

Preferences are preferences, and they are temporal. Truth is truth, and it is eternal.

I would like to offer three words for a practical course of action in reaching the younger generation.



**K. ALLAN BLUME**  
Editor

**1. Intentionality** – Involving the younger generation will not happen accidentally. There must be an intentional strategy to involve every generation in the ministries of the local church. Ask questions about how your church is being intentional about reaching the generations.

God was very intentional in His plan to deal with our sin. He sent Jesus to be our sacrifice. We must be equally intentional about living in the power of His Holy Spirit, and forbidding sin’s dominance of our lives. That intentionality will likely spill over into the ministries of our churches, opening the door for new vitality. The curse of sin destroys individuals, families, churches, societies, nations, denominations and more. Sin is not erased accidentally. The self-focus of our sin must be admitted and a plan to counter sin’s control must be adopted in every believer’s heart.

**2. Humility** – It is absolutely necessary that we humble ourselves before we can see the needs of others. Humility is the door to breaking out of our comfort zones. Comfort zones can be a place of bondage, and bondage is often self-im-

posed. It takes humility to admit that we have codified our way of doing what we do. We have even worshiped our ways more than we have worshiped God.

**3. Grace** – Give the younger generations a chance. Trust them with some responsibilities. Build confidence in them by including them in the church. No matter our age, we do not like to feel that we are being patronized, but we want to be given opportunities to prove ourselves useful in God’s Kingdom work. Include the younger generation without being afraid of them! Love covers a multitude of sin.

The world is tough on our kids. They deal with the religion of secularism in a measure other generations never

## Editor’s Picks – Pillar 7

*You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church*  
By David Kinnaman,  
Baker Books, 2011.

Kinnaman is the president of Barna Group. He is the author of the best-selling book, *unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity*, and the Barna report, *Teens and the Supernatural*. He shows why Christians ages 18 to 29 are leaving the church and rethinking their commitment to the faith.

He offers ideas for pastors, youth leaders, parents and educators to pass on a vibrant, lasting faith to the next generation.

*Chris Chrisman Goes to College & Faces the Challenges of Relativism, Individualism, & Pluralism*

By James W. Sire,  
Inter-varsity Press, 1993.

While this book has been around a while, it is still keenly relevant to the precise challenges of our youth. Chrisman is a young Christian who goes to college, only to have his world turned upside down by challenges to his faith. There is a strong message here for the church to look at how we are preparing our youth to face their world with a biblical worldview.

imagined. They are confronted with the forced indoctrination of relativism, individualism, pluralism, humanism and liberalism. These unbiblical worldviews impose non-christian perspectives on them, undermining the work of the church.

Our children do not need another man-centered system – even if it is developed by religious institutions. They are looking for vitality.

They crave a church family who will love them enough to give them the truth. It would be very refreshing for them if we invest as much time in discipling them in scripture as we have spent in trying to explain why they should follow our traditions. **BR**

## Exciting changes at the Recorder

Our Board of Directors approved two exciting changes in its Sept. 26 meeting. First we are excited to welcome Shawn Hendricks as our new managing editor. Shawn comes to us with rich experience in journalism as a senior writer at the International Mission Board for almost a decade. He will begin work with us Oct. 24. (See page 2.)

The board also voted to move our offices into the Baptist State Convention’s facilities in Cary. When the Baptist building was constructed in 1982, space was designed for the *Biblical Recorder*. However, the *Recorder*’s leadership chose to purchase

facilities in Raleigh. After 30 years in separate locations, we will move to Cary at the end of December. This will provide better stewardship of Cooperative Program dollars and improve our relationship with North Carolina Baptists.

Another announcement is that the new design for the *BR* website will launch this week. There are many improvements including the speed of the site and ease of navigation. Visit us at *BRnow.org*.

Please be patient as the *BR* staff works out any issues resulting from the relaunch. **BR**

**BR BIBLICAL RECORDER**

(ISSN 0279-8182)

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

**Volume 177 No. 21**  
**(919) 847-2127**  
**Fax (919) 847-6939**  
**BRnow.org**

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

**Dianna L. Cagle**  
Assistant Managing Editor  
dianna@brnow.org

**Alison McKinney**  
Business and Advertising Manager  
alison@brnow.org

**Daphne Woodall**  
Circulation Manager  
daphne@brnow.org

### Board of Directors

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

### Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$15.99
- Clubs, \$13.79
- Every Home Plan, \$12.49
- Church News Service, \$11.50
- Bulk (10+) \$11.50
- Single copies, .60 cents each

Payable in advance. North Carolina sales tax is included.

### Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder Inc.*, 232 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21–23, 1939.

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

### Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder Inc.*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619-8808.



# BSC Board OKs study committee reports, budget

Continued from page 1

are only .18 percent below last year at this time. However, the BSC continues to operate in the black.

When compared to last year this time, the BSC is ahead in both the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong missions offerings.

## Study committee reports

The Board heard from two committees formed earlier this year to study issues raised by messengers during the 2010 annual meeting of the convention. One committee studied the development of a policy related to alcohol consumption, which is related to a motion made by Tim Rogers of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Indian Trail.

The second committee studied a motion made by Phil Addison of Stony Point Baptist Church in Stony Point, regarding adoption of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 by the convention.

Mike Whitson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Indian Trail, chaired the Social Use of Alcohol Committee. Joining him on the committee were Mike Barrett, Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, Pleasant Garden; Brian Langley, Bethel Baptist Church, Troutman; M.O. Owens Jr., Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia; and Marcus Redding, Hulls Grove Baptist Church, Vale.

The Board approved the statement brought by the committee, which states: “After prayer consideration and study, the committee positively affirms the current policies related to the social use of alcohol for the BSC staff, BSC supported church planters, and those individuals recommended to serve on the committees and boards of the BSC. The committee believes that our current policies sufficiently support both the historical position of the Convention and also the principles of God’s Word. It would be helpful to remind all of us of Paul’s admonition to live according to the standards of purity and holiness so as not to be a hindrance in the spiritual life of any other individual.”

Greg Mathis, pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville, chaired the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee. Other committee members included Don Bouldin, Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte; Eddie Honeycutt, First Baptist Church, Stanleyville; Cameron McGill, First Baptist Church, Dublin; and Rit Varialle, Elizabeth Baptist Church, Shelby.

Mathis said the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (BF&M) is not included in the BSC governing documents, nor is it included in the governing documents of the Southern Baptist Convention, and

there is wisdom in it not being included. “We certainly don’t want to be creedal. The Bible is our governing document,” he said.

Mathis said as the BF&M is a “living document,” if it were to be included in governing documents, those documents would need to be updated if the BF&M was ever revised.

Although the committee did not advise adding the BF&M to the Convention’s governing documents, they did see areas in North Carolina Baptist life where they believed it should be affirmed. One such area was church planting. Another area was theological education, and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute – the only institution of higher learning that is operated by the BSC – already affirms the BF&M 2000.

Therefore, the committee presented and the Board approved a resolution affirming the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

This resolution will be included in the written report of the Board of Directors to the annual meeting of the BSC in November, and messengers will consider affirming the resolution as well.

## Business services

The Board approved a recommendation from the Business Services Committee to sell Hollifield Leadership Center, located on a peninsula above the Oxford Dam on Lake Hickory, near Conover. The BSC purchased Hollifield Leadership Center in 2000 and has made major improvements and renovations since acquiring the property.

However, with Hollifield unable to operate in the black, the convention can no longer justify expenses related to operating the facility.

“From a business, and ministry, standpoint, selling Hollifield is the right thing to do,” said John Butler, executive leader for business services.

The property will be listed with a real estate agency in January 2012. Hollifield will continue to operate in 2012 until the property is sold. If it is not sold by this time next year, the committee will bring another recommendation to the Board.

Proceeds from the sale of Hollifield Leadership Center will be applied to Caraway Conference Center’s capital campaign and buildings related to the Caraway expansion will be named for Wyndolyn Hollifield, who gave the majority of the \$3-million purchase price for Hollifield Leadership Center in 2000.

The Business Services Committee also reported that the BSC has saved more than \$300,000 in employee health insurance costs so far this year by moving to a self-insured plan with Blue Cross

Blue Shield of North Carolina serving as administrator of that plan.

## Articles and Bylaws

The Board approved four amendments brought by the Articles and Bylaws Committee. One amendment was related to the articles of incorporation and it brings clarity regarding the use of the terms “members” and “messengers.” The three amendments to the bylaws relate to Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. (See page 9.)

## Find it Here 2012

Chuck Register, executive leader for church planting and missions development, shared about the Find it Here: Expanding the Kingdom missions mobilization emphasis for 2012. Next year is the third year in a three-year focus on evangelism, discipleship and missions.

In 2012, North Carolina Baptist churches will be challenged to take a step toward missional living, impacting the spiritual darkness around them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Free resources such as a missions strategy guidebook, missions videos, sermon outlines, Bible study and prayer materials, and devotionals will be available at [finditherenc.org](http://finditherenc.org). More information about next year’s emphasis will be shared during the Monday evening session of the Convention’s annual meeting.

Register also spoke to a recommendation brought before the Board by the Church Planting and Missions Development Committee.

The Board approved a recommendation that the BSC serve as a catalyst for the engagement of 250 unengaged, unreached people groups over the next 10 years by BSC churches. The focus will be on people groups from Southeast Asia. (See story, page 4.)

## 3D leadership

The Congregational Services Committee reported on a new emphasis called

“3D.” “This is a process for strengthening your church; it is not a program,” said committee member Lee Pigg, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe. “Our job is to make disciples, not build the church. Jesus will do that.”

The process involves helping churches discover where they are and where God is leading; develop a strategy to get to where God is leading; and deliver resources to help people make disciples.

## Christian Life and Public Affairs

Jarrold Scott, chairman of the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is working to help churches better minister to homosexuals in the community and in the church. The committee is hosting a breakout session during the convention’s annual meeting about ministering to homosexuals. Cross Ministry founder Tim Wilkins will lead the session.

The committee is partnering with Eddie Thompson, BSC senior consultant for marriage and family, who is available to discuss concerns and provide resources and referrals. The committee has also produced a free brochure about ministering to homosexuals.

The committee is also working to encourage North Carolina Baptists to support the Marriage Protection Amendment, which the General Assembly recently voted to place before voters on the 2012 primary ballot. Passage of the amendment to the state constitution would define marriage as the union between one man and one woman.

## Fruitland appointments

The Board approved the following individuals to serve a 2012-2015 term on the Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute Board of Directors: George Cagle, layman, Mud Creek Baptist Church, Hendersonville; Marcus Redding, pastor, Hulls Grove Baptist Church, Vale; Ron Nichols, pastor, West Stanly Baptist Church, Albemarle. **BR**

## Marty King to lead LifeWay communications

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Long-time denominational communicator Marty King has been named director of corporate communications for LifeWay Christian Resources. He is currently associate executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association and has led the state’s communication team as editor of the *Illinois Baptist* the last five years.

In his new position at LifeWay, King will lead the team responsible for LifeWay’s internal and external communications including *Facts and Trends* magazine,

news media relations and a number of social media platforms. He also will serve as an official spokesman for LifeWay, one of the world’s largest providers of Christian products and services.

He served both the Home Mission Board and its successor agency, the North American Mission Board, as director of corporate communications for 15 years. King succeeds Micah Carter, who has taken a position with LifeWay’s church resources division. King officially will take on his new role Nov. 1. **BR**



## Leader: Reaching 20-somethings key to modern-day ministry

Continued from page 11

is more diversity in America now than there used to be, and this includes diversity in how children and youth are raised. Family dynamics have changed a lot.

Williams said, "One third of this generation was born to single unwed mothers ... We need to have that in mind" as we try to reach them.

Traits of the 20-something generation include: community oriented, activists, attention craving, tech savvy, global learners, demanding relevancy, authenticity, diversity, and openness.

### Quality

Twenty-somethings see when there is quality product, but that doesn't necessarily mean they are searching for all that a mega-church can offer. They recognize when smaller churches do what they do

### Travis Williams' suggested resources

- *The God Who is There: Finding Your Place in God's Story* by D.A. Carson
- *Sticky Church* (Leadership Network Innovation Series) by Larry Osborne
- *Why Small Groups? Together Toward Maturity* by C.J. Mahaney
- *Humility: True Greatness* by C.J. Mahaney
- *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist* by John Piper

well. "Work on transforming some of the people in your church to adopt these values, so when 20s come they do see those (people)," Williams suggested. **BR**

## Candidates for BSC offices

Continued from page 3 (Mark Harris interview)

(almost) 4,300 N.C. Baptist churches excited, equipped and mobilized to impact their regions. Our nation finds itself at a serious crossroad. I am praying that as our nation looks for answers in choosing its course, that we, as N.C. Baptists will be able and ready to share God's Word.

**Q:** Do you believe in the vision of the BSC?

**A:** Yes, I do believe wholeheartedly in the vision of the BSC. I love the direction we are continuing to see unfold as we work in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention, not in opposition. In recent years we have seen the revival of the cooperative spirit whereby our state convention has demonstrated, not only in word, but in deed and finances, our unwavering commitment to the Cooperative Program and the cooperative work with our SBC entities. It is exciting and refreshing to me, and I hope to only build upon the great work that is already underway.

**Q:** Is there anything you want to share with N.C. Baptists about yourself?

**A:** I am so thankful for the blessings and opportunities God has opened up for me to serve in Kingdom work. I am especially thankful that most of my life has been spent right here in N.C. A native of

**"I want to be used as a catalyst ..."**  
— Mark Harris

Winston-Salem, educated in N.C., privileged to serve churches here – it is more than a cliché to say, "I like calling North Carolina home." I love serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte. We are on a journey together, and have made a commitment, to live a life that matters. I am so blessed with my wife, Beth, who has been a source of strength and a partner in life and ministry in every way imaginable. For the last three years I have served as an officer of our convention.

I had the privilege of serving as second vice president when Rick Speas was president. For the last two years I have served as first vice president alongside Ed Yount, our president. Over these last three years I have come to see and understand the work of the BSC in a new and incredible way. I certainly have come to recognize even more that we can do so much more together than we can do alone.

Over the last year the work of the Vision Fulfillment Committee took us all across the state, and provided opportunity to meet, hear and understand the hearts of N.C. Baptists. It was during that experience that God confirmed that making myself available to serve as president of the BSC is His will. There is a spirit of enthusiasm, excitement and genuine anticipation for what God has in store for this convention. **BR**

## 9Marks Conference: Feasting on the gospel

By BUDDY OVERMAN | BSC Communications

**"**It's a time to gather and feast around the Word of God," said Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, as he welcomed the crowd assembled at Southeastern for the third annual 9Marks Conference.

More than 600 people attended the conference Sept. 23-24, the third in a series of conferences that focus on building healthy churches as outlined in Mark Dever's *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Dever is pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and president of 9Marks.

The focus of this year's conference was on the gospel, and how a healthy church should build its life around the gospel.

Joining Akin and Dever were Ben Mandrell, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn.; Thabiti Anyabwile, senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; James MacDonald, pastor of the multisite Harvest Bible Chapel in the northwest Chicago suburbs; and Darrin Patrick, lead pastor of The Journey in Saint Louis, Mo.

Dever opened the conference with an exposition of Psalm 4.

He said the psalm reminds believers of their need for deliverance. Dever said it is easy for pastors to neglect the fundamental truth regarding the need for deliverance from sin and the problem sin has created.

He encouraged pastors to routinely address that problem and its solution with their congregations.

"We need to help them understand the problem that the gospel is the answer to. That's a foundational part of gospel preaching," he said.

Mandrell spoke about Psalm 93 and Luke 22, and the importance of teaching the sovereign power and majesty of God – something he believes is lacking in today's preaching.

"So few church members have a picture of the majesty of God," he said. "You can't believe the gospel unless you believe in a powerful God."

Anyabwile continued the theme of God's power as he spoke about the power of God to save sinners. Calling Romans "the gospel of God's righteousness," Anyabwile said the gospel of Jesus Christ includes much more than the common modern day equation of forgiveness and love.

"The sacrifice of Jesus Christ both demonstrated and satisfied the Father's righteousness while at the same time achieving righteousness for every sinner who believes in Jesus," he said.

"Our gospel preaching should include the imputation of God's righteousness."

The Sept. 24 session featured sermons from Akin and Patrick. Akin preached through the entire book of Galatians in less than one hour.

"The gospel is the dominate theme of this epistle," Akin said.

He then proceeded to show from Galatians how passionate the apostle Paul was for the gospel.

During his sermon he listed 27 references to the gospel found throughout Galatians and exhorted pastors to be zealous for the gospel in the same way as Paul.

Patrick closed the conference with a sermon from Philippians 4:11-14.

Patrick said the gospel should give Christians the same joy, contentment and peace as it did Paul.

"If the gospel is alive in me, then contentment will necessarily follow," Patrick said.

True contentment is elusive for many in society today, and the solution can only be found in the faithful proclamation of the gospel.

"Pastors need to teach their people how to be content through the gospel," Patrick said.

In addition to sermons, the conference included several panel discussions featuring sermon reviews and discussions on topics related to church ministry and the gospel.

Although he has followed the 9Marks ministry for several years, this was Allen Stillwell's first opportunity to attend the 9Marks Conference. Stillwell is a youth pastor from Vale.

"I loved each message and the preaching was a blessing to me on all accounts," he said.

"The clarity of the gospel message is very important, and my goal in coming to this conference was to learn more about Jesus and the truth of the gospel."

All six messages from this year's conference can be seen at the seminary's website: [sebts.edu](http://sebts.edu). The seminary's chapel services, which are usually held Tuesday and Thursday during the semester, are open to the public. Check the school's site ([sebts.edu](http://sebts.edu)) for more about upcoming services and conferences. **BR**



DANNY AKIN



# Summer proves fruitful for Mott Haven ministry

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

**N**EW YORK – Some school supplies were priced as low as a dime, but for some parents paying any amount was a sacrifice. Tears streamed down the face of one young boy because his mom couldn't afford to buy him a pack of markers.

The first few people in line to shop were regulars, waiting every year for the school supply sale at Graffiti 2 Church in the Bronx before buying any supplies. This was the seventh year the church hosted a school supply sale for families in the Mott Haven area.

Usually the school supply sale is made possible through donations from area churches and Graffiti Church in Manhattan, the parent church for Graffiti 2. But this year donations poured in from all over the country as churches learned about Graffiti 2 and pastor Andrew Mann from LifeWay's "Big Apple Adventure" Vacation Bible School curriculum.

Graffiti 2 ministers to people living in an area where 51.8 percent of families with children under age 18 are below poverty level; the highest percentage of anywhere in New York City. Eighty-three percent of babies in Mott Haven are born into poverty.

Education is also a challenge, as one in six students will not graduate from high school and 72 percent of children do not meet educational standards. Mott Haven also has the highest percentage in New York City of births to teenage mothers.

More than 1,000 violent felonies are committed each year in Mott Haven.

Mott Haven is a hard place to live, but it's the right place for Mann because this is where God has called him.

Mann is beginning his seventh year with Graffiti 2 in his mission to "revital-



Ashley Allen, left, director of Embrace Women's Ministries with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, helps at a school supply sale at Graffiti 2 Church in the Bronx. Allen led a team of ladies from N.C. Baptist churches to New York for a variety of mission projects. (BSC photo)

ize, revive and revolutionize" the community.

Graffiti 2 offers an after-school program for children, service and leadership opportunities for youth, mission trips, job training, monthly workshops for parents, and opportunities for parents to volunteer, mentor and serve.

In the past seven years, Mann said Graffiti's ministry has expanded not only in width, as they are reaching more age groups and doing more outreach, but in depth, as they continue building relationships and seeing lives transformed by the gospel.

Mann said two types of churches are common: churches that meet practical needs but do not talk about the gospel, and churches that do not meet needs but talk about the gospel.

Outreach such as the school supply sale is one way Graffiti seeks to be a church that does both. "We try to be intentional with the interaction," Mann said about what goes on during the sale.

Every person who comes to the sale is

paired with a volunteer to help them shop. After they shop, the volunteer asks if the person is willing to talk through a few survey questions.

Sandra Curry of Maple Springs Baptist Church in Seagrove, was one of the school supply volunteers this year who saw the Holy Spirit at work. Curry walked one parent through the questions, asking her to identify the greatest strengths/weaknesses of the community and how can Graffiti better serve the community.

Then she asked the last survey question: Can I share with you our greatest hope? The woman said yes; Curry shared the gospel, and the woman prayed to receive Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior.

"The woman said her son had prayed to receive Christ, but that she had not," Curry said. "She said she had never trusted Jesus."

The woman's son was already involved with Graffiti 2 and came to know Jesus Christ through Mann's witness and testimony. Curry was part of the 17-member team from North Carolina that served in mission projects throughout New York City the weekend of the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Embrace Women's Missions and Ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina sponsored the mission trip.

Another team member also had opportunity to pray with a mother to receive Jesus Christ as her Savior.

The team served two days with Mann, helping sort supplies, setting up and

shopping with families. The school supply sale benefited 133 families and 293 children.

The sale is just one way Graffiti reaches out during summer months. About 2,000 children attended sports camps and fine arts camps this summer at Graffiti. These programs help Mann and church members build relationships that pave the way for ministry during the year.

The summer also brought new staff Josh and Kerri Johnson from West Virginia to Graffiti. "We never really had intentions to come this way," Josh said. "I would never have picked this area. God picked this area."

Josh was born and raised in West Virginia. He served as associate pastor in the same church where he grew up. Yet, he knew God was calling him to full-time missions.

The Johnsons began talking in February with Mann about coming to work with Graffiti in a few years. They prayed about the move with their children, ages 12 and 8. "We decided if we weren't called as a family we weren't called," Josh said.

Although God called their family to Mott Haven as Mission Service Corps missionaries with the North American Mission Board much sooner than expected, they are ready to serve however He leads. When Graffiti 2 began seven years ago Mann had no idea the ministry would be where it is today. "I praise God for that," he said.

Mann prays Ephesians 3:20 for Graffiti. He prays that his vision for the community would never really be reached as God continues to expand his vision and to do greater things than he can imagine or desire.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Another story relating to New York is available at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).) **BR**

## Urban Impact: Reaching the unreached

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

**N**EW YORK – A couple doors down from the Urban Impact office in Jackson Heights, Queens, are two Nepali/Tibetan restaurants and across the street is a Korean grocery store.

Just a few blocks away is an area known as Little India. Indian restaurants and stores with elaborate gold jewelry line the streets, and fortune-tellers and astrologers pass out their business cards. One store is filled with all kinds of statues of Hindu gods, such as Ganesha, known to Hindus as the Remover of Obstacles.

A little farther down is Little Bangla-

desh, where the population is largely Muslim and restaurants serve up traditional Bengali food.

Jackson Heights is home to many South Asians. In addition to Indians and Bengalis are people from Nepal, Tibet, and Pakistan.

Camille Samuel is director of Urban Impact's South Asian Center. "Some days I walk down the street and I don't hear any English at all," she said.

Samuel, 26, came to Urban Impact after serving two years with the International Mission Board in India. Samuel said the work in Jackson Heights is hard, as people come and go and it takes awhile to build relationships, but she enjoys serving because she cares for the people.

Urban Impact seeks to reach immigrants and those from the "10/40 Window" (the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude that includes the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists) who are living in New York City. Urban Impact does this through ministries such as Vacation Bible School, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and computer classes.

Urban Impact also has a center in Brooklyn to reach West African Muslims and a center in Woodhaven, Queens, to reach Yemenese Muslims.

Although many religions are represented in Jackson Heights such as Greek

Orthodox, Sikh and Roman Catholic, Hinduism and Buddhism are what Samuel encounters most often at Urban Impact.

Although these immigrants now live in a country where they have freedom of religion, that does not mean converting to Christianity is easy. Samuel said some people come to New York with family and are pressured by family members not to convert.

But Samuel has already seen God at work during her first year in Queens. She has befriended an older Indian woman and been able to share the gospel.

She has seen a Bengali man, a Muslim, become open to reading the Bible and

**Continued on page 24**



# After challenging decade, GuideStone Funds marks anniversary

By ROY HAYHURST | GuideStone

DALLAS — Employees celebrated GuideStone Funds' 10th anniversary recently.

Despite a tumultuous first decade that includes the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, two recessions and market downturns plus a financial crisis, GuideStone Funds has earned a place among the national leaders in the mutual fund industry.

Throughout the Funds' first decade, third-party ranking firms such as fi360, Lipper and Morningstar have provided evidence that GuideStone Funds can rival and surpass its competitors in the marketplace. In fact, for the quarter ending June 30, 2011, fi360 ranked the GuideStone Funds family as number two out of 222 fund families nationwide.

GuideStone Funds — the nation's largest Christian-based, socially screened, registered mutual fund company — was launched as AB Funds Trust on Aug. 27,

2001, when GuideStone was still officially known as the Annuity Board. At its launch, GuideStone Funds offered 13 funds; today, that number has doubled.

"The historic launch of GuideStone Funds paved the way to providing our participants with more flexibility and confidence in their portfolios through industry-standard product offerings," said John Jones, president of GuideStone Funds and chief operating officer of GuideStone Financial Resources. "It heightened the level of service we provide our participants, as many of our employees have more advanced training, securities licenses and professional designations."

The launch of the registered mutual fund family also provided enhanced disclosures and transparency for GuideStone's participants — today numbering more than 200,000 across all GuideStone product lines — to understand their investment choices.

In addition to the fi360 standings, Lipper has noted 15 of 21 funds performed above the median for the one-

year period; 19 of 20 funds performed above the median in the three-year period and 11 of 14 funds performed above the median for the five-year period as of July 31, 2011. Morningstar has ranked GuideStone Funds as either four-star or three-star funds, 17 of 19 funds overall, and in the three-year period, and 12 of 12 funds in the five-year period as of July 31, 2011.

Jones acknowledged the first decade of the 21st century laid out several challenges the funds had to endure, but said those challenges though haven't impaired GuideStone Funds' commitment to those they serve.

Noting the fund family's track record Rodric E. Cummins, senior vice president and chief investment officer of GuideStone Capital Management, said the first decade for GuideStone Funds has been a story of sustainability through turmoil.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Roy Hayhurst is editorial services manager at GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.) ■

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Denominational

**Associational Missionary.** South Fork Baptist Association seeking full time associational missionary. Resumes received until November 15, 2011. Send resumes to [sfba@southforkbaptist.net](mailto:sfba@southforkbaptist.net) or mail to Search Team, PO Box 246, Lincolnton, NC 28093.

Resumes for **Associational Missionary** are being accepted through December 31. The successful candidate must be relational and prepared to assist in equipping the 34 churches of the New River Baptist Association in connecting lost people to Christ. Other qualities desired include the ability to communicate technologically, administratively capable, innovative, and motivated to plan and work together to reach a diverse community with the gospel. Candidates may submit their resumes to Search Committee, New River Baptist Association, 2734 Commerce Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546.

**Director of Missions.** Rowan Southern Baptist Association seeking full-time director of missions. Applications received until October 31, 2011. Send resumes to Search Committee, 832 S. Main Street, Salisbury, NC 28144.

### Pastor

Center Cross Baptist Church of Asheboro, NC, is seeking a **full time Senior Pastor**. This candidate must be a proven Bible preaching and mission minded leader. Send resume, references and Statement of Faith to: [nauman@triad.rr.com](mailto:nauman@triad.rr.com), Pastor Search Committee.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of Hayesville, NC, is currently seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Send resume to MPBC Search Committee, PO Box 52, Hayesville, NC 28904.

First Baptist Church, Ramseur, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Affiliated with the Southern Baptists. Send resume to First Baptist Church, PO Box 544, Ramseur, NC 27316. Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**Senior Pastor.** Turner Memorial Baptist Church is searching for a full time pastor. TMBC is located in the fast growing southern area of Wake County just outside of Garner, NC. We are seeking candidates with strong leadership skills who shares our vision for growth by proclaiming God's Word and evangelizing the lost in our community and around the world. TMBC uses a blended style of worship and has a heart for missions. With an average attendance of 233 in worship and 192 in small groups, our mission is "Pointing People to Christ." The ideal candidate will have a minimum education level of seminary degree, along with 5+ years of experience, and possess the leadership skills to assist in our eventual relocation and building of a new church campus. TMBC is a Southern Baptist congregation connected to the Raleigh Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Resumes with letters of reference may be sent to [pastorsearch@tmbconline.org](mailto:pastorsearch@tmbconline.org).

**Senior Pastor - Mt View Baptist - Hickory NC.** We are a church of 621 members and average 438 in morning worship with 268 in Sunday School. We relate to the Catawba Valley Baptist Association, the BSCNC and SBC. Master's degree preferred from an accredited seminary or divinity college and 8-10 years of pastoral experience with 3-5 years of senior pastor experience. [www.mtnviewbaptist.net/floating4.php](http://www.mtnviewbaptist.net/floating4.php).

**PASTOR.** Azalea Baptist Church (ABC) in Norfolk, VA, is seeking the person God has called to be our next pastor. ABC is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist General Association of Virginia. We are seeking a proven pastor, with a strong pulpit presence, a Bible teacher and a leader with organizational skills to lead us. ABC is a mission-minded church seeking ways to reach out to our local community. Candidates with an accredited seminary degree preferred. Resumes should be sent to the Pastor Search Committee, 3314 E. Little Creek Road, Norfolk, VA 23518 or to [azaleaeducation@aol.com](mailto:azaleaeducation@aol.com).

### Church Staff

Spray Baptist Church is searching for a **part-time Youth Director** (20-25 hours a week). Send resumes to Spray Baptist Church, 745 Church Street, Eden, NC 27288.

Macedonia Baptist Church, Raleigh/Cary, NC, seeks a **part-time** (20 hour per week) **Children's Minister** for birth to middle school students. For specific information and a full job description visit our website at [www.mbcnc.org/childrensminister](http://www.mbcnc.org/childrensminister). To apply, submit a letter of interest and a resume that includes both a Statement of Faith and a Statement of Call to Ministry to: Macedonia Baptist Church, ATTN: Shannon B McCollum, Chair, Personnel Ministry Team, 7100 Holly Springs Road, Raleigh, NC 27606. Questions can be directed to Shannon McCollum at [shannonbmccollum\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:shannonbmccollum(at)gmail.com) or (919) 868-5989.

Kenly Missionary Baptist Church is looking for a **part-time Music/Worship Leader** to minister in a church of 230 average worship attendance. We have a blended service with praise team and choir. Please send resume to KMBC, PO Box 237, Kenly, NC 27542.

First Baptist Church of Albemarle, NC, is seeking a full-time **Assoc. Pastor/Minister of Education for Church Life, Outreach and Missions**. Seminary degree preferred. FBC affirms the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message and recognizes the call of women to leadership roles. Resumes and inquiries received at [revrog@fbc-albemarle.org](mailto:revrog@fbc-albemarle.org).

### Miscellaneous

**NEED A CHURCH PIANIST?** We have piano CDs for churches to sing by! Hymns, praise, Christmas. Hundreds of songs! FREE DEMO! Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800; [www.wsrpianocds.com](http://www.wsrpianocds.com). Special church pricing!

**NCBAM needs handymen to weatherize** the homes of aging adults. It's nice not to have to choose between groceries and heat. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

**How many North Carolina Baptists does it take to set a world's record?** We'll see on April 28, 2012! Become a part of Rampin' Up! and help set a record for wheelchair ramps constructed in a single day across North Carolina. Sign up today at [www.nc-operationinasmuch.org](http://www.nc-operationinasmuch.org) or call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry for more information: 877-506-2226.

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

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

### How to place a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

#### Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: [alison@BRnow.org](mailto:alison@BRnow.org)
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org)
- Send a Fax to (919) 847-6939

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

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



October 23 BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE October 30

Wholeness Restored Satisfaction Found

Focal Passages: Mark 5:1-3, 6-13a, 15-20

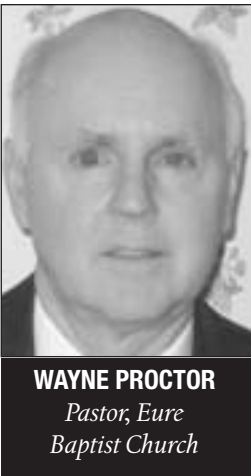
In the early 1970's I was privileged to hear the late David Wilkerson preach in Norfolk, Va. There was a large crowd that night, and after preaching and giving the plan of salvation, Wilkerson did something I'd never seen before or since. He challenged the young people to not only come up to the stage to receive Christ, but to throw their drugs away (on the stage). Dozens of young men and women tossed their narcotics away that evening. In the years since I've wondered what happened to those who were freed that night of those poisonous addictions. Are they still free today? Are some of them working in Christian drug rehab centers? Are some of them preachers and deacons and Sunday School teachers? Are some now dead because they reverted back to their previous lifestyle? Having one's life restored of the demons that possess us is a powerful miracle.

The man whom we often call Legion was a danger to himself and society. No human being had been strong enough to subdue him. He was a man greatly feared. Jesus knew the man was pos-

sessed with a huge number of demons, and he also knew the man would never be of any value to himself or society if he were not freed from those evil spirits. Unwilling to cater to the wishes of the demons, Jesus cast all of them into a herd of pigs. Unable to control themselves, the pigs rushed over the bluffs into the sea and promptly drowned. It was a day that would never be forgotten.

Jesus expected the man who had been healed to be a changed man; not temporarily, but permanently. For the first time in years the man was "in his right mind." He recognized Jesus was a miracle worker, and he desperately wanted to follow Him. But it would not be. Jesus had a different assignment for the man.

Jesus commanded the man to share his story in the nearby cities, for He knew the man's testimony would make a difference. Because the obedient and thankful man proclaimed Jesus as the healer, those hearing him were "amazed."



WAYNE PROCTOR  
Pastor, Eure Baptist Church

Focal Passages: John 6:5-13, 35-40

There is a widely circulated story about a successful business woman named Penelope Eddy and a vagrant named Jack. According to the story, Eddy not only took the time to speak to the man, but took him to a nearby restaurant. The man had succumbed to hopelessness. Once he had been given a meal he didn't earn or have any way to repay, Eddy explained to him why she was helping. She described a day that occurred many years before when she had graduated college with grand hopes of making it big in the business world. But, her attempts to find employment had been futile. She was depressed, out of money, and desperately hungry. On what was one of the worst days of her life, she stepped into that same restaurant and was given the biggest sandwich she had ever eaten. The problem was that she didn't have the money to pay. Sensing the situation, a man took his own

money and put it into the cash register to pay for her meal. Eddy never forgot that act of kindness. She would gain employment later that day and over time reach the pinnacle of her profession. She was a changed woman. She never forgot that one act of kindness. In performing miracles Jesus displayed an amazing capacity for compassion. In this miracle he took the ordinary meal of a boy and transformed it into a buffet for the multitudes. Those who ate found, at the very least, temporary satisfaction - their stomachs were full. The greater question is whether they found eternal satisfaction for their souls. God gave the Hebrews manna from heaven in the Old Testament. It was intended to satisfy, yet many of the recipients were ungrateful. Jesus gave this miracle with the hope that the recipients would connect the gift with the giver. Jesus explained He is the "bread of life," the new "bread from heaven." I wonder what happened to the 12 extra basketfuls: were they given to the 12 disciples so that they would not forget? If yes, maybe it was now their turn to find a way to pay it forward.

October 23 EXPLORE THE BIBLE October 30

It's All About God's Plan Does Your Life Please God?

Focal Passages: Romans 10:1-4,8b-18a; 11:28-32

In some ways, one would rather wade through a swimming pool full of alligators, hoping to come out unscathed, than to attempt to provide a brief discussion of these wonderfully celebrated, and hotly debated, chapters of scripture. It is important, however, to understand these chapters rightly both theologically, in terms of what they teach, and practically, in terms of how they call us to live.

Chapter 9 unequivocally confronts the reader with the realities of God's sovereignty and divine election. Paul not only uses clear language to indicate these truths, but also constructs his argument in a way that demonstrates them as well. For this reason, the Calvinist holds up Romans 9 as "Exhibit A," showing that the "U" (unconditional election) in the TULIP is well-founded.

The non-Calvinist quickly turns to Romans 10:13, and declares, "Ah, yes, but 'everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.'" And so it begins. The Calvinist rebuts that it is true that "everyone" who calls on the Lord WILL be saved, BUT that only those who are

"elected" will call. The non-Calvinist quickly flips to another "whosoever" passage like Acts 2:21 or to a passage like 2 Peter 3:9, which indicates that God is not "wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

So what are we to do? First, we should agree to affirm what scripture affirms: God is sovereign, and man is responsible. One commentator reminds us of how D.L. Moody illustrated these truths: "When we come to the door of salvation, we see the invitation overhead, 'Who-soever will may come.' When we pass through, we look back and see the words 'Elect according to the foreknowledge of God' above the door."

Second, while we can never fully reconcile God's sovereignty and human responsibility in our finite human minds, we must obediently show our "beautiful feet" (10:15b) by carrying the Good News of the gospel to those who need to hear. God will give eternal life to those who repent of sin and trust Christ. God is faithful to save. We must be obedient to go.



RANDY MANN  
Minister of education and evangelism, Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Raleigh

Focal Passage: Romans 12:1-21

What motivates you in your walk with God? Are you motivated by fear that God will strike you down if you blow it? Are you motivated by the idea that if you serve God enough (whatever that means), He will be forced to bless you? Do you know what served as a motivator for the Apostle Paul? The mercies of God.

Paul spent the first 11 chapters of Romans showing the theological foundations for our relationship with Christ. Paul showed God to be the sovereign, faithful God who had brought salvation to the Gentiles and who would be faithful to keep His covenant promises to Israel (Rom. 9-11). So the question that logically follows is, "What difference does all of this make?" In the remaining chapters, Paul pleads with the Romans to let their orthodoxy (what they now understand and believe) issue forth in orthopraxy (how they live). In other words, they are to live according

to what they have learned. This is always the point of divine revelation. God not only wants us to believe the right things, but to live out those beliefs in ways that glorify Him (James 1:22ff). How is it possible, then, for us to live lives that please God? We must present ourselves as "living sacrifices" - which seems like an oxymoron. However, as we saw in Romans 6, we have been declared dead in Christ to our sin and ourselves, and alive in Christ through the power of His resurrection. Our lives more and more reflect the power and presence of Christ as we stop being squeezed into the world's mold and as we keep on allowing Him to change us by renewing our minds. There is no aspect of our lives that goes untouched by this transformation. In light of God's mercies, we should gladly lay down our lives as living sacrifices - which is our very reasonable act of worship. After all, as the great hymn-writer, Isaac Watts said so well, "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my heart, my life, my all." Only this kind of life - dead to self and alive in Christ - can please God. So, the question is, "Does your life please God?"



# Convention uses retreat to Red Springs to minister

By MIKE CRESWELL & MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

RED SPRINGS – This year Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) staff decided to do something a little different for the annual staff retreat. Instead of the usual two-day event at one of the Convention's conference or retreat centers, staff gathered at Red Springs Mission Camp and focused their attention on serving in various ministry projects throughout the area and surrounding communities.

BSC staff divided into different teams and participated in children's ministry, construction projects, senior adult ministry, prayer walking and Hispanic ministry.

Red Springs Mission Camp is a 52,000-square-foot former textile plant operated by N.C. Baptist Men. The remodeled facility can house more than 200 volunteers. Each year North Carolina Baptists from across the state stay at the camp for a very affordable rate while they serve throughout the area. The camp includes bunk-style lodging, shower facilities and a large warehouse for tools, equipment and supplies. Volunteers can also eat all their meals on site.

Mission Camp Director Larry Osborne and his wife Teresa live next door to the camp. The Osbornes are native North Carolinians, but have been involved in missions for years. Prior to coming to Red Springs, they served in New York City. For two years they lived in a Manhattan apartment just two blocks away from New York's biggest housing projects. They worked with the volunteer teams coming to serve at Graffiti Church.

Prior to serving in New York the Osbornes lived three years in Sri Lanka, coordinating North Carolina volunteer teams coming to help after a tsunami hit the country.

Osborne has been known to say that God took him to New York City, Sri Lanka and other places around the world to prepare him for what he would encounter in Red Springs. Of North Carolina's 100 counties, Robeson County, where Red Springs is located, is the poorest. Red Springs is a community with many physical, as well as spiritual, needs.

Alms House, about 20 minutes from Red Springs in Hope Mills, is a ministry seeking to help those in need while sharing with them about Jesus Christ. Alms House is one of the ministries BSC staff worked with during the retreat.

Alms House ministers through its food pantry, clothing closet and emergency financial fund to help people cover expenses such as utilities, transportation, medical care and school supplies. The Love Lunch program runs seven days a week, and meals are served twice a day.

"It's God's work. I'm convinced of it," said director Delores Schiebe about Alms House. Schiebe has been involved with Alms House since it started in 1984. She said more families are now homeless and the request for food has recently increased. Despite that, she has seen God work in the lives of people in Hope Mills.

Landscaping and construction is an area where many people in Robeson County need a little help. During the retreat BSC staff worked at the home of Annie Blue McRae, 83. They mowed, clipped, and sawed an assortment of trees, bushes, vines and briars that had grown up around the modest brick home not far from downtown Rowland. McRae said she feared thieves would creep through the underbrush and break into her house at night.

Tree limbs have grown up over the roof, and McRae



Patti Cardwell, who works at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, shares a snack with a young girl near Red Springs Mission Camp. The BSC staff retreated to Red Springs recently for a mission trip. Go to [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org); click "Photo Gallery" to see more. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

hopes other volunteers will help repair the leaking roof.

McRae is diabetic and had a leg amputated after an infection led to gangrene. But she was all smiles on the day the staff came to help. "Oh, praise the Lord! These are angels God sent to me. Nobody would have done this for me, but God sent these angels," she said.

Another team of staff volunteers visited the Baptist Children's Home facility in Pembroke, where they heard a 17-year-old talk about how glad he was to be there. His mother is a drug addict; a grandmother abused him and his sister. The young man wants to graduate from college and become a law enforcement officer.

At a mobile home park on a dirt road in Robeson County, another team of staff volunteers set up a ministry to mothers and their babies. The first day the team visited the home to introduce themselves and spent time with children after they returned home from school.

Rick Trexler, campus ministry team leader for the BSC, led a group of staff in serving lunch to local firefighters and police officers. "It was nice being able to give back to those who are always giving of themselves," he said.



A resident at Baptist Children's Homes in Pembroke shares why the ministry is important to him. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

His team had opportunity for one-on-one conversations with those who came to lunch. "Within those conversations we were able to talk with people about what they were dealing with in life and how we could pray for them. We were able to share the gospel on more than one occasion," Trexler said.

Mark Gray, church planting team leader for the BSC, led a team ministering with single mothers at a drug rehab facility. The team helped the women make jewelry and taught them computer skills and how to shop and navigate safely online. Gray taught them to identify their personal strengths through the Strength Finders program. The team also focused on ministering to the facility staff.

"Our goal was to help them feel good about themselves in the way God had made them as unique. They don't have to be like anyone else," Gray said.

After sharing about Strength Finders, Gray shared the gospel. He explained to the ladies that in order to get the greatest use of their strengths they needed to understand that God made them – but they needed to know Him personally.

Between the two days of ministry, six ladies prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. "It is important that we intentionally build a bridge to the plan of salvation. The ladies knew we really cared about them, and so when we shared the gospel, they were willing to hear us out and hear what God had to say in His Word about having a personal relationship with Him," Gray said.

Yet, ministry cannot end there. "God did not call us to make converts, He called us to make disciples," Gray said. "It's easy to go in and do our thing and feel good about it. Unless we can help lead them to the next level, perhaps we have not done all we can in our going to serve."

For more information about the Red Springs Mission Camp and how your church can get involved visit [baptistsonmission.org](http://baptistsonmission.org). **BR**



# Urban Impact: Reaching the unreached

Continued from page 20

volunteering with ESL. Another Bengali man has prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.

Samuel wants people in Queens to know they can find peace in Jesus Christ. "People here are hungry for rest," she said.

Sometimes family members stay behind in their country while other family members come to New York City to try and make a living. When the time is right, the rest of the family makes the move overseas. Samuel met an Indian woman who was separated from her husband for 10 years in such a situation.

Some of the ESL attendees are women who have never been to school of any kind. Others are women in their 50s with grown children who want to try something new. Yet other participants were professors in their country and now cannot get a job because they do not speak English.

A team from North Carolina recently spent a day serving alongside Samuel, prayer walking and helping with ESL registration. Ministry with Urban Impact was part of a mission trip sponsored by Embrace Women's Missions and Ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The team also worked



Donna Elmore, left, gets information for Urban Impact's free English as a Second Language classes. Elmore, a member of Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro, was part of a team of N.C. Baptist ladies who served in New York recently. (BSC photo)

with churches in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn.

Donna Elmore of Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro helped with the ESL registration. From the outside looking in it seems evangelism comes quite naturally to Elmore. Even in the short time it took to register someone she was able to show compassion and share the gospel.

Elmore prays for God to help make her aware of opportunities to be a witness

for Him. "It doesn't come easy to me. It's easier to just be quiet. You have to trust the Lord," she said. "The more you share the more you know you have to trust Jesus."

Elmore said people were very surprised the ESL classes were free – another reminder that sometimes it's the small things that lead to the greatest opportunities to witness.

The team also spent time at the West African Center and prayed for the

ministry to West African Muslims. They also prayed for Mike Flaschenriem, who began as director of the center only six weeks ago.

Flaschenriem, 29, is a former direct TV salesman from Tampa, Fla., who ran from the Lord. "I didn't want to do it," he said about his call to full-time ministry.

It took his brother's suicide to get his attention and turn him back to doing what he knew God had called him and his wife to do. Flaschenriem graduated from Word of Life Bible Institute in February and is ready to begin the work God has for him in Brooklyn.

Whether it is West African Muslims in Brooklyn or Hindus in Queens, laborers are needed in the fields ready for harvest. To learn how you can get involved in reaching the nations in New York City visit [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp).

Visit [embracenc.org](http://embracenc.org) for more information about Embrace opportunities.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Another story relating to New York is available at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).) **BR**



## Missions Breakfast

Baptist State Convention of  
North Carolina Annual Meeting

**Registration is required**  
**Space is limited**  
[www.ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://www.ncbaptist.org/gcp)  
[greatcommission@ncbaptist.org](mailto:greatcommission@ncbaptist.org)  
Deadline: October 31

**Invited**  
Church pastors, church staff, church  
mission leaders and spouses

**Cost**  
Meal is FREE



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org)  
The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Mission Offering.

**November 8, 2011**

7 - 8:15 a.m.

**Imperial Ballroom**  
**Koury Convention Center**  
**Greensboro, NC**

**Additional Info**  
(800) 395-5102, ext. 5536



**Speaker**  
George Russ  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan New York Baptist  
Association

Baptists will learn how they can connect with our Baptist State Convention Partnerships, the SEND North America strategy of the North American Mission Board, and engaging Unreached and Unengaged People Groups through the International Mission Board.