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Don Davis

To recognize pastor appreciation month in October, the *Biblical Recorder* solicited nominations for a pastor to be featured in a story in the *Recorder*.

Staff sifted through nominations and chose Don Davis, pastor of Dover Baptist Church for the past 12 years on the strength of the submission by Rhonda Peters.

After listing many ways Davis pours himself into his congregation, Peters nominated her pastor on the basis of "his heart of love and compassion that shines forth in every facet of his ministry."

Compassion invigorates church, moves Dover pastor

By Norman Jameson
BR Editor

Don Davis' doctoral thesis could read like his diary. Davis, pastor for 12 years of Dover Baptist Church near Seagrove, is massaging his thesis into a book, to be published next spring, that will reflect his passion: "The Demise of Compassion: a casualty of the changing culture."

Compassion flows through Davis' veins and seasons his ministry with a flavor of love that is growing a church in numbers and in fellowship in ways it has not experienced in a generation.

Davis was nominated for recognition by his church because of his compassion as their pastor. Compassion is not a passive emotion says Davis, 61. It is proactive and costly.

Self-centeredness is replacing compassion as culture invades the church, he says. Instead of demonstrating the selflessness Jesus encouraged by doing good unto "the least of these," neighbors are more likely to say "I hope he

(See Compassion Page 9)

Volunteers help dig out Windsor and New Bern

By Norman Jameson
BR Editor

By Oct. 14 volunteers through North Carolina Baptist Men finished the arduous mercy work of tearing out wet wood, carpet, wallboard and insulation in 35 homes in Windsor flooded by rains from Tropical Storm Nichole.

Relief work in New Bern was expected to continue through the week of October 18.

Before the flood waters prompted by 20-24 inches of rain had receded in Windsor and in areas around New Bern, North Carolina Baptists were on site assessing damage and beginning the work. Enough volunteers were on hand in the final days to help workers from the city of Windsor tackle cleanup in community buildings.

Water overflowing the banks of the Cashie River closed roads around the small northeastern town until Oct. 5. That day 46 volunteers — including 13 from Rocky Hock Baptist Church — were tackling tear out jobs around town, especially in a section north of town that sat low where the river curved around them like a horseshoe. Twelve had spent the previous night in the church.

Billy Layton and his wife, Ann, coordinated volunteers onsite, from a table in the Cashie Baptist Church fellowship hall, where a breeze from big fans and open doors dried damp carpet. Volunteers worked their way through 35 job orders collected from assessment teams.

Samaritan's Purse staff and volunteers worked on a similar number of flooded houses in an area a few blocks away.

Water rose as high as 4 feet in some houses, although the majority of those damaged saw water more like 18 inches high. That's more than enough to force occupants to rip out



TEAMWORK — Doris Tynch, Wayne Copeland and Peggy Weiss of Rocky Hock Baptist Church clean debris. Note the water line about 18 inches up the wall.



SENDING OUT — Billy Layton and his wife, Ann, from Mommyer Baptist Church, coordinated volunteers from the fellowship hall of Cashie Baptist Church.

all the flooring down to the subfloor, and cut off the wallboard several inches above the wet line. Once houses are cleared of ruined furniture and flooring, they are sprayed with disinfectant and allowed to dry before rebuild can begin.

After N.C. Baptist Men were alerted to standby for Nicole's aftermath, they relaxed when the storm blew past with little or no wind damage. "We forgot about the flooding," Layton said. "The rain storm is what got us."

The rain poured relentlessly, soaking the area with nearly two feet of rain and sending the Cashie River over its banks. The river's source is just north of Windsor, which flooded heavily in 1999 during Hurricane Floyd.

"Baptist Men made a big impression on them during Floyd and we were back," Layton said. "It meant a lot for them to see us again."

Residents were told that Floyd was a 500-year storm, so bad that some said if it happens again, they're leaving. But no one was talking about leaving just 11 years later when the water rose again in just two hours once it crested the banks.

Michael Labate, youth minister at Galatia Baptist Church in Seaboard, was doing chaplain work and said Windsor's residents were in "surprisingly good spirits." Their attitude seemed to be, "With help, we know we can survive this."

(See Volunteers Page 11)



DEBRIS — Doris Tynch of Rocky Hock Baptist Church tosses wet flooring out the window.

New dean appreciates Campbell's church commitment

By Norman Jameson
BR Editor

Campbell University Divinity School's new dean appreciates the school's balance of scholarship with its desire to serve the church practically.

Andy Wakefield was named dean in July, succeeding Michael Cogdill who returned to the classroom after helping to get the divinity school started 15 years ago. Wakefield, who found his trail to teaching through a forest of other possibilities, will continue to teach at least one class while adding administrative duties because he is "passionate" about teaching.

He also is enthusiastic about living and working in the Campbell community because Campbell values his scholarship and love of teaching and enthusiastically endorses his "love for the church and a desire to serve the church."

"I want to be able to serve a church and that not be seen as a distraction from my job," Wakefield said during an interview in his office. "My church involvement is seen as an asset rather than a detriment."

Sorting

As a young student sorting out possibilities for life, Wakefield, 50, never pictured himself as a dean, or even as a professor because he never saw someone in front of the classroom that he wanted to be, he said.

He worked three years in the blossoming world of micro computers before he went to seminary, trying to discern exactly what God was leading him toward.

On his first day in seminary, he met a missionary kid on her birthday. Because Olivia was just off the field, her birthday was included on the Woman's Missionary Union missionary prayer calendar. He told her, "With millions of people praying for you today, and you meet me, that can't be a coincidence!"

He found a love for preaching while at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "I remember thinking to myself what would really be wonderful — the ideal, if I had my wishes — would be to somehow



BR photo by Norman Jameson

NEW DEAN — Andy Wakefield wasn't a basketball fan when he came to North Carolina, but he appreciated the University of North Carolina's coach being on the faculty. He thought "Dean" Smith was a title.

put these together, where I could teach and also serve the churches. I didn't realize until much later that was describing what I have at Campbell."

Wakefield earned his doctorate at Duke University Divinity School and was teaching Greek and New Testament adjunctively at Campbell when he was asked to join the faculty of the new divinity school. Campbell's divinity school found early success, even as a new school in the midst of much more established seminaries.

"Each of us is offering something slightly different and I think that's valuable," Wakefield said. For instance, he felt lost among Southern's more than 2,000 students. Community is easier to find among Campbell Divinity's 220.

"We have very powerfully been able to model the body of Christ," Wakefield said. "Students really plug into this where they experience a sense of community, of acceptance. And it's not based on all having the

exact same views. We have students coming from a wide variety of backgrounds. Twenty-five percent of the student body is not Baptist; the other 75 percent is different flavors. They are different ages, post-college to their 70s, and ethnically diverse." They are all committed to the school's ministry statement which is: Christ centered, Bible based and ministry focused.

That statement is more than a slogan, Wakefield said. It gives students latitude to hold different perspectives. They "may not be on the same page" in some things, but they're in the same book and a part of the same body of Christ.

"Our students then want to take this model of being the body of Christ out to the churches and say, 'OK, how can we as a church embrace one another with our differences?'"

Wakefield recognizes that Campbell Divinity and Gardner-Webb Divinity were born from turmoil in the Southern Baptist Convention, whose six seminaries have been the primary preparatory schools for Baptist church staff. And although the five universities affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) are changing their relationship to the BSC, "Campbell still views itself as partners with the Baptist State Convention and we value that partnership because this is who we're serving," he said.

He said Campbell Divinity graduates "for the most part" find open doors for service and "find themselves well equipped for ministry."

"We are rigorously academic but we are also rigorously practical and we don't think those two can't go hand in hand," he said.

Most students are in the master of divinity program, but Campbell Divinity also offers master in Christian education, a doctor of ministry degree and several certificate programs, including Hispanic theological education, childhood ministry and women in leadership.

Wakefield is a missionary kid himself, having grown up in the Philippines and Singapore, although he graduated from high school in Richmond, Va.,

(See New dean Page 11)



2011 find it here

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During last year's annual meeting you heard about the first part of a three-year strategy to mobilize NC Baptists to reach our state with the Gospel. Come to the 2010 annual meeting and learn about the second part of the Find it Here strategy: making disciples. Visit www.ncannualmeeting.org for more.

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"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

JOHN 15:8

NAMB offers early retirement incentive

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Telling North American Mission Board (NAMB) staff “considerable change” is coming, president Kevin Ezell shared a retirement incentive with employees that will be the beginning of an overall reduction in force in the months ahead. Details of the incentive were shared at a meeting Sept. 30.

“There are a lot of changes and some things coming down the road. I don’t know what all of those are,” Ezell told the NAMB staff. “Knowing that there are changes coming and not knowing who exactly that would involve, we wanted to offer an incentive to those who might already be thinking about retirement.”

Ezell said it was important to announce the incen-

tive at this time to coincide with a significant change GuideStone Financial Resources has announced in its annuity funding rate beginning Jan. 1, 2011. GuideStone is reducing the floor funding for its lifetime annuity payments from the current 6 percent to somewhere between 3 and 4 percent.

Ezell described the incentive as “the first phase” in what will be a series of staff changes coming to NAMB. Under the plan, staff who are age 55 and older will be credited additional years of service so they can qualify for health insurance benefits. Additionally, a retirement incentive bonus will be paid, based on years of service.

“To be sure we are being very clear — this is the very best incentive we could come up with,” Ezell

said. “It’s the best option that will be available.”

Ezell compared the changes coming to NAMB to a company that had been making washing machines and now will be making cars.

“There is going to be considerable change,” Ezell said. “A lot of the changes will not be directed to competency of people because we are going to be doing some things so drastically different. What does that look like specifically, I don’t know yet. But we are working on that as fast as we can.”

Currently, 258 people serve on NAMB’s staff in Alpharetta. An additional 34 direct-paid missionaries, who serve throughout North America, are also eligible for the incentive. Those taking advantage of the plan will need to retire by Dec. 31, 2010.

Kansas-Nebraska reduces CP giving

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists has reduced the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts forwarded to Southern Baptists’ national and international causes from 32 percent to 22 percent, the convention’s news publication has reported.

Two factors caused the decision, according to Ron Pracht, president of the Kansas-Nebraska convention: the impact of the economic recession on churches; and diversion of cooperative missions funds into direct missions causes. The action is retroactive to the first of the year and is temporarily in place through the remainder of the year.

The CP reduction was approved by 40 members of the convention’s mission board while one board member registered opposition, Pratt reported in a front-page column in the September edition of the *Baptist Digest*, the KNCSB’s news publication.

“Because of the state of the economy across Kansas and Nebraska and because some churches in KNCSB have chosen to redirect some of their mission dollars in light of the adoption of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report, we need to consider a redirection of funds received through KNCSB,” Pracht wrote.

“Great Commission Giving” was endorsed by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force Report. However, messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Orlando this past June adopted the report and recommendations only after an amendment was made that emphasized “that designated giving to special causes is to be given as a supplement to the Cooperative Program and not as a substitute for Cooperative Program giving.”

“This was a difficult and painful decision for us to make,” Pracht wrote. “As I told the members of the Mission Board (80) percent of our budget is invested in people ... Short of massive layoffs or significant pay cuts, this was the best short term alternative.”

In an accompanying editorial *Digest* editor Tim Boyd wrote that without the action by the convention’s mission board, mission work in the two-state convention would have been crippled.

While the GCR recommendations challenged churches to give sacrificially so the gospel could be taken to people groups that have yet to hear it, Boyd expressed concern in his editorial that some congregations are redirecting money away from initiatives to reach their cities, states, and nation in order to boost giving to international projects.

News Briefs

Courts uphold piercing, religious plates

(RNS) Two federal courts have issued strong defenses of religious expression in two separate decisions, one involving a teenager’s nose piercing and the other a license plate.

Ariana Iacono, a freshman at Clayton High School, was allowed to return to class Oct. 8 after missing more than four weeks of school for wearing a small nose stud that violated the school dress code.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit on behalf of Iacono, claiming the school was violating her right to religious freedom as a member of the Church of Body Modification.

“We are thrilled that Ariana can return to her studies,” said Nikki Iacono, Ariana’s mother, in a statement from the ACLU.

“She has missed 22 days of school already this year because the school

has wrongfully forced her to choose between her education and our family’s religion.

“Ariana was an honor roll student in middle school, and she is eager to get back to her classes and continue with her education as soon as possible.”

The Iacono family belongs to the Church of Body Modification, which believes rituals such as tattoos and piercings are essential to spirituality and connect followers to the divine.

The emergency court order by U.S. District Judge Malcolm J. Howard will allow Iacono to attend school while the lawsuit continues on the constitutional questions raised by her case.

Meanwhile, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Oct. 8 reversed a lower court decision that supported a Vermont statute that prohibited religious messages on vanity license plates but allowed other nonreligious messages.

WMU launches new wmu.com

National Woman’s Missionary Union has launched an updated website at www.wmu.com that consolidates all sites for age-level missions organizations.

Julie Walters, corporate communications team leader, said there also is a significant increase in interactive functions. Prior to the redesign, WMU maintained 19 different sites.

Campbell builds bridges to world religions

Intentional interfaith bridge building was the primary focus at the World Religions and Global Cultures Appreciation Luncheon held in Raleigh by Campbell University Divinity School in October.

Twenty-two religious leaders representing 13 faith groups gathered around tables at the Campbell University Law School in Raleigh, eating culturally sensitive food prepared by Raleigh’s First Baptist Church, and sharing fellowship and understanding. Religious leaders were from synagogues, mosques, temples and churches in the Raleigh area who have hosted classes taught by George Braswell, former missionary, senior professor of World Religions and founding director of the World Religions and Global Cultures Center at Campbell.

NY votes CP increase

RANDOLPH, N.J. (BP) — Messengers to the Baptist Convention of New York’s (BCNY) Sept. 26-27 annual meeting voted to increase the Cooperative Program (CP) percentage sent on to the Southern Baptist Convention and were challenged to start 1,000 churches.

BCNY Executive Director Terry Robertson said, “It will stretch us more than the changes we have already seen.”

N.C. Baptists have a partnership with the N.Y. Metropolitan Baptist Association. Messengers voted a 2011 budget of \$3.19 million matching the 2010 budget, and to increase the percentage of CP from 27.75 percent to 28 percent.

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Obituary

THOMAS "TOM" ALBERT BLAND SR., 85, of Raleigh died Oct. 9 following a lengthy illness. He was ethics professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary 1956-1993, was founding pastor of four North Carolina churches and interim pastor of 41 others.

Bland was founding pastor of Holly Hill (Burlington), Greystone (Raleigh), Woodhaven (Cary), and Triangle (Raleigh) Baptist churches. He was named Church Planter of the Year by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in 1985.

His son, Tom, is pastor at First Baptist Church, Morganton. Bland graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1947, and earned B.D. (1951) and Th.D. (1956) degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He did postdoctoral study at Yale, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Union Theological Seminary. He served three years as professor of sociology at William Jewell College in

Around the state

Liberty, Mo.

In Baptist academic circles, he is remembered particularly for his expertise in developing and teaching frameworks for ethical decision-making in an ever-changing society and for his knowledge of, and substantial experience in, urban and suburban church starts and related ministries.

Bland is survived by his wife, Eunice Andrews Smith Bland, of Raleigh; a daughter, Cynthia Bland Biggar of Concord, Mass., son Thomas A. Bland Jr., of Morganton; stepdaughter, stepson and five grandchildren.

WILLIAM HOWARD DAVIS, 81 of Landis, died Aug. 31 at NorthEast Medical Center in Concord.

His ministry took him to Center Road Baptist Church, Bladenboro; First Baptist Church, Oakboro; New Hope Baptist Church, Kannapolis; and Black-

welder Baptist Church, Kannapolis.

He is survived by his wife, Billie Murphy Davis; two daughters, Debbie Davis of Kannapolis and Pam Phillips of Mt. Pleasant; sister, Darlene Davis Brooks of Kannapolis; and three brothers, John and Earnest Davis, of Kannapolis, and Donald Davis of China Grove.

Memorials to Genesis Baptist Church, 9710 Old Concord Road, China Grove, NC 28023, or Blackwelder Park Baptist Church, 2204 Summit Ave., Kannapolis, NC 28081.

EARL MOSELEY, 83 of Asheville died Oct. 2.

Moseley served as pastor of nine churches in North and South Carolina during his 53 years of ministry. He completed his pastoral ministry at Beaverdam Baptist Church, Asheville, in 2003.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Alice; his daughter, Elaine Sluder; two sons: Carson Moseley of Taylorsville, and Kelvin Moseley; three sisters: Annie Lee Anderson, of Goose Creek, S.C.; Fannie Lou Miles and Clara Kelly of Blythewood; eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: CarePartners Hospice Foundation, PO Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813, or Beaverdam Baptist Church, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, 399 Beaverdam Road, Asheville, NC 28801.

Gate City Baptist Church, Jamestown, has called **MICHAEL OWENS** as pastor. He was pastor of Eastway Baptist Church, Charlotte.

DAVID TAYLOR has been called as part-time youth minister at Harvest Baptist Church, Durham.

Euto Baptist Church, Marshville, has called **LEE DAVIS** as associate pastor of discipleship.

DAVID MORTON has been called as pastor of youth and worship at North Albemarle Baptist Church, Albemarle.

Ridge Road Baptist Church, Raleigh, has called **RANDY SHERRON** as pastor. He was serving as interim pastor at the church.

MARK THOMPSON has been called as minister of education at Centerview Baptist Church, Jacksonville. He is retired from the Marine Corp.

Benton's Cross Roads Baptist Church, Monroe, has called **CHRIS BAUCOM** as pastor. He was education pastor at Sardis Baptist Church, Indian Trail.



Opportunity Corner

Registration opens for Blume

Thousands of teenage girls and collegiate young women will connect July 13-16 in Orlando, Fla., during Blume for a fun and intense four-day focus on missions.

Operating from Disney's Coronado Springs Resort girls will engage in hands-on ministry projects; enjoy personal interactions with missionaries, dynamic worship, breakout sessions, and Bible studies; and experience a unique and interactive cultural activity in EPCOT customized just for Blume.

Chandra Peele, nationally known speaker and author, will be the keynote speaker.

Blume 2011 is based on 2 Timothy 1:3-14, with verse 7 as the focus: "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of

self-discipline" (NIV).

"We pray that girls will leave Blume with the realization that God has a plan and purpose for their lives," said Suzanne Reece, former North Carolina WMU staffer and now a Blume coordinator and WMU ministry consultant. "The girls who come to Blume are each uniquely gifted, and God has empowered them even now to make a difference in the world, and to accomplish His mission. They have the power to change their world for Christ through the spirit of God's love living and working through them."

Registration is now open. Early-bird registration through April 30, 2011, is \$299 per person if staying within the Blume block of reserved rooms. Fees rise to \$349 after May 1, 2011.

Vocational evangelists revisit call

"Revisiting the call," the annual Vocational Evangelists Conference, is slated Jan. 13-14, 2011 at Caraway Conference Center.

Based on Ephesians 4:11-12, the event begins Thursday at 10 a.m. and concludes Friday at noon.

Speakers include Ken Smith, Eddie and Janet Thompson, Thomas Hammond, Brad Bierowski, Keith Kimball,

and Greg and Sandy King, with worship led by Cindy Johnson.

The conference is sponsored by the evangelism and church growth team at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Registration deadline is Dec. 16, 2010.

Contact Rebecca Harbinson at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5563, or evangelism@ncbaptist.org.

Camp hosts fall workday

Camp Mundo Vista near Asheboro plans a workday Nov. 6. The day begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. with lunch provided.

Work includes yard work, tree cutting, minor repairs, painting, window washing. Volunteers are encouraged to bring work gloves and tools (rakes, leaf

blowers, chainsaws, etc.).

Call (336) 625-4828 by Oct. 31 to inform them of the number of volunteers you plan to bring.

Please let the camp staff know if there are professionals — landscapers, electricians, etc. — in your group as well.



Staff changes

ERIC LOFTON has been called as the director of youth ministries at Grace Baptist Church, Mt. Holly. He has spent many years volunteering for youth ministries in area churches.

To submit items:

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to print significant news from the churches.

Not all items will be printed. Either e-mail digital photos or photo prints.

For e-mail submissions: dianna@biblicalrecorder.org. Or, send to *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

MISSIONARY APPOINTMENT SERVICE

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Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Following the extensive review and restructuring approved by the messengers of both the 2008 and 2009 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) annual meetings, the Board of Directors (“Board”) is proposing substantially less extensive amendments for consideration by the messengers at the annual meeting for 2010. The proposed amendments brought forth by the Board involve two motions to amend the articles of incorporation and six motions to amend the bylaws.

Motion 1 — Articles of Incorporation Article VIII. Board of Directors.

The Board proposes two changes, one of grammar and one of punctuation, to bring clarity to the first sentence of this article.

Motion 2 — Articles of Incorporation Article XV. Amendments.

The Board proposes changes related to the notice requirement for amendments to the articles of incorporation. The proposal includes the addition of an option for proposed amendments to appear in the *Biblical Recorder*, the current requirement, or to be mailed to each individual cooperating church twenty-one (21) days in advance of the annual meeting. Changes in publication schedules, including deadlines for the submission of materials, have made providing notice to churches regarding proposed amendments more challenging. The proposed addition insures that cooperating

churches will receive proposed amendments in written form prior to the annual meeting regardless of publication changes with the *Biblical Recorder*.

Motion 3 — Bylaws Article I.C.5.a.(ix) and I.C.5.c.(i). Convention Committees.

Individuals wishing to replace the name of an individual recommended by the Committee on Nominations for service to the BSCNC currently must announce their intention in the *Biblical Recorder* prior to the annual meeting of the convention. However, publication schedules of the *Biblical Recorder* have changed in recent years making it exceedingly difficult for individuals to bring such a challenge. Therefore, an amendment is proposed that will allow individuals wishing to make such a proposal to announce their intention on both the BSCNC and *Biblical Recorder* websites a minimum of fourteen (14) days in advance of the annual meeting of the convention.

Currently, North Carolina Baptists have the opportunity to submit resolutions for consideration by the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials up to 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the convention. However, the deadline for the committee to announce resolutions in an edition of the *Biblical Recorder* for review by messengers is so close to the deadline for submission to the Committee on Memorials and Resolutions that it does not have time

to fulfill its duty to review, and if necessary revise, submitted resolutions. Therefore, the proposed amendment will move the deadline for submissions of resolutions to September 10th each year. This new date will give the Memorials and Resolutions Committee time to complete its responsibilities.

Motion 4 — Bylaws Article II.E.1, Article II.F.9.c, Article II.F.9.d.(ii)(2) and (3), and Article II.F.9.d.(v). Board of Directors.

These amendments correct and make consistent capitalization, punctuation, committee names and awkward wording.

Motion 5 — Bylaws Article III.B.4. Convention Institutions and Agencies.

This amendment deletes the reference to “covered entities” and updates the name of the Budget Special Committee. Revisions to this article in 2008 removed other reference to “covered entities” which was formerly a reference to the BSCNC’s institutions and agencies.

Motion 6 — Bylaws Article III.C.2. North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

The North Carolina Baptist Hospital (Hospital) has requested a revision of the bylaw concerning the number of trustees elected by BSCNC to serve on the Hospital’s board of trustees. Currently, the BSCNC elects one half (1/2) of the Hospital’s trustees, and that number is specified in the BSCNC Bylaws as three (3) trustees

each year. The Hospital’s board is undergoing changes that will result in a smaller number of trustees serving on that board. The Hospital requests the removal of the specific number, but the retention of the provision that BSCNC will continue to elect one half (1/2) of the elected trustees serving on the Hospital’s board. This request does not impact the relationship of the Hospital to BSCNC and is not an act of severance.

Motion 7 — Bylaws Article IV.B. and C. Convention’s Guaranty of Borrowing.

BSCNC has long established parameters related to guaranty of debt on behalf of the BSCNC’s institutions and agencies. However, with changes in relationships and the terms used to reference those relationships in recent years, clarity is needed regarding to whom these parameters apply. Therefore, to address all of the entities whether an institution, agency, auxiliary, association or church, the Board proposes changing references to “institutions and agencies” in article IV to “third party” so it will include “institutions and agencies” as well as other entities within the parameters outlined therein.

Motion 8 — Bylaws Article IV.H. Amendments.

The Board proposes changes to the notice requirements for amending the Bylaws in similar fashion to those proposed for amending the Articles of Incorporation.

Proposed amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws from the Board of Directors

Board of Directors — Articles of Incorporation

Motion 1

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

Current Reading:

Management of the Convention of its properties and affairs shall be vested in the members of the Convention, the Convention officers and Convention committees as well as its Board of Directors, which, in addition to its other powers and authorities, shall have the power and authority from time to time to sell, expend, or otherwise dispose of any and all property of the Convention in furtherance of any of the purposes for which the Convention has been organized

New Reading:

Management of the Convention and its properties and affairs shall be vested in the members of the Convention, the Convention officers and Convention committees as well as its Board of Directors, which, in addition to its other powers and authorities, shall have the power and authority from time to time to sell, expend, or otherwise dispose of any and all property of the Convention in furtherance of any of the purposes for which the Convention has been organized.

Amendments — Articles of Incorporation

Motion 2

The Board of Directors moves that the first part of Article XV of the Articles of Incorporation prior to the clause beginning “(b) on the Convention’s website” be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading:

The Articles may be changed or amended at any session during any annual meeting of the Convention other than the first or the last session during the annual meeting or during any special meeting of the Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting when the vote is taken, provided that notice of any and all amendments to the Articles shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken; and (b) on the Convention’s website

New Reading:

The Articles may be changed or amended at any session during any annual meeting of the Convention other than the first or the last session during the annual meeting or during any special meeting of the Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting when the vote is taken, provided that notice of any and all amendments to the Articles (a) shall either appear in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken or be mailed to every cooperating church, as defined above, at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken; and (b) shall appear on the Convention’s website

Convention Committees — Bylaws

Motion 3

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the first sentence in Article I.C.5.a.(ix) of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; and (2) the first three sentences in the second subparagraph (i) of Article I.C.5.c. of the Bylaws be deleted in their entirety with the following language substituted in their place.

(1) Article I.C.5.a.(ix):

Current Reading:

(ix) The name of any person to be nominated from the floor of the Convention and the name of the nominee intended to be displaced shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than one (1) week prior to the Convention’s annual meeting; and (b) on the Convention’s website beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. In addition, biographical material . . .

New Reading:

(ix) The name of any person to be nominated from the floor of the Convention and the name of the nominee intended to be displaced shall appear on the Convention’s website and may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder* website, beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website(s) through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. In addition, biographical material . . .

(2) Article I.C.5.c.(i):

Current Reading:

(i) All resolutions shall be submitted to the committee in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. The committee shall consider all resolutions submitted. Those to be presented to the Convention shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than one (1) week prior to the Convention’s meeting; and (b) on the Convention’s website beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. . . .

New Reading:

(i) All resolutions shall be submitted to the committee in writing no later than September 10 prior to the annual meeting of the Convention in which the proposed resolution is to be considered. The committee shall consider all resolutions submitted. The committee shall provide notice in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention of when and where the resolution will be available on the Convention’s website and may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder*’s website. Those resolutions to be presented to the Convention shall appear on the Convention’s website and may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder*’s website, beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website(s) through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. . . .

Proposed amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws from the Board of Directors

(Continued from Page 5)

Board of Directors — Bylaws

Motion 4

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the third sentence in Article II.E.1. of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (2) the current first sentence of Article II.F.9.c. of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (3) subparagraphs (2) and (3) of Article II.F.9.d.(ii) of the Bylaws be deleted in their entirety with the following language substituted in their place; and (4) the word “Committee” in the title of Article II.F.9.d.(v) of the Bylaws be deleted and the word “Subcommittee” substituted in its place.

(1) Article II.E.1.:

Current Reading:

The mid-year meeting shall be on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the third Sunday of May, or a more convenient time recommended by the Executive Director-Treasurer and Board President and voted on by the Executive Committee in its March meeting.

New Reading:

The mid-year meeting shall be on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the third Sunday of May, or a more convenient date recommended by the Executive Director-Treasurer and Board President and voted on by the Executive Committee in its March meeting.

(2) Article II.F.9.c.:

Current Reading:

The Business Services Special Committee shall be responsible for counseling the Executive Leader of the Business Services Group regarding business matters, and including without limitation, procedures of bookkeeping and accounting; financial reporting; the annual audit; the convention equipment maintenance and replacement; the purchasing procedure by staff; the insurance coverage on Convention’s property; and acquiring or disposing of Convention real and personal property.

New Reading:

The Business Services Special Committee shall be responsible for counseling the Executive Leader of the Business Services Group regarding business matters, and including without limitation, procedures of bookkeeping and accounting; financial reporting; the annual audit; the Convention equipment maintenance and replacement; the purchasing procedure by staff; the insurance coverage on Convention’s property; and acquiring or disposing of Convention real and personal property.

(3) Article II.F.9.d.(ii):

Current Reading:

- (2) Shall continue approved appropriations until the fund reaches twenty percent (20%) of the Cooperative Program budget.
- (3) Shall adhere to the following guidelines for use of these funds: to assist any institution or agency where a real emergency exists; to cover any unfunded programs due to shortfall in Cooperative Program funds where the need is urgent and cannot be met within other budget adjustments; and to fund any new programs that are deemed to be of primary importance by the Executive Committee, the Board and Executive Director-Treasurer.

New Reading:

- (2) Shall continue approved appropriations until the fund reaches twenty percent (20%) of the Cooperative Program budget;
- (3) Shall adhere to the following guidelines for use of these funds: to assist any institution or agency where a real emergency exists; to cover any unfunded programs due to shortfall in Cooperative Program funds where the need is urgent and cannot be met within other budget adjustments; and to fund any new programs that are deemed to be of primary importance by the Executive Committee, the Board and Executive Director-Treasurer; and

(4) Article II.F.9.d.(v):

Current Reading:

Constructing and Financing Facilities Review Committee.

New Reading:

Constructing and Financing Facilities Review Subcommittee.

Convention Institution and Agencies — Bylaws

Motion 5

The Board of Directors moves that the second, third and fourth sentences of Article III.B.4. of the Bylaws be deleted in their entirety with the following language substituted in their place.

Current Reading:

4. Optional Election Method. . . . Whenever such institution or agency exercises this option in regard to a certain percentage of its total number of trustees or directors, never more than fifty percent (50%), the Board, upon the recommendation of its Budget Committee, shall reduce the Cooperative Program funds allocated to such institution or agency by the same percentage and shall make recommendations to the Convention, through the proposed annual budget, as to how such funds may be used to accomplish other significant tasks of the Convention, its covered entities. Any reversal of this process involving restoration of any Cooperative Program funds will be subject to budgetary limitations and must have the approval of the Budget Committee of the Board, of the Board, and of this Convention. The trustees or directors of such institution or agency of this Convention shall make an annual report, no later than February 1 of each year, notifying

the Committee on Nominations of the Convention and the Budget Committee of the Board concerning the exercising of such an option and of all vacancies to be filled. . . .

New Reading:

4. Optional Election Method. . . . Whenever such institution or agency exercises this option in regard to a certain percentage of its total number of trustees or directors, never more than fifty percent (50%), the Board, upon the recommendation of its Budget Special Committee, shall reduce the Cooperative Program funds allocated to such institution or agency by the same percentage and shall make recommendations to the Convention, through the proposed annual budget, as to how such funds may be used to accomplish other significant tasks of the Convention and other entities described in this Article III. Any reversal of this process involving restoration of any Cooperative Program funds will be subject to budgetary limitations and must have the approval of the Budget Special Committee of the Board, of the Board, and of this Convention. The trustees or directors of such institution or agency of this Convention shall make an annual report, no later than February 1 of each year, notifying the Committee on Nominations of the Convention and the Budget Special Committee of the Board concerning the exercising of such an option and of all vacancies to be filled. . . .

North Carolina Baptist Hospital — Bylaws

Motion 6

The Board of Directors moves that Article III.C.2. of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading:

2. The Convention and the Hospital shall each elect one-half (1/2) of the members of the Hospital’s board of trustees. The Hospital shall elect three (3) trustees each year, and the Convention shall elect three (3) trustees, each for four-year (4) terms.

New Reading:

2. The Convention and the Hospital shall each elect one-half (1/2) of the elected members of the Hospital’s board of trustees.

Convention’s Guaranty of Borrowing — Bylaws

Motion 7

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the phrases “an institution or agency described in Article III.B. of the Bylaws,” in Article III.B.1. and 2. of the Bylaws be deleted in their entirety and the phrases “a third party,” substituted in their places; (2) the phrase “such institution or agency” in Article III.B.2. of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the phrase “such third party” substituted in its place; (3) the phrase “any of the institutions or agencies described in Article III.B.” in Article III.B.3. of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the phrase “any third party” substituted in its place; and (4) the phrases “an institution or agency,” in Article III.C.1. and 2. of the Bylaws be deleted in their entirety with the phrases “a third party” substituted in their places.

Current Reading:

- B. Convention’s Guaranty of Borrowing by an Institution or Agency
 - 1. The Executive Committee may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of an institution or agency described in Article III.B. of the Bylaws, provided that (a) such borrowing
 - 2. The Board may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of an agency or institution described in Article III.B. of the Bylaws, provided that (a) such borrowing shall be repaid in full at the end of the subsequent fiscal year of the Convention, any unpaid balance of such borrowing at the end of the current fiscal year of the Convention shall be provided for in and made a part of the budget of such institution or agency for the Convention’s subsequent fiscal year; (b) the total amount
 - 3. The Convention shall approve by a majority vote at its annual meeting or a special meeting any guaranty by the Convention of any borrowing by any of the institutions or agencies described in Article III.B. not specifically authorized under Paragraphs 1 or 2 above or that require the Convention to encumber any of its property.

- C. Convention Approval of Borrowings or Guaranties
 - 1. Any motion which proposes the borrowing of money, the guaranty of borrowing by an institution or agency, or the encumbrance of Convention property which requires Convention approval shall set forth all pertinent facts
 - 2. Notice of any motion involving proposed borrowing of money, guaranty of borrowing by an institution or agency, or the encumbrance of Convention property requiring Convention approval

New Reading:

- B. Convention’s Guaranty of Borrowing by a Third Party
 - 1. The Executive Committee may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of a third party, provided that (a) such borrowing
 - 2. The Board may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of a third party, provided that (a) such borrowing shall be repaid in full at the end of the subsequent fiscal year of the Convention, any unpaid balance of such borrowing at the end of the current fiscal year of the Convention shall be provided for in and made a part of the budget of such third party for the Convention’s subsequent fiscal year; (b) the total amount
 - 3. The Convention shall approve by a majority vote at its annual meeting or a special meeting any guaranty by the Convention of any borrowing by any third party not specifically authorized under Paragraphs 1 or 2 above or that require the Convention to encumber any of its property.
- C. Convention Approval of Borrowings or Guaranties

(See Proposed amendments Page 7)

Proposed amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws from the Board of Directors

(Continued from Page 6)

1. Any motion which proposes the borrowing of money, the guaranty of borrowing by a third party, or the encumbrance of Convention property which requires Convention approval shall set forth all pertinent facts
2. Notice of any motion involving proposed borrowing of money, guaranty of borrowing by a third party, or the encumbrance of Convention property requiring Convention approval

Amendments — Bylaws

Motion 8

The Board of Directors moves that the first part of Article IV.H. prior to the phrase “on the Convention’s website” near the beginning of clause (b) shall be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading:

These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting at any session during the annual meeting (other than the first session or the last session) or during a special meeting of the Convention, provided that notice of the amendment to the Bylaws shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken; and (b) on the Convention’s website

New Reading:

These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting at any session during the annual meeting (other than the first session or the last session) or during a special meeting of the Convention, provided that notice of the amendment to the Bylaws (a) shall either appear in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken or be mailed to every cooperating church, as defined in the Articles, at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken; and (b) shall appear on the Convention’s website

Resolution of Appreciation to Host City

Whereas, the 180th annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is meeting November 8-10, 2010 in Greensboro, North Carolina; and
Whereas, the local citizens involved in welcoming and facilitating our sessions have done so in a very caring and effective manner;
Whereas, the management and staff of the Koury Center, Sheraton Hotel, have gone the extra mile to accommodate this Convention;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, meeting at the Koury Center, Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro, November 8-10, 2010, express our appreciation to the people of Greensboro, the management and staff of the Koury Center, Sheraton Hotel and to the Committee on Convention Meetings for outstanding service and kindness rendered to us during this annual meeting.

Resolution Embracing The Cooperative Program

WHEREAS, these are unprecedented times of globalization, communication, declining Western Civilization, and a great opportunity for sharing the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and shining the light of the Gospel; and
WHEREAS, these times call for an unprecedented level of cooperation to accomplish the goal of bringing the Great Commission message to every people group in North Carolina, North America and the world; and
WHEREAS, the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, June 15, 2010 voted to adopt the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force Report that refined the strategies of the convention but only after the report was amended by a nearly unanimous vote to state unequivocally that Cooperative Program giving is the preferred method for funding the Southern Baptist Convention’s ministries and that designated giving is not a substitute for Cooperative Program giving,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina meeting in annual session in Greensboro, NC, November 8-10, 2010

acknowledges the value of concerted, cooperative ministries of our churches to reach the peoples of our state, the nation and the world; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we are concerned that the strength and vitality of our coordinated strategies, ministries and institutions would be diminished by an independent/societal model; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the Baptist State Convention of NC to select leaders who have demonstrated strong support for our cooperative missions model; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we are grateful to Rev. Milton Hollifield and his staff for their public and private advocacy toward simultaneously reaching the lost in our local areas, the state, the nation and the world through the Cooperative Program; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we embrace the Cooperative Program model as the most accountable, effective, efficient and compelling method for fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Proposed Recommendation from the BSCNC Committee on Convention Meetings

The 2010 Committee on Convention Meetings will be recommending to the messengers of the upcoming 180th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, scheduled for Nov. 8-10, 2010, a change in the proposed schedule for the 181st annual meeting, to occur in November 2011.
The recommendation will be as follows:
The Committee on Convention Meetings moves that the annual meeting for 2011 move to a two day meeting. The proposed dates for the convention meeting are November 7 and 8.
A move to a two-day meeting is beneficial to both those planning the annual meeting and those attending the annual meeting.
The greatest financial savings will come to those who attend the annual meeting, specifically messengers, as a shorter convention will allow many messengers to return home rather than spending an additional evening in the hotel and the additional expenses associated with the third day of a convention meeting.
Through a review of attendance on

the third day of the annual meeting over the last decade, it is obvious that fewer and fewer messengers are attending a third day.
Many North Carolina Baptists may not realize that our convention is only one of a handful that continues to hold three-day meetings of the convention.
However, it is also important to note that in spite of the length of the meeting, North Carolina continues to have the largest attended annual meeting of state conventions across the Southern Baptist Convention.
The Committee will bring this motion during the Monday evening session of the upcoming annual meeting.
Messengers will determine whether this proposal moves forward at that time.
Only messengers who have registered prior to the beginning of the Monday evening session will be able to participate in this discussion.
We hope that you will attend the convention Monday evening, participate in this discussion, and celebrate what our Lord has accomplished through our Convention this year.

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Depart Wednesday, May 11, 2011 for Cairo, Egypt. Tour includes a full day excursion to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Next, transfer to Memphis and Sakkara to the Step Pyramid. Travel to Alexandria, visit the Catacombs of Kom ash-Shuqqafa, Pompey Pillar, Roman Amphitheater, and Alexandria’s Library. Fly to Amman, Jordan. Visit Petra via Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Jordan Valley, Kerak Castle, Corinthian Tombs (Treasury); cross into Israel from Agava crossing and drive to The Dead Sea for afternoon float. On drive to Jerusalem, visit Massada Museum, Qumran, and Ahava Factory. On day 10, tour the old city of Jerusalem. On day 11, enjoy a morning tour of new city of Jerusalem; and that afternoon travel to Bethlehem for sightseeing, including Shepherd’s Field. Next, visit Megiddo, Bet She’an and Tiberias (three nights). Cruise the Sea of Galilee. Then visit Haifa and Tel Aviv before flying home. This will be Rev. Williams’ 7th YMT trip as a Baptist Chaplain. He is currently Interim Pastor of The First Baptist Church of Durant, Mississippi. *Per person, double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

For Information, reservations, brochure, and letter from
Rev. Billy Williams, with his phone number, call 7 Days a Week:

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C.F. McDowell III, First Baptist Church, Laurinburg

Although our pastor, Rev. C. F. McDowell III has been with First Baptist, Laurinburg for only a few years, we have been tremendously blessed by his ministry. Rev. McDowell is a compassionate, kind, attentive and selfless person. In times of crisis, he can be counted on to be there for his congregation and their families. Through the depth of his biblical knowledge, Rev. McDowell engages us during his unusual and timely sermons to remember God's love for us and challenges us to find our places of service. We appreciate and love this servant of God who is indeed a rare jewel.



Baptist Chapel Church

We love **Pastor Alex Smith**, wife Shirly and children Carrie and Danie. He brings such spiritual joy and enthusiasm. We would like to say **THANK YOU! YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**



Mount Carmel Baptist Church

We would like to honor **Dr. Ronnie C. Owen**, pastor, for 41 years of ministry with us. He is indeed a wonderful, caring pastor, a superb minister and a friend to all who know him.



Norlina Baptist Church

Pastor Doug Cutts is truly a man called by God. He preaches the Bible, and he is always there. Pastor Doug, we love you and are thankful God sent you.



Jerry Gamble, Mount Home Baptist Church

Mount Home Baptist Church has been truly blessed to have Rev. Jerry Gamble as our pastor for 39 years. When he preaches, the congregation knows they are going to be blessed and brought closer to the Lord, because Pastor Gamble has spent time in prayers and Bible study. He is not just an excellent speaker, but an outstanding pastor. He seems to know the needs of his people and responds in an appropriate manner. He has led not only in membership growth, but from a facility of \$500,000 to over \$9,000,000. He is active in all phases of Baptist life.



Hayes Barton Baptist Church

For thoughtful, challenging, insightful preaching; for inspirational example and consistent grace; for laughter and compassion; for leadership in areas both profound and mundane, we honor our pastor **David Hailey**.



Athens Drive Baptist Church

Tim Howell is greatly appreciated by his congregation at Athens Drive Baptist Church. He is a wise, caring and compassionate pastor and a wonderful preacher. We love you, Tim!



Galeed Baptist Church

Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro would like to thank **Dr. Mack Roberts** as well as his wife Ella Rae for their dedicated love and service to the church and community.



Oakdale Baptist Church

Pastor Greg Barefoot has true compassion for people and lives his life appreciative of the awesome gift of salvation. He laughs, cries, loves and smiles as he leads others to Christ.



Hickory Grove Baptist Church

Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Bladenboro, would like to thank **Rev. Thomas Whray**, his wife Dee Dee and two children, Nicole and Abigail, for their two years of faithful service.



Watkins Chapel Baptist Church

Pastor Jim Grieme is truly called by God to teach and preach the Word. We continue to thank God every day for bringing Pastor Jim and his lovely wife, Frances, to serve His people.



Durham Memorial Baptist Church

Durham Memorial Baptist Church, Durham would like to thank **Reverend Ed Denton** and his wife Julia for their ministry to our congregation and community. We love you!



Mt. Airy Baptist Church

Rev. Steve A. Strickland "Thoughtful and Unselfish" In appreciation for the sacrifices you make, Mt. Airy Baptist Church would like to say "Thank You!"



N. Ray Phillips, Rowan Baptist Church, Clinton

Top-notch pastor, humble spirited, no pretense in this man. Every day he lives what he preaches. He studies extensively and is always prepared for every task, including preaching, teaching, leading prayer meetings and business sessions, which he conducts with parliamentary procedures. He is compassionate and sensitive to others' needs and feelings, is a devoted husband to Ginny and loving father of two daughters. He enjoys his musical talent and uses it to sing with the church choir and with N.C. Baptist Singers.



Olyphic Baptist Church

Since 2002, thanks, dear **Pastor Tom Womble**, for humbly lovingly leading us into a working, tithing budget; a binding relationship among ourselves; a growing membership; and a closer walk with our Savior.



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

Dr. W. Wayne Bennett Jr.

This Man This "man" is a humble teacher and leader. This "man" will listen. This "man" is a "man of God."



Chapel Hill Baptist Church

Thank you **Rev. Eric Grindstaff** for 15 years of unwavering dedication to preach the true word of God to Chapel Hill Baptist Church. We love and appreciate you! Ladies of WOM



Roberts Chapel Baptist Church

Dr. James D. Crocker came out of retirement in Sept. 2005 to minister to the needs of a small community church. He is a dedicated servant, kind-hearted, sincere, compassionate, and we thank the Lord for sending him to us. BYW's and your church family



Darrell Garner, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Bear Creek

Rev. Garner answered the call of God to be our pastor 24 years ago. These 24 years have been a blessing. Rev. Garner is a man of God. He is a Bible preaching man. He doesn't add to or take away scripture, exactly like God's Word says. Visiting the shut-ins, sick, hospitals, families that have lost loved ones he is the best. The care and love for his Lord is shown so much for the love of his people in our congregation. There is never a time if he is called, or needed that he does not say "YES." We love him a lot.



Willard McPherson, Piney Forest Baptist Church, Chadbourn

We appreciate and love our pastor because our church has been touched by his impeccable leadership. His unlimited talents and ability to teach and lead are exemplified through his love for mankind, God and His Word. He is a compassionate shepherd who has an inner willingness to love and care for his flock. Our church has grown both spiritually and physically under his leadership. He led our church to implement a children's church, which has been a blessing. He is a supporter of missions, both local and global. We are thankful for our pastor and the opportunity to serve our God together.



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Compassion invigorates church, moves Dover pastor

(Continued from Page 1)

had insurance,” when tragedy strikes, Davis argues in his thesis submitted for his doctor of ministry degree from Liberty University Seminary.

Demonstrating compassion

Davis gives each newborn the child’s first toy bear. After church each Sunday he gives to a child the flower his wife, Frankie, puts on his lapel before church.

Every Christmas he and Frankie purchase a gift for each child, with some extras to cover any visitors on distribution night. Church secretary Denise Greene roams the room to find visitors, and then writes their names on a gift so their name is called – much to their surprise and delight.

Why does the pastor extend himself this way? He says it is to thank his church family for letting him into their lives to share such intimate moments. “I appreciate this church letting me love them,” he says. “They allow me to be a part of their lives, to infiltrate and experience their joys along with their hurts. That’s what ministry is, laughing in their joys, crying when they’re hurting. It’s compassion.”

Davis encourages pastors to love people, minister to them, fill their needs, and “Christ will fill the pews.”

Dover, a rural church with 400 resident members, gives 20 percent of its income to missions, including 10 percent through the Cooperative Program, and baptized 43 in the past two years. Yet no houses are visible from the church. Dover is growing in numbers and spirit because the church has “reclaimed compassion” in its body,



BRANCHING OUT — Don Davis, pastor of Dover Baptist Church, enjoys two particular hobbies, including woodworking and painting. This golf cart and wagon holds candy that church children find. The portrait is of good friend Terry Rouse who died in 2007.

Davis says. He said the church needs to reclaim the compassion that will respond to neighbors “who don’t have heat, don’t have electricity, don’t know where their next meal is coming from.”

Like others who trace society’s ills to the breakdown of the home, Davis goes a step further and says “when the home began to break down, the church didn’t rally to the home by being compassionate.”

Tucked into an office crowded with sagging bookshelves and ringed by chairs, Davis relates several incidents that contribute to his conviction that compassion marks a path for Christians.

His father died when Davis was 15; his mother died a year later. He admits being angry with God, but feels that God used his pain to give him compassion. “All the clichés don’t mean a thing,” Davis said about ministering to those who are hurting. “They just need to know you care.”

Help them struggle

He cautions parents and youth ministers not to “insulate our children” from pain because doing so “deprives them of the struggles we’ve gone through as adults. The butterfly gets its beauty and ability to fly because of its struggle to get out of the cocoon. It’s the struggle that makes us.”

Davis is a Marine veteran and a licensed electrician. He took most of his theological training through seminary extension courses that enabled him to continue working while learning. Dealing with tremendous debt from Frankie’s three heart surgeries and three operations for his son, God placed Davis in a church in Winston-Salem at just the right time to learn about and to take advantage of ministries North Carolina Baptist Hospital offers to pastors.

During his ministry he sometimes had Saturday nights of study after a 59-hour work week as an electrician when he would ask Frankie, his wife of 41 years, to wake him after a desperate 10-minute nap.

“That’s where the basis of compassion is,” Davis says, without feeling sorry for himself or asking anyone to

feel sorry for him. “I know God will see you through the tough times. Nothing is too hard for Him. He’ll strengthen you when you’re down. He’ll encourage you. I’ve lived on \$5 a week and that’s to buy gas to go visiting with and everything.”

He recalls a lesson from a retired evangelist who visited prospects with him one day. When Davis declined the man’s offer of \$20, “He pointed his finger in my face and said, ‘Don’t you ever refuse anything. You’re not going to cheat me out of the blessing of giving,’” Davis said.

Davis has been pastor also of Antioch Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, Fairview in Albemarle, Laurel Hill in Troy, Taylor Memorial in Gastonia and the former Rosewood Lane in Gastonia that grew from 15 to 59 in his initial pastorate, but disbanded later. He is a native of Glen Alpine, five miles west of Morganton.

He walked away from ministry in 1984, saying he “would not be abused like that again.” But God broke his heart and the day after Davis asked God to open another door to ministry, a pulpit committee called, “and the journey began all over again.”

Special hobbies

Two special hobbies both help him to relax and expand his ministry. He uses his love of painting and of woodworking in demonstration classes open to the community.

While many pastors keep a box of tissues handy on their desks to offer a crying counselee, Davis uses a handful himself when he shares about special people in his life to whom he showed compassion.

They vary from a man with disabilities who made himself useful around the church when others pushed him aside, to a man who asked for and received Davis’ last dollar, to an 18-year-old girl who had been visiting faithfully who was killed in a car accident.

Although she was not a member, Davis’ ministered to her family while a deacon filled in for Wednesday night services.

“The people have let me pastor,” Davis says. “That has been the key. They let me do what I do best. I’ve reached into their homes, reached into their lives, and by doing that I really believe they believe I have their best interests and the best interests of the church at heart. “We’ve started an incredible journey together. It’s not my journey, it’s our journey. God is moving, don’t get in His way.”

8

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Paulina's journey leading to success

By J. Blake Ragsdale
BCH

Paulina climbs into the driver's seat of her just-purchased 1998 Jeep Cherokee. For many months, she saved money to buy her very first vehicle.

The teenager smiles as she grips the worn steering wheel. As she looks through the windshield, Paulina sees her dreams come into focus. She imagines driving herself from her cottage at Mills Home to the local restaurant where she works and then to the community college she attends.

After taking numerous turns, Paulina, 19, is on a well-paved road to success.

"I know what I want," she says confidently. "Here at Mills Home, I am motivated to keep going."

Paulina has lived on the Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) campus in Thomasville since age 15. Being there has given her stability she never knew.

Paulina's father was controlling and often abusive to her mother. Once in a fit of rage, he sent his wife tumbling down stairs when she was pregnant with Paulina. Paulina was unharmed, but the defenseless mother fell hard, breaking her nose.

After Paulina was born, her father took her to other people's houses without informing his wife. Her mother had no way of knowing where her daughter would be or with whom. It was a way he callously controlled his family and punished Paulina's mother.

"A dad wouldn't do that," Paulina says, a scowl marking her face. "He hurt my mom very badly. I don't hold a grudge, but I know what's real, and the reality is that he wasn't a good person."

Her mother filed for divorce when Paulina was three-years-old and her father was imprisoned for abuse. Her mother remarried when Paulina was seven, but the second marriage was wrought with problems and turmoil. Life became miserable for Paulina. The couple placed Paulina at Mills Home to remove her from the environment.



SECURITY — Paulina, 19, is thankful for the safety she found at Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. She feels motivated to pursue higher goals.

Living at BCH has given Paulina the opportunity to focus on herself and to heal.

"I needed someone to love me," she admits.

Her houseparents, Bobby and Sonya Dalke, gave Paulina the care and comfort she needed.

"I was an angry kid and hurting. At times, I took it out on them, but they would not let me give up," Paulina says. The Dalkes helped her deal with her emotions directing her energies into academics and sports. Paulina discovered a passion for playing soccer and running track.

"They helped me believe I could run track and make it to the regionals," Paulina says. "But the most important thing they taught me is that I am a precious child of God."

On Aug. 16, 2006, Paulina knelt with the Dalkes and prayed accepting Christ into her heart.

"My favorite verse is Matthew 19:26," Paulina

says, "where it says 'with God all things are possible.'"

Paulina has seen the truth of that scripture unfold in her own life. Before, hope and happiness did not seem attainable. Today, Paulina's goals are within reach. She participates in BCH's transitional living program that teaches her skills she needs to be an independent adult while helping her achieve educational goals.

Paulina is so thankful for the opportunity she has received at Baptist Children's Homes that she wants to become a social worker.

"My dream is to give back and impact the lives of others just as my life has been impacted by BCH," Paulina reveals. "Thank you, North Carolina Baptists, for your support and prayers. You are making a difference."

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Ragsdale is director of communications for Baptist Children's Homes of N.C.)

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God’s chastising called Judy Morris into missions

By Mike Creswell
BSC

When she retired after teaching fifth grade for 32 years, Judy Morris did not immediately start doing mission trips, though in earlier years she had vowed to do so after retirement.

Long active in First Baptist Church, Siler City, missions involvement was not on her calendar.

She recalls vividly the moment her commitment changed.

It was soon after Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of Louisiana and Mississippi in 2005. At 6 a.m. one Sunday she was working the crossword puzzle in the newspaper when suddenly somebody said, “You’re making excuses!”

“I looked around and there was no one,” she said. The voice continued, “You’re making excuses. When you were working, you said you would love to do things like help with Katrina, but you couldn’t because you said you were working; you’d love to do so after you were retired.

“Now you’re saying it’s hot down there, but you just got back from Las Vegas and it was 107 degrees out there.

“You say you have a bad back, but you’re getting ready to go to New York on a tour. You have the time now. What’s your excuse?”

“He very firmly told me, ‘If I tell you to do something, I will empower you to do it. Don’t worry about these little things. That will work out,’” she said.

“It was a life-changing experience,” she said.

She soon got trained by N.C. Baptist Men in mass feeding and made two trips to serve in Gulfport, Miss., along with some 40,000 other North Carolina Baptist volunteers who responded over two years.

“It was an eye-opening experience to see the equipment, the organization and all the Baptists with the yellow shirts on,” she said. Morris wept as she recalled how they would be walking through a store, wearing their yellow Baptist Men Disaster Relief T-shirts.

“People would come up to us with tears in their eyes, thanking us for being there,” she said.

She wept again as she recalled how they stood with members of First Baptist Church and sang, “Because He Lives.”

“When we stood to sing, those people had lived

through what we were singing about. They were singing with such joy. It was awesome. It was just awesome,” she recalls.

She recalled being impressed by the Bible study led by Chuck Register, then the pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport. Register is now executive leader for the Church Planting and Missions Development Group at the Baptist State Convention. “We are so fortunate to have him with us,” she said.

This summer Morris led a 10-member team to Connecticut to help a Baptist church there reach out to their community.

Four years after she quit making

excuses, Judy Morris is still sold out to missions.

“People don’t know until they’re touched by it,” she said.

N.C. Baptist Men are able to train, organize and coordinate for disaster relief and carry out 13 other ministries involving men, women and children because they are supported through the North Carolina Missions Offering.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Creswell directs stewardship efforts at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.)

“When we stood to sing, those people had lived through what we were singing about. They were singing with such joy.”
— Judy Morris

Volunteers help dig out Windsor, New Bern

(Continued from Page 1)

Rachel Bazemore, 84, endured the Floyd flood in 1999, lost her husband in 2004, suffered a house fire in 2006 and now the flood. “She’s just looking up,” Labate said.

David Earley, who was supervising the crews in the neighborhood where Baptist men concentrated, said he is hooked on disaster relief and goes “every chance I get.”

“It’s my opportunity to show God’s love,” said Earley, from Merry Hill Baptist Church. He just returned from Kentucky, where he helped a family that had nothing. A girl and her baby lived in a trailer behind her parents and the sum total of her furnishings was a mattress. Freddie Roberson from Memorial Baptist Church in Williamston was enjoying his first days as a retiree. The retired optometrist said he gets “more enjoyment doing something for someone else than doing something for pay.” Although he did admit he’ll have to “turn down my wanters a little bit.”

Greg Riggs from Rose of Sharon Baptist Church in Durham is the volunteer leader of the project, coordinating both Windsor and New Bern efforts. He said it is “incredible” that so many people are willing to drop what they’re doing and serve others.

“It never ceases to amaze me,” he said. “Most of all they come to share Christ with people.”

Youth workers urged to ‘aim higher’

By Kelly ShROUT
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — “God wants us to aim higher,” Derwin Gray, a former NFL player for the Indianapolis Colts and Carolina Panthers, told 400-plus youth workers at a national conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources.

“The living God, the Great I Am, wants to energize our lives and our students’ lives so that we will echo His story through all eternity,” said Gray, founder and lead pastor of Transformation Church in Fort Mill, S.C.

The three-day National Youth Worker’s Conference in mid-September, geared to help leaders develop the spiritual lives of students in their ministries, included a number of featured speakers and 22 breakout sessions relevant to various church settings.

Gray shared insights on how his multigenerational, multiethnic church integrates students into the life of the congregation.

“Our students are not the leaders of tomorrow,” Gray said.

“Our students are the leaders of the church now. Our youth are involved in most aspects of our worship service from helping with

production to serving in the worship band.”

Immerse students in the life of the church, Gray counseled, noting, “Students are not in a separate game. Include them in the whole game.”

“Student ministry is not about building a youth group ...”

Ben Arment, a church planter from Virginia who taught on Jesus’ parable of the sower and the seed from Matthew 13:3-9, encouraged the youth workers to cultivate relationships through their ministry.

“We are not just evangelists,” Arment said.

“We are cultivators. We don’t just take one shot at someone whose heart is not prepared to receive the gospel.”

Alvin Reed, professor of evangelism and student ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, encouraged youth workers to integrate the gospel into every aspect of life.

“We must give (students) the epic of the gospel and let them know that everything in life is about the mission of God,” Reid said.

“More than anything, your student ministry needs a movement of God.”

Paul Kelly, associate professor

of educational leadership at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California, taught a breakout session geared for student ministers with less than five years of experience.

“Student ministry is not about building a youth group, it’s about building disciples of Christ,” Kelly said, noting that discipleship is relational.

“We, as youth workers, need to understand the power of presence,” he said. “As you invite them into your life, learn to nudge them toward deeper spiritual growth.”

Kelly also provided practical tips to new ministers. “Be available,” he said.

“Yet, set boundaries with students.

“Use technology to your advantage and learn to refer youth to specialists if they are dealing with issues beyond your knowledge.”

Kelly also encouraged student workers to be champions for the families of the youth.

“The most important influence in a student’s life is his or her parents,” he said, encouraging workers to remember they are partners with parents.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — ShROUT writes for LifeWay Christian Resources.)

New dean appreciates Campbell’s church commitment

(Continued from Page 2)

when his father, Bill, became an administrator with the International Mission Board. He graduated in philosophy from Wake Forest University and Southern Seminary and earned his PhD at Duke Divinity.

He and Olivia have been married 23 years and have two daughters: Natalie and Allison.

His doctoral thesis and continuing interest is on the Apostle Paul’s use of scripture in his writing and on Paul’s view of the law.

Manual hobbies

Maybe unusual for an academic, but Wakefield’s hobbies are very manual — metal working and wood working. He says it’s logical to have those interests because “I’m interested in everything and would like

to know a little something about everything.”

He is a part of Baptist Fellowship of Angier, a four-year-old non-traditional church that focuses on ministry to young people. Campbell University and Divinity School students are involved in tutoring Hispanic, black and Anglo children. The church shares an old funeral home with an Hispanic congregation.

“The thing that keeps blowing me away is that we are literally a handful of people and we have made it our focus to basically pour everything we have and do into ministry,” Wakefield said.

Although Campbell Divinity trains students primarily for service in traditional churches, “the church is evolving and we want our students to connect to that and be at the forefront of leading the church to wherever God takes them,” Wakefield said.

He says the Southern Baptist Convention is “at the forefront” of that church evolution. It is struggling

through inevitable change, and no one knows what it is going to become.

Wakefield has “a very high view of scripture” he said. But he has “a very low view of someone who wants to tell me what scripture says. I’m committed to scripture. That means I have to read it; I have to wrestle with it; I have to explore it as honestly as I know how.”

“What I passionately want is that students have thought it through and they have their own grasp on it,” he said.

“It is real close to blasphemy not to force yourself to treat all of scripture as honestly, as responsibly and as consistently as you know how.”

All the Divinity School’s faculty are Baptist and Wakefield says the school is intentional about its identity as Baptist. “Within that, we embrace diversity,” he said.

Tar Heel Voices

What favor?

In his Sept. 11 editorial, Norman Jameson asserted that Chowan, Campbell, Mars Hill, Wingate and Gardner-Webb “did North Carolina Baptists a huge favor a few years ago when they offered to give up their Cooperative Program support in exchange for their right to select their own trustees.”

How did N.C. Baptists benefit from this development?

According to Jameson, we are better now because the schools gained “access to a broader base of leadership and resources” and the Baptist State Convention gets to keep more of its dwindling annual income from churches. So, at a time when statistics show that young men and women raised in Baptist churches are leaving the faith of their parents (and Christianity altogether), Jameson says it is a good thing our “Baptist” schools are cutting their ties and saving the Convention money. This appears to be a monumental disordering of priorities.

At the very time we need North Carolina Baptist institutions of higher learning to be cultivating both the faith and intelligence of our young men and women, they are instead going down the well-trod path that Wake Forest College (University) and other institutions in other states have blazed.

This path leads to a gradual abandonment of both Baptist identity and biblical fidelity.

In supporting this move, Jameson appears to be placing resources and money ahead of the eternally important task of providing young Baptist men and women with a biblically-grounded higher education.

I would like to ask Jameson how North Carolina Baptists benefitted from Wake Forest University giving up its share of Cooperative Program support in exchange for their right to select their own trustees?

North Carolina Baptists received little benefit from that arrangement and look to receive the same from the schools mentioned above. Calling their actions a “huge favor” to North Carolina Baptists seems to me to be wishful thinking at best.

Brent Aucoin
Wake Forest

EDITOR'S NOTE — North Carolina's Baptist colleges have not “cut ties” with the Baptist State Convention. By statement and by action they intend to remain Baptist, supportive of the Convention and committed to nurturing both the faith and intelligence of their students.

Superiority not a fruit of the Spirit

Our current culture is embattled in class warfare in which people of different races, genders and socio-economic levels are full of pride and arrogance as they stand in judgment of those around them. Unfortunately, this scenario is also present in our churches and denominations.

Many in Baptist life have fallen victim to the “I am better than you” mentality. May we be reminded that

among our God-granted spiritual gifts, “superiority” did not make the list? How many churches have divided over age, music, worship styles, preferences and even the carpet color? Everyone is equally convinced that Jesus is on their side, no matter the argument.

While 6.2 billion lost people are headed to hell, many of us prefer to fuss and cuss rather than reach and teach. We must recommit ourselves to share Jesus with the world and to show Jesus to the world. We are co-laborers in Christ. We must learn to appreciate the gifts and concerns of our fellow soldiers of the cross, never dismissing them because they are not the same as ours; always remembering there is more that unites us than the tedious details that divide us.

I am 36 but usually have more in common and share the same preferences with those twice my age. However I do appreciate the views of all my brothers and sisters in Christ so long as they adhere to the infallible word of God. My suit and tie don't make me a faithful believer any more than jeans and flip flops make someone a backslider or compromiser.

In a sermon I once referred to the present generation as a bunch of “long-haired, sandal-wearing hippies.” Later someone reminded me that Jesus had long hair and wore sandals. What an arrogant fool I was as I demonstrated my (non-biblical) spiritual gift of superiority!

Let's stop fighting each other and start waging war against the devil. He is our enemy, not the guy down the street who preaches Jesus in jeans.

Cameron L. McGill
Dublin

Appreciates insights

Please permit a reader from Virginia to express appreciation for your insightful opinion pieces. Your Sept. 25 column on “Hold the ladder” stirred the emotions that we ought to feel as we consider world-wide poverty in general and the poverty induced by discrimination. Would that our government officials take as seriously as our churches the need to alleviate poverty, especially in light of our yet unfulfilled promise to fund the reconstruction of Haiti!

I would echo the letter about your great piece on the mosque and I see from another letter that our historic Baptist conviction about freedom of religion is not widely understood.

John D. Divers
Cloverdale, Va.

REACT: Tar Heel Voices is your forum

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Quadriplegic Joni Eareckson Tada discusses suffering, cancer

By Adelle M. Banks
Religion News Service

Disability advocate Joni Eareckson Tada, long known as an evangelical icon and a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic who paints with a brush between her teeth, has faced a range of challenges since a diving accident left her paralyzed in 1967.

Now she's facing another: breast cancer.

Tada, who turned 61 Oct. 15, is undergoing chemotherapy and recently completed a new book, *A Place of Healing: Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty*. Some answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: You have gone through a number of medical

challenges — quadriplegia, chronic pain, and now breast cancer. What are some basic lessons you have learned about suffering?

A: It's good not to simply resign yourself to it. It's also good not to submit or yield to it with its overtones of ‘Oh, poor me. I give up. I give in’ and not even coping or adjusting.

“I think suffering is just one of the results of living in a fallen world.”

— Joni Eareckson Tada

I think the key is to embrace what the Bible calls in Romans 12:2 a “good and acceptable and perfect will” from God.

The only way to really let it do its work, and allow God to have his way, is to embrace and find God in the midst of suffering.

Q: So suffering is a part of God's will?

A: God allows all sorts of things that he doesn't

(See Quadriplegic Page 15)

Please come to the annual meeting

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

In just a few weeks North Carolina Baptists from all over the state will gather together in Greensboro Nov. 8-10 for the 180th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Your presence and voice is very important to the life and future of this Convention so I hope you are planning to join us for this important time together.



I'd like to share with you just a few highlights for our time together. First and foremost we want to honor and glorify God in all we do during these three days. We want to help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, and our program committee has worked faithfully to plan times of rich corporate worship to help accomplish this.

Our theme verse is Colossians 2:6-8, and we will spend time considering what it means to remain rooted and built up in Jesus Christ.

I will present an address on Monday evening and Ed Yount, our Convention president, will give the President's Address Tuesday morning.

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., will bring the Convention Sermon Tuesday evening. Your heart will be blessed as these men teach us truths from God's Word.

During last year's annual meeting you learned about a special evangelism emphasis known as Find it Here.

Many churches participated in this state-wide evangelism emphasis and as a result, God changed many lives.

In November you will learn about the second component of Find it Here, which is discipleship. During the 2011 Find it Here: Embracing Christ emphasis we are challenging churches to commit to an intentional focus on discipleship.

You don't want to miss two other special presentations.

Dr. Michael Blackwell will lead us in a time of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Baptist Children's Homes on Monday evening. God has used the Baptist Children's Homes to provide children with a safe place in which to grow up in a caring, Christian environment.

We will also hear a report from the new Office of Great Commission Partnerships. Come learn how your church can get more involved in missions stateside and around the world.

During business sessions we will report to you how your Cooperative Program and North Carolina Missions Offering dollars are making an impact. Messengers will also be asked to vote on our 2011 operating budget.

A variety of breakout sessions will be offered to help equip you for Kingdom ministry. You can visit with our staff and other ministry leaders in the exhibit hall. They are here to serve you so I hope you will plan to spend some time visiting with them and other vendors in the exhibit hall.

If you have questions or would like more information about the annual meeting, please visit www.ncannualmeeting.org.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon. Thank you for all you continue to do to make the gospel known throughout North Carolina!

Chilean reality show

I'm no fan of any reality television show. I couldn't name a single "star," cast or crew, nor even the shows, except Survivor and American Idol which poke their fingers into so many other conversations you can't avoid them.

But I'm aware enough to know that reality shows dominate programming for a couple reasons: 1. They are cheap to produce, compared to scripted shows that employ professional actors and require high production values; 2. They attract the voyeur in us who wants to watch other people deal with the drama and pain of life without ourselves having to endure that drama and pain.

A tongue-in-cheek note from a friend said she was flipping through the news channels and came across a pretty dramatic reality show from Chile. It seemed some miners had been living together underground for a long time and their circumstances got to be very difficult and the show's producers were bringing them up one by one.

The writer said she couldn't wait for next week's episode.

I suggest a schedule of story lines for the next several weeks for the "Chilean Miners" reality show.

Next week's episode covers their attempts to reintegrate with their families under the harsh glare of television lights. Family members visit them in the hospital and pester them with the question, "What was it like down there?"

Family expresses dissatisfaction with the repeated response that it was dark, cold, frightening, boring, wet and emotionally debilitating. They want more drama from the 69 days below.

The week after that features the awful realization that the miners are still poor but now they have no job.

Then, families break up over failed expectations. Miners discover being back on top the ground is no more magical than it was three months ago. Their own reality show life that compels them to dig ore from the earth's bowels to feed their families in the frigid, barren, windswept landscape of the Chilean mining region is still hard, ugly and numbing.

After an initial love fest wives still feel neglected; children still kick against the goads; bills still must be paid and going back to a mine still sends a frigid chill of dread up the spine of the miner.

The next week features internecine squabbles over how money from the movie deal will be divided among the miners. Will it be enough so the miner doesn't have to crawl back down that hole again? Who will be the hero? Who will be the scapegoat for the mine's partial collapse? Who gets to play the roles? Will professional actors from the country that eventually makes the movie — likely the U.S. — secure the dramatic roles? Or will some Chileans actually benefit from this story?

Will only the miners' immediate families share the royalties? What about the other loved ones drawn to Camp Hope to await the rescue?

There is no telling how long this reality show will fly, but one thing is for sure. Its compelling storyline on American television has about run its course. Another drama is pressing against the next deadline. — NWJ



State Convention annual meeting on horizon

Some things seem to come around all the time. When you shave in the morning doesn't it seem you just did that? Didn't you clean the leaves from your gutters just last week? Do you blow out birthday candles every month?

Now in just a couple weeks North Carolina Baptists conduct our annual business meeting, just like it seems we did a couple weeks ago. The meeting is Nov. 8-10 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro and those who prepare all the materials for messengers attending the annual session are putting together 3,000 packets — just in case. It would not due to have an unexpectedly large turnout and not have materials for everyone.

You should come.

Baptist world is changing faster than leaf color in the mountains and is far less predictable. If you care about the cooperative work of North Carolina Baptists in the state, nation and world you should come hear reports of what we are doing together.

Tension always exists among annual session planners between the need to conduct the business of the Baptist State Convention and the desire to make the annual meeting inspirational. There is always a strong element of presentation: those who are involved in missions present their efforts to you to report how funds are invested, how lives are changed and to encourage your participation in the future. It is a great place to learn about the partnerships, projects and peoples you are involved with — or can be involved with — through ministries of the Convention and its Baptist Men's auxiliary.

Attendance has dwindled since the time when intense controversy drew those of opposing opinions to the meeting to argue for their perspective. With a clear direction settled for the BSC annual meetings have been relatively harmonious, if still unpredictable. Leaders make frequent reference to the surprise action by messengers in 2008 to disregard the recommendations of its Giving Plans Study Committee that would have included a check box for contributions to the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Convention to consider two day meeting

It is very expensive for North Carolina Baptists to hold a statewide annual meeting. Costs easily exceed \$1 million for the Baptist State Convention to lease the space, provide rooms and meals for the staff necessary to attend, pay for programming and establish the exhibit area and for 2,000 messengers to drive to the venue, eat and stay over for a night or two.

For years the meeting started Monday evening with some preliminary singing and preaching and introductions; followed by Tuesday morning business and elections; a few hours off in the afternoon, business and presentations Tuesday evening and a half day of business on Wednesday.

Tuesday morning was prime time for presentations. Wednesday was a grave yard. Tuesday afternoons became a time for breakout sessions to squeeze in some learning opportunities. A few years ago business crept into Tuesday afternoons because constitutional wording was ambiguous about when issues had to be introduced for them to be acted upon in the following business meeting.

Budget approval was held for Wednesday mornings in part to try to hold a crowd over for business that day, and in part to hold that discussion when the few remaining people were anxious to leave.

This year the Committee on Annual Meetings will bring a motion recommending that the annual meeting be condensed to two days. A two-day meeting would save

That option's death killed the last reason some churches cooperated with the BSC and likely contributed to some of the Cooperative Program woes of today. Still, the action clearly demonstrated that messengers have both an intense interest in what they are considering and the ability to effect or alter business. It also showed that in a small crowd the opinion of a few adamant people can prevail. That, of course, is true at every level. Passion counts and it moves people.

Messengers in the room during those three days of meeting are the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. So if you are passionate about the good things North Carolina Baptists are doing together, you need to come. If you want a voice in potential changes, you need to come.

If you want to hear some good preaching, praying and singing, you need to come.

You will hear about the next phase of the evangelistic emphasis Find It Here; about the Baptist State Convention's new partnership with Moldova and updates on other partner-

ships where volunteers experience the joy of sharing Christ alongside other Baptists in their context as they help us in ours. Ed Yount, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church in Conover, will be leading his first annual session as president. We'll be considering a budget that is six percent smaller than in 2010 which was 12.3 percent smaller than in 2009, and sends a larger portion to ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers also will consider changing the annual meeting from a three-day format to two days. Cited are costs, lagging attendance and declining interest generally in attending conferences and meetings.

The emotional highlight promises to be the presentation by Baptist Children's Homes, which corresponds with its 125th anniversary observance. Children and staff always knock it out of the park when they thank North Carolina Baptists for their support.

Those of you who read the *Biblical Recorder* regularly already know about all these things. Do your friends a favor and spread the word.



EDITORIAL

Norman Jameson



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Lesson for October 31**Formations****Lesson for November 7****Defending the homeland****Focal Passage: 1 Samuel 30:1-4, 11-20**

Fortunately for me, my parents used very clean language.

I would have known otherwise. As a child I listened intently to their speech, believing that if they ever slipped up and “cursed,” then I would have license to do the same.

The logic is questionable to be sure, but then again, my adolescent brain was often more concerned with what I could get away with rather than what would edify my character.

In any event, I gauged a lot (but not all) of my behavior on the basis of what my mother and father did.

When we read of David’s fight with the Amalekites in 1 Samuel, our knee-jerk reaction may be to deem his battle a justifiable “rescue mission,” and then keep reading.

Yet we should not gloss over the fact that David’s life story includes a lot more fighting!

Furthermore, we should not assume that because David fought his enemies, we automatically have license to fight those who wrong us.

Consider last month’s reading from Ecclesiastes 3.

Just because there is a “time to kill” (v. 3) and a “time for war” (v. 8) does not mean the author is sanctioning either.

These “times” are descriptive, not prescriptive; they remind us how the world is, not necessarily how the world should be.

David did fight on numerous occa-

sions, but we must be careful not to use his actions as blind justification for the battles we long to wage.

If you read the entire chapter of 1 Samuel 30 you’ll notice that before David sought out the Amalekite marauders, he sought out God.

David first asked if he should pursue the raiders, and secondly if his pursuit would be successful. God gives him the go-ahead on both counts (v. 8).

Instead of side-stepping God and charging into the Amalekite camp “swords a blazing,” David seeks the Lord’s wisdom.

Here his actions give us more pause than permission.

How do we discern when it is acceptable to fight?

Is fighting acceptable when we are on a “rescue mission” like David, or when we are provoked, or when we have simply exhausted every other option?

Or does the way of Christ demand that we suffer violence and gross injustice by “turning the other cheek?”

These are difficult questions, and the Bible doesn’t provide easy answers. Perhaps it is here that we should take our cue from David.

Are we, like David, willing to take time and ask God’s permission before retaliating against our enemies?

If so, I suspect we’ll be surprised how few times God gives us a “yes.”



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Submitting to authority**Focal Passage: Romans 13:1-7**

The government is persecuting Christians in my neighborhood.

Every week, dozens of believers are being stopped and fined by civil authorities for no other reason than traveling to attend a morning worship service.

Of course, I suppose I should mention that these “martyrs” are also travelling to church at 85 miles per hour, and that this “persecution” comes in the form of blue lights and speeding citations. I’d hate to deface such regular churchgoers with a moniker like “speed demons,” so I’ll call them “swift saints.” In their efforts to worship the Lord on time, “swift saints” represent a sad and silly effort to show devotion to God by disobeying the government.

In our passage for today, Paul encourages the Roman Christians to submit to the governing authorities. However, Christians have not always agreed as to how Paul’s instructions should be understood.

Sure, we should obey the authorities when they tell us not to rob each other, but what if the government was to outlaw something like praying? If such a scenario seems alien to us, remember that Paul might be composing this epistle during the reign of Nero.

Paul knew persecution was a possibility, and he instructs believers accord-

ingly (Rom. 12:14). However, notice too that Paul writes that “rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad,” (v. 3a).

Paul’s observation presupposes a government that has some discernment of right and wrong, thus it’s tempting to doubt that Paul had the maniacal reign of Nero specifically in mind.

The Greek word from which we get the term “martyr” is *martus*, meaning “a witness.” Under Roman persecution, believers were tortured and executed before jeering throngs, and thus it was the martyrs’ courageous civil disobedience that served as a public witness to the life-altering power of Christ. Even though many of us will never face such atrocious persecution, we too are called to bear witness.

By obeying the laws of the land, Christians show themselves to be a people dedicated to the common good, a people willing to respect and submit to authority. Through our example, the crowds who watch our every move can still witness the transformed lives of those who bear Christ’s name.

As “swift saints” burn down the highway at Mach 3, their hearts palpitate with each patrolman they pass in the median. They live in fear of authority because they do wrong (v. 3b). Hopefully, churchgoers can cultivate a different reputation in the future. Christians must instead be known as that strange lot who proclaim God’s truth regardless of a ruler’s stance, all the while audaciously claiming citizenship in a kingdom not of this world.

Lesson for October 31**Bible Studies for Life****Lesson for November 7****Making Sense of Faith****Focal Passages: Romans 4:1-3, 23-25; 10:9-13; Hebrews 12:1-2**

When my husband Jack and I retired, we enjoyed lazy afternoons, books, and time to travel.

Before long, however, we grew restless.

We decided that *retirement* meant being tired twice — first, tired of running the race that Hebrews 12:1-3 describes as “set before us,” and second, tired of *not* running.

So, we asked God to renew our call. Soon, Jack was back in ministry, and I ran alongside.

Does God ordain our race before we are born, as Jeremiah 1:5 suggests, or does our free will play a part?” God answers yes to both.

First, we choose either to run or go our own way, bypassing God’s will. Christians run because we *are* saved — not in order to *be* saved, or salvation would be the result of works. Paul insisted, “For by grace are you saved through faith ... it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Secondly, we choose *how* to run. Races are tailor-made. You’re not running my race, and I’m not running yours. In choosing how to run, Hebrews 12:1 suggests we “Lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us.”

Reviewing my life, I wonder how

much unnecessary weight, like worry, I should have laid aside.

Secondly, we’re to “lay aside the sin which does so easily beset us,” the area where Satan might trip us up.

Every race has a start, middle, and finish.

For most of us, childhood, the start, is easy because others look out for us. Should we make a false start, there’s time to get things right.

The ending is also exhilarating with the finish line in sight. The middle of life’s race is the toughest.

We feel pain, pressure, and the temptation to take our eye off the goal of winning others to Christ.

We’re too far into the race to turn back, and the finish line is not yet in sight.

It’s here we learn to live by faith.

We do most of our spiritual growing in the middle of the race.

I don’t know what you’re going through today, but keep running.

The more obstacles you overcome, the more sense your faith will make. And Jesus waits at the finish line with your crown in His hand.

**Why the Christian Life is Better****Focal Passages: John 14:15-18, 27-31a; 15:11-16**

I lived my first nineteen years without Christ. Knowing that Christmas and Easter celebrated His birth and resurrection, I saw no connection between those events and my life and eternal destiny.

I knew God as Creator, not as Savior and Lord. I knew nothing of the peace He promised in John 14:27, or His joy recorded in 15:11, and never dreamed He had a purpose for my life (15:16).

During those years, no pastor or friend shared with me that a man named Jesus left heaven to die and pay the penalty for my sins. I was unaware that I was a sinner at all, as I had never been to jail.

Any Christian in pulpit or pew could have drawn me into the kingdom of God, but no one came.

When I left for college, my spiritual biography could have been written in one sentence: I was good, but I was lost. One night my dorm mother sent a message by me to a girl upstairs.

Seeing her door ajar, I pushed it open

to view something I had never seen before: A girl was on her knees talking out loud to God. I backed into the hall as if frozen in space. When she finished praying, I delivered the message and returned to my room. But I returned a different person. I had pushed open more than the door to her room; I had opened the door to the throne room of God, and I would never be the same again.

I desired the relationship she had with God, but knew nothing about inviting Christ into my life.

Neither did I understand the source of my restlessness: God’s Spirit was wooing me. Finally I decided to talk to God as she had done. I said, “Lord, I don’t know what I’m asking, so I don’t know how to ask, but whatever you did in that girl’s life, will you do in my life now?”

If you’d been present, you might have said, “I didn’t see anything happen.” Neither did I. The earth didn’t shake and bells didn’t ring. Only one thing occurred: Jesus kept His promise when He said, “Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him . . .” (Rev. 3:20).

Life is better when lived in relationship with Jesus because He gives us His presence, peace, and purpose.



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Quadriplegic Joni Eareckson Tada discusses suffering, cancer

(Continued from Page 12)

approve of, even suffering. But when we do suffer, he tells us to commit yourself to your Creator — that's trusting him — and continue to do good — that's obeying him. Like the old hymn goes, "trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy" — especially in suffering — than to trust and obey.

Q: As a quadriplegic, you've talked

about people offering to pray for your healing. Has your response to that changed over the years?

A: No, it's pretty much the same. God can and often does choose to miraculously intervene in our circumstances, but it's the exception to the rule. All we need to do is just look at the statistics of the many, many, many people who pray for healing and yet it never comes. I believe that God is focused on

a deeper kind of healing, an inside kind of healing, a healing of the soul.

Q: How do you respond to those who connect lack of physical healing with some hidden sin or lack of faith?

A: We receive e-mail and letters from hundreds of people with disabilities who have been crushed in spirit because some well-meaning Christian — usually well-intentioned but misguided — has placed upon them this incredible burden, this sense of guilt for some hidden, unconfessed sin.

It's incredibly sad that so many Christians place such a huge focus on the physical and the external, as though whether you're up on your feet is the definitive evidence of whether or not your faith is strong.

Q: Is there a bottom-line answer to the age-old question of why bad things happen to good people?

A: I think suffering is just one of the results of living in a fallen world. I often say that suffering is like a sheepdog snapping at our heels that drives us into the arms of God, where we otherwise would not naturally go.

Q: Can you talk about how you reacted to the breast cancer diagnosis?

A: It's like God must be doing something big, and I believe that. I'm not sure what it is. I know it's certainly something big in my own life, in my own faith. I think it will stretch it and cause it to grow and enlarge but there's something else as well. I don't know what that is.

Q: How are you feeling with the chemotherapy?

A: I'm feeling well and very hopeful but, boy, I'm very cautious. I don't let



FAITHFUL — Joni Eareckson Tada is an author, disability advocate and the founder of Joni and Friends International Disability Center.

people hug me or kiss me.

Q: You have long been known not only as an advocate but an artist. Have you been able to do that at all recently?

A: Not recently because of the chronic pain. Plus this cancer has made it very challenging to get to my easel. While I'm going through chemotherapy, I don't want to put pencils in my mouth or anything that might cause an infection. I'm sure that when it's all behind me, I'll be thrilled to get back to my easel.

Classified Advertisements

Pastor

Millers Creek Baptist Church, Millers Creek, NC, is seeking full-time **Senior Pastor**. Experience is required and master's degree from accredited seminary or divinity school is preferred. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 559, Millers Creek, NC 28651. Resumes accepted through December 1, 2010.

An opportunity in western NC for **full time pastor** to lead SBC church to new areas of missions, ministry and worship. The diverse congregation seeks an energetic, motivated and excited pastor. The campus with worship facility and educational/office complex has room for growth. A mature pastor seeking this challenge shall have necessary education providing teaching, counseling, pastoral care and delivery of the inspired Word of God. The candidate must lead by example and love people. He shall lead members to engage in mission activities both locally and other diverse locations. As pastor he will supervise a staff of three part time associates. Resumes accepted until November 30, 2010. Submit confidentially to PSCFriendship@bellsouth.net or mail to Pastor Search Committee, 4676 Horseshoe Bend Road, Hudson, NC 28638.

Following a 2 year period of transition, Calvary Baptist Church of Lovington, Virginia, seeks a **full-time Pastor**. Candidates shall be seminary educated and experienced in pastoral care, leadership and member discipleship. Calvary Baptist Church is located halfway between Lynchburg and Charlottesville, Va., in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Calvary is associated with BGAV, SBC and Piedmont Baptist Association. Supported by a part-time staff of music director, office manager, facilities manager, musicians, and strong AWANA and youth programs, Calvary is poised for growth in its ministry to the central Virginia area. Submit resumes to Pastoral Search Committee, PO Box 264, Lovington, VA 22949 or email bpCalvaryBapCh@aol.com by the end of the day on November 30, 2010.

Hampstead Baptist Church, a conservative, missions-minded congregation, located in coastal Southeastern NC is seeking a **full-time Pastor**. Average worship attendance is 150. Send resume to Hampstead Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1159, Hampstead, NC 28443, or to Libby@hampsteadbaptist.org.

Denominational

Director for Christian Camp and Retreat Center affiliated with Chowan Baptist Association located in northeastern North Carolina. Individual should be a mature Christian with previous experience administrating a Christian camp or comparable ministry. Responsibilities include working with multiple ages (including children). For more details: www.chowanbaptist.org follow link to "Camp director job description." Send resumes by Oct. 31 to Chowan Baptist Association, c/o Search Team, 108 Berry St., Hertford, NC 27944; or email: rroberts@chow-anbaptist.org.

Church Staff

Polkville Baptist Church, located in the southern foothills of North Carolina, is seeking to fill a **full-time position for minister of worship and discipleship**. We are a purpose driven church in a rural community averaging 250 during Sunday morning worship. Interested persons should have a degree in music with additional studies in Christian education. For a full job description, visit our website at www.polkvillebaptist.com. Please send resumes to: Polkville Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, PO Box 245 Polkville, NC 28136.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS. First Baptist Church, Easley, SC, is seeking a full-time minister of students. Experience preferred and MDiv degree preferable. Submit resumes to Search Team Chair, 300 East First Ave., Easley, SC 29640, or email: resumes@efbc.org.

Benson Baptist Church seeks a **part-time Director of Youth and Children** for an active and growing program. Responsibilities center on planning in implementing a program of spiritual formation and Christian education for the youth and children of the church. Email resumes to Michael@BensonBaptist.org.

Music and Youth Pastor. Crosspointe Baptist Church is a ten year old church plant in Concord, NC. They are seeking a full-time music and youth pastor. Duties include planning and leading a blended worship service, overseeing music ministry for adults, youth, and children, and leading a growing youth ministry. A bachelor's degree is required and seminary degree is preferred. Resumes should be sent to crosspointe@ctc.net or mailed to PO Box 1708, Concord, NC 28026.

Warsaw Baptist Church seek **part time choir director/musician** for traditional services. Send resume to Warsaw Baptist Church, 209 E College Street, Warsaw, NC 28398 or email to warsawbc@embarqmail.com.

First Baptist Church of Icard, NC, is accepting resumes for a **full-time Student Minister**. To view a complete job description, go to www.firstbaptisticard.org. Please send resumes to First Baptist Icard, Attn. Student Minister Search Team, 2178 US Highway 70, Connelly Springs, NC 28612 or e-mail to krobinson@firstbaptisticard.org. Resumes accepted through October 31, 2010.

Seeking **full-time Office Manager/Administrative Assistant**. Church secretarial experience preferred. Microsoft Office experience required, ACS software a plus. For more information visit www.ubc-ch.org. Please send resume to ubccch1@bellsouth.net or University Baptist Church, 100 S. Columbia Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, Attn: Gail.

Music Director/Music Worship leader. EBC is looking for an energetic and innovative music director/music worship leader — one who will motivate and encourage church members to use their gifts in the music ministry. The position will begin as a part-time position but does definitely have the possibility of becoming full-time. If you have a desire to use your Christian leadership skills and creativity, we have a place for you. Email responses to sbridgers@ec.rr.com or mail resumes to Music Director Search Team, PO Box 1712, Elizabethtown, NC 28337.

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