

BIBLICAL RECORDER

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KIMANI 'rescued' BY BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES



imani's childhood was lived behind closed K doors. His adoptive family made it seem as if the young boy didn't exist.

The family wouldn't allow Kimani to play outside like other children. No one would ever catch a glimpse of him riding the bus because he wasn't permitted to attend school.

Within the walls of the family home, a horror story played out as Kimani struggled to survive his parents' unimaginable abuse.

"I had no hope. I didn't think I had anything to be hopeful for," says Kimani, who is now 18 years old. "I didn't know what love was."

Kimani was forced to stay indoors to prevent his parents' atrocities from coming to light. Every aspect of his young life was enveloped in darkness. At night, Kimani was made to sleep in a small closet. Whatever light pervaded the tiny space was quickly smothered when his mom or dad closed the closet door locking him inside. He never knew what to expect when the door opened the following day.

"I went through all types of abuse," Kimani reveals. "I've been beaten on the tongue with a brush. I've been kicked."

He was also starved. Kimani only received food

See Kimani page 16

GuideStone challenges abortion mandate

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

he Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) health and financial benefits entity has filed its firstever lawsuit against the federal government in a legal challenge to the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate.

GuideStone Financial Resources and two of the organizations that take part in the entity's health plans filed the federal suit Oct. 11 in Oklahoma City. Joining GuideStone in the suit were Oklahoma City-based Reaching Souls International and Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.

The suit contends the religious liberty of the entities and other non-churchrelated organizations covered by Guide-Stone's health plan is violated by a rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the See GuideStone page 19

'MY HOPE': It's not too late to get involved

By ELAINE HELMS | Baptist Press

hurch prayer ministry members Lou and Carol Harris were determined to participate in My Hope America with Billy Graham personally, even though their church had not yet planned to be involved. They attended My Hope America training in the Atlanta area in late September and had an opportunity to view "Defining Moments," one of the My Hope America evangelistic video programs.

The Harrises were noticeably impacted and asked if it was too late for their church, First Baptist in Washington, Ga., to get involved. Learning that there are still many ways to utilize the opportunity, they went home and talked to their pastor, Kevin



My Hope with Billy Graham is Nov. 7-10 but leaders want people to know it is not too late to get involved. (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

SEBTS hires Art Rainer as new VP

SEBTS Communications

outheastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) recently announced Art Rainer as its new vice president for institutional advancement.

Before moving to Wake Forest, Rainer served as the administrative pastor of

First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla. Rainer has co-authored two books, Raising Dad and Simple Life.

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"My wife and I are excited to join the Southeastern family," said Rainer. "It is such a great honor and privilege to serve this great institution. I look forward to coming alongside the Southeastern team as we train and equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission."

Rainer is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a master of business administration and is a candidate for a doctorate in business administration. Both degrees have a special focus on the area of marketing.

Furthermore, Rainer has extensive experience both personally and professionally in the context of the Southern Baptist

Convention (SBC) giving him an ability to understand how to operate among the SBC constituency groups.

At First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Rainer was heavily involved in fundraising efforts. When he started the position, the church was in serious financial trouble, and efforts had to be undertaken through fundraising to save the church financially. These efforts proved

> successful, and have given Rainer extensive experience in the area of building relationships for financial support.



Rainer has spent a significant amount of time researching the Millennials generation, those born between 1982 and 2002.

Currently, he is also work-

ing toward a master of arts in biblical studies at SEBTS. Rainer and his wife, Sarah, have a three-year-old son and a newborn boy.

Rainer joined SEBTS as the acting vice president for institutional advancement in August and was elected Oct. 15 by the Board of Trustees. Rainer oversees admissions, alumni development, communication, financial development and planned giving within the division of institutional development. **B**

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

College-age volunteers get disaster training

Baptists on Mission/North Carolina Baptist Men is hosting two disaster relief training events for college-aged volunteers.

The training will be held Nov. 2 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Red Springs Mission Camp and Nov. 9 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Shelby Mission Camp.

The cost is \$40 or \$45 with Friday overnight. It is a one-day orientation to the Disaster Relief ministry which includes history, policies, procedures, and technical training in recovery (mud-out, chainsaw, and temporary repair skills.) If you need Friday night housing it is available.

Cost includes training manual, hat, shirt, id badge, background check and three meals on Saturday. Red Springs Mission Camp is located at 114 Industrial Road, Red Springs. Shelby Mission Camp is located at 302 Sharpton Road, Shelby.

Visit baptistsonmission.org; under "Training," choose "Training Opportunities" then "Disaster Relief Training." Look at "Upcoming Events" at the bottom of the page.

Contact Mary Mountz at *mmountz@* ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5606.

GIVE NOW & HELP & CHILD

BCH plans senior adult event

"Living Life to the Fullest," the Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina Mills Home in Thomasville is hosting its second senior adult event Nov. 7. Keynote speakers include Michael C. Blackwell, author/motivational speaker/BCH President; Renea Henderson, Christian comedian; and Roberta Brunck, Christian music artist/author. The event begins at 10 a.m., includes lunch and ends at 2:30 p.m. Registration opens a 9 a.m. Breakout sessions cover a variety of topics. The cost is \$9 per person.

For more information including a complete schedule of events visit the "Current Events" section at www.bchfamily.org or call (336) 474-1209.



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My Hope Continued from page 1

Madden, who enthusiastically got the ball rolling for their church to participate.

If you are just now hearing about My Hope America, it's not too late.

My Hope is based on Jesus' call to Matthew, and Matthew's desire to introduce his friends to Jesus (Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32).

Patterned after this gospel example, the My Hope steps include:

• Look Around: Build a spiritual concern for those around you who need Christ; make a short list of family, friends and neighbors who need Jesus.

• Look Up: Pray every day for each name on your list.

• Look Out: Think of ways to build your relationship with each person.

• Look Forward: Invite them to your home or other venue.

Offer hospitality and food, and meet in a cordial, friendly atmosphere. Watch one of the My Hope America video programs which provide a clear message of salvation.





My Hope America is focused on helping people share Jesus with their friends. Videos are available to share with friends and neighbors.

A Christian who is known to those listening should give a short salvation testimony (story of personal coming). Then give a clear invitation and lead a prayer for people to receive Christ and begin to follow Him.

• Look After: Make the commitment and a follow-up plan for new believers so



Focused prayer

Students and faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest gathered to pray Oct. 2 for the TenTwo prayer initiative. The North American Mission Board (NAMB) asked for prayer warriors to spend time to pray for those sharing Christ with the lost. This group met in the Jacumin-Simpson building for a time of prayer and for breakfast. The event was sponsored by Southeastern and the North American Church Planting Network. NAMB has materials available (*namb.net/tentwo*) for individuals and churches to continue this effort. It is not limited to Oct. 2 but organizers are encouraging people to set aside time at 10:02 a.m. and/or p.m. daily to pray for harvest workers. See more images online at *BRnow.org/Photo-Gallery*. (*BR* photo by Kelly Hunter)



they become lifelong disciples of Jesus. You can start with the My Hope America free discipleship materials.

These steps can be used in many ways. Over the past 12 years much has been learned about which ways are most effective, and that God will give a spiritual harvest in each. Here are a few ways to use My Hope America, whether you've been planning this for months or just

starting to prepare:

• Homes. In all 57 countries where the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association previously carried out My Hope, the most effective way was in homes. Somehow, the close and informal relationships of a home are especially conducive to introducing family, friends and neighbors to Jesus.

• Youth groups. Young people like to hang out together. Food, fun and friendship - with fervent prayer - are steps for bringing young people to Christ. These meetings can be held in homes, church buildings or other gathering places. At the youth gathering, show a My Hope America evangelistic video, have one or two young people prepared to give their brief testimony, then give a clear invitation and lead in prayer to receive Christ. The "price of admission" can be that each Christian youth bring a non-believing friend with them! Find out who received Christ, then begin the consistent, patient follow-up essential to see young people mature in Christ.

• Small group meetings. A church's small group ministry leader can study the My Hope America materials and train group leaders so that each group begins to pray for and reach out to family, friends and neighbors. Group members can bring the people they're praying for to a "party," where a My Hope America video program is shown and a salvation testimony is given followed by a clear invitation and prayer to receive Christ. The group members then should follow

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up with their guests who made decisions for Christ.

• Meetings in the church building.

Prior to the meeting, train believers to reach out to family, friends and neighbors to bring them to the My Hope America meeting. Provide refreshments, show a My Hope video, then one or two believers can give their brief salvation testimony and the pastor can lead an invitation and prayer for people to receive Christ. Be sure to identify those who received Christ, and immediately connect with them to give them follow-up materials and begin discipleship meetings with them.

• Community meetings. Some churches plan to strategically reach out to their entire city or community via My Hope America through a gathering in a home or community center in every block or section of the city. Several families work together to convene their family, friends and neighbors for something like a block party, and there they show a My Hope video, hear one or two brief salvation testimonies from believers in the community, give an invitation and lead in prayer. It's important to identify those who receive Christ so that loving followup can immediately begin with them.

• Coffee houses, parks, informal gatherings. My Hope America fits well into personal evangelism of an informal style. My Hope videos can be shown on a smartphone or tablet for two or three friends as you drink coffee or relax in a park. The way will then be open for a conversation about faith. You can give your salvation testimony and kindly ask if they want to pray to receive Christ. You may be happily surprised when they may say, "I was waiting for you to ask." Then help them grow in Christ.

You can watch the My Hope America video programs in various ways; for details, visit *www.MyHopeWithBillyGraham. org*.

My Hope resources also are available in Spanish.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Elaine Helms is the prayer coordinator for My Hope America with Billy Graham, director of ChurchPrayerMinistries.org and author of Prayer 101, What Every Intercessor Needs to Know. She was the SBC prayer coordinator at the North American Mission Board from 2000-10.)



2013 proposed amendments to BSC Bylaws

BSC Communications

uring its meeting on Sept, 24-25, 2013, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (Convention) approved numerous proposals to amend the Bylaws of the Convention. The Board will bring ten motions at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Convention for consideration by the messengers. The Board recommends no amendments to the Articles of Incorporation this year, only amendments to the Bylaws. The current reading and the proposed amendments of the affected Bylaws are found beginning below in this edition of the *Biblical Recorder*.

In summary, the proposed amendments seek to address three needs: an amendment regarding the change of purpose at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, amendments to bring clarification and/or correction to the Bylaws, and amendments necessary to revise the structure of the committees of the Board based upon the new five year Convention strategy approved by the Board during its May meeting.

Motion one amends the purpose of Fruitland, including a change in name. See the article titled "Proposal to Change the Purpose of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute" found on page 5 of this edition of the *Biblical Recorder* for an explanation of this motion.

Motions two and three address matters related to voting/quorum by messengers at the Annual Meeting, the Convention Board, and the Convention committees. This is a matter identified by the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee requiring clarification but unrelated to any other proposed amendments. Motion four proposes changes to the structure of the Executive Committee based on the new committee structure, approved by the Board during its May meeting. Two committees, the Congregational Services Committee and the Evangelization Committee, are eliminated. There is a single new committee to be known as the Evangelism and Discipleship Committee. In addition, the name of the Church Planting and Mission Development Committee changes to Church Planting and Mission Partnerships Committee. The structure of the Executive Committee is changed by the deletion of the chairpersons for the committees being eliminated and the addition of the chairperson for the new committee for a net reduction of one in the size of the Executive Committee.

Motion five establishes the composition, powers and duties of the newly established Evangelism and Discipleship Committee. This new committee relates to the new Evangelism and Discipleship Group formed as part of the new strategy and structure.

Motion six identifies the new name, increases the size, and updates the powers and duties of the Church Planting and Mission Partnerships Committee.

Motion seven proposes changes to the Business Services Committee. Specifically, the motion includes an increase in the size of the Committee, an update to its powers and duties, and a revision of its sub-committees and their duties. These changes are not related to the new strategy and structure but are designed to help this Committee operate more efficiently.

Motion eight proposes changes to the Communications Committee. The size of the Committee is increased and titles of staff assigned to support the Committee are updated based upon the new staff structure.

Motion nine proposes changes to the Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee. The size of the Committee decreases, and the title of the staff assigned to support the Committee is updated.

Motion ten addresses several items. First, it brings references to representatives of North Carolina Baptist Hospital (Hospital) into agreement with its structure. Currently, the Bylaws make references to the School of Pastoral Care, which no longer exists at the Hospital. Second, it addresses the sizes of the Christian Higher Education Special Committee and the Christian Social Services Special Committee. These changes are brought in a single motion as they address committees that are related to institutions of, or affiliated with, the Convention.

Please note that motions five, nine, and ten bring into agreement the election of committee chairs for the committees and special committees of the Board. Currently some of the committees expressly indicate that chairpersons are to be elected in January each year, while other committees omit this expectation. These motions bring consistency to each of the committees that have been duly constituted in January that the chairperson will be elected during the January meeting. The exceptions to this rule are the Budget Special Committee and Articles and Bylaws Special Committee as their respective chairs are appointed by the Board President.

If you have questions concerning these proposed amendments, please do not hesitate to contact Bartley Wooten, chair of the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee at *bartleywooten@gmail.com*, or Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer at *bdavis@ncbaptist.org*.

Proposed amendments to Bylaws of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

I. Amendments Related to Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute:

Motion 1: The Board of Directors moves that Article II.G.1. be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading:

1. Purpose. The Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute ("Fruitland") is a ministry of the Convention and shall be responsible to the Board. Fruitland exists to prepare persons for whom study in a college or seminary is not presently appropriate for the Christian ministries into which they are called. It further serves to encourage further training in college and/or seminary.

Proposed Reading:

1. Purpose. Fruitland Baptist Bible College ("Fruitland") is a ministry of the Convention and shall be responsible to the Board. In Fruitland's associate degree and certificate programs, it seeks to glorify God, serve the local church, and fulfill the Great Commission, by developing Christian leaders who think biblically, communicate the Gospel effectively, and serve in Christ's kingdom with godly character, competence and commitment. Fruitland accepts students with various academic preparation, including those for whom study in a college or seminary is not presently appropriate, and encourages further education in college and/or seminary.

II. Amendments Related to Voting at Annual Meeting and Board Meeting:

Motion 2:

The Board of Directors moves that Article I.A.4. be deleted in its entirety, the last sentence of Article I.B.3.c. be deleted, and the second sentence of Article II.E.3. be deleted with the following language substituted in their respective places.

A. Article I.A.4. Meetings of the Convention

Current Reading:

4. Voting. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles or in these Bylaws, an act of the majority of the registered messengers present at a session at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the members of the Convention.

Proposed Reading:

4. Voting. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles or in these Bylaws, an act of the majority of the registered messengers voting at a session at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the members of the Convention.

B. Article I.B.3.c. Officers of the Convention

Current Reading:

3. Parliamentarians

c. Duties.... The Rules of Order for the Convention shall be those set forth in the most recent edition of <u>Robert's Rules of Order</u>, but in cases where the meaning may not be clear the President shall exercise discretion, subject to override by a vote of the majority of the registered messengers present at the Convention.

Proposed Reading:

3. Parliamentarians

c. Duties.... The Rules of Order for the Convention shall be those set forth in the most recent edition of <u>Robert's Rules of Order</u>, but in cases where the meaning may not be clear the President shall exercise discretion, subject to override by a vote of the majority of the registered messengers voting at a session at which a quorum is present.

Proposal to change the purpose of Fruitland

BSC Communications

essengers attending the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention (Convention) this November will be considering a motion from the Convention's Board of Directors (Board) related to the purpose of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute (Fruitland). The proposal to change the purpose of Fruitland originated with the Fruitland Board of Directors and was presented to the Convention's Board of Directors at its meeting in May 2013.

The Convention's Board approved the proposed changes. The Convention's Bylaws require that any change to the purpose of Fruitland must be approved by the Convention's messengers during the annual meeting.

The Convention's Board will bring motions to amend Articles I and III of Fruitland's Constitution and to amend Article II.G.1. of the Convention's Bylaws to the messengers for consideration during the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Convention on Nov. 12.

The proposed amendments to Articles I and III of the Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute Constitution are found below. The proposed amendment to the Convention's Bylaws is included in Motion I of the proposed changes to the Bylaws located beginning on page 4 in this edition of the *Biblical Recorder*. The current reading of Article I and Article III of the Fruitland Constitution, as well as the proposed reading of each, together with the proposed amendment to the Convention's Bylaws are also available on the Convention's Annual Meeting website. To access these documents, please visit *http://bit.ly/laKP8tT*.

In 2012, the Fruitland Board of Directors began a study related to three changes related to the school. The first was for Fruitland to become a junior college offering associate degrees with a change of name from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute to Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

The second change was related to an expansion of the curriculum. The third change was to seek accreditation for the school.

The change to a college as reflected by the change of the name impacts the stated purpose of the school. Currently, the stated purpose includes the following language: *The purpose of Fruitland is to provide a high quality Biblical education for persons called into Christian ministries for whom study in a college or seminary may not be presently appropriate.* Therefore, becoming a college with a change of name of the school requires a change in the stated purpose of the school, which as stated previously, requires approval by the messengers during an annual meeting of the Convention.

The change of curriculum also impacts the stated purpose of the school. The change in curriculum will result in an expansion of the current associate degree program offered.

The current purpose statement does not recognize that the school has been offering both certificate and associate degree programs for many years. The new purpose articulates the programs that have been offered by Fruitland for many years.

The third change approved by the Fruitland Board does not directly impact the current stated purpose of the school. However, the proposed stated purpose has been developed with the intent of satisfying the requirements of potential accrediting agencies. Therefore, the proposed stated purpose seeks to position Fruitland for the next steps in seeking accreditation in the future.

The Convention Board supports and affirms the actions of the Fruitland Board. Therefore, the Convention Board brings this recommendation to the Convention messengers for consideration. If the motion to amend the Fruitland Constitution is approved by the messengers, a subsequent motion will be presented to amend the Convention's Bylaws to bring agreement on Fruitland's new purpose as set forth in its Constitution with the Convention's Bylaws.

The proposed change in stated purpose does not impact the relationship between Fruitland and the Convention. The educational institution is, and remains, a ministry of the Convention. The Fruitland Board, while having specific duties and assignments, maintains its accountability to the Convention's Board of Directors. Fruitland continues to share in the distribution of Cooperative Program funds. The employees of Fruitland remain employees of the Convention; likewise, the property of Fruitland continues to be owned by the Convention.

Should you have questions about the proposed changes to Fruitland's purpose, please contact David Horton, Fruitland president at *president@fruitland.edu*.

Questions related to the process needed to approve this change in purpose during the Annual Meeting of the Convention may be directed to Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer at *bdavis@ncbaptist.org*.

Proposed amendments to Constitution of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

The Board of Directors moves that the messengers approve the following amendments to Articles I and III of the Constitution of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute to change its purpose as set forth in the amended Articles I and III:

Article I - Name

Current Reading:

This ministry shall be named Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, hereinafter referred to as "Fruitland."

Proposed Reading:

This ministry shall be named Fruitland Baptist Bible College, hereinafter referred to as "Fruitland."



Article III - Purpose

Current Reading:

The purpose of Fruitland is to provide a high quality Biblical education for persons called into Christian ministries for whom study in a college or seminary may not be presently appropriate. It further serves to encourage additional training in college and/or seminary. Recognizing the Biblical mandate for ministry preparation in II Timothy 2:15, Fruitland shall maintain an atmosphere which encourages development of the whole person for Christian ministry, life, and the practice of personal integrity in ministry.

In keeping with the mandate of the Convention, Fruitland shall foster a spirit of denominational cooperation and sacrificial service to the churches.

Proposed Reading:

The purpose of Fruitland Baptist Bible College in its associate degree and certificate programs is to glorify God, serve the local church, and fulfill the Great Commission, by developing Christian leaders who think biblically, communicate the gospel effectively, and serve in Christ's kingdom with godly character, competence, and commitment.

Fruitland accepts students with various and/or limited academic preparation. Recognizing the biblical mandate of ministry preparation in 2 Timothy 2:15, Fruitland shall maintain an atmosphere which encourages development of the whole person for Christian ministry, life, and the practice of personal integrity in ministry.

In keeping with the mandate of the Convention, Fruitland shall foster a spirit of denominational cooperation and sacrificial service to the churches.

C. Article II.E.3. Meetings of the Board

Current Reading:

3. Quorum; Voting. . . . Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles or in these Bylaws, an act of the majority of the Board members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board. . . .

Proposed Reading:

3. Quorum; Voting. . . . Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles or in these Bylaws, an act of the majority of the Board members voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board. . . .

III. Amendments Related to Convention Committees:

Motion 3: The Board of Directors moves that the following new section be added as Article I.C.5., and the current Article I.C.5. shall be renumbered as Article I.C.6.:

5. Quorum; Voting. A majority of any committee in office immediately before the meeting begins shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of such committee. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles or in these Bylaws, an act of the majority of the committee members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of such committee. The *ex officio* committee members described in Article I.B.1.c. of these Bylaws shall not be counted in determining a quorum.

IV. Amendments Related to Committee Meetings and Executive Committee:

Motion 4: The Board of Directors moves that the first sentence of Article II.F.2. be deleted, and Article II.F.6.a. be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in their respective places.

A. Article II.F.2. Committee Meetings

Current Reading:

2. Committee Meetings. The Business Services Special Committee, Christian Higher Education Special Committee, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee, Christian Social Services Special Committee, Church Planting and Missions Development Committee, Communications Committee, Congregational Services Committee, and Evangelization Committee shall meet for organizational purposes at the January meeting of the Board, at which time they shall elect a Chairperson

Proposed Reading:

2. Committee Meetings. The Business Services Special Committee, Christian Higher Education Special Committee, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee, Christian Social Services Special Committee, Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee, Communications Committee, and Evangelism and Discipleship Committee shall meet for organizational purposes at the January meeting of the Board, at which time they shall elect a Chairperson....

B. Article II.F.6.a. Executive Committee

Current Reading:

6. Executive Committee.

- a. Composition. The membership of the Executive Committee is comprised of four
 (4) persons of the Board, elected at-large plus the following individuals serving on an ex-officio basis:
 - (i) President of the Board;
 - (ii) Vice-President of the Board;
 - (iii) Chairperson, Articles and Bylaws Special Committee;
 - (iv) Chairperson, Budget Special Committee;
 - (v) Chairperson, Business Services Special Committee;
 - (vi) Chairperson, Christian Higher Education Special Committee;
 - (vii) Chairperson, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee;
 - (viii) Chairperson, Christian Social Services Special Committee;
 - (ix) Chairperson, Church Planting and Missions Development Committee;
 - (x) Chairperson, Communications Committee;
 - (xi) Chairperson, Congregational Services Committee;
 - (xii) Chairperson, Evangelization Committee;
 - (xiii) President of the Convention;
 - (xiv) First Vice-President of the Convention;

- (xv) Second Vice-President of the Convention;
- (xvi) President, Baptist Associational Missions Conference; and
- (xvii) President, North Carolina Baptist Men.

The committee as constituted the previous year shall remain intact until the January meeting of the Board with the exception of the newly elected Convention officers. The committee shall be reconstituted during the January Board meeting.

Proposed Reading:

6. Executive Committee.

- a. Composition. The membership of the Executive Committee is comprised of four
 (4) persons of the Board, elected at-large plus the following individuals serving on an ex-officio basis:
 - (i) President of the Board;
 - (ii) Vice-President of the Board;
 - (iii) Chairperson, Articles and Bylaws Special Committee;
 - (iv) Chairperson, Budget Special Committee;
 - (v) Chairperson, Business Services Special Committee;
 - (vi) Chairperson, Christian Higher Education Special Committee;
 - (vii) Chairperson, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee;
 - (viii) Chairperson, Christian Social Services Special Committee;
 - (ix) Chairperson, Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee;
 - (x) Chairperson, Communications Committee;
 - (xi) Chairperson, Evangelism and Discipleship Committee;
 - (xii) President of the Convention;
 - (xiii) First Vice-President of the Convention;
 - (xiv) Second Vice-President of the Convention;
 - (xv) President, Baptist Associational Missions Conference; and
 - (xvi) President, North Carolina Baptist Men.

The committee as constituted the previous year shall remain intact until the January meeting of the Board with the exception of the newly elected Convention officers. The committee shall be reconstituted during the January Board meeting.

V. Amendments Related to New Evangelism and Discipleship Committee:

<u>Motion 5</u>: The Board of Directors moves that Article II.F.15. and Article II.F.16. be deleted and that the following new Article II.F.15. be substituted in their place.

Current Reading:

15. Congregational Services Committee

- a. Composition. The membership shall consist of at least ten (10) members of the Board. The Executive Leader of the Congregational Services Group shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its January meeting.
- c. Powers and Duties. The Congregational Services Committee shall be responsible for working with the Executive Leader and staff to provide resources for congregational maturation, health, and growth.
- 16. Evangelization Committee
 - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of at least ten (10) members of the Board. The Executive Leader of the Evangelization Group shall serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its January meeting.
 - c. Powers and Duties. The Evangelization Committee shall be responsible for working with the Executive Leader to provide resources which will enable churches and associations to be most proficient in ministering to and communicating the Gospel to all people while helping them establish a spiritual relationship with Jesus the Christ.

Proposed Reading:

- 15. Evangelism and Discipleship Committee
 - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of at least sixteen (16) members of the Board. The Executive Leader of the Evangelism and Discipleship Group shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member.
 - b. Chair. The chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its January meeting.
 - c. Powers and Duties. The Evangelism and Discipleship Committee shall be responsible for working with the Executive Leader to strengthen churches, by creating a disciplemaking culture within churches. The goal of the disciple-making culture shall be seeing churches accomplish their divinely-appointed mission to fulfill the Great Commission by creating disciples who become mature disciples and, in turn, share their faith with others and lead them to become mature disciples.

VI. Amendment Related to Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee:

<u>Motion 6:</u> The Board of Directors moves that Article II.F.13. be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading

- 13. Church Planting and Missions Development Committee
 - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of at least ten (10) members of the Board. The Executive Leader of the Church Planting and Missions Development Group shall serve as an ex officio non-voting member.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the Committee from its members at its January meeting.
 - c. Powers and Duties. The Church Planting and Missions Development Committee shall be responsible for working with the Executive Leader to provide resources to the associations and churches of the Convention related to church planting and missions development. These resources shall include promotion of missions' offerings for the Convention as well as the Southern Baptist Convention. The Committee shall give special attention to distributing materials and resources and working cooperatively with associations and churches to plant churches across North Carolina and with local churches for missions' development.

Proposed Reading:

- 13. Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee
 - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of at least sixteen (16) members of the Board. The Executive Leader of the Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Group shall serve as an ex officio non-voting member.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the Committee from its members at its January meeting.
 - c. Powers and Duties. The Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee shall be responsible for working with the Executive Leader to challenge, encourage and resource churches and associations of the Convention and networks partnering with the Convention related to church planting, associational ministry, collegiate ministry and Great Commission focused partnerships. The Committee shall give special attention to resourcing churches and associations of the Convention and networks partnering with the Convention with regards to engaging unreached and unengaged people groups with the Gospel and planting new multiplication churches.

VII. Amendments Related to Business Services Special Committee:

<u>Motion 7:</u> The Board of Directors moves that Article II.F.9. be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading:

Article II.F.9. Business Services Special Committee.

a. Composition. The membership shall consist of eighteen (18) members, eight (8) of whom shall be at-large members elected by the Board for four (4) year terms and ten (10) of whom shall be members of the Board. The members shall include people with expertise in law, accounting, finance, insurance, management, and the ministry. The

Executive Leader of the Business Services Group shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Business Services Special Committee.

- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its Board members at its January meeting.
- c. Powers and Duties. 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. The Business Services Special Committee shall make such recommendations to the Executive Committee and the Board as shall be necessary.
- d. Subcommittees of the Business Services Special Committee.
 - (i) General. The Chairperson of the Business Services Committee, in consultation with the Executive Leader of the Business Services Group, shall appoint all subcommittees and their Chairpersons. The Chairperson of the Business Services Committee shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of all subcommittees. The Executive Leader shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of all subcommittees.
 - (ii) Contingency Fund/Audit Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall have duties to the Business Services Special Committee for matters pertaining to contingency funding and the audit, including without limitation the following:
 - Shall report, following the audit, to the Business Services Committee for its recommendation of transfer to the Contingency Fund of no less than ten percent (10%) and not more than seventy-five percent (75%) of the income received in excess of expenditures during the previous year;
 - (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) Shall work with the Executive Leader of the Business Services Group concerning financial and business related policies and procedures and make recommendations to the Business Services Special Committee, Executive Committee and the Board.
 - (iii) Assemblies Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall have duties to the Business Services Special Committee for matters pertaining to the administrative functions of camps and assemblies owned and operated by the Convention or with which the Convention has some type of working relationship.
 - (iv) Investment Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall have duties to the Business Services Special Committee for matters pertaining to the policies and guidelines for the investment of available funds as well as monitoring the risk factor and return of all investments with security as the prominent guideline.
 - (v) Constructing and Financing Facilities Review Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall have duties to the Business Services Special Committee for matters pertaining to establishing and maintaining a comprehensive review process for seeking approval for constructing and financing facilities on property owned by the Convention; establishing guidelines for the use of monies from the unrestricted General Reserve of the Convention; and establishing the criteria for borrowing and repaying available unrestricted General Reserve monies.

Proposed Reading:

Article II.F.9. Business Services Special Committee.

 a. Composition. The membership shall consist of twenty (20) members, eight (8) of whom shall be at-large members elected by the Board for four (4) year terms and twelve (12) of whom shall be members of the Board. The members shall include people

with expertise in law, accounting, finance, insurance, management, and the ministry. The Executive Leader of the Business Services Group shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Business Services Special Committee.

- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its Board members at its January meeting.
- c. Powers and Duties. 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; acquiring or disposing of Convention real and personal property; establishing guidelines for the use of monies from the unrestricted General Reserve of the Convention; and establishing the criteria for borrowing and repaying available unrestricted General Reserve monies. The Business Services Special Committee shall make such recommendations to the Executive Committee and the Board as shall be necessary.

d. Subcommittees.

- (i) General. The Chairperson of the Business Services Committee, in consultation with the Executive Leader of the Business Services Group, shall appoint all subcommittees and their Chairpersons. The Chairperson of the Business Services Committee shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of all subcommittees. The Executive Leader shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of all subcommittees.
- (ii) Audit/Investment Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall have duties to the Business Services Special Committee for matters pertaining to contingency funding, the annual audit, and the Convention's investments, including without limitation the following:
 - Shall report, following the audit, to the Business Services Committee for its recommendation of transfer to the Contingency Fund of no less than ten percent (10%) and not more than seventy-five percent (75%) of the income received in excess of expenditures during the previous year;
 - (2) Shall continue approved appropriations until the fund reaches twenty percent(20%) of the Cooperative Program budget;
 - (3) Shall make recommendations to the Business Services Committee regarding the use of Contingency Funds including, but not limited to the following purposes: to meet reserve requirements for future retiree benefits; 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;
 - (4) Shall work with the Executive Leader of the Business Services Group concerning investment, financial and business related policies and procedures and make recommendations to the Business Services Special Committee, Executive Committee and the Board; and
 - (5) Shall oversee implementation of the policies and guidelines for the investment of available funds as well as monitoring the risk factor and return of all investments with security as the prominent guideline.
- (iii) Assemblies Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall have duties to the Business Services Special Committee for matters pertaining to the administrative functions and property management of the conference centers, camps, and assemblies owned and operated by the Convention or with which the Convention has some type of working relationship. This shall include reviewing all requests for the construction and financing of facilities on said properties and making recommendations to the Business Services Special Committee.
- (iv) Property Management Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall have duties to the Business Services Special Committee for matters pertaining to all properties owned by the Convention which are not managed by the Assemblies Subcommittee. This property management function shall include reviewing all requests for the construction and financing of facilities on said properties, decisions regarding the disposition of such properties, and making recommendations to the Business Services Special Committee regarding such actions.

VIII. Amendments Related to Communications Committee:

Motion 8: The Board of Directors moves that Article II.F.14. be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading:

- 14. Communications Committee
 - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of at least ten (10) members of the Board. The Team Leaders of the Creative Team and the Information Technology/Information Services Team shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Communications Committee.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its January meeting.
 - c. Powers and Duties. The Communications Committee shall be responsible for working with the Team Leaders of the Creative Team and the Information Technology/Information Services Team providing input related to the overall ministry and work of these Teams; advising the Board to utilize multiple methods in communicating information from the Convention and promoting the ministries of the Convention; promoting the effective use of technology; and serving as part of the Creative Team and the Information Technology/Information Services Team that seeks to help churches and associations fulfill their mission in their own setting.

Proposed Reading:

- 14. Communications Committee
 - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of at least twelve (12) members of the Board. The Team Leaders of the Communications Team and the Information Technology/Information Services Team shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting members of the Communications Committee.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its January meeting.
 - c. Powers and Duties. The Communications Committee shall be responsible for working with the Team Leaders of the Communications Team and the Information Technology/ Information Services Team to provide input related to the overall ministry and work of these Teams; advising the Board to utilize multiple methods in communicating information from the Convention and promoting the ministries of the Convention; promoting the Convention's effective use of technology; and seeking to help churches and associations fulfill their mission through effective use of technology and communications.

IX. Amendments Related to Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee:

Motion 9: The Board of Directors moves that Article II.F.11. be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

Current Reading:

11. Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee

- a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than eighteen (18) members, ten (10) of whom shall be members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of eight (8) at-large members serving four (4) year terms who are to be elected by the Board.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board.
- c. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee shall work to provide an effective program to help North Carolina Baptists become more aware of the ethical implications of the Christian gospel with regard to all aspects of daily living, including family life, human life, moral issues, economic life, citizenship, and public affairs. The committee:
 - (i) Shall seek to develop a comprehensive program addressing Christian social ethics in the life of the Convention, its institutions and its agencies which may include leading seminars, developing literature, distributing information, conducting studies and research, and other means appropriate to accomplish this purpose;
 - (ii) Shall work with all ministries of the Convention, its institutions, and its agencies See Bylaws page 9

and with Southern Baptist organizations and other non-Baptist organizations to promote the Christian social ethics in the life of North Carolina Baptists;

- (iii) Shall designate three of its members for nomination as trustees of the Christian Action League and shall cooperate with the Christian Action League in its efforts to combat addictive substances and other social evils;
- (iv) Shall work, in cooperation with the Convention staff person assigned to the Committee, to promote the Convention's position on Christian social ethics with the applicable legislative and executive branches, including the General Assembly of North Carolina, for the benefit of North Carolina Baptists; and
- (v) Shall recommend to the Executive Leader for Administration and Convention Relations the budget for the work of the committee.

Proposed Reading:

- 11. Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee
 - a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than sixteen (16) members, twelve (12) of whom shall be members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of four (4) at-large members serving four (4) year terms who are to be elected by the Board.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board at its January meeting.
 - c. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee shall work to provide an effective program to help North Carolina Baptists become more aware of the ethical implications of the Christian gospel with regard to all aspects of daily living, including family life, human life, moral issues, economic life, citizenship, and public affairs. The committee:
 - (i) Shall seek to develop a comprehensive program addressing Christian social ethics in the life of the Convention, its institutions and its agencies which may include leading seminars, developing literature, distributing information, conducting studies and research, and other means appropriate to accomplish this purpose;
 - (ii) Shall work with all ministries of the Convention, its institutions, and its agencies and with Southern Baptist organizations and other non-Baptist organizations to promote the Christian social ethics in the life of North Carolina Baptists;
 - (iii) Shall designate three of its members for nomination as trustees of the Christian Action League and shall cooperate with the Christian Action League in its efforts to combat addictive substances and other social evils;
 - (iv) Shall work, in cooperation with the Convention staff person assigned to the Committee, to promote the Convention's position on Christian social ethics with the applicable legislative and executive branches, including the General Assembly of North Carolina, for the benefit of North Carolina Baptists; and
 - (v) Shall recommend to the Associate Executive Director-Treasurer the budget for the work of the committee.

X. Amendment Related to Christian Higher Education Special Committee and Christian Social Services Special Committee:

<u>Motion 10:</u> The Board of Directors moves that Article II.F.10. a. and b. and Article II.F.12. be deleted in their entirety with the following language substituted in their respective places.

A. Article II.F.10. a. and b. Christian Higher Education Special Committee

Current Reading:

- a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than ten (10) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following ex-officio members: the President, dean, the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees, and the dean of the divinity school (if any) of each of the affiliated educational institutions. Each affiliated educational institution shall have one vote on matters brought before the committee (except as limited below) with the vote being exercised by the President (or designee) of each affiliated educational institution.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board.

Proposed Reading:

- a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than twelve (12) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following ex-officio members: the President, dean, the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees, and the dean of the divinity school (if any) of each of the affiliated educational institutions. Each affiliated educational institution shall have one vote on matters brought before the committee (except as limited below) with the vote being exercised by the President (or designee) of each affiliated educational institution.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board at its January meeting.

B. Article II.F.12. Christian Social Services Special Committee

Current Reading:

- 12. Christian Social Services Special Committee
 - a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than ten (10) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following five (5) ex-officio members: President of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. ("Children's Homes"); President of North Carolina Baptist Hospital ("Hospital"); Director of the School of Pastoral Care ("School"); and the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees of each institution.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the Board members.
 - c. Voting. No ex-officio member of the committee shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the Children's Home, Hospital and School.
 - d. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Social Services Special Committee shall work to provide a well-integrated program for the Children's Homes, Hospital and School without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The committee:
 - (i) Shall consider problems common to all of the social service institutions, and keep the needs of these institutions before the Board and North Carolina Baptists;
 - (ii) Shall cooperate with all ministries of the Convention in order to create a better understanding of all the problems involved in the ministries of these social service institutions; and
 - (iii) Shall report to the Board about the Children's Homes, Hospital and School.

Proposed Reading:

- 12. Christian Social Services Special Committee
 - a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than twelve (12) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following five (5) ex-officio members: President of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. ("Children's Homes"); President of North Carolina Baptist Hospital ("Hospital"); Vice-President of the Division of Faith and Health Ministries ("Division"); and the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees of each institution.
 - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the Board members at its January meeting.
 - c. Voting. No ex-officio member of the committee shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the Children's Home, Hospital and Division.
 - d. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Social Services Special Committee shall work to provide a well-integrated program for the Children's Homes, Hospital and Division without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The committee:
 - (i) Shall consider problems common to all of the social service institutions, and keep the needs of these institutions before the Board and North Carolina Baptists;
 - (ii) Shall cooperate with all ministries of the Convention in order to create a better understanding of all the problems involved in the ministries of these social service institutions; and
 - (iii) Shall report to the Board about the Children's Homes, Hospital and Division.

NCBM involves thousands in ministry, missions

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

hey are called the "poorest of the poor" and shunned by society, yet North Carolina Baptists are embracing the Roma people with compassion as they extend the love of Christ.

Through North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM) volunteer teams, the Roma (or Gypsy people) in Romania and Hungary are receiving medical care, food, clothing and, most importantly, the gospel.

"They are so persecuted and despised, but God is working among them in a great way," said Richard Brunson, NCBM executive director-treasurer. "They show their emotions so much; their church services are so vibrant."

This year has been a banner year for NCBM (men, women, students), with thousands of volunteers involved in missions and ministry. Outreach among the Roma people expanded with the launch of the Roma Bible School in January.

Craig Hamlin, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, directs the school, which completed its third semester in September.

"I got involved with the school simply by taking a mission trip to serve among the Roma people," Hamlin said. "Through that, God just opened my heart to the need for these pastors to be educated."

About 30 pastors from Romania, Hungary and Ukraine have committed to completing the three-year course of study.

Hamlin and other North Carolina Baptist pastors are volunteering their time to travel and teach courses such as Old Testament, pastoral ministry, biblical interpretation, church history and apologetics.

"These pastors are taking everything we are teaching them and taking it back to their people and teaching them. Most of the people in the Gypsy camps can't read or write very well, so the pastors are the primary leaders in their village or camp," Hamlin said.

"They live very difficult, mundane lives. This school gives the pastor something to look forward to; something to hope in."

Romania is just one of many opportunities to serve internationally through NCBM. Paul Langston, director of missions for Eastern Baptist Association, has participated in four mission trips to Haiti in the last three years following the January 2010 earthquake.

"What caught my attention is the tremendous poverty in Haiti, and the awareness the earthquake created ...," he said.

"The Haitians are reaching and grasping for hope, and we can help. We can help make an eternal impact."

Langston's work in Haiti led Brunson to ask him to lead a new ministry team called "Least of These," focusing on providing financial support for ministries led by locals in Haiti, Kenya, India, Armenia and Gaza.

"We want to support nationals as they do ministry and encourage them," Langston said.

Internationally, NCBM volunteers also served this year in Honduras, Cuba and Guatemala.

Teams led Vacation Bible Schools, sports camps and medical/dental clinics; helped with construction projects; and shared the gospel door-to-door in villages. In Guatemala, teams are helping build a community health clinic and leadership training center, and renovating a children's home.

From January 2010 through the end of September,



Working with the Roma, above, and disaster relief, below, through North Carolina Baptist Men gets N.C. Baptists out of the pews and onto the mission field. (BSC photos)



NCBM volunteers have served 187,854 patients in medical clinics in Haiti. The more than 1,400 volunteers have seen 1,752 people profess faith in Jesus Christ.

This year volunteers continued helping with disaster relief needs in Pamlico County related to Hurricane Irene. Since 2011, 122 homes have been rebuilt.

Although North Carolina Baptists stepped up to serve New York and New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy, volunteers are still needed to help with construction projects such as installing insulation and sheetrock, painting and trim work.

In addition to serving through disaster relief, men, women and student volunteers participated in 13 ministries sponsored by NCBM, including medical/dental, aviation, church renewal and agricultural ministry.

A popular ministry opportunity each year is Deep Impact – a weeklong mission camp for middle and high school students.

This year 1,606 students and adult leaders served in mission projects in 13 locations, from Cuba and Honduras to New York and Charlotte.

Tracey Ford, a leader with Good News Baptist

Church in Greensboro, has served four years with Deep Impact.

"To see the students' excitement is incredible," she said. "They could be doing anything else in the summer, but they come year after year. You can tell that some are being stretched outside their comfort zones. It's inspirational."

Through Transform122, about 150 college students served in missions this year.

Students served across the state and internationally in Cuba and Ethiopia.

College students also served in the communities surrounding Red Springs and Shelby, where NCBM sponsor mission camps.

"The purpose of the camps is to reach others through Christ through missions and to get the churches involved in missions," said Eddie Williams, Shelby camp coordinator.

In addition to local and international missions, NCBM volunteers served this year in national ministry efforts in Vermont, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, the Appalachian Coalfields and the Rocky Mountain region.

Brunson said he is grateful for the support of North Carolina Baptists this year in ministry projects, and he prays that individuals and churches will begin thinking about involvement in 2014.

"I pray that more people would be willing to go and to step out of their comfort zone; to take a risk for God," he said.

"There are so many people in the pew who don't think they can do anything. We want them to see that they have things in their hands God can use. We pray that they will be open to release what they have so God can take it and use it."

To learn more about NCBM, visit *www.baptistsonmission.org* or contact Richard Brunson at *rbrunson@ncbaptist. org* or (800) 395-5102 ext. 5597. NCBM ministries are supported through the North Carolina Missions Offering. **B**?

Superstorm Sandy survivors buoyed by ongoing Baptist aid

By LAURA SIKES | Baptist Press

n the picturesque coastal village of Freeport on Long Island where superstorm Sandy's surge flooded homes with as much as eight feet of water, neighborhoods look back to normal – at least on the outside.

Eleven months after the storm, streets are clear of debris and most of the dumpsters that were filled with saltwatersoaked furniture, appliances and ruined contents of homes are gone. But pod storage containers still sit on driveways as homeowners work on the interiors of their homes.

One local refers to the sight as the "new normal."

Freeport is among the many affected areas where volunteer teams are working in New York and New Jersey to help homeowners put their lives back together. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) is part of the effort.

Many residents like Barbara and Brian Hindley, who are in their 80s, didn't expect the magnitude of the surge and rode out the storm. Residents continue to live in their flooded-damaged homes, some with only partial power, while repairs are made.

"We watched the water coming up the



Mike Whiteside and Ken Williams saw a board as their team from Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., replaces a set of stairs at a flood-damaged home on Long Island. Team members (in background, from left) Richard Brevard, Ron Barratt, Daniel Jones, Cal Petticrew and Terry Gravely do their part for the project. (NAMB photo by Laura Sikes)

stairs," Barbara Hindley said. "We didn't expect it. We sat in chairs with blankets in the dark and waited for the night to be over."

SBDR teams from North Carolina and Maryland did a complete tear-out of the first floor, built new stairs and floors. The Hindleys continue to live upstairs amidst ongoing repairs.

Southern Baptists plan a two-year Sandy Rebuild effort, said Mickey Caison, SBDR recovery coordinator and overall director for the initiative. The partnership includes the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and North Carolina Baptist Men working in cooperation with the Baptist Convention of New York, Metro New York Baptist Association, New Jersey Net and local churches throughout North America to repair and help restore communities. Most of the work is on Long Island, where more than 60 percent of the state's recovery needs are located, and on Staten Island and in Allenwood, N.J.

"Historically, SBDR is good at response with almost 90,000 trained volunteers and 1,600 mobile units," Caison said. Now, he said, "Our goal is to build a robust system of rebuild and recovery like Southern Baptists already have for disaster response.

"Recovery can take two, three or more years," Caison said. "We've brought the help in the past and started the healing, and there's been a lot of times where we've shared the Gospel so we've brought hope in unique places. But by going in now with the rebuild and the recovery aspects of things we can stay involved with that family sometimes for weeks or months."

Robert Kennedy, mayor of the village of Freeport, said he's thankful Southern Baptists and other groups are helping the community of 50,000 recover. Four thousand homes were damaged and 500 are See Sandy page 12

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The village of Freeport on Long Island, N. Y., received a direct hit from Hurricane Sandy's storm surge last October, flooding homes with up to 8 feet of ocean water. The town's Nautical Mile is home to restaurants and other businesses still recovering from closures as long as six months. Freeport is among the effected areas where Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams are working in New York and New Jersey helping repair damage for homeowners. (NAMB photo by Laura Sikes)

Sandy Continued from page 11

still vacant. Sixty to 75 homes are tagged for demolition.

"We're cautiously optimistic here," Kennedy said, "but everyone is a little nervous about storms now."

Sandy Rebuild project coordinator Bill Johnson said people from the effected area and beyond often ask him, "Why are you still here?" After the initial response and cleanup, most of the damage is now unseen and many think everything is OK, he said.

In Freeport, as in other coastal areas on Long Island's south shore, the storm surge flooded every structure for almost one mile inland from the ocean. While the saltwater came in and went out within hours, it left plenty of destruction – corroding electrical boxes, HVAC units and plumbing systems.

"There are many, many homes that need repair and that's what we are doing," said Johnson, a volunteer from Grayson, Ky. Even with damaged materials torn out, many homeowners do not have the resources to do necessary repairs. In the rebuild phase, Johnson said SBDR will keep its main presence on Long Island but also will have a presence on Staten Island.

Johnson said the community has "embraced Southern Baptists so readily and quickly" even though he was warned by one local that New Yorkers are skeptical and may feel you are "working an angle" when you work for free.

"Mickey and I keep saying that God is up to something powerful here," Johnson said.

Long Island coordinator Tom Vannoy said the biggest need is for volunteers with sheetrock finishing and carpentry skills.

In the New York rebuild as of mid-September, 111 job requests are listed, with 27 completed, 29 in active rebuild and 65 open. Vannoy, a volunteer from Wilkes County, N.C., said 798 volunteers have served on teams from 16 states: Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Calculated volunteer wages have reached \$1.58 million with 56,290 hours logged.

Vannoy, who works closely with homeowners and volunteers, said meeting physical as well as spiritual needs is why Southern Baptists serve. Lasting relationships are formed, and homeowners like the Hindleys remember the volunteers who serve them.

"Those relationships then grow into great opportunities to share Christ," Caison said.

"They're angels," Barbara Hindley said of the volunteers. "I've got pictures of them on the mantel and still correspond with them. They keep us in their prayers. They were so lovely and so kind. They thanked me for letting them help, instead of me thanking them."

To volunteer for or learn more about Sandy Rebuild visit *http://www.namb.net/ Sandy*.

Many N.C. volunteers also sign up through Baptists on Mission/North Carolina Baptist Men. Contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5606. Tearout and rebuild efforts continue in New York and New Jersey. Visit *baptistsonmission.org/projects/type/ disaster-relief/hurricane-sandy*.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Laura Sikes writes for the North American Mission Board. This is the first in a series of articles about the work of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers through their Sandy Rebuild initiative. The one-year anniversary of the superstorm's landfall is Oct. 29.) Trust the *Biblical Recorder* for up-to-date news and information with a biblical worldview.

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There are several ways to access the *Biblical Recorder*. Whether you want to read a newspaper, surf online or access the *BR* via your smartphone or tablet ...











2012 MISSIONS SUPPORT by NC Baptist Churches <

In response to many information requests in recent years, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) decided to resume the annual publication of church contributions to our Cooperative Program mission budget and the three primary missions offerings in North Carolina: the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and the North Carolina Missions Offering. The next issue of the Biblical Recorder will contain the complete list of giving statistics of more than 4,300 N.C. Baptist churches, arranged by association, as well as this page which indicates the top givers to the Cooperative Program Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2012.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that these statistics will be presented – gratitude for the

for the trust placed in our mission organizations to be good stewards of these sacrificial gifts;

sacrifices made by churches and their members to support ministries here and abroad; gratitude

gratitude to our Heavenly Father for His faithful provision in so many different ways. We celebrate below the top churches in various membership categories for their financial support of the Cooperative Program.

Thank you for understanding that we can do so much more to push back lostness in our state, nation and the world when we work together. The Board of Directors and BSC staff are truly grateful and humbled by your support.

Please understand that there is always the possibility of error when reporting so many statistics. But, the BSC has taken great care to ensure the numbers reported accurately represent the contributions received by the convention's accounting team.

These contributions do not include gifts processed by the accounting staff designated for our affiliated institutions and agencies, our auxiliary (N.C. Baptist Men) and other ministries such as disaster relief projects and world hunger.

Top 25 Cooperative Program Gifts: Churches over 1,000 Resident Members

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING	CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING
Hendersonville First Village - Fayetteville Hickory Grove - Charlotte Green Street Charlotte First Biltmore Cary First	Carolina New South River Metrolina Piedmont Metrolina Buncombe Raleigh	\$311,573.00 \$310,741.85 \$300,657.46 \$267,461.00 \$264,089.68 \$255,000.00 \$226,052.16	Life Community Church Kings Mountain First Friendly Avenue Bay Leaf Woodlawn - Conover Calvary - Winston-Salem Salem - Apex	Piedmont Greater Cleveland Co Piedmont Raleigh Catawba Valley Pilot Mountain Raleigh	\$159,378.00 \$154,269.10 \$148,706.13 \$146,892.00 \$142,179.93 \$140,161.08 \$129,847.46
Apex Booky Mount First	Raleigh North Roanoke	\$202,577.00	Lake Norman - Huntersville	Metrolina	\$126,520.41
Rocky Mount First Matthews First Lawndale - Greensboro	Metrolina Piedmont	\$193,007.63 \$182,022.39 \$181,969.19	Garner First Pleasant Garden West Asheville	Raleigh Piedmont Buncombe	\$126,513.35 \$114,000.00 \$113,622.00
Carmel - Matthews Old Town	Metrolina Pilot Mountain	\$171,500.00 \$160,093.26	Fuquay-Varina	Raleigh	\$103,980.55

Top 25 Cooperative Program Gifts: Churches 751-1,000 Resident Members

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING	CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING
Mount Vernon - Boone Cornerstone - Greensboro Elizabeth - Shelby Pitts Dudley Shoals Theresa Hephzibah - Wendell Front Street - Statesville Highland - Raleigh Coats Bethlehem - Jacksonville Burkemont Pleasant Grove - Creedmoor	Three Forks Piedmont Greater Cleveland Co Cabarrus Caldwell Beulah Raleigh South Yadkin Raleigh Little River New River Catawba River Flat River	\$175,488.14 \$152,293.42 \$140,292.22 \$105,974.13 \$101,981.85 \$87,031.79 \$82,586.72 \$78,944.46 \$76,305.24 \$74,429.86 \$73,281.79 \$67,038.00 \$65,858,77	Becks Corinth - Elizabeth City Welcome First Rutherfordton Second Southside - Mooresville Beulah - Statesville Mount Ruhama Pleasant Hill - Elkin Central - Wendell Aversboro Road Fairview - Statesville Hickory First	Pilot Mountain Chowan Liberty Green River South Yadkin South Yadkin South Fork Elkin Raleigh Raleigh South Yadkin Catawba Valley	\$65,473.02 \$59,334.00 \$58,490.75 \$54,370.00 \$52,066.63 \$50,027.00 \$48,000.00 \$47,934.55 \$45,833.32 \$42,219.28 \$41,417.42 \$40,373.78

Top 25 Cooperative Program Gifts: Churches 401-750 Resident Members

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING	CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING
Durham First Crossnore First Glenwood - Glenwood Sunset Avenue	NC Miscellaneous Avery Blue Ridge North Roanoke	\$139,828.97 \$112,992.16 \$106,891.06 \$100,746.74	Boger City Union Grove - Yadkinville Washington First West Albemarle	South Fork Yadkin South Roanoke Stanly Stanly	\$60,000.00 \$58,895.92 \$58,364.51 \$55,896.91
Mount Zion - Hudson	Caldwell	\$95,047.27	Central - Oak Ridge	Piedmont	\$55,454.00
South Point	Greater Gaston	\$85,622.79	Hildebran First	Catawba Valley	\$52,381.28
Troutman	South Yadkin	\$83,850.83	Stanleyville First	Pilot Mountain	\$51,996.69
Millers Creek	Brushy Mountain	\$78,766.21	Corinth - Rose Hill	Eastern	\$51,640.55
Alexis	Greater Gaston	\$69,238.91	University Hills	Metrolina	\$51,454.54
Bethesda - Durham	Yates	\$68,297,55	Union Grove - Lenoir	Caldwell	\$50.856.98
Westchester	Piedmont	\$66,001.16	Brevard First	Transylvania	\$50,530.23
Calvary - Roanoke Rapids	North Roanoke	\$61,302.00	Bethany - Winston-Salem	Pilot Mountain	
Wakefield Central	Raleigh	\$61,302.00 \$60.871.62	Detriany - willston-Salem		\$50,100.00

Top 25 Cooperative Program Gifts: Churches 400 or less Resident Members

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING	CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	CP GIVING
Trinity - Mooresville	South Yadkin	\$92,002.28	Stony Point	Alexander	\$44,379.55
Laurel Springs - Deep Gap	Three Forks	\$66,772.05	Fairview - Apex	Raleigh	\$43,350.55
Philadelphia - Marshville	Union	\$62,423.96	Mount Hebron - Icard	South Mountain	\$40,991.48
Adamsville	Neuse	\$62,395.40	Cresset	Yates	\$38,763.03
Flat Rock - Louisburg	Tar River	\$59,951.79	West Burnsville	Yancey	\$38,109.61
Holly Springs - Franklin	Macon	\$57,655.69	Beverly Hills - Asheville	Buncombe	\$36,429.99
Fruitland	Carolina	\$52,637.19	Emmanuel - Raleigh	Raleigh	\$35,795.70
Putnam Memorial	Greater Cleveland Co	\$52,388.43	Mount Elam - Roseboro	New South River	\$35,305.00
Beulaville	Eastern	\$50.372.00	Genesis	Cabarrus	\$35,050.33
Community - Dallas	Greater Gaston	\$50,204.51	Mount Nelson	Neuse	\$34,844.49
Cornerstone - Charlotte	Metrolina	\$48.764.02	Love Memorial - Goldsboro	Neuse	\$34,403.54
Center Road Myrtle Grove	Bladen Wilmington	\$46,806.04 \$45,154.14	Warwick	Chowan	\$34,270.35

Breakouts cover BSC strategy, technology, My Hope

reakout sessions will be held Nov. 12 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro from 3:15-4 p.m. (Session 1) and 4:15-5 p.m. (Session 2), and are free to attend. Most tackle topics surrounding the new Baptist State Convention of North Carolina strategy but others cover technology, charitable giving and My Hope with Billy Graham.

Why Eight Population Centers?

Michael Sowers & Larry Phillips (during sessions 1 & 2 in Victoria A)

Research conducted by the Intercultural Institute for Contextual Ministry identified the top 100 areas of lostness in North Carolina. The study revealed that 97 percent of the areas of lostness are located around eight population centers across our state: Charlotte, the Triangle, the Triad, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Hickory, Asheville and Greenville.

Reaching People in Their Cultural & Ethnic Context

Mark Gray ひ Antonio Santos (during sessions 1 ひ 2 in Victoria B)

How do I reach "all the people" in my community for Christ? Come learn the keys of how to "fish" while honoring one's language, culture and ethnic context. You will better understand the diversity of North Carolina and the various resources available to help you reach and disciple people for the Lord Jesus.

Collegiate Partnerships: A New Model for Reaching the Academic Community

Chuck Register ぐ Rick Trexler (during sessions 1 ぐ 2 in Victoria C)

Learn about the new model being used by North Carolina Baptists to reach college students, faculty, staff and their families with the gospel. Explore new strategies God is using across the country to impact college/ university campuses with the gospel for life transformation.

Impacting Lostness Through Prayer

J. Chris Schofield (during sessions 1 & 2 in the Grandover East room)

This conference will examine the two major ways God is calling His people to pray for the church in North America. Special attention is given to biblical, historical and contemporary ways to respond to His call.

Impacting Lostness Through Rural Strategy Development

Lester Evans (during sessions 1 & 2 in Auditorium IV)

Join us as we take a hard look at the depth of lostness in rural North Carolina. We will explore a grassroots approach to encourage, assist and resource the creation of local strategy teams who develop a contextualized framework for involving, equipping and engaging local churches in impacting lostness in rural areas through reproducing disciples.

We will also examine various models or examples of local strategy teams engaged in targeting specific unreached pockets of people.

Best Practices in Creating a Disciple-making Culture

Brian Upshaw (during sessions 1 & 2 in the August room) At the top of the Frequently Asked Questions list among church leaders is: "What is working?" In this session, we will explore what is working in making disciples.

We will look beyond the "why" of discipleship into the "how." Special emphasis will be given to relational disciple-making models that highlight life-on-life discipleship and how to develop an environment where disciple-making is the norm and not the exception.

Transformational Discipleship and Teenagers

Merrie Johnson (during sessions 1 & 2 in the Tidewater room) Join us as we discover how our North Carolina Baptist churches are doing in discipling our students. We will look at the findings of a recent survey conducted during Youth Weeks camp at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell and investigate what we must do to equip our teenagers to live transformed lives with a Kingdom focus.

Involving Your Church in Life Changing Mission Projects

Richard Brunson ぐ N.C. Baptist Men staff (during sessions 1 ぐ 2 in the Oak room)

We are called to be "on mission" in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. This session will cover local, state, national and international mission opportunities and needs. If your church is interested in "doing" missions, this breakout session will be helpful.

A Discipling Approach to Stewardship

Neal Eller (during sessions 1 ↔ 2 in the Tanglewood room) This session will help persuade participants to become generous disciples who influence their sphere of influence and then reproduce themselves.

Ministry Without Regrets

Eddie Thompson (during sessions 1 & 2 in the Sandpiper room) Ten powerful decisions pastors and their families should make and how they make a difference.

Follow Me as I Follow Jesus

Ashley Allen (during sessions 1 & 2 in the Heritage room)

Have you ever been mentored or mentored someone else? Do you want to learn how to teach others to follow Christ? We are going to learn how to become disciplemaking leaders who reach the world for Christ.

Engaging North America

Cameron McGill (during sessions 1 ඊ 2 in the Grandover West room)

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is partnering with three of North America's most influential cities. Our partners from New York, Boston and Toronto will share what God is doing in their cities and how your church can partner to engage people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Using "The Story" to Share Jesus

Marty Dupree & George Robinson (during session 1 in Cedar B and during session 2 in Cedar C)

"The Story" focuses on four major themes of the Bible: Creation, Fall, Rescue and Restoration. It is designed to help people know God's Story. When you know God's Story you live it, and when you live God's Story, you cannot help but share it.

Join us as we walk through various ways you can

incorporate "The Story" into your lifestyles, ministries and churches (*www.viewthestory.org*).

3D - A Church Strengthening Strategy for Making Disciples

Rick Hughes (during session 2 in the Pebble Beach room) There is hope! This breakout will help you determine if your congregation is living the biblical mandate for the local church of creating a culture for making disciples.

It will provide tools to assist you in discovering answers and measurements for a Christ-centered congregation. This breakout session will provide you beginning steps to living the call that God has placed on your church.

Day One Discipleship

Cheryl Markland (during sessions 1 & 2 in Cedar A)

From day one of a child's life, parents can begin to disciple their child to be a Christ follower. Join us as we explore ways your church can equip parents for this important task.

People brought babies to Jesus, hoping He might touch them.

When the disciples saw it, they shooed them off. Jesus called them back. "Let these children alone. Don't get between them and me. These children are the kingdom's pride and joy" (Luke 18:15-17).

"My Hope" Next Steps

Chuck Campbell (during session 1 in the Pebble Beach room) Look after those who give their lives to Jesus Christ

and help them grow in faith.

This is the last step in the "My Hope America" strategy, and an essential step in the disciple-making process.

Join us as we explore the next steps of equipping, enabling, empowering and energizing those who have come to Christ, as they move from friends to followers.

Church Renewal Journey

Bob & Phyllis Foy (during sessions 1 & 2 in the Turnberry room) Come rediscover the potential for the Holy Spirit to renew your church using this proven ministry.

Your Church Website

Lai Salmonson (during session 2 in the Pinehurst room)

This session will provide an overview on choosing a domain name, a hosting company and the right website content management system to fit your church's needs.

The Ministry Grid

Keith Feather (during session 1 in the Pinehurst room)

Ministry Grid is a subscription-based, online leadership development platform for pastors, staff and volunteers featuring more than 1,000 video courses on a wide range of topics. The system allows pastors and leaders to customize training tracks to best fit their people's unique needs.

Making the IRS Your Generosity Partner

Bill Price and Alan Cox, Impact Stewardship Resources (during sessions 1 & 2 in Imperial C)

21st Century Charitable Giving Strategies: Help your church members learn to support the ministries of your church in creative ways they have never considered by utilizing proven tax-wise methods.

N.C. Baptists to gather in Greensboro

essengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will gather Nov. 11-12 in Greensboro at the Koury Convention Center. Visit ncannualmeeting.org or brnow.org for more information. Below is a schedule of the meeting. At left, there is a list of breakout sessions offered Nov. 12

Monday evening, Nov. 11

2:00 p.m.	Exhibits and registration open
6:00	Call to Worship – Mark Christian,
	Worship Ministry of First Baptist Church,
	Charlotte
6:30	Call to Order – Mark Harris
	Pledges (American and Christian flags, Bible)
	Committee on Convention Meetings - Joel Ste-
	phens
	Prayer – Lee Pigg
6:55/7:00	Greetings/Introductions
7:05	Arise Worship Service (Mark Christian; Wor-
	ship Ministry of First Baptist Church, Charlotte;
	Mark Harris; Timmy D. Blair Sr.)
	President's Address – Mark Harris
_	

Tuesday morning, Nov. 12

7:30 a.m.	Listening Sessions]
	2014 Budget Proposal (Sandpiper)]
	Convention Bylaws Amendments & Fruitland]
	(Tanglewood)]
8:00	Exhibits and registration open]
8:30	Call to Worship – Alex Rodriguez]
	Spanish Worship Band, First Baptist Church,	1
	Garner	
8:45	Call to Order – Mark Harris	
	Prayer – K'Them Nfn	
8:50	Theme Interpretation – Steve Corts	
9:00	Worship through Prayer – Steve Corts	1
9:10	Worship through Music – Alex Rodriguez	2
9:20	Board of Directors Report – Michael Barrett	
	Impacting Lostness – Milton A. Hollifield Jr.	1
10:00	Music – Alex Rodriguez	

Dieakouts	essions oncred Nov. 12.
10:05	Miscellaneous Business
10:20	Board of Directors Report – Michael Barrett
10:45	N.C. Baptist Hospital – Gary Gunderson
11:00	Institution & Agency Reports
	N.C. Baptist Foundation – Clay Warf
	Biblical Recorder – K. Allan Blume
	Baptist Children's Homes of N.C. – Michael
	Blackwell
11:15	Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina
	Tana Hartsell
11:30	Election of Officers (Fixed Order of Business)
	President
11:45	Closing Prayer – J.D. Tew
Tuesday	afternoon, Nov. 12
1:15 p.m.	Call to Order – Mark Harris
-	$\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{r}} 1 + \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{r}} 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$

Prayer – Sydney Stikeleather 1:20 Greeting; LifeWay Christian Resources Election of Officers (first, second vice president) 1:25 1:35 Theme Interpretation – Larry Doyle 1:40 Worship through Prayer - Larry Doyle 1:45 Worship through Music – Kenny Lamm 1:50 N.C. Baptist Men – Richard Brunson Convention Committee Reports 2:05 Committee on Nominations – Charles Martin Committee on Resolutions and Memorials - Bob Weathers Historical Committee - Albie Brice 2:20 Music - Kenny Lamm 2:25 Board of Directors Report; Budget (Fixed Order of Business) – Michael Barrett 2:55 Breakout sessions promotion - Lynn Sasser 3:00 Closing Prayer - Davis Hooper



Breakout sessions begin (options, page 14)

Tuesday evening, Nov. 12

	0,
6:45	Call to Worship – Simon Touprong
	Combined Multiethnic Choir
7:15	Call to Order – Mark Harris
	Prayer – William Ortega
7:20	Greetings
	Executive Committee, SBC
	International Mission Board
	North American Mission Board
7:25	Special Recognition – M.O. Owens Jr.
(7:30 Exhib	its close)
7:40	Evaluation
7:45	Presentation of Officers
7:50	Worship through Prayer – James Fisher
8:00	Worship through Music – Simon Touprong
	Combined Multiethnic Choir
8:20	Convention Sermon – Fred Luter Jr.
8:50	Closing Prayer – James Horton

ISIT our Booth

at the annual meeting to register for **one of these prizes.**



Apple[®] - iPad Mini[®] with Wi-Fi - 16GB - black.Retina display with multi-touch; dual-core A5X chip with quad-core graphics; 5.0MP iSight camera and FaceTime camera; 1080p HD video recording Compliments of Dennis Nunn & **Every Believer a Witness**



Kindle Fire HD 8.9" **4G LTE Wireless** Dolby audio, dual-band dual-antenna Wi-Fi, 4G LTE, 32GB



NKJV Study Bible HCSB Study Bible NKJV Study Bible, black genuine leather and HCSB Study Bible, mahogany simulated leather **Compliments of LifeWay**

Additional drawings will be held for LifeWay products

Drawings for all prizes will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, November 12. Employees of the Biblical Recorder, the Baptist State Convention and their families are not eligible to win.

Kimani Continued from page 1

when his family felt he "deserved" it. The malnourishment took a serious toll on Kimani's health.

He was constantly fatigued and the lack of regular meals severely stunted the boy's growth.

"Sometimes when I was fed, my mom would tell me there was poison in my food," Kimani said.

"When you are a hungry child, it's hard to decide whether to go to bed hungry or eat something that's not meant to be eaten."

In 2007, Kimani's situation was finally discovered and he was brought to Baptist Children's Homes (BCH). At the Broyhill Home campus in the mountains of Clyde, he received a new home under the care of houseparents Will and Betty Porter.

"When we first met Kimani he was 12 years old, weighed 32 lbs., and wore size three toddler clothes," says Betty Porter. "When we got him into care we started praying and asking God what we could do to make a difference in his life."

The differences came immediately. Kimani moved into Frizzell-Higdon Cottage with his houseparents and the other boys. And for the first time in his memory, Kimani had his own bed and plenty of hot food to eat.

"I got to go shopping for the first time and choose my own clothes. I was so happy I didn't know where to start," Kimani says smiling. "It was a great night, and I felt safe."

Along with the care of his new BCH family, Kimani also received much-needed aid from medical specialists. In his six



Baptist Children's Homes of NORTH CAROLINA Sharing hope...changing lives



years at BCH, Kimani has grown from around 3' to 5' 2" tall with the help of doctors. The boy who had never attended school is now a healthy, high school senior who dreams of being a personal trainer.

"When I first arrived I could barely walk up the hill," Kimani says. "If it hadn't been for BCH, I honestly don't think I would be alive today."

Kimani has soared both physically and spiritually since coming to live at BCH. Because of the love shown to him through BCH's Christ-centered ministry and the support of North Carolina Bap-



Kimani, above and at left, came to the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) when he was 12 years old. He weighed 32 pounds and wore size three toddler clothes. In coming to BCH, Kimani experienced having his own bed and attending school. He has grown from around 3' to 5'2" with the aid of doctors. More importantly, through BCH Kimani has learned who Jesus is. "I have been transformed, renewed, changed, and I have been rescued thanks to them," Kimani said. This year's BCH Week of Prayer is Nov. 17-24; the offering's theme is "Blessed." Resources to promote the BCH offering are available at *bchfamily.org/offering*. (Contributed photos)

tists, Kimani has accepted Jesus as Savior.

"The Lord takes something so many times that the devil means to be harmful to us and He'll make good out of it," Porter shares.

"He has sure done that with Kimani's life."

Kimani has stepped out of the darkness and into the light. His future, once shrouded in uncertainty, is now filled with hope and promise.

"I went from a kid with no life in him to a kid full of life. That's all thanks to Broyhill - they have shown me love and they have shown me Jesus," Kimani says. "I have been transformed, renewed, changed, and I have been rescued thanks to them."

This year's theme for Baptist Children's Homes annual Thanksgiving Offering is "Blessed."

For more information, or to see the 2013 offering video featuring Kimani and other BCH residents, go to bchfamily.org/ offering. Or, call (800) 476-3669, ext. 1209, to order free offering promotional materials for your church.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Blake Ragsdale is director of communications for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.) BR

Thanksgiving Offering helps bless children in need

hen Kimani was 12 years old he weighed 32 pounds and wore size three in toddler clothes. Throughout his childhood he was physically abused and often did not have food to eat. He had never attended school or learned how to do

things like other children, such as riding a bike.

"I chose the word 'hopeless' to describe my life before Baptist Children's Homes because I had no hope. I didn't think I had anything to be hopeful for; I didn't know what love was," Kimani shares during a recent video for Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

Now, five years after coming to Broyhill Home, Kimani describes himself as "trans-

formed, renewed, changed and rescued."

"If it hadn't been for Baptist Children's

alive. They have shown me love and they have shown me Jesus," he says during the video testimony. If you will visit www.bchfamily.org/offer*ing*, you will thank God for all the ways

Homes, I honestly don't think I would be

He is using North Carolina Baptists to help change the lives of children like Kimani.

Kimani's story is just one of several stories featured in the promotional materials for this year's annual Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Children's Homes (BCH). (Story, page 1.) The theme for this year's offering is "Blessed," based on Mark 10:16. The offering goal is \$1,475,000.

About 70 percent of BCH residents arrive there un-

churched and unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The BCH staff and house parents faithfully invest their lives into the children and teenagers God brings to BCH.

They not only care for their physical needs, but demonstrate to them unconditional love.

They model a life of service unto Jesus and help the children believe they can find hope in Christ.

Throughout the years BCH has expanded its outreach through additional residential facilities, ministry to teenage mothers, and programs to help young adults transition to independent living.

The BCH developmental disabilities ministry recently reached 100 percent occupancy in all nine of the group homes. I am grateful for the outstanding leadership of BCH president Michael Blackwell and his staff, who continue seeking to provide additional ministry opportunities to people in need.

In addition to viewing videos at bch-

family.org, you can download free promotional materials such as photos, posters and bulletin inserts. You can also read more stories of life transformation.

The week of prayer for BCH is Nov. 17-24.

Please pray for the ministry of our Baptist Children's Homes, and please give to the Thanksgiving Offering. You can help make this year a year of unprecedented spiritual impact among children and teenagers across our state.

In addition to this special Thanksgiving offering, you also support BCH each month when your church contributes to Cooperative Program giving.

Thank you for giving because of your love for Christ and so that ministry and mission opportunities are met in our state, nation and world.

"And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:16 **B**



BSC executive

director-treasurer

One milestone, three pastors

ilestones are defined as significant historical markers in the life of an individual, organization or nation. They are points that should cause us to pause, recognize,

celebrate and give thanks such as a church's 100-year anniversary, the celebration of a pastor's long term of service and other meaningful accomplishments in Kingdom work.

The Biblical Recorder is pleased to learn about these special times and share them with our Baptist family. Two weeks ago I shared about a pastor who has served the same church for 58 years – a very rare accomplishment.

I learned about another unusual church milestone. On Oct. 6 Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia celebrated 50 years of ministry. Several unusual elements make this event worth noting. The church has only had three pastors during that time, all three are still in active ministry and one of them is 100 years young!

The church's first two pastors, M.O. Owens Jr. and Ned L. Mathews preached



in the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services respectively as about 1,600 people gathered for the celebration. Owens, who served Parkwood from 1963 to 1980, turned 100 in September. As *pastor emeritus*, he still

preaches in one of the church's services every Sunday.

Ned Mathews shepherded the church from 1980-1999, and also serves as pastor emeritus. He has since taught at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary as a professor of pastoral ministries.

Jeff Long is the current pastor of Parkwood. He began his ministry there 21 years ago as the youth pastor. For 14 years he has served as senior pastor.

Long (right photo) was deeply moved by the golden anniversary celebration. "It was a humbling and historic moment for the church ...," he said. "It's a moment I am not going to forget ... it was powerful for me ... the clarity of what those two men preached that day. It was a good day."

But there is another significant ingredient about this scenario. All three men

DISCIPLE, ARE YOU IN THE ZONE?

grew more as a Christian in my last two years of college than any time in my whole life. Part of it was because I got involved with Campus Crusade for Christ and had somebody who discipled me and who held me accountable for my own growth. I met with a

guy named Byron Peters every week. I met with him with a group and individually. He would always ask me the same questions:

• What are you doing with your quiet time; what are you reading?

• What is God teaching you or showing you; what are you learning?

• Have you shared your faith with anybody?

We would go over these questions, and then we would go out and share the gospel with someone. The first three or four times we did this, he would do the talking and I would pray. After the fourth time, he switched the roles and had me do the talking with him doing the praying. That was

been sharing the gospel ever since. Sometimes it just takes someone to help us take the first step when stepping out in faith. Are you willing to step out of the "green zone?" We live most of the time in the green zone. Occasionally, we will venture into the yellow zone and rarely will

we get in the red zone.

on a mission trip into a

communist or Islamist

learn to be comfortable

stepping into the yellow

zone. Actually, we need

to live in the yellow zone

country. We need to

The red zone is like going

more than 20 years ago, and I've



MARTY DUPREE

because that is where you learn to trust God more. When you step into the red zone it is because God has called you out and,

in following Him, He will show up in ways you can't imagine.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Marty Dupree is team leader for evangelism and church growth for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Contact him at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5565), or *mdupree@ncbaptist.org.*)

have been actively involved in the conservative resurgence of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the conservative direction of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). All three had important roles in the struggle for the future of the SBC and BSC.

Owens was a gentle, but determined writer and proponent of inerrancy. He launched a publishing company and spoke untiringly at events that challenged the theological drift of the SBC. He was the key figure in the launch of Conservative Carolina Baptists, the longest running conservative organization of the conservative resurgence. His role in Baptist life is inestimable.

Mathews never backed down from a discussion of scripture's essential role. With a keen mind and passionate heart he has regularly preached and debated, holding high the value of scripture.

"Not only do these men have the rich history that has impacted and marked Parkwood for 50 years, but at the same time they have marked the Southern Baptist Convention in a significant and powerful way," Long said. "These two men are historical figures beyond Parkwood...



They're kingdom men. It's an honor to serve after them and to be personally discipled by both of them."

Long's influence is not insignificant. He serves as a trustee of the International Mission Board. His courageous leadership as chairman of the Nominating Committee for BSC about 6 years ago has profoundly shaped the composition of today's convention.

So, here are three pastors who had valuable roles in shaping the identity of the SBC and the BSC, and all have served the same church for half a century. I am thankful for these brothers and for others across N.C. who serve sacrificially with conviction and character. BR

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices (letters to the editor)

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or Biblical Recorder, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Letters can be anonymous but only with approval by the editor. Each submission will be subject to style, length and clarity adjustments.

Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period. Like the Biblical Recorder fan page on facebook and follow us on Twitter: @biblicalrecord.

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November 3BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Stand Your Ground

Focal Passage: Galatians 2:1-14

uring my early teens my sisters loved to make fun of the way I answered the phone. For some reason my voice dropped about an octave when I put the receiver to my face. I had made the subconscious effort to be something I wasn't - older than 13! I wish all my past inconsistencies had been so harmless. The repeated mantra, "The church is full of hypocrites," stems from obvious wavering in the lives of believers. Sometimes Sunday's praise clashes with Monday's profanity! Peter's failure reminds us that contradiction even happens among the saints. Is holiness or sin outside your true character?

As he prayed on the Simon's rooftop (Acts 10), Peter saw a heavenly vision of a large sheet coming down from the sky filled with numerous unclean animals. Like any good Jew, Peter protested the divine command to kill and eat, replying, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." God quickly corrected him, declaring, "What God has cleansed no longer consider unholy." He could not take the message of grace to the Gentile Cornelius with the burden of the law around his neck!

Peter had been eating with Gentiles until certain men from the church in Jerusalem came to visit. As a result, Peter withdrew from them for fear of the Juda-

izers (people who believed that salvation required faith in Christ plus adherence to the law). Sadly, the rest of the Jews, including Barnabas, followed Peter's flawed example. Paul condemned Peter's hypocrisy and opposed him publicly. When we fail to stand our theological ground, other believers may quickly slide with us. Often Christians will stand to the death for issues that don't make any difference in God's Kingdom,

and flounder on significant theological issues to keep from hurting someone's feelings. May God give us graciousness in matters of opinion and backbones of steel regarding "the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3). "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" should be our lifestyle!

Focal Passages: 1 Samuel 25:14-17, 23-28, 32-35

abal, a largely unknown character in the Old Testament, vas described by one of his shepherds and his wife as "a worthless man." After David's dispatch of 10 men returned with the report of Nabal's inhospitable response to their request for food, the group of soldiers grew to 400 men with swords. Although Nabal was set to die in his bullheadedness, his wife Abigail determined to intervene. She sent food and personally intercepted David's army. She fell at his feet and asked that all the blame for her husband's

indiscretion be laid upon her. She said that Nabal lived up to his name, meaning "man of Belial," which he embodied with great foolishness. She further praised David for his restraint and pronounced God's blessing upon Him. David replied, "blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this

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Step In

day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand."

When conflict develops, peacemakers and instigators rise to the occasion, while many people do nothing. Abigail's example reminds us that we must stand on principle even when we don't like the parties involved. She could have celebrated the death of such a worthless husband, but she knew many innocent men would die. She was also willing to take the blame for an incident she was only tied to indirectly. She could have said, "That's his problem!" and headed for the hills. However, Abigail knew God had given her a role to play and she could not blame her irresponsibility on anyone else. She chose to be a wise peacemaker, not simply seeking peace at any cost. She knew that God's plan for David took precedence, which ultimately brought redemption through Jesus Christ.

Are you unfolding a blanket of wisdom to smother the fires of conflict, or are you pouring the fuel of foolishness on the fire? Are you merely a spectator? Our response will show whether we are focused on God's plan for His people or other earthly concerns.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

SHERRA STILL

Writer, University

Hills Baptist Church,

Charlotte

Wondering About Judgment?

Focal Passages: John 8:12, 15-18, 23-27, 42-47

hen I hear the term judge, I immediately feel my stress level increase because I think of being a line judge in volleyball. I have a daughter on a varsity volleyball team. One of our responsibilities as parents, is to call the lines for one game during the season. I carefully research the schedule and choose the game that I think will be the least competitive. I find it difficult to make the right calls when the ball is hit hard! As a group of parents, we identify the ones who can do the hard games, and we allow them to sign up for those matches. They have been identified as the best judges.

Our lesson this week encourages us to identify the true judge. In John 8, Jesus identifies his judgment as "true" and done by "I and the Father" (John 8:16). As Christians, we need to help the world understand that Jesus is the true judge. He is the one to show us how to live in the light of God's truth.

One way everyone can understand the importance of judgment, is to look at the

area of accountability. We experience accountability in common tools, such as a bathroom scale and a time clock. Accountability increases our awareness of judgment when our behavior results in consequences, especially if they are

negative. Just this past week, this truth came sharply home to our high school. One of our 16-year-old students was driving too fast on a country road and the resulting wreck took the life of a beautiful, young lady. Our community has chosen to be supportive and focus on what we can learn from the situation. Her church family has been able to proclaim the message of salvation, and it was reported that more than 50 people were saved at the young lady's funeral!

A funeral provides an opportunity for people to understand the basis of judgment. In this case, the message was clearly sent that we all need to make the choice to follow God's words (John 8:47). Then, at judgment, we will be found to be from God.

Doubting Jesus' Power?

Focal Passages: John 9:8-11, 13-17, 35-41

ave you ever realized that you made something much more complicated than it ever needed to be? Maybe it was a task you were try-

> ing to accomplish or a relationship you were trying to figure out. In retrospect, you thought, "I made that so much more difficult than I needed to." Or, perhaps you are trying to explain something to someone and they just didn't get it. It seems so simple to you, but they just cannot wrap their mind around it. It seems that was the case in our scripture passage this week. The formerly blind man tried to explain the simplicity of his healing, and his listeners

just would not accept the truth of the miracle.

First, the healed man's neighbors and "those who formerly had seen him as a beggar" questioned the man and themselves. They asked for an explanation over and over again. I can imagine the

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healed man feeling he needed to speak slowly and repeat his explanation. There was mud and there was washing the mud off, and that was it. His listeners evidently thought it had to be much more complicated than it was.

Secondly, the common folk took the man "who used to be blind to the Pharisees." It was as if they thought they weren't smart enough to understand this miracle, so the Pharisees could interpret it for them. Once again, more questions were asked of the healed man. Where the community folk doubted the blind man, the Pharisees chose to doubt Jesus. They cast doubt toward the character of our Savior. The blind man simply confessed, "He's a prophet." As the healed man went on to defend Jesus, his confession was more than the Pharisees could take, so they threw him out of the temple (John 9:34).

Why is the truth so hard to see at times? Jesus identifies the religious leaders as being spiritually blind. Oh, may we all have eyes to see Jesus at work. As we see Jesus work miracles today, let's cast doubt aside and be the first to praise Him!



GuideStone Continued from page 1

2010 health-care law. The HHS regulation requires employers to pay for coverage of workers' contraceptives, including drugs that can cause abortions, but does not provide an exemption for entities like those that filed suit.

"GuideStone plans do not cover drugs or devices that can or do cause abortions," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a written release from the entity on Oct. 14. "We reluctantly take this step because we are committed to protecting the unborn and preserving the religious freedom that is guaranteed under the laws of this nation. This mandate runs rough-shod over these foundational principles."

GuideStone has protested a series of "final" rules issued during the last two years by HHS on contraceptive coverage, joining the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and Southern Baptist leaders – as well as evangelical and Roman Catholic organizations – in opposing the mandate and its lack of adequate conscience protections for religious employers.

After GuideStone failed to achieve satisfactory results through legislative and regulatory processes, Hawkins signaled to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in September the entity would file suit.

"From the outset of this unacceptable mandate, GuideStone has diligently pursued a number of avenues with Congress and the Administration to protect those we serve," Hawkins said in his Oct. 14 statement. "While we have secured some partial relief, it does not go far enough. Many ministry organizations are still in harm's way despite the fact that they also share core convictions regarding the sanctity of life."

The lawsuit cites 16 counts against HHS and its mandate, including violations of the First Amendment's free exercise and establishment clauses and the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Foes of the abortion/ contraception mandate say HHS has provided adequate conscience protections for churches and affiliated auxiliaries, but not for other religious institutions.

The suit seeks a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the mandate until the judicial process is complete. GuideStone and its fellow plaintiffs face heavy financial penalties for noncompliance. The mandate will take effect Jan. 1, 2014, for GuideStone.

The GuideStone suit is the 74th filed against the mandate, according to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is representing GuideStone and the other plaintiffs.

"The government's refusal to treat these ministries as 'religious employers' is senseless," said Mark Rienzi, senior counsel for the Becket Fund. "These people spend their lives teaching and preaching their religious faith – if they do not qualify as 'religious employers,' the government needs to get a new definition."

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to announce soon if it will review lower court decisions regarding the abortion/contraception mandate. Both the Department of Justice and Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania business owned by pro-life Christians, asked the high court Sept. 19 to review separate decisions that clashed at the appeals court level. The DOJ petition came in an appeal won by Hobby Lobby, an Oklahoma City-based retail chain owned by pro-life evangelicals.

If the Supreme Court grants review in either or both cases, it is likely to hear oral arguments early in 2014 and render a decision on the mandate before the end of its term in late June or early July.

Drugs covered by the HHS mandate include Plan B and other "morning-after" pills that possess a postfertilization mechanism that can cause an abortion by preventing implantation of tiny embryos. The rule also covers "ella," which – in a fashion similar to the abortion drug RU 486 – can even act after implantation to end the life of the child.

Officials with Truett-McConnell College and Reaching Souls, who represent other organizations that participate in GuideStone's health plans, explained in a press release why their organizations are involved.

"Our mission at Truett-McConnell College is to equip our students to fulfill the Great Commission by fostering a Christian worldview through a biblically centered education," said Emir Caner, the school's president. "Part of that Christian worldview is the understanding that human life – from conception to death – is valuable because all human life is created in the image of God. It is an unconscionable violation of the Christian worldview we were founded upon to be required to participate in the government's scheme to provide objectionable coverages in our employer health plan."

Dustin Manis, chief executive officer of Reaching Souls, said, "We see this encroachment of our religious liberty"

Truett-McConnell is affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention, and Reaching Souls is a mission organization that trains Africans to reach their continent with the gospel of Christ.

GuideStone, which is based in Dallas, serves not only churches but missions organizations, schools, hospitals and other ministries. In addition to health and other insurance coverage, GuideStone also offers retirement, investment management, property and casualty coverage and other services.

The Dallas law firm Locke Lord LLP filed the lawsuit in conjunction with the Becket Fund.

The case is *GuideStone v. Sebelius*. Kathleen Sebelius is the HHS secretary. **B**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Placing a classified ad in the Biblical Recorder

• Submit the information via the Recorder's website at BRnow.org.

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.20 per word, number and

stand-alone initial (\$1.42 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a

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

minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

Pastor

Cedar Lodge Baptist Church, Thomasville, NC, is accepting resumes for **full-time Pastor**. Church size is SS 35-50, worship 50-65. Annual salary package \$32,000 (no parsonage). Send resumes to *larrygraham@ northstate.net*.

Bethel Baptist Church in Dublin, North Carolina, seeks **full-time Pastor** to live in parsonage. We are an SBC church and member of the Bladen Baptist Association. Average attendance is 140 in Sunday School and 180 in worship service. For more information email me at *mbrisson@embarqmail.com* or call Bobby Roberts at 910-633-2073.

Miscellaneous

DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? Try our piano CDs for congregational singing! Worship Service Resources - Hymns, Choruses, Christmas, Lyric Slide DVDs. FREE DEMO! Church Discounts! *www.wsrpianocds.com* or (877) 977-6800.

Samick 47" Tall Ebony Black Studio Piano. Beautiful. One owner, my mom. 11 Years old but in like-new condition. Pictures available. Billy Pierce: (919) 612-2753, Cary, NC. NCBAM needs teams of 2-4 servant volunteers to "adopt" an aging adult and provide friendly visits 1-2 hours a week. All counties needed; training provided. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: (877) 506-2226.

Church Staff

Temple Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC, is seeking a **Part-time Pastor of Children & Families**. Applicants should have training in working with children, youth or religious education. Minimum of bachelor of arts in biblical studies, Christian ministry, or related field (or pursuing such degree or its equivalency). Resumes should be sent to *info@templebaptistfay.com*.

Choose one of three avenues:

• Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org.

• Send a Fax to (919) 469-1674.

WORSHIP LEADER. Second Baptist Church is pursuing a worship leader to oversee the worship and music ministries of the church. We have two Sunday morning worship services with a combined average attendance of 350. Please find out more at *2ndbaptistchurch*. *net/worshipleader*.

Welcome Home Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, NC, is seeking a **part-time worship leader** to lead congregational worship and work with our adult choir. Interested candidates can mail their resume to 132 Welcome Home Baptist Church Road, North Wilkesboro 28659, or email at *whbcinfo@gmail.com*. Winfree Memorial Baptist Church, in Midlothian, Va., a Richmond suburb, is seeking a **full-time Youth Minister**. In partnership with church staff, parents and a committed corps of workers, this position will seek to reach and disciple youth. Candidates should have a minimum of 3 years experience in youth ministry. Bachelor's degree required, seminary preferred. Winfree is aligned with BGAV and CBF. The application process and more information are at *www.winfreechurch.org*.

Shades Crest Baptist Church, a 1,200 member CBF/SBC congregation in Birmingham, Ala., seeks an experienced minister to lead a multifaceted music and worship ministry. SCBC values traditional worship that is blended with contemporary elements in order to honor God and meet the needs of people. Successful candidates should have a graduate degree in music, experience in leading a music program including fully graded choirs and orchestra, and a commitment to serve on a pastoral team. If interested, send resume and cover letter by November 15 to scbcmusicsearch@gmail.com or by mail to: Search Committee, Shades Crest Baptist Church, 452 Park Ave., Birmingham, AL 35226.

Child safety is *backgroundchecks.com* aim

By AARON EARLS | Baptist Press

he man serving snow cones at your Vacation Bible School is a convicted sex offender. That was the news Bill Jones had to deliver to one of the pastors in his association.

The pastor came to Jones after learning a volunteer, who had been a "model church member" for two years, may have had a criminal record.

"[The pastor] asked if I would do a background search, as I often do for our smaller churches that cannot afford it themselves," said Jones, executive director of the Neches River Baptist Association in Crockett, Texas. The report did confirm a sex offense conviction.

That Texas church was one of nearly 5,000 churches and religious organizations that have used *backgroundchecks.com* through a relationship with LifeWay Christian Resources over the past five years. During that time, more than 84,500 background checks were run through the program. Of those background investigations, 53 percent (44,946) returned some type of issue, ranging from minor traffic violations to felony convictions, according to Jennie Taylor, a LifeWay coordinator who manages *backgroundchecks.com*. Not all of the issues required any action, but more than 22.5 percent (19,202) of the screenings returned records with misdemeanor or felony offenses.*

The Texas church now understands the importance of running background checks ahead of time, Jones said. "They now have a policy that everyone who works in



[children and youth] areas will have a current background check on file," he said.

The Monongahela Baptist Association in West Virginia also uses the service to run background checks on all volunteers for their children and youth camps.

"It's a way to help keep kids safe," association administrative assistant Jerilyn Smith said.

"We want to assure parents that we are doing all we can to protect their children from those who would want to harm them."

Under the LifeWay program, churches and religious organizations can use the background check service at discounted rates to screen children's ministry workers, camp counselors, bus drivers and other volunteers and staff.

"Leaders from churches and organizations who use LifeWay's background checks service say protecting those God has placed under their care is paramount," Taylor said.

Backgroundchecks.com has "an extensive collection of public record sources," including over 450 million records in its database and also gives easy to read reports, Taylor said. Having access to a national database was important for First Baptist Church in Brownsville, Texas.

"I tried using another background check website and they only searched through Texas," while *backgroundchecks.com* checks records from all 50 states, said Heather Smith, office assistant at First Baptist.

Jones encourages all churches to run background checks and "have policies in effect on how those checks can be used in a redemptive manner for those that come back with a criminal past."

For more information, visit *LifeWay.com/background-checks* or call (800) 464-2799. For additional resources to help churches avoid the devastating effects of sexual abuse and other moral failures by staff members or volunteers, visit *sbc.net/localchurches/ministryhelp.asp* and *sbclife.net/pdf/ProtectingOurChildren.pdf*.

*Statistics reflect results from clients who have purchased background check services from backgroundchecks.com through LifeWay's OneSource program.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Aaron Earls is a writer with LifeWay Christian Resources.)







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