



★ ★ ★
Voter guide released by
SBC's Ethics & Religious
Liberty Commission
Page 15



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

OCTOBER 27, 2012 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 178 NO. 22 • **BR**now.org



Chris Schofield, right, director of the Baptist State Convention's office of prayer, speaks with Dennis Long, center, director of missions for the Wilmington Baptist Association, and Charles Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Island. (Photo by Melissa Lilley)

Leaders pledge cooperation, ask SBC to elevate prayer

By **MELISSA LILLEY** | BSC Communications

More than 400 feature films and television shows have used the North Carolina coastal town of Wilmington as a backdrop, and with filming underway for anticipated blockbusters such as "Iron Man 3," the scenic port city does not seem to be in jeopardy of losing its "Hollywood East" nickname anytime soon.

Although Wilmington's movie tours, historic landmarks and close proximity to beaches make it a popular vacation destination, it's also home to a population that is about 65 percent unchurched. "It's a city that needs to be won for Christ," said Dennis Long, Wilmington Baptist Association director of missions, during the annual PrayerLink meeting of state and national Southern Baptist prayer leaders. "To reach this city, we must start with prayer."

During the Oct. 11-13 PrayerLink meeting, leaders visited and prayed for Wilmington, nearby Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Southport and Oak Island – strategic ministry areas with thousands of tourists flocking each year to North Carolina's coast.

See Prayer page 11

STRUGGLING TEEN FINDS HOPE

with help of
Baptist Children's Homes

By **J. Blake Ragsdale** | BCH Communications



Unwanted and unloved – this is exactly how Travis felt. He spent his childhood believing his life had little meaning to his parents. "My mother was a cocaine addict and my father was a drunk," Travis said. As a young boy, Travis bounced back and forth from his mother's house to his father's house. He shared that his father was often completely disconnected from him because of his addiction to alcohol. When spending time with his mom, it was not uncommon for her to leave Travis alone at night.

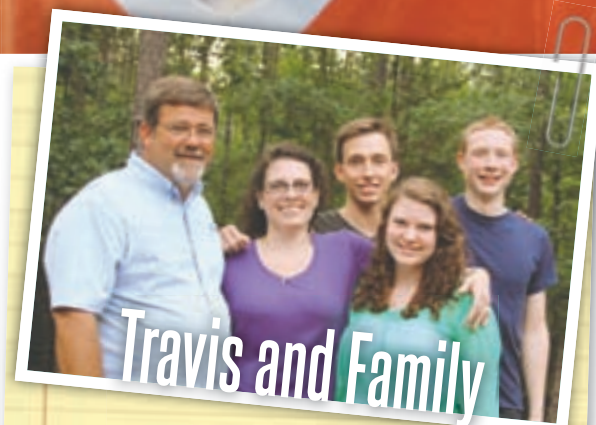
On one occasion, Travis' mother stayed away for days leaving her son with a friend she barely knew. News of this incident left Travis' father concerned. Worried about his son, he called his sister Karen to see if she and her husband would take care of Travis while he sorted out his personal struggles.

"My husband, Daniel, and our two children agreed that there wasn't anything to discuss," Karen recalls. "Travis was coming to stay with us."

What the family could not prepare for was the raw emotion and anger the 7-year-old boy would bring with him. Travis completely shouldered the blame for his parents' problems. But he was also dealing with severe trust issues, related to his mother. He took his frustration out on his aunt who was now Travis' mother figure.

"While my uncle was at work, all my pain would come out on Aunt Karen," Travis explains.

Years passed, but his parents' personal issues did not improve. As a



Travis and Family
L to R: Dan and Karen, Travis' aunt and uncle; Benjamin and Victoria, Travis' cousins; and Travis. After two and a half years of living at Cameron Boys Camp, Travis and his family have found healing and are reunited.

See BCH page 16

SEBTS projects growth, adds staff

BR and Southeastern staff

During their fall meeting Oct. 15-16, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's Board of Visitors and Trustees heard reports of record enrollment, new staff and future plans for the seminary and its college.

This semester Southeastern has a record enrollment of nearly 3,000 students, reported Daniel Akin, the seminary's president. If growth continues, he said, the seminary could see nearly 5,000 students by 2017.

"We believe that kind of growth is very attainable for the future of Southeastern Seminary, so we're very thankful for that," said Akin, during his presidential address Oct. 15 to the seminary's Board of Visitors and Trustees.

Preparing for future

To prepare to meet future needs and growth at Southeastern, trustees approved changes to its structure and elected new personnel. Chuck Lawless will become dean of Southeastern's graduate school and professor of evangelism and missions. He will leave his position as vice president of global advance with the International Mission Board (IMB). Before taking his role at IMB, Lawless was dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. James Dew Jr., associate professor of history of ideas and philosophy, will become the new dean of the College at Southeastern. Dew received his B.S. degree from Toccoa Falls College, his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southeastern.

Kenneth Keathley, professor of theology and dean of the faculty, transitioned from his administrative position as senior vice president for academic administration to lead the L. Russ Bush Center for Faith and Culture.

Trustees also elected Bruce Ashford as the seminary's provost. Ashford, associate professor of theology and culture, is the former dean of the College at Southeastern and Fellow for the Bush Center for Faith and Culture. Ashford received his B.A. from Campbell University, and his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southeastern.

Equipping the church

Akin also shared about a new effort where Southeastern is partnering with nearly 150 churches to help provide theological education on church campuses. Through the help of trained pastoral staff and online classes, Southeastern can provide theological training for those with a desire to stay on staff at the church they are serving.

One of those partner churches includes The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala. The seminary and Brook Hills will jointly support Jim Shaddix, who will serve on staff at Brook Hills as pastor for teaching and training, while also serving as a professor of preaching for the seminary.

"Which means theoretically a person could come to Brook Hills and get their master of divinity degree and never have to move from Brook Hills to here," Akin said. "I've said for a long time ... seminaries cannot teach everything [pastors] need to know. Some of the things can only be learned in the furnace of the local church."

No Calvinist agenda

During his report, Akin also addressed concerns by some critics of Southeastern, who contend the seminary has a "Calvinist agenda."

"Calvinism is not an issue on this campus," said Akin, who was invited earlier this year to serve on a 16-member Calvinism advisory team headed up by Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page. The team met in August and will meet again in November to discuss the development of a strategy "whereby people of various theological persuasions can work together in missions and evangelism."

"The Great Commission is [an issue at Southeastern], but Calvinism isn't," Akin said. "I have no intention of building a Calvinistic school. It would be over my dead body."

With that said, Akin added, "If there is a Calvinist who has a warm evangelist missionary heart who loves the Word of God ... I'm more than happy to have those type of people on our faculty, and we do. ... Though we may differ on certain

points of theology, we are in lockstep agreement on the major issues that hold us together within the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. I think most Southern Baptists believe [Southeastern has] the right vision and the right mission."

Cal Thomas

On Monday evening (Oct. 15) during Southeastern's banquet, the seminary hosted Cal Thomas, a nationally syndicated columnist and panelist on the "Fox News Watch" show. Thomas has worked for NBC News in Washington, D.C., and hosted his own program on CNBC that was nominated for a Cable ACE Award in 1995.

Thomas asked banquet attendees, "What makes America unique in relationship to other nations and countries? American government says that rights and freedom are God-given and ideally, the government's role is to protect these two things for the nation's well-being."

"My hope is not in the next election, but in the blood and death of Jesus Christ," Thomas added. True change, he said, would not come through a legislation of morality via the government. "True transformation is through God's way and that is His gospel." **BR**

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

STUART LAMKIN has been called as pastor of Hickory Rock Baptist Church, Louisburg. Lamkin was previously editor of the Uniform Bible Study Series for Smyth & Helwys Publishing in Macon, Ga.

Miller Hill Baptist Church, Lenoir, has called **CHRISTOPHER ADAM KIRBY** as youth pastor. This is Kirby's first church staff position.

Ordination

CHRISTOPHER ADAM KIRBY was ordained Sept. 30 at First Baptist Church of Whitnel, Lenoir. Stuart White, pastor of First Baptist, shared a charge to the candidate. Miller Hill Baptist Church, Lenoir, Pastor Steven Walsh and Caldwell Association Director of Missions Dale Fisher took part in the service.

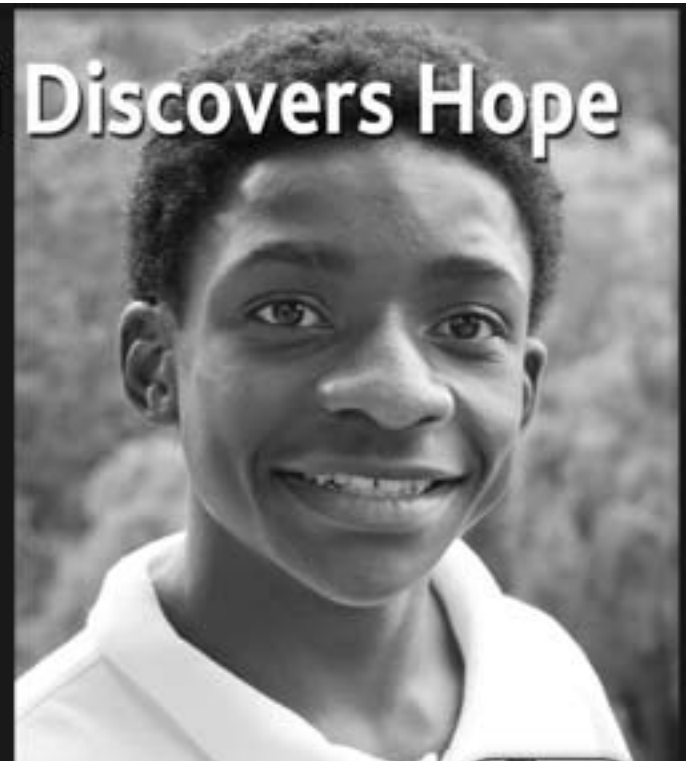
Homecoming/anniversary

HOLLY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Burlington, is celebrating its 40th anniversary Nov. 18 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Food and fellowship to follow.

Contact the church office at (336) 585-8040 or office@hollyhillbaptist.org.

Kimani Discovers Hope

At age 12, Kimani weighed 32 lbs. and wore size 3 toddler clothes when he came to Baptist Children's Homes. Because of Baptists, this NC resident was rescued from a life of pain and now knows Christ as his Savior. Thank you for sharing hope with NC children!



Sharing hope

2012 ANNUAL OFFERING
WWW.BCHFAMILY.ORG/OFFERING

Scan to watch Kimani's video, or view it online.



BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES of NORTH CAROLINA

Your church can help! Invite a speaker to share the ministry. Participate in the Annual Offering. Call 1.800.476.3669 ext. 1209. Visit www.bchfamily.org/offering. Week of Prayer Nov. 11 - 18.

Interstate Transportation Equipment, Inc.

The South's Oldest Bus Company
Since 1947

interstatetransportation.com



New and Used Buses
Financing Programs Available



HIGH POINT, NC • 800.726.0779

Gardner-Webb University gets 'A' in core curriculum

GWU Media Relations

An annual study on core curriculum requirements at over 1,000 colleges and universities from all over the United States has placed Gardner-Webb University (GWU) in Boiling Springs at the head of the class for the second year in a row. The university was among only 21 colleges – and the only school in the Carolinas – to earn an “A.”

“This national recognition of our curriculum, something we neither sought nor applied for, stands as a significant affirmation of our academic program,” said Ben Leslie, GWU provost and executive vice president.

The 2012-2013 What Will They Learn? study, conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), ranks the core curriculum of all the major public and private colleges and universities in all 50 states.



The ranking places GWU in the top two percent in the nation, included with schools such as Pepperdine University (Malibu, Calif.) and Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

“More than anything else, it is a tribute to the Gardner-Webb faculty, who along with their predecessors, have expressed a deep commitment to a broad-based general education in the liberal arts for many years,” Leslie said.

“Not only does GWU’s general education curriculum conform to the criteria set forth by ACTA, but we actually exceed their expectations by requiring courses in arts, health and wellness, religion and communications.”

Gardner-Webb University is the only college in the Carolinas to earn an “A” in the ACTA study, which analyzes seven core subjects and rates universities accordingly. ACTA believes that composition, U.S. government/history, economics, literature, math, science, and foreign language components help students gain the knowledge and values necessary for responsible democratic citizenship.

“A”-rated schools require at least six out of the seven core courses; “B” schools must offer four or five out of seven. **BR**

CHURCH NEWS



Maplewood Baptist Church, Yadkinville

Pastor Jimmy Lancaster, left, presents Phillip Graham with a plaque of appreciation Sept. 30. Graham’s wife, Carolyn, was at his side. Graham was church treasurer for 40 years at Maplewood Baptist Church, Yadkinville, where Lancaster leads, and First Baptist Church, Yadkinville. The day was also Maplewood’s 20th Founder’s Day Celebration.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Event teaches about agricultural technology

Register for Go Grow, an event for those interested in international development work, led by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) and Bayer CropScience on Nov. 2-3 at the seminary’s campus. Go Grow will provide an introduction to basic agricultural technology as well as certified training from a non-church sponsored, internationally recognized source which can help in some of the most difficult places. Visit sebts.edu “conferences” page for a complete list of breakout sessions and topics as well as to register. Click “conferences,” then “Go Grow.” SEBTS students register for \$20; general admission is \$30.

Panelists to explore race topic

Join All Things To All Men as they lead worship for RACE, a theatrical panel discussion on the topic of race and how it plays a part in communication. RACE will also include a drama, coffee, dessert and a giveaway. Panelists featured are Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS);

J.D. Greear, lead pastor of The Summit Church in Durham; and Jerome Gay, lead pastor of Vision Church in Raleigh. The event will be Nov. 13 at SEBTS in Wake Forest at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person (groups of 5 for \$90). Childcare is \$5 per child. Visit attam.eventbrite.com to purchase tickets, or contact mblade@sebts.edu with questions.

Association retirees to retreat at Caraway

Retired North Carolina associational staff is invited Dec. 3-4 to the Retired Associational Missionary and Widow Retreat at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia. Celebrating Joy at Christmas is the conference theme. Staff and widows will have fellowship, encouragement and time to share what is happening in their continued ministries. The retreat will include comedy by Renee Henderson, music by Judson Rotan, devotions, the Retired Director of Missions Quartet, and more. Register by Nov. 19. The cost is \$37 per single in private room; \$65 per couple for a private room; \$18.50 per commuter. For more information and to register, contact Emily Compton at ecompton@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5536.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance. All submissions will be subjected to *BR* styles and will be edited. Send to dianna@BRnow.org; (919) 847-2127.

Domine verbum
Passages **Now Open**
in Charlotte

Passages showcases over 400 rare Biblical texts and artifacts, including First Edition **English Bibles**, fragments of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, and **Torah Scrolls** rescued from the Holocaust!

Limited Engagement

Tickets Available at ExplorePassages.com
Discount Coupons Available at Hobby Lobby Stores!

8405 IBM Drive • I-85 exit 45B • (704) 510-2281

universityCity INNOVATION PARK

f t YouTube

Repentance, prayer will 'awaken' N.C. Baptists, leaders say

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

Next month during the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) N.C. Baptists will be challenged to respond to a call for spiritual awakening and a return to personal holiness.

Recently, church and BSC leaders shared their thoughts on the reality of spiritual decline and what the church must do in order to reverse the trends.

Stephanie Mills, women's ministry coordinator at Faith Baptist Church in Youngsville, said the church can no longer afford to turn away from the obvious signs of spiritual decline.

"We cannot do business as usual any longer," she said.

"Spiritual awakening will not happen until we have awareness of what scripture says and are committed to it because we love Jesus and we live for His glory."

Mills attributes spiritual decline in part to the church's failure to promote a complete biblical worldview.

"I think it is easy for those of us who have grown up in the Bible belt to assume that everyone knows how to think biblically, but they don't," she said.

"People don't understand what a biblical worldview looks like."

She believes that an incomplete biblical worldview among believers in recent decades has resulted in a general apathy toward soul winning and the acceptance of sinful choices and lifestyles within the church.

Mills suggests that believers can cultivate a biblical worldview and help bring about spiritual awakening by devoting themselves to God's Word, prayer and building intentional relationships with people who need to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Above all, local churches need to make repentance a priority.

"It is sin when we don't care about a world around us that's hurting and dying and going to hell," she said. "Repent and recognize it as sin."

Sammy Joo, BSC senior consultant for international campus ministry, said God's people must be awakened to the reality that many people outside the church are seeking spiritual truth.

"There are lots of people who don't know Christ and the church needs to be awakened to see the spiritual need and spiritual hunger in the community," he said. "There is a great opportunity. But if the church is not awakened, if we just remain inside our circle, then we will miss the opportunity."



Joo is praying for a return to gospel-centered preaching among all N.C. Baptists, as this is the "fundamental way to break the hearts of people."

Joo is also praying that churches will unite in praying for revival, and that all N.C. Baptists will commit to making Christ known in their homes, work places and communities.

If believers are not faithful in these areas, he said, they cannot expect the Holy Spirit to bring change.

"It all starts inside of the church and then it can grow outside," Joo said. "I believe the Holy Spirit will bring revival and great awakening in the church and then it will impact outside the church."

Mike Pittman, pastor of Vertical Church in Lumberton, is concerned for the future of the nation and prays revival will come to N.C. and spread throughout the nation.

"Our state and country are at a crucial point where we will either turn back to Jesus

in a massive way or we will end up going the route of other nations who have taken a secularized route turning from God," he said.

Echoing the sentiments of Mills and Joo, Pittman said revival must begin in the church, with a focus toward repentance.

"We must repent. If we want to see

spiritual decline reversed it begins with us," he said. "We must quit focusing on the sin in the world and begin to address the sin in the church."

Pittman challenged N.C. Baptists to first focus on Jesus and His holiness, instead of focusing on the ills of society. "If the true holiness of Jesus flows from the church it will manifest itself in powerful movements in our communities,

our state, our nation and ultimately the world."

Please note the change of location: The annual meeting will be held Nov. 12-13 at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center.

North Carolina Baptists across the state are participating in the "Pray for 30 Days" Challenge. To get involved in praying for the annual meeting and for spiritual awakening, visit ncannualmeeting.org. **BR**

Related stories – See pages 5-8 & 12-13 for more about the meeting.

Resolutions

On Oct. 29, the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials will make available on the Annual Meeting website, www.ncannualmeeting.org, all resolutions to be presented by the Committee during the Annual Meeting in Greensboro.

The *Biblical Recorder* will also publish the resolutions on its website (BRnow.org) and in its special annual meeting issue available in Greensboro at the Greensboro Coliseum and in all the messenger packets.



SAMMY JOO

Spring
2013
WOMEN OF JOY™
3 Days 2 Nights 1 Purpose
Absolute Surrender

Jill Kelly
Speaker

Jeremy Camp
Concert Artist

Jeremy Camp
Lisa Whelchel
Liz Curtis Higgs
Kay Warren
Angela Thomas
Charles Billingsley
Jill Kelly & more!

Louisville, KY	Apr. 5-7	Presented by Phil Waldrep Ministries. Call for a free brochure or visit our website! womenofjoy.org 1.800.475.0813
Sevierville, TN	Apr. 12-14	
Oklahoma City, OK	Apr. 19 & 20	
Branson, MO	Apr. 26-28	
Myrtle Beach, SC	May 3-5	

Kivett's - Your Source for Renewal

Complete Renovations • Refinish
New Pews • Steeples • Stained Glass
Steeple Cleaning • Baptistries

www.kivetts.com
KIVETT'S INC.
The Largest Family Owned
Church Furniture Manufacturer in the US
1-800-334-1139 • Clinton, NC



Pastors' conference to 'Preach the Word'

BR staff

While following biblical principles may not always be viewed as politically correct in today's society, this year's Pastors' Conference will lead up to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting with the theme "Preach the Word."

This year's conference will be held Nov. 11-12 at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. The conference will begin at 6 p.m. on that Sunday, and it will wrap up the following day at 3 p.m. The theme for this year's conference is based on 2 Timothy 4:2. "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

"The Bible challenges us to preach the Word," said Conference President Lee Pigg, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe. "[It] challenges us to be ready to preach the Word when it's popular and when it's not popular. We all understand today [that] we live in a time that it's not popular to preach the Word. That passage goes on to say correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction."

Among this year's featured speakers for the conference include the following:

- Greg Mathis, senior pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church, Hendersonville
- Bobby Welch, associate executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention
- Joe Brown, former pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte
- Don Bouldin, interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Marshville
- Mike Whitson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Indian Trail

Indian Trail

• Mac Brunson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

• Mark Harris, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte

Sermon topics that will coincide with this year's conference theme include: preach the Word with urgency, passion, commitment, relevance, conviction, thanksgiving, and preach the Word with power.

The conference's worship time will feature Tim Blankenbeckler, minister of worship for Hopewell Baptist and the church's choir, and Lawndale's associate pastor of music and worship Mark Walker and Lawndale's choir. The conference also will include the gospel music group Bread of Life.

For more information and to find a complete schedule go to www.ncannualmeeting.org/preach. **BR**

BREAK OUT: Sessions

Breakout sessions will be held from 3:45-5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at the Greensboro Coliseum, Special Events Center, during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting. There is no charge to attend.

Below is a list of the sessions offered:

• **Pursuing Godliness as You Lead Others (Room 4B)** – Throughout his letters, the Apostle Paul encouraged believers to "pursue godliness." What is godliness? This session will explain what godliness is, why it is important and why all believers should actively pursue a life of godliness.

Leader: Ashley Allen, Women's Ministry, Embrace Ministry, BSC

• **Disciple-making in 3D (Room 1A)** – In this session we will examine how churches and individuals can create a culture of discipleship as individuals, families and congregations seek to be an agent for spiritual awakening every day. Participants will be given biblical, practical ideas on how to live a life of spiritual influence in all aspects of life. Leader: Brian Upshaw, Church Ministry Team, BSC

• **The Billy Graham "My Hope" Evangelistic Emphasis (Room 3A)** – This ses-

sion will inform participants of the upcoming effort by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to share the gospel throughout this nation and how North Carolina Baptists can participate. Leaders: Don McCutcheon, Marty Dupree and Guillermo Soriano, Evangelization, BSC

• **Church Renewal and Revitalization (Room 1B)** – This session will focus on the Church Renewal Journey and other forms of revitalization being offered by the BSC Evangelization Group and the North American Mission Board. Leaders: Bob and Phyllis Foy, Lay Renewal, BSC

• **Stewardship: Lost in Translation (Room 4A)** – Our worldly and religious cultures have created disciples who are tippers, donors and titers who totally miss the gospel's message of stewardship in the life of a disciple. This session will assist participants in understanding stewardship as a biblical, relational, Kingdom and

eternal issue. The session will introduce discipling approaches for moving disciples closer to what God intended them to be as stewards, and provide a sample stewardship strategy and resource bibliography to assist in creating a disciple-making culture. Leader: Neal Eller, Church Health Team, BSC

• **Awaken: God's Time to Wake Up and Pray (Room 2)** – There is no doubt that the American church is asleep and in desperate need of God's presence. Have you ever wondered what could happen if revival and spiritual awakening took place in America? How do we respond to the desperate need for awakening as believers and churches? How should we pray? This conference explores these and other questions related to revival and spiritual awakening from a biblical, historical and practical perspective. Leader: J. Chris Schofield, Office of Prayer, BSC

• **Involving Your Church in Life Changing Mission Projects (Room 3B)** – We are called to be on mission in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. This session will cover local, state, national and international missions opportunities and needs. If your church is interested in "doing" missions this breakout session will be helpful. Leaders: Richard Brunson and NC Baptist Men staff **BR**

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

Enroll now for New Quarter on December 31, 2012

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Earn an associate's degree in Religion
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- "Evening Classes" now available – Tuesday & Thursday
- Courses offered for Spanish speaking students at several N.C. locations; call Dr. Aldo Barcelo for details: (336) 406-4266
- For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write:

David Horton, President
Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute
1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792
Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina



Summary of proposed amendments to bylaws

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) Board of Directors will bring three proposed amendments to the bylaws for consideration by messengers attending the BSCNC annual meeting November 12-13 at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center. The Board is not bringing proposed amendments to the articles of incorporation. An explanation of the proposed amendments is provided below:

Motion One

The first motion, related to Article I.C.5.a.(vi) and Article II.F.1., addresses qualifications of non-Board members of special committees of the Board of Directors, such as the Budget Committee and the Articles and Bylaws Committee. The bylaws limit individuals to a single place of service in regards to their membership on a Convention committee, the Convention’s Board of Directors, and the boards of the Convention’s institutions, agencies and affiliated educational institutions. Currently an individual cannot serve as a member of more than one of these committees or boards at one time. This motion seeks to clarify limitations on the service of non-Board members of special committees to a single place of service. The proposed amendments stipulate

that the Board president may not appoint individuals for these places of service who are already serving as members of Convention committees, or serving on the boards of the Convention’s institutions, agencies and affiliated educational institutions. The amendments also provide that the Committee on Nominations may not nominate individuals already serving as a non-Board member of a special committee to positions as members of Convention committees or the boards of institutions, agencies or affiliated educational institutions.

Motion Two

The second motion proposes a change to Article III.C.6. of the bylaws to reflect the title change of North Carolina Baptist Hospital’s School of Pastoral Care to the Division of Faith and Health Ministries. This proposed amendment does not impact the relationship of North Carolina Baptist Hospital with the BSCNC.

Motion Three

The third motion is a series of proposed amendments that clarify the work of the Committee on Nominations. Currently, there is inconsistency in the language used to address the ability of an individual who was elected to a full term of service but did not complete the full term

of service, to either return to service on the same board or committee or to begin a new term of service on a different board or committee. The proposed amendments will address these issues that are not explicitly covered by the current bylaws related to Convention committees (Article I.C.2.c., Convention Committees), the Convention Board (Article II.B.3., Election of At-large Members of the Board of Directors), Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute (Article II. G.2.a.(vi), Fruitland Board of Directors), and Institutions and Agencies (Article III.B.3.c., Election of Trustees and Directors).

These proposed amendments to the bylaws will be presented to messengers during the Tuesday morning session (Nov. 13) of the annual meeting and are subject to a majority vote. The presentation will take place as part of the Board of Directors report during that session. Questions related to these proposed amendments may be directed to the following individuals at the platform at the conclusion of the Monday evening session: Bartley Wooten, chair of the Articles and Bylaws Committee; Brian Davis, executive leader for Administration and Convention Relations; or John Small, Convention counsel. For more information about the annual meeting visit www.ncannualmeeting.org.

BSC Annual Meeting schedule

Monday Evening Session, November 12

4:00 p.m.	Exhibits and registration open
6:00	Call to worship
6:30	Call to order – Mark Harris
	Pledges (American Flag, Christian Flag, Bible)
	Committee on Convention Meetings – Craig Hamlin
	Prayer – Phillip Davis
6:55	Greetings
7:00	Introductions
7:05	Awaken Worship Service*
	Worship leaders – N.C. Baptist Renewing Worship Band, Bladen Baptist Association Worship Choir, Kenny Lamm, Marvin Green, John Miron and Steve Griffith
	EDT sermon – Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

Tuesday Morning Session, November 13

7:30 a.m.	Listening session
	Budget Committee (Turnberry – Koury Convention Center)
8:00	Exhibits and registration open (Exhibits close at 7:30 p.m.)
8:30	Call to worship – Western Carolina Baptist Campus Ministry Worship Band
8:45	Call to order – Mark Harris
	Prayer – Joseph Phan
8:50	Theme interpretation – Shelton Daniel
9:00	Worship through prayer – Jairo Contre-ras
9:10	Worship through music – Western Carolina Baptist Campus Ministry Worship Band
9:15	NC Baptist Foundation – Clay Warf
9:30	Board of Directors Report – Michael Barrett



10:05	Biblical Recorder Special Report – Allan Blume
10:15	Music – Western Carolina Baptist Campus Ministry Worship Band
10:30	Institution & agency reports
	North Carolina Baptist Hospital – Gary Gunderson
	Biblical Recorder – Allan Blume
	Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina – Michael Blackwell
10:45	Miscellaneous business
11:00	Election of officers (fixed order of business)
	President
11:15	Special music – Worship Ministry: First Baptist Church (FBC) Charlotte
11:25	Scripture – M.O. Owens Jr.
11:30	President’s address – Mark Harris
12:00	Closing prayer – Brenda Boberg

Tuesday Afternoon Session, November 13

1:30 p.m.	Call to order – Mark Harris
	Prayer – Abidan Shah
1:35	Greeting from LifeWay
1:40	Election of officers (first vice president & second vice president)
1:50	Theme interpretation – Sammy Joo
1:55	Worship through prayer – Jae Cho
2:00	Worship through music – Kenny Lamm
2:05	North Carolina Baptist Men (Auxiliary) – Richard Brunson
2:20	Convention Committee Reports
	Committee on Nominations – LeRoy Burke

	Committee on Resolutions and Memorials – Richard A. Browder Jr.
	Historical Committee – Tim Andrews
2:35	Music – Kenny Lamm
2:40	Board of Directors Report (Fixed Order of Business) – Michael Barrett
	Budget
3:10	Breakout sessions promotion – Lynn Sasser
3:15	Closing prayer – Jimmy Hammonds
3:45-5:00	Breakout sessions (See list, page 5)

Tuesday Evening Session, November 13

6:00 p.m.	Call to worship – Worship Ministry: FBC Charlotte
6:30	Call to order – Mark Harris
	Prayer – Cindy Bush
6:35	Greetings
	Executive Committee, SBC
	International Mission Board
6:40	Board of Directors Report – Michael Barrett
	Great Commission Partnerships
7:10	Evaluation
7:15	Presentation of officers
7:20	North American Mission Board Commissioning Service**
	Convention sermon – Kevin Ezell
	Worship leaders – Mark Christian & Worship Ministry: FBC Charlotte
	Kevin Ezell
	Debby Akerman
8:50	Closing prayer – Bruce Franklin

* See more about the Awaken theme, page 4.
** There will be a reception in West Wing B at the conclusion of this session. This is an opportunity for you to meet the missionaries commissioned during tonight’s service.

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

I. Amendments Related to Non-Board Members of Special Committees:

Motion 1: *The Board of Directors moves that Article I.C.5.a.(vi) and Article II.F.1. be deleted in their entirety with the following language substituted in their respective places.*

A. Article I.C.5.a.(vi) (Committee on Nominations)

Current Reading:

(vi) No person shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) Convention committee or board of the Convention, its institutions, its agencies, its affiliated educational institutions or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.) at the same time.

Proposed Reading:

(vi) No person shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) Convention committee, board of the Convention, special committee of the board of the Convention (as hereinafter named in Article II.F.), or board of its institutions, its agencies, its affiliated educational institutions or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.) at the same time.

B. Article II.F.1. (Board Committees)

Current Reading:

1. Selection of Committee Members. The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be responsible for assigning all newly elected Board members to one of the Board committees or the special committees. The assignment process and notification of assignments will be finished at least two (2) weeks prior to the January meeting of the Board. Also, the President and Vice-President will review and take into consideration any recommendations furnished by the Executive Leader associated with the work of a specific committee.

Proposed Reading:

1. Selection of Committee Members. The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be responsible for assigning all newly elected Board members to one of the Board committees or the special committees. The assignment process and notification of assignments will be finished at least two (2) weeks prior to the January meeting of the Board. Also, the President and Vice-President will review and take into consideration any recommendations furnished by the Executive Leader associated with the work of a specific committee. Any member of a special committee of the Board who is not a member of the Board shall not be serving at the same time on any Convention committee, any other special committee of the board of the Convention, or any board of the Convention's institutions, agencies, affiliated educational institutions, or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.).

2. Amendment Related to the North Carolina Baptist Hospital

Motion 2: *The Board of Directors moves that Article III.C.6. of the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.*

Current Reading:

6. The committee of the Hospital's board of trustees that oversees the School of Pastoral Care shall have as its members only trustees who have been elected by the Convention.

Proposed Reading:

6. The committee of the Hospital's board of trustees that oversees the Hospital's Division of Faith and Health Ministries shall have as its members only trustees who have been elected by the Convention.

3. Amendments Related to Individuals Serving Less Than a Full Term on Committees and Boards

Motion 3: *The Board of Directors moves that Article I.C.2.c., Article II.B.3., Article II.G.2.a.(vi), and Article III.B.3.c. be deleted in their entirety with the following language substituted in their respective places.*

A. Article I.C.2.c. (Convention Committees)

Current Reading:

c. No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the committee on which he/she is serving until one full term has elapsed, provided he/she has served a full term; in addition, no person shall be eligible to serve on any other standing committee until one (1) year has elapsed.

Proposed Reading:

c. No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the committee on which he/she is serving until one full term has elapsed after his/her service on such committee has ended whether through expiration of the term, resignation or otherwise; in addition, no person shall be eligible to serve on any other standing Convention committee until one (1) year has elapsed.

B. Article II.B.3. (Convention Board)

Current Reading:

3. Election; Terms. Each at-large member of the Board shall be elected for a term of four (4) years with, as nearly as may be possible, one-fourth (1/4) of the membership being elected at each annual meeting; provided, however, that any such at-large Board member who shall have been elected to fill a vacancy of less than two (2) years, shall be eligible to be re-elected to a full term. No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the Board after serving a full term of four (4) years until one (1) full term has elapsed. The term shall begin on January 1, following the annual meeting of the Convention at which at-large members were elected; and shall end on December 31 following the Convention at which their successors were elected, unless sooner terminated; provided, however, the term of office of an at-large member who has not resigned, died, become disqualified, or been removed shall not expire until a successor shall have been duly elected and qualified.

Proposed Reading:

3. Election; Terms. Each at-large member of the Board shall be elected for a term of four (4) years with, as nearly as may be possible, one-fourth (1/4) of the membership being elected at each annual meeting. No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the Board after serving on the Board whether such service has ended through expiration of the term, resignation or otherwise until one (1) full term has elapsed; provided, however, that any such at-large Board member who shall have been elected to fill a vacancy of less than two (2) years, shall be eligible to be re-elected to a full term. The term shall begin on January 1, following the annual meeting of the Convention at which at-large members were elected; and shall end on December 31 following the Convention at which their successors were elected, unless sooner terminated; provided, however, the term of office of an at-large member who has not resigned, died, become disqualified, or been removed shall not expire until a successor shall have been duly elected and qualified.

C. Article II.G.2.a.(vi) (Fruitland Board)

Current Reading:

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

Proposed Reading:

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

D. Article III.B.3.c. (Institutions and Agencies)

Current Reading:

c. No trustee or director shall serve a continuous term of more than four (4) years; and provided, however, that any such trustee or director, who shall have been elected to fill a vacancy of less than two (2) years, shall be eligible to be re-elected to a full term. A trustee or director having completed a full term of office shall not be eligible for re-election to membership on the same board until the elapse of one (1) year, but shall be eligible for immediate election to membership on the board of any other institution or agency.

Proposed Reading:

c. No trustee or director shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on a board after serving on such board, whether such service has ended through expiration of the term, resignation or otherwise until the lapse of one (1) year; provided, however, that any board member who shall have been elected to fill a vacancy of less than two (2) years shall be eligible to be re-elected to a full term. In addition, any trustee or director having completed his/her service on one board shall be eligible for immediate election to membership on the board of any other institution or agency.



What is going on at the annual meeting?

Plan now to attend the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting Nov. 12-13 at Greensboro Coliseum.

Other events that will be happening before and during the annual meeting are:

- **Pastor's Conference** – Nov. 11-12 at Lawndale Baptist Church (see story, page 5).

- **N.C. Baptist Ministers' Wives Annual Meeting** – Nov. 12, 9:30 a.m. at Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro. This event is free and registration is not required. The meeting theme is “Polish your shine,” based on Philippians 2:14-15 and Colossians 1:24-27. Featured speaker is Dwain Bouldin. Contact Renea Henderson at (336) 629-7995 or jrhendco@asheboro.com.

- **North Carolina International Missionary Fellowship** – Nov. 12 from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Lindley Park Baptist Church. Contact rlamb12@carolina.rr.com. There is a cost for lunch.

- **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Luncheon** – Nov. 12, noon; meeting room 1A at Greensboro Coliseum; reservations required; cost: \$20. Contact Rebecca Taylor: (919) 761-2177 or rtaylor@sebts.edu.

- **Hispanic Conference and Banquet** – Nov. 12, 2 p.m.-6 p.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center, Meeting Room 1. This event is for pastors as well as lay leaders. The focus is small group discipleship, and how small

groups can be used to help start new churches. Contact Maria Luoni at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5629, or mluoni@ncbaptist.org.

- **GCP Interviews** – The Office of Great Commission Partnerships is hosting live interviews in the exhibit hall throughout the annual meeting. For times and more information, see list at right.

- **Great Commission Partnerships Missions Breakfast** – Nov. 13, 7 a.m.-8:15 a.m., Greensboro Coliseum, Special Events Center - West Wing B; contact Michael Sowers at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5654, or msowers@ncbaptist.org.

- **Heavenly Banquet** – Nov. 13, noon-1:30 p.m., Greensboro Coliseum Complex, Special Events Center - West Wing B; contact Kate Durham at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5628, or kdurham@ncbaptist.org. Cost: \$10; deadline to register is Nov. 2.

- **Gardner-Webb Friends and Family Luncheon** – Nov. 13 at 12:15 p.m.; meeting room 3A, Greensboro Coliseum; reservations required; cost: \$15. Contact Aaron Hinton at (704) 406-4101 or ahinton2@gardner-webb.edu.

- **North American Mission Board Reception** – Nov. 13, Special Events Center - West Wing B, Greensboro Coliseum Complex. Immediately following the conclusion of the Tuesday evening session. This is your opportunity to meet the missionaries who are participating in the commissioning service.

Visit ncannualmeeting.org.



Conducting Convention Business

Messengers to the 182nd meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will take action on several business items. For specifics on how the business will be conducted, visit ncannualmeeting.org; click “Information” and choose “Business Guidelines.”

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors reports will be presented by President Michael Barrett as noted on the schedule. Messengers will also vote on proposed changes to the BSC bylaws. (See pages 6-7.)

There will also be a vote on the proposed 2013 Cooperative Program budget during a fixed order of business on Tuesday at 2:40 p.m. A proposed budget was adopted by the Board of Directors during its September 2012 meeting.

Convention Committees

The Committee on Nominations will present for election the slate of nominees for the Convention committees, the Board, and the boards of trustees and directors of the institutions and agencies during the Tuesday afternoon session. This will be followed by the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials Committee report.

The Historical Committee Report will follow including a presentation to the winner of the 2012 Historical Writing Competition.

Officer Election

On Tuesday at 11 a.m. during a fixed order of business, messengers will elect a Convention president. In the afternoon session at 1:40 p.m. the remaining Convention officers will be elected.



The Office of Great Commission Partnerships is hosting live interviews in the exhibit hall throughout the annual meeting.

Monday, Nov. 12

- 4:30-4:45 p.m. – Unreached, Unengaged People Groups (UUPG) interview with:

Joe Dillon, missional church strategist, International Mission Board

Mark Harrison, missions pastor, Old Town Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

- 5:30-5:45 p.m. – Moldova interview with:

John Miron, president, Baptist Union of Moldova

Tuesday, Nov. 13

- 9:15-9:30 a.m. – Toronto interview with:

Andrew Lamme, director, Toronto Church Planting

- 10:10-10:25 a.m. – New York interview with:

George Russ, executive director, MNYBA

Jae Lee, pastor, Ebenezer Mission Church, Queens

- 2:15-2:30 p.m. – Boston interview with:

Curtis Cook, church planter and pastor, Hope Fellowship; SEND North America Boston city coordinator

- 3:30-3:45 p.m. – SEND North America interview with:

Kevin Ezell, president, North American Mission Board

LifeWay decides against Glorieta sale to Olivet

By ART TOALSTON | Baptist Press

LifeWay Christian Resources has “decided not to go forward” with the sale of its Glorieta, N.M., conference center to Olivet University, a San Francisco-based school which found itself in media crosshairs after the possible sale became public in July.

LifeWay, in announcing its decision Oct. 17, cited a study by National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) representatives that LifeWay had initiated.

Olivet had agreed to the inquiry, which focused on the theological compatibility between LifeWay, a Southern Baptist entity, and Olivet, a school with ties to Korean Christian leader David Jang who has weathered heresy accusations in Asia.

Olivet, however, in a subsequent statement to the media, stated it plans to engage in “continuing negotiations” with LifeWay to purchase the 2,100-acre property near Santa Fe which, according to LifeWay, has operated at a loss for 24 of the past 25 years.

Neither LifeWay nor Olivet released the NAE report to Baptist Press.

Earlier this year, LifeWay offered to sell the conference center to the Baptist Convention of New Mexico (BCNM) for \$1.

Following a feasibility study, however, the state convention determined it would be too costly to renovate and

maintain the property.

The executive director of the New Mexico convention, Joseph Bunce, declined comment on this latest development in LifeWay’s effort to sell Glorieta, according to a BCNM spokesman.

The study of theological compatibility between LifeWay and Olivet primarily focused on accusations that Jang and/or his followers have promoted a heresy that he is the “second coming Christ.” Jang has both defenders and critics regarding his Christian orthodoxy.

According to a LifeWay statement in July, any potential sale of Glorieta to Olivet, in addition to a “comprehensive review of the theological compatibility” between LifeWay and Olivet, would have included:

- “Significant protections for individuals and churches that lease land from Glorieta for houses and conference facilities

- “Permission for LifeWay to continue using Glorieta for summer camps

- “Accommodation of use by New Mexico Baptists

- “Preservation of memorials associated with rooms and structures, and,

- “Prohibition of re-selling the facilities in the future without LifeWay’s permission.”

Any sale also would require approval of LifeWay’s board of trustees.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Art Toalston is editor of Baptist Press. See the full story on BRnow.org.) **BR**

Churches urged to increase giving, lead missions advance

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) leadership is challenging all N.C. Baptist churches to help advance missions by increasing Cooperative Program giving by one percent.

Since 2006 the BSC Cooperative Program budget has shifted a greater percentage of ministry dollars to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for international missions, North American missions and equipping leaders through SBC seminaries.

The SBC budget allocation increased by one half percent each year for the past seven years, bringing the percentage up to 35.5 percent. The allocation for North Carolina ministries also increased, shifting from 34.8 percent to 39 percent.

Yet, during that same seven-year period, the total Cooperative Program budget decreased by about \$3 million. In order to penetrate spiritual darkness and reach the growing number of lost people in the state, nation and world, ministry and missions efforts must not only continue but must increase; therefore, giving through the Cooperative Program must also increase.

"During tough economic times, if we remain the same in our giving percentage, then the actual dollar amount we give to missions is down," said Stan Welch, pastor of West Asheville Baptist Church and chairman of the BSC budget committee. He explained that one percent more from one church may not seem significant, but when combined with the giving from churches

across the state, the potential for Kingdom impact is tremendous. "Just imagine if all our 4,300 churches increased their giving by one percent. That would mean an additional \$6 million each year for ministry and missions efforts," Welch said. "This would result in \$3.9 million additional for North Carolina ministries and \$2.1 million for SBC ministries."

Since 2006 the Cooperative Program budget allocation for church planting increased by 90 percent. However, if all churches accept the 1% Challenge, the BSC would be able to help churches start 26 more churches each year across the state. The additional \$6 million would also make the following possible:

- The International Mission Board employing 21 more missionaries to help engage 21 more unreached, unengaged people groups each year
- The North American Mission Board investing an additional \$478,000 into church planting each year
- The six SBC seminaries training 71 more pastors, missionaries and leaders each year
- Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute training 41 more pastors and leaders each year
- Baptist Children's Homes caring for 155 more children each month

The 1% Challenge initially came from SBC Executive Committee president Frank Page during the 2011 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix, Ariz. Page urged messengers to join in a "revival of total mission support, including a renewed commitment to unified ministry through the Cooperative Program."

Since that time, churches across the SBC have accepted the 1% Challenge, resulting in more resources to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. If every church in the SBC accepts the challenge, the result would be \$100 million more for Kingdom ministry. During the recent BSC Board of Directors meeting at Caraway Conference Center, each of the BSC presidents and Board officers shared testimonies of how their churches have accepted the 1% Challenge. "You can count on us at First Baptist Charlotte," said pastor and BSC president Mark Harris. "We don't want to ask you to do anything we won't do." First Baptist Charlotte accepted the 1% Challenge earlier this year.

Timmy Blair, pastor of Piney Grove Chapel Baptist Church in Angier and BSC second vice president, said that during his 24 years at Piney Grove Chapel the congregation has learned more about missions and the value of the Cooperative Program. "We can do a lot more together than we can apart. We can be part of something great, such as sending out hundreds of missionaries in our own country and around the world," he said. "Look at the great big picture and not just what you're doing at home in your church; think in terms of Kingdom growth and Kingdom mission. There's a world out there that needs the gospel."

For the past five years Welch has led his congregation to increase Cooperative Program giving, and the congregation is also accepting the 1% Challenge.

"We believe in what is taking place locally, nationally and internationally," Welch said. "We can't do everything, but we can each do something. It can make a difference, especially combined with other ... Baptists."

Visit www.ncbaptist.org/cp. **BR**



BR

VISIT our Booth

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



GRAND PRIZE

Apple® - The new iPad®
with Wi-Fi - 32GB - Black. 9.7" Retina display with Multi-Touch; Dual-core A5X chip with quad-core graphics; 5.0MP iSight camera and FaceTime camera; 1080p HD video recording



2nd Prize

Kindle Fire HD 8.9"
4G LTE Wireless
Dolby Audio, Dual-Band Dual-Antenna Wi-Fi, 4G LTE, 32GB



3rd Prize

Kindle Fire
HD 7" Display
Dolby Audio, Dual-Band Dual-Antenna Wi-Fi, 16GB

Additional drawings for 3 newly released Holman Christian Standard Bibles.

Drawings for all prizes will be held at 5:08 pm Tuesday, November 13. Employees of the Biblical Recorder, the Baptist State Convention and their spouses are not eligible to win.

Believers learn keys to victory over sexual sin

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

Recent statistics point to an unprecedented rise of pornography addiction in the United States, especially among pastors.

By 2008, as many as 70-90 percent of men, 50 percent of pastors and 40 percent of women in the United States were addicted to pornography. The average boy is exposed to pornography by age eight and more than 50 percent of children in the United States are exposed by age 11.

Tyler Jones, pastor of Vintage 21 Church in Raleigh, shared these statistics during the recent Pursuit of More Conference at Open Door Baptist Church in Raleigh. Other conference speakers included Stephen Davey, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church in Cary; Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Tony Merida, pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh; and Dwayne Milioni, pastor of Open Door Baptist Church.

The two-day conference featured plenary and break out sessions based on the conference theme: “Enslaved: Uncovering the Truth of Sexual Addiction.”

Converting Hearts Ministries, a non-profit organization that provides Christ-centered holistic recovery programs for men suffering from substance abuse and sexual addictions, sponsored the conference.

Jones pointed to the statistics as evidence that the impact of pornography addiction extends beyond the individual who routinely looks at pornography. He said it also impacts an individual’s relationship with family members and friends, and with God.

“The myth of pornography is that it doesn’t hurt others,” Jones said. “You can’t believe any longer that your hidden sin affects only you. It’s not just you in a room.”

Return to true worship

Jones said the first pornographic images people view are burned into their memories and are usually the source of recurring sexual temptations.

“Because of that, the affects of sin are everywhere and temptation is constant, especially if you are a man,” he said.

But the Christian can erase those images and overcome addiction to pornography through confession, repentance and worshipping Jesus Christ.

“Repentance renews our mind so that the images that you have crammed into your head don’t have to stay there,” Jones said. “It can change your heart and your mind from the images of brokenness to

**“The myth of pornography is that it doesn’t hurt others.”
– Tyler Jones**



TYLER JONES

the magnitude of Jesus.”

In addition to confession and repentance, Jones told men to give wives and accountability partners complete access to their cell phones, computers and Internet passwords.

He also suggested that men find multiple accountability partners with other men who are willing to ask tough questions with the aim of maintaining true accountability.

In order to overcome pornography addiction, people must remember that they were created to worship God.

No one escapes the desire to worship, but all too often people replace worship of God with something such as pornography, which always leaves the worshipper unfulfilled.

“We primarily have a worship issue at hand when we talk about sexual addictions. We are worshipping something that we weren’t created to worship so it cannot possibly do what we want it to do,” Jones said. “When you worship Jesus you get the very thing that you were created for. When you worship Jesus it satiates your soul.”

Consider the consequences

Akin said sexual addiction in the church has reached a critical level and church leaders must come to grips with the growing problem.

“We are literally drowning in sexual perversion and sexual addiction,” he said. “It’s choking the life out of us and we ignore it and pretend it is not there only at our peril.”

Akin used Romans 12:1-2 to illustrate how believers can overcome sexual ad-

diction with a conscious decision to surrender the mind, body and soul to Christ every day in recognition of His sovereign rule over all creation.

“Our sexuality should be pointing others as well as ourselves to the greatness, the glory, the wonder and the majesty of Christ,” he said. “If we are to give glory to God it is not something that is optional but something we must choose to do every day.”

The battle for sexual purity must be won day-by-day, because yesterday’s victory does not guarantee victory today. “You must daily, moment by moment, be killing sin or sin will be killing you,” Akin said.

Akin reminded the audience that the stakes are high for believers when sexual temptation occurs and that too many people give in without considering everything at stake.

With that in mind, Akin suggested that a strategy for overcoming sexual sin is to ask God for a vision of its consequences.

“It will bring shame to the name of Jesus, and it will cause the world once more to laugh cynically at those who claim to have been radically altered and transformed by a great king named Jesus,” Akin said.

Sexual sin does irreparable harm to family members, especially a spouse and children.

“You will break the heart of your mate. They will be crushed on the inside and will struggle to ever truly and with confidence trust you,” Akin said.

“You will lose forever the respect of your children.”

When believers are tempted to pursue sexual sin, Akin said they should remember the cost and consider if it is worth a few tantalizing moments of sin. “See the end of sin as a tool for battle to win the victory.”

For more information visit converting-hearts.com. **BR**



Making Jesus Known

Charles Grandison Finney was gloriously converted to Christ Oct. 10, 1821. Following

his conversion, Finney was used by God to fan the flames of revival throughout the first half of the 1800s during the Second Great Awakening. Finney first began preaching in western New York and ultimately had great success preaching in large urban areas such as New York, Philadelphia and Boston. His most noted revival meeting was held in 1830-31 in Rochester, N.Y. Riding upon the wave of



Dr. Chris Schofield

the Second Great Awakening, the campaign lasted six months with one tenth of the city’s population being converted.

Charles Finney was faithful to make Jesus known to as many people as possible. His methodologies and commitment to prayer have had a lasting

influence upon the church. In John 17:26, Jesus prays toward making the Father known. He, too, was always about that task. Are we about the task of making Jesus known to the nations?

Prayer Points

- Ask the Father to give you a greater desire and burden to see people saved
- Pray for the Lord to send witnesses into His harvest fields in America

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



Prayer

Continued from page 1

“The spiritual darkness can be overwhelming, and ministry difficult, in resort areas,” said Chris Schofield, director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening. “There is a great need for ministry efforts to be encouraged and enhanced, and Kingdom prayer is the key.”

The PrayerLink gathering allowed prayer leaders to network, share resources and spend significant time in prayer. Throughout the conference one theme surfaced again and again: the desperate need for spiritual awakening.

Claude King, co-author of *Experiencing God* and discipleship specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources, lamented that more and more Christians have fallen in love with temporal, worldly pleasures and are not in love with Jesus Christ.

“We are distracted from our first love. When we get distracted, our obedience is lacking and the sense of God’s power and presence is lacking,” King said. “That affects our evangelistic outreach and our influence in the world.”

This year’s PrayerLink meeting proved strategic, as prayer leaders focused on how to help elevate the importance of prayer for spiritual awakening in local churches and among Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities, adopting the following three statements:

- **Seek God:** Recognizing that our only hope is a God-given spiritual awakening, we acknowledge God is calling His people to seek Him through wholehearted love, righteous living and fervent, united prayer.

- **Elevate prayer:** Furthermore, recognizing that prayer is essential for personal, corporate, community, national, and global spiritual transformation, we recommend to the SBC Executive Com-



Bob Foy, left, church renewal consultant with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, talks with Darrell Webb, a regional missionary with SBC of Virginia. Both were part of the PrayerLink event Oct. 11-13 at Fort Caswell.

mittee that prayer, as a prioritized focus, be elevated as an SBC entity ministry statement.

- **Pledge cooperation:** PrayerLink leaders pledge themselves to be available as co-laborers to assist churches, associations, state conventions, and the SBC in mobilizing Kingdom prayer in cooperation with the assigned entity and other Great Commission partners.

Rick Shepherd, prayer/spiritual awakening team strategist for the Florida Baptist Convention, said the statements help summarize what PrayerLink leaders regard as priority, with the first statement representing how they already see God at work. “This is the activity of God that is bubbling up,” Shepherd said.

PrayerLink leaders believe that with an SBC entity providing leadership, prayer for spiritual awakening could be elevated

to a convention-wide emphasis, with King noting that the three statements would help “build momentum for the focus on the importance of prayer.”

PrayerLink leaders’ sense of urgency to help bring people back to prayer is not unlike a national prayer core team that was established in the late 1980s. “They believed God had given them an assignment to call the convention to prayer,” King said.

That prayer core team, guided by leaders such as T.W. Hunt, Henry Blackaby and Avery Willis, helped add a prayer emphasis to the Bold Mission Thrust global evangelization initiative at the time and began providing training for state convention prayer leaders, while continuing to lead conferences and provide resources for praying toward spiritual awakening.

When Bold Mission Thrust ended in 2000, state and entity leaders continued meeting each year for equipping and resourcing under the banner PrayerLink. An annual PrayerLink meeting has been held each year since, with state conventions and SBC entities taking turns hosting the gathering. This year’s sessions were held at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell on Oak Island.

Over the years, PrayerLink leaders also have assisted with the prayer room during the SBC annual meeting, hosted special prayer events and called Southern Baptists to prayer through special prayer emphases. “You are my resource,” said Mike Jackson, director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions’ Office of Leadership and Church Health. “I make PrayerLink a priority. I am renewed spiritually and I come away ready to take on the tasks before me.”

Alabama Baptists are preparing for a 60-day prayer emphasis that will include prayer at each of the state’s 67 county courthouses. Similar prayer emphases are being coordinated in other state conventions. In the Dakota Baptist Convention, evangelism strategist Fred MacDonald is assisting with “Praying across the Dakotas.” Churches are encouraged to adopt their county and at least one other county in prayer.

North Carolina Baptists are engaging in a 30-day prayer emphasis in October as they prepare for the state convention’s annual meeting in November with the theme of spiritual awakening. “We want to join God in the eternal work He is doing to redeem a lost humanity,” Schofield said. “Our Lord is saying to us that we must wake up. God’s time is at hand.”

The next PrayerLink will be held Oct. 10-12, 2013, at LifeWay’s headquarters in Nashville. **BR**

Midwestern elects Jason Allen as president

By T. PATRICK HUDSON | Baptist Press

In a 29-2 vote, Jason K. Allen has been elected by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees as the school’s fifth president. The vote took place Oct. 15 during the trustees’ bi-annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Allen, 35, comes to Midwestern from Louisville, Ky., where he served as vice president for institutional advancement at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and as executive director of the Southern Seminary Foundation. He had concurrently served as senior pastor of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville. Midwestern’s new president assumed the seminary’s helm effective immediately.

“I think the key word that defines my state of heart is first that I’m honored,” Allen said. Allen, as a member of Southern Seminary’s executive cabinet since January



JASON ALLEN

2006, has been vice president of institutional advancement since 2009 and was executive assistant to the president from 2006-09. He also has taught courses in personal spiritual disciplines, pastoral ministry and preaching at Southern since 2007.

Allen, in other ministerial roles, has been senior pastor of Muldraugh Baptist Church in Muldraugh, Ky., and has worked in varying positions at churches in Alabama and Kentucky since 1998. He holds Ph.D. and master of divinity degrees from Southern and an undergraduate degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. Allen and his wife, Karen, have five children, Anne-Marie, 9; Caroline, 8; William, 7; Alden, 5; and Elizabeth, 4.

Allen was officially announced as a nominee on Sept. 5 by Midwestern’s presidential search team. That team was led by Bill Bowyer, who spoke of the confidence the team had in nominating Allen. “Dr. Allen has broad and insightful experience into the inner-workings of a seminary,” said Bowyer, pastor of Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church in Raleigh. “That, coupled with his gracious manner, his loving heart and his pastoral spirit – he’s going to make a perfect match for Midwestern and we’re anticipating wonderful days ahead.”

Midwestern Seminary has been in search of a successor to R. Philip Roberts since his resignation in February. Robin D. Hadaway, the Seminary’s professor of missions, had served as interim president since Feb. 10.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – T. Patrick Hudson is director of communications at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Brian Koonce, staff writer of *The Pathway*, contributed to this article. For a longer version of this story, visit BRnow.org.) **BR**

Praying for spiritual awakening

Although the annual meeting is not until November, our program committee begins their work early in the year, as a meeting of this size and scope requires much preparation.

From that first meeting in January I sensed God working among the committee members.

They expressed their desire to see God work in a way unlike we have ever seen before.

I truly wish you could have experienced with us the presence of God in these meetings, as the committee cried out to God for wisdom and a clear vision of what He wanted accomplished during this annual meeting. God indeed spoke, and I am thankful the committee was sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. The Holy Spirit led the committee to Romans 13:11-14 and impressed upon their hearts the urgency

for spiritual awakening.

Did you know that in 1900, 42 percent of the United States was evangelical, and today it is only 15 percent?



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Jimmy Draper, the former president of LifeWay Christian Resources, recently shared some statistics during an address to the state executive directors that he said should "compel us to examine our lives, our entities, our churches and come in repentance before God asking for forgiveness and empowerment."

He shared that in 1960 there were 9.73 million Southern Baptists who baptized 386,469, a ratio of 1/25. In 2011, there were 16 million Southern Baptists and we baptized 333,341, a ratio of only 1/48

Last year, 20 percent of Southern Baptist churches did not baptize anyone. More than 50 percent of our churches did not baptize a youth between ages

12-17. North Carolina Baptists, this is why the theme for our annual meeting this year is "Awaken."

We need a fresh movement of God to touch hearts and lives. We must return to God in holiness and focus our lives on telling lost people about our Savior.

We must awaken to the reality that we do not know how much longer we have on this earth to tell our relatives and friends about Jesus Christ, and therefore we must focus our lives not on ourselves, but on expanding God's Church.

Spiritual awakening begins in each of our hearts. If we want God to transform churches, families and communities, and allow us to experience Kingdom fruit in our lives, we have to begin by praying for God to change our own hearts through repentance and renewal of obedience to Him. If you are not already praying for spiritual renewal, please join us in doing so. We have prepared resources to help you and your church in doing this, and these materials are available at www.ncan-nualmeeting.org.

"We need a fresh movement of God to touch hearts and lives. We must return to God in holiness and focus our lives on telling lost people about our Savior."

[nualmeeting.org](http://www.ncan-nualmeeting.org).

Please pray that God will begin working in peoples' hearts so that when we meet in Greensboro in two weeks we will come expectant, ready to hear from the Lord. I am praying this annual meeting marks the beginning of a powerful revival that will spread across this state, nation and world for the glory of God.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." – Romans 13:12 **BR**

Will Southern Baptists rise to the challenge?

Baptist Press

One billion is a big number. It would take you 37 years to count to one billion at one number a second. Seven billion is an even larger and more significant number. That is the number of people currently inhabiting the globe. In 1804 the world reached its first billion in population. Now we are adding about one billion to our population every 12 years.

This is the harvest Jesus wants us to lift up our eyes and see ... 7 billion people, 330 million in the U.S. and 6.67 billion *outside* our borders. Yet over half the world's population has only a slight chance to hear the gospel. In fact, 1.7 billion people are likely to die without hearing the Name of Jesus!

And they are dying! Two people die each second. The equivalent of a city of 150,600 people disappears into eternity every 24 hours. Without Christ they will enter hell, forever lost. This is why Jesus said *the fields are white unto harvest*.

The simple facts above are why I am so deeply concerned about our Southern Baptist giving through the Cooperative Program and our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for world missions. Last year's LMCO was the fourth highest in history, yet the decline in CP giving eclipsed that gain, resulting in a net loss.

Is this how Southern Baptists will be remembered? Will it be said of us that at the hour of greatest need for the gospel we did not rise to the challenge?

Will it be said that as people groups become increasingly closed to the gospel and countries became more difficult to enter, we just turned aside to our own interests? Have we really concluded that we can accomplish more by ourselves than we can together?

[The International Mission Board (IMB)] seeks to

provide the best screening, training, sending and supporting available anywhere in the evangelical world. Yet IMB does not determine the number of missionaries we deploy. *Southern Baptists make that decision each time they give. Churches and state conventions make that decision each time they approve their budgets.*

Does anyone in the darkest corners of this broken world have a legitimate reason to believe that, if they can hold on just a little longer, we will get there with a message of hope and salvation? This is the question with which each Southern Baptist individual, church and state convention must grapple. I shared this recently while standing before a group of missionaries who had returned from the field for a brief time of respite, training and connecting with churches and families.



TOM ELLIFF
Guest Column

People are eager to go to the ends of the earth! Each year I am privileged to speak to multiplied thousands of college students. They respond with passion, dedication and sacrifice ... eager to go out with the Good News. In record numbers young couples, many with families, seminary training and experience, tell us of their call to missions. Maturing adults, having enjoyed success and now wanting to exchange mere success for Kingdom impact, are asking if we have a way to train and deploy them to the ends of the earth.

IMB's assignment to "assist the churches" through a great missionary enterprise means that we are inviting *all* to the Great Commission table. Through "Embrace," churches and entities are being mobilized to reach unengaged, unreached people groups. Through Global Strategic Mobilization, business professionals are

discovering how to join forces with us in venues all over the world.

Ready Reserves will now strategically mobilize former IMB personnel in key areas when and where specialized skills and experience are needed. We are

now training others around the world in evangelism, discipleship and church planting. Soon our "School of Prayer for All Nations" will generate a "blast furnace" of constant prayer.

But the question remains: How will we answer the Lord, the lost and those eager to share Jesus with them? Let's make it personal. Does

anyone in the darkest corners of this broken world have a legitimate reason to believe that because *you* care someone will soon be there with the gospel?

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Tom Elliff serves as International Mission Board president.) **BR**

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

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. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.

Like the *Biblical Recorder* fan page on facebook and follow us on Twitter: [#biblicalrecord](https://twitter.com/biblicalrecord).

Annual meeting is a big deal

Scripture places high value on fellowship among believers. But wait – I’m not talking about shaking hands in worship or sharing food in the church fellowship hall. Reading the book of Acts, I understand fellowship certainly includes activities around the table and various types of greetings. It also involves an investment of time with believers at many levels.

The early believers were more connected with the larger body of Christ than we seem to be.

Over the centuries Christians have fragmented into countless fellowship groups or denominations. In addition, we have increased our inward focus toward our local congregations. There are good and bad sides to that.

The bad side is myopia or shortsightedness. It is a dangerous mistake to miss the big picture of God’s activity in the full body of Christ, while believing that God’s activity in my local church body is the complete picture. No matter the size, no local church fellowship is able to give

believers an adequate perspective of the full body of Christ.

I cannot count the number of times I hear comments like, “We don’t get involved in the state convention or association because we have so much happening in our church.” I understand the temptation to limit our activity to our congregation, but I strongly encourage Baptists not to go there.

Enrich your understanding of God’s family. Attend the annual meeting to the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in Greensboro, Nov. 12-13. Participate in the Pastors’ Conference and other related meetings. Learn what God is doing through your sister churches.

This year’s annual meeting is important for many reasons. First, it is important because there is a sincere call for spiritual awakening.

There is a growing hunger for a spiritual awakening in our times. The theme

of the meetings may be the catalyst to fan the flames of revival. The program committee has humbly focused on praying for awakening among Baptists. I’ve seen evidence that it is working.

Second, N.C. Baptists are at a critical point in history. I believe we are more

focused on our mission. We have the quality of leadership to facilitate our Lord’s assignment of the Great Commission.

We have a more defined, biblical unity than I have witnessed in my lifetime. This is a strategic moment for us. We can capitalize on its value best by working together. The annual meeting facilitates this opportunity.

Third, there is a desperate need to penetrate lostness in N.C. The cultural composition of the state is more multi-ethnic than ever. There are more lost people living in N.C. than any time in our history. Local churches have a critical role in reaching our communities, but

they cannot do it alone. Now is the time to work together to impact the state with the gospel.

Fourth, the foundational nature of our unity is both in a personal relationship with Christ and in a corporate, voluntary relationship with other believers.

Absent of a structured denominational hierarchy, every church chooses the level of participation and cooperation with fellow Baptists.

I have found great personal and kingdom value by intentionally choosing to work with other church fellowships at many levels. I have never regretted my choice.

I look forward to seeing you in Greensboro.

When you see me at the Pastors’ Conference or in the convention hall, let me know how the *Biblical Recorder* can bless your local church fellowship and support your service to the King and His kingdom.

We are your partners in the Great Commission! **BR**



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

Trusting in God’s providence

Baptist Press

Who’s in charge of our world today? We see wars raging, morality collapsing, children suffering, nuclear threats.

But, “Everything in the heavens and earth is Yours, O Lord.... We adore You as being in control of everything” (1 Chronicles 29:11).

God is in control – the Most High, the Lord of heaven and earth. He is sovereign, meaning “over” or “above,” to rule and

reign above all. “The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His sovereign rule is over all” (Psalm 103:19*).

Over world powers

He is sovereign over world powers. Christ is more powerful than the strongest kings, the largest armies and the greatest empires. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus told Pilate, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above” (John 19:11).

Over human history

God is sovereign over human history. History is His-story. God has a plan for the nations. The story of history is the unfolding of His plan. Pastor and writer A.T. Pierson once said, “Back of all the apparently capricious, conflicting, and accidental changes of human history, there is an infinite God whose omniscience and omnipresence forbid that anything should escape His knowledge or evade His power, and whose goodness assures a benevolent design – even behind seeming disaster.”



DAVID JEREMIAH
Guest Column

is able to work all things together for our good.

A.W. Tozer said, “To the child of God, there is no such thing as an accident. He travels an appointed way.... Accident may indeed appear to befall him and misfortune stalk his way; but these evils will be so in appearance only and will seem evils only because we cannot read the secret script of God’s hidden providence.”

Our God isn’t on vacation. God doesn’t wake up some mornings and say, “Oh my goodness, I forgot about those people.” There are no accidents with God. God never says, “Oops!”

Pastor T. DeWitt Talmage once said in a sermon, “When omniscience has lost its eyesight, and omnipotence falls back impotent, and Jehovah is driven from His throne, then the church of Jesus Christ can afford to be despondent, but never until then.... The mighty men of the earth are only the dust of the chariot wheels of God’s providence.”

So when you read frightening headlines, face adversity, are disappointed, your world seems to be coming apart, or you aren’t sure what’s going on, remember – God is Sovereign. He’s in control, working all things for His glory and our good.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – David Jeremiah is the senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., and the founder and host of Turning Point for God. For more information about Turning Point, visit www.DavidJeremiah.org.)

* Jewish Publication Society. (1997, c 1985). *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: A new translation of the Holy Scriptures according to the traditional Hebrew text.* **BR**

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina

Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

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

Shawn Hendricks, Managing Editor
(919) 459-5697; shawn@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Assistant Managing Editor
(919) 459-5698; dianna@brnow.org

Alison McKinney
Business and
Advertising Manager
(919) 459-5691
alison@brnow.org

Carly Conley
Graphic Designer

Daphne Woodall
Circulation Manager
(919) 459-5693
daphne@brnow.org

Laura Moore
Editorial Aide

Volume 178 No. 22
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 847-6939
Brnow.org

Board of Directors

Gerald Hodges, chair; Richard Hicks, vice chair;
Robert Hefner, secretary; Jo Andrews; Paul Arnold;
Kevin Atchley; Stephen Burrow; Chris Byrne; Nathan
Finn; Dennis Harrell; Robert Ivey; Cindi Stevens; Den-
nis Thurman; Don Warren; and Peggy Bass Weiss

Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$15.99
 - Clubs, \$13.79
 - Every Home Plan, \$12.49
 - Church News Service, \$11.50
 - Bulk (10+) \$11.50
 - Single copies, .60 cents each.
- Payable in advance. North Carolina sales tax is included.

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

November 4

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

November 11

Pray with Dependency

Focal Passage: Acts 4:23-31

“But little mouse, you are not alone, in proving foresight may be vain: The best laid schemes of mice and men go often awry.” Scottish poet Robert Burns penned those words in 1785 in a poem titled, To a Mouse. He demonstrated that people are similar to mice in that they cannot guarantee the success of their endeavors. As the early church began to suffer persecution, believers knew that both Jesus’ suffering and their persecution were part of God’s predestined plan. This truth emboldened them because they knew that no level of opposition would thwart God’s plan.

Although Peter and John had just returned from jail, the church refused to focus its prayers on the opposition. They simply said, “Lord, take note of their threats,” and moved on to ask God to empower their preaching and accompany it with miracles (v. 29-30).

While we need to address spiritual warfare biblically, we must be careful to avoid reactive ministry when God has called us to a proactive declaration of the good news. Reactive ministry means the kingdom of darkness sets the church’s agenda.

Christians must remember that only God can bring down opposition in His way and in His timing. While we wait on His timing in one area, we can be about the Father’s business in other places where He is at work.

Like Peter walking on the water, the church succeeds when it keeps its eyes on Jesus. If we become distracted by our circumstances, we too will begin to sink.

The early church quickly experienced the winds and waves of opposition and persecution. Instead of focusing on these sources of discouragement, the people of God kept looking to Him and experienced His power once again. The same Holy Spirit who came as a rushing mighty wind on the Day of Pentecost shook the meeting place in Acts 4 and gave the church a fresh anointing.

Consequently, God’s people received the answer to the prayer they had just prayed (v. 29), and began to share the gospel with boldness.

Praise God that we go out not as mice or mere men, but Spirit-filled soldiers in God’s army.



TROY RUST
Senior pastor, Somerset
Baptist Church,
Roxboro

Focal Passages: Acts 4:32-35; 5:1-6; 6:1-7

The biblical picture of the church as the body of Christ seems like a foreign concept to many Christians. Unfortunately, this model has been replaced often with secular substitutes, such as the country club, bank, family chapel or civic organization.

These models subtly replace Christ’s design for His church as one body with Him as the Head and many members working together for the common good (1 Corinthians 12).

While the biblical model clarifies the damage done to the whole body when the members don’t cooperate, secular substitutes allow and even encourage an “every man for himself” mentality that contradicts God’s intended focus on the needs of others (Philippians 2:3-4) and the ultimate goal – His glory.

Acts 5 begins with a strong “but” to contrast the sin of Ananias and Sapphira with the selfless giving demonstrated by the early church.

They played along with the structure

of the church, but lacked its heart. Instead of transparently giving as they felt led by the Holy Spirit, they lied to God and His people and robbed Him of part of what they said they had given.

Their exceptionally bad choice showed that people who are not walking with God will not bring unity and health to the local church.

Sadly, Ananias and Sapphira chose their glory over God’s, and made history as two of the clearest examples of God’s ultimate discipline.

By the grace of God the church has been blessed with many exemplary members.

In Acts 6 the church chose a group of spiritually mature and wise men to make sure food was being distributed to the Greek speaking Jewish widows.

This “growing pain” had become a source of division in the body of Christ and required men who could be released to lead in practical areas while the apostles focused on the ministry of the Word and prayer.

May God give us the wisdom to develop indispensable servant leaders who show us that much can be accomplished for God when it matters little if people get any earthly credit for their service.

November 4

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

November 11

Living in Humility

Focal Passage: 1 Peter 5:1-14

Peter calls us to humility in 1 Peter 1-14. But all people, Christians as well as nonbelievers, are self-centered by nature. We are always thinking about ourselves. Sometimes we think of ourselves better than we ought. It is the pride of humanity that keeps us from honestly assessing ourselves. Other times we think about ourselves so lowly that we are driven into the pits of despair. When Peter calls us to humble ourselves, what should this look like? Moreover, how do we avoid swinging back and forth between self-righteousness and despair?

Let us be reminded that humility is elusive. As Tim Keller says, once you begin talking about humility, it leaves. There is a sense in which examining your own heart, even for sin, often leads to being proud about your diligence and circumspection. True humility is what C.S. Lewis called “blessed self-forgetfulness.” True humility allows one to no longer focus on themselves. As Lewis argued,

humility is “not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”

In 1 Peter 5:5 the apostle quotes Proverbs 3:34 which proclaims that God gives grace to the humble. It is only through the humility that we can receive Christ. Moreover, it is only through humility that we can continue to apply the gospel to our own lives.

We obtain this blessed self-forgetfulness when we begin to focus on Christ and what He has done for us in the cross and resurrection. When we truly believe the gospel of grace we are kept from swinging from pride and despair. Moreover, when we see the beauty of Jesus in the gospel, we are able relate with humility toward one another, for we are all saved by grace. Let us take the initiative to actively clothe ourselves in humility towards others, in response to passively obtaining the grace of God ourselves.



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

Focal Passage: 2 Peter 1:1-21

More than 50 years ago Francis Schaeffer argued that the change in the concept of the way we come to knowledge and truth is the most crucial problem facing Christianity. The issue of truth is still important today. The cultural war on truth has a multifaceted and colored history.

Like all cultural conversation, the dispute over truth has effects on each one of us, sometimes causing doubt, sometimes causing us to feel inadequate in our understanding of the faith.

The apostle is clear in 2 Peter 1:12-15 that it is good to be reminded of the truth, even if one is already firmly established in the faith. The presence of false teachers is something the church has always dealt with.

The anchor of truth that holds be-

lievers from cultural sway often needs strengthening in the rough waters of this life.

So Peter reminds us of the truth of the gospel. He starts by arguing that our standing before God was accomplished by the righteousness of our Savior Jesus Christ.

God’s grace in Jesus provides us with all the blessings pertaining to life and death. In response to the beauty of God’s grace on our behalf, giving us a transformed heart, he pleads with us to make every effort to live a life that honors God through the power of the Spirit.

See, the truth of the gospel is something we never move beyond. The truth of the gospel is something that we need to be reminded of often. Only the good news of Jesus Christ has the power to stir Christians to holiness. Therefore, let us be a people who prayerfully return to the Word of God, in reliance on the Spirit of God, to live as the people of God. The truth of the gospel will stand alone eternally, long after the smoke of our cultural wars have cleared.

Living with Truth

ERLC releases party platform voter guide

By DWAYNE HASTINGS | Baptist Press

While many Americans don't have the time or desire to get beyond the political attacks and counterattacks in an election season, Richard Land believes it is worth the effort for voters to go beyond the ads to determine the best candidate for office.

"Voters need to do their homework before they step into the voting booth," said Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

"There is no excuse for any voter willingly forfeiting their right to vote because they don't know the candidates' positions on the issues."

Voters don't have to wonder where the two major U.S. political parties stand on the issues because the ERLC has released a guide that compares the Democratic and Republican platforms side-by-side.

The ERLC's Party Platform Comparison Guide, available now at iVoteValues.com, is a valuable tool for voters who are serious about discovering the differences

between the two major party presidential candidates.

The guide, which covers a wide range of issues, pulls excerpts directly from the platforms adopted by the Democrats and the Republicans at their conventions earlier this year and covers civil rights, human trafficking, immigration, justice and abortion, among others.

The 16-page guides are available for free download at the site. Full-color print copies can be ordered as well.

"Many pastors are naturally suspicious of so-called 'voter guides,'" Land said, suggesting that some guides fall short in providing an even-handed account of the candidates' positions on the issues.

Not so with the ERLC's Party Platform Comparison Guide, he said.

In developing the guide, the ERLC focuses on substantive proposals and pledges from the party platforms, while omitting campaign rhetoric or partisan attacks, Land said. He also noted there are topics addressed in the parties' platforms that are not included in the comparison resource, given constraints on space.

"While the Party Platform Comparison Guide will give voters a good idea of where the two parties stand

on a wide variety of subjects, it is no substitute for voters thoroughly reading the party platforms themselves," Land said, noting that links to both major parties' platforms can be found at iVoteValues.com.

The guide, as well as the site, also includes helpful information on Christians' obligation to be involved in the electoral process and a summary of "Dos and Don'ts" relating to churches and pastors and electioneering in a campaign season.

Land said the guide reflects the ERLC's commitment to help Southern Baptists and others "vote their values, their beliefs and their convictions, not their party or their pocketbook."

A limited number of the guides in print format can be purchased, on a pure cost-recovery basis, from the ERLC by calling (800) 475-9127.

Land said the commission does not affiliate with any political party and does not endorse candidates, but it has published a similar guide in every presidential election since 1992.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Dwayne Hastings is a vice president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.) **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

SENIOR PASTOR. East Lumberton Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC, is seeking a full-time senior pastor who is dedicated to serving God, passionate for God's people, and committed to helping the church grow in membership and service to the Lord. If prompted by the Holy Spirit, please submit your resume to elbchpastorsearchcommittee@gmail.com or mail to Pastor Search Committee, East Lumberton Baptist Church, 201 Whiteville Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358. Please visit our website at www.eastlumbertonbaptist.com.

Senior Pastor. First Baptist Church of Moncks Corner, SC, is seeking a full-time senior pastor called to serve our congregation and community. Seminary graduate with senior pastoral experience is preferred. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 112 E Main St., Moncks Corner, SC 29461, or email to FBCMCPSC@gmail.com.

Church Staff

Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church, Wrightsville Beach, NC, seeks **full-time Worship/Music Minister.** WBBC utilizes traditional and celebration styles of worship. Ability to thrive in a team environment is essential. Candidates should be passionate about worship and leading a congregation by integrating music and the creative arts. A music degree and/or comparable worship leadership experience required with seminary a plus. Send resume to klouthan@wrightsvillebaptist.org.

Wallburg Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music** who would coordinate all church music activities. Send resume to Wallburg Baptist Church, PO Box 595, Wallburg, NC 27373.

Missionary Ridge Baptist Church of Morganton, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor** with responsibilities in student ministry and worship leadership. The preferred candidate will possess seminary degree or significant experience in church ministry setting. He will be conservative in his theology and possess a commitment to moral integrity and ministry excellence. Interested persons should submit resumes to Staff Search Committee, Missionary Ridge Baptist Church, 5612 John Watts Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.

Part-time (10+ hr/wk) Director/Minister of Students/Evangelism to oversee all areas of teen/child discipleship/worship and evangelism. Bible college/seminary graduate or seminary student accepted. Resume and college transcript to: Calvary Baptist Church, attn: Dr. Martin, 801 Riverside Ave., Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

First Baptist Church of Thomasville, Ga., is seeking a **full-time Youth Minister/Director.** Seminary degree is preferred. Position would be primarily focused on ministry to 7th-12th grades. If interested or if more information is required, please email Reid Wylie (Associate Pastor of Young Adults and Next Generations) at rwylie@fbcthomasville.com.

Minister of Students. First Baptist Church of Laurinburg, North Carolina, seeks a full-time minister of students. This staff person will lead and coordinate the ministry to the students (18 and under) and their families in a 375 member church, ministering directly and working with adult volunteers. A minimum of a four year degree from an accredited school is required with some experience working on a church staff. The position will include salary and benefits with a requirement of re-locating to Laurinburg. First Baptist Church is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (state and national) and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Send a letter of interest and resume with references to cfmcdowell@bellsouth.net or to Rev. C.F. McDowell III, Minister of Students Search, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 883, Laurinburg, NC 28353.

Children's Minister. Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Morganton, is seeking a part-time minister to children from birth to 6th grade. This position is part-time and could potentially lead to a full-time staff member. Resumes may be sent to PRBC, PO Box 1159, Morganton, NC 28680, or e-mailed to drdathomas1@aol.com.

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

Wallburg Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time organist** responsible for playing Sunday morning and evening services. Send resume to Wallburg Baptist Church, PO Box 595, Wallburg NC 27373.

Miscellaneous

Derwin Hinson Ministries is available for Gospel concerts, revivals, and rallies. Call (910) 470-1291 or email derwin@derwinhinson.com. Website www.derwinhinson.com. Bluegrass and country gospel – live instruments! Uplifting Christ-honoring program.

NCBAM needs grab bars and other fall-prevention devices funded and installed across the state. Keep aging adults on their feet and in their homes. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

Share the Biblical Recorder — FREE. Order a three-month free subscription. Contact Daphne Woodall at (919) 847-2127 or daphne@BRnow.org to make arrangements.

MOVED? Don't forget to change your address with the *Biblical Recorder*. Contact Daphne at (919) 459-5693 or daphne@BRnow.org.

BRnow.org
FOR THE LATEST N.C.
BAPTIST NEWS
AND INFORMATION



Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

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

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

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

BCH president considers baptism great honor

By J. BLAKE RAGSDALE | BCH Communications

Kelsey arose from the waters to the sounds of applause from family, friends and other campers who live with the 16-year-old at Camp Duncan in Aberdeen. The group gathered at the residential wilderness camp for girls on Aug. 23 to witness Kelsey's baptism. It was a day Kelsey began praying about immediately after accepting Christ in November 2011.

"After I was saved, I prayed and asked God who should baptize me," Kelsey said. "Dr. Blackwell's name came into my mind. There was no question that it should be him."

Kelsey posed her request to Michael Blackwell late last year when the Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) President/CEO was visiting Camp Duncan. The residential camp is a place where girls, like Kelsey, can overcome personal and family challenges through a uniquely structured wilderness environment.

"I was floored when Kelsey asked me," Blackwell said. "To be able to baptize this young lady has been one of the great honors of my life."

The service took place at Lake Catherine, the centerpiece of the 700-acre property, named in honor of Blackwell's wife. The ceremony included songs of praise, scripture reading and prayers offered by camp staff.

Wearing white robes, Blackwell, Thane and Kelsey waded into a shallow part of the lake. "I was excited and nervous," Kelsey said. "As we were standing in the



Camp Duncan resident Kelsey, center, was baptized by Michael C. Blackwell, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) president/CEO, in the camp's lake. Camp Duncan group work supervisor Adrian Thane, right, also waded into the waters of Lake Catherine. The 16-year-old is the first resident Blackwell has baptized in his 29 years as BCH's leader. (BCH photo by Tabitha Ward)

lake, I was just praying for God to be with me. When I went under the water, I just felt awesome."

After immersing Kelsey, Blackwell surprised everyone by revealing a small bottle of water he collected from the Jordan River – the river where Christ was baptized by John the Baptist as recounted in the New Testament. Blackwell collected the water during his trip to Israel in

2009. He opened the bottle and poured a small amount on Kelsey's head after leaving the lake. "As I was standing there I just couldn't believe what was happening," Kelsey said. "There is just no way to put the feeling into words."

Kelsey's mother embraced her daughter after the ceremony. "She was crying," Kelsey said. "She told me how proud she was of me and how proud she was to be my mom. She said that my faith was an encouragement to her." The day was not only a celebration for Kelsey and her family, but it was also meaningful to Blackwell. In 29 years as BCH's president, this marked the first time the former pastor has baptized a resident. The last person Blackwell baptized was his son, Michael, Jr., in May, 1983 while serving as pastor of Monument Heights Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.

"The experience was a high and holy moment that I will forever carry with me," Blackwell said. "I praise God for Kelsey and how He is working not only in her life, but in the lives of so many other residents at Baptist Children's Homes. I pray that the faith of this young lady will be an encouragement to the other boys and girls we serve and to everyone she encounters."

Camp Duncan opened in 2011 after more than 2,000 church volunteers helped renovate the 700-acre property in Aberdeen. In partnership with North Carolina Baptist Men, almost every single aspect of the residential wilderness camp for girls was constructed through volunteer efforts. **BR**

Prayer Continued from page 1

result, Karen and Daniel were granted permanent custody of Travis. And while the judge left the door open for his parents to one day gain visitation rights, or even regain custody, it became evident to Travis that they were not working toward that goal. His self-worth plummeted while his anger elevated to new highs.

One Sunday after the family returned home from church, Travis' emotions erupted. "He said his parents didn't love him, he wanted to die, and he wanted to leave," Karen says. "We knew that through our family, his therapist and the guidance of our church, we had done everything we could for Travis. We reached out to Cameron Boys Camp for help."

When Travis and his aunt and uncle first visited Baptist Children's Homes' residential wilderness program near Southern Pines, things clicked immediately for the 13-year-old boy.

"I knew I had to focus on taking care of myself," Travis says. "It was like God was saying that Camp is the right place for me."

Travis had become a believer and was baptized at his aunt's and uncle's church. Cameron Boys Camp chiefs – counselors that provide guidance to the boys and

live with them at campsites – and Camp social workers helped Travis understand how God could heal his hurt.

"I had hated God because of the things that had happened in my life," Travis said. "Once I understood that these things weren't my fault, I was able to recommit my relationship to Him. God has much better things in store for me."

Through Camp's Christ-centered focus and unique support structure, Travis shared about his pain and feelings for the very first time.

"Camp pushed me to deal with it,"

he says. "The respect chiefs show us campers, and we show them, made me realize I needed to be doing

that at home."

Travis and his aunt and uncle attended family sessions with Camp staff to work through the pain together. "Aunt Karen is the mom I should've had," Travis says. "Uncle Dan is like my second dad."

Travis consistently tells his story of hope and healing to others. The teen regularly shared his testimony with congregations as he traveled with campers and staff to be a part of worship services. The church visits not only impacted the people in the pews, but the care and support of Baptists profoundly moved Travis.



Travis, center, credits the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina with helping he and his family repair relationships. His time at Cameron Boys Camp has provided needed structure for him. (BCH photo)

"After he'd been on a church visit, Travis said to me, 'Aunt Karen, they really love me. I'm worth being loved,'" Karen said. "Travis is just special, and BCH and Cameron Boys Camp were able to pull that out. It had been stuffed down so deep inside of him."

The dark days for Travis have receded, and he has successfully returned home to live with his aunt and uncle. After two and a half years of living at camp and the three of them working hard on some big problems, the family has been restored and reunified.

"Everybody we know has been affected by the change in Travis because of what Baptists in North Carolina have done for us," Karen said tearfully. "They didn't know us, they just knew they loved God and they loved His children."

This year's theme for Baptist Children's Homes annual Thanksgiving offering is Sharing Hope. For more information, or to see the 2012 offering video on Travis' story, go to bchfamily.org/offering. Or, call (800) 476-3669, ext. 1209, to order free offering promotional materials for your church. **BR**