



Embrace encourages women to reach the lost around the globe. Page 2



Roman Gabriel talks with Super Bowl champion Brad Johnson about faith, growing up in N.C. Page 8

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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TRIP TO MOLDOVA INSPIRES PASTORS



Church leaders plan return to help congregations

By Shawn Hendricks
BR Managing Editor

Terry and Andrea Davis smile nervously as they're about to sing in front of hundreds of Moldovans at Jesus the Savior Church in Chisinau, Moldova. Looking around for a translator, Terry realizes he will have to use the basic Romanian he learned during the week to introduce himself and Andrea. Before even a few awkward moments of silence pass, Terry gives a flawless introduction with the few words he knows. One quick glance around the church, and it's easy to tell everyone is impressed.

See Moldova page 9



(Above right) Tracy Caldwell, pastor of New Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Kannapolis, talks with a Moldovan pastor during his trip to the country Oct. 22-29. (Above, below right) Among those on the mission team who met with Moldovan Baptist leaders and pastors are Caldwell, Michael Sowers, Sara Sowers, William Ray, Zenobia Nelson, Andrea and Terry Davis, Cameron and Tiffany McGill, Ronald Hester and Rich Peoples.

Sandy spurs N.C. Baptists into action

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

North Carolina Baptists are on the front lines of disaster response in the wake of Hurricane Sandy in the Northeast.

"Several recovery teams were mobilized over the weekend," according to North Carolina Baptist Men's (NCBM) latest report Nov. 4. "Additional teams will be organized as the projects are prepared and housing is secured."

Three NCBM feeding units are assigned to Piscataway (Rutgers), Toms River and Atlantic City. A recovery unit is in Toms River and Atlantic City. "A comfort station consisting of a shower unit, laundry unit, and chaplaincy volunteers will also setup in Atlantic City," NCBM reported.

The numbers of volunteers continues to grow. As of Nov. 2, more than 450 volunteers with some 45 units from nine Baptist state conventions were working in at least six states affected by the storm, according to a Baptist Press story.

"This is certainly a large disaster zone that will require a lot of assistance," Gaylon Moss, NCBM disaster relief coordinator, told Baptist Press early in the response efforts.

A N.C. volunteer was on site in New Jersey with American Red Cross before Sandy struck New York. He helped coordinate the first response from N.C. Baptists. A NCBM update via email asked N.C. Baptists to pray, go and give:

- Pray. Pray for people who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Pray for the volunteers who are going to minister. Pray for safety

See Sandy page 16



Sonny Yow of Concord, N.C., places food in an oven at the feeding unit deployed at Rutgers University. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

Embrace inspires women to personal ministry, leadership roles

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

Cupping her hands around her ears, Barbara Spence demonstrated a listening-to-the-Lord prayer position.

Spence, a member of Glen Hope Baptist Church in Burlington, was one of the 120 women at the Embrace Women's Ministry event Oct. 26-27 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

Listening to the Lord was the second position in the five positions of prayer that Spence shared with other ladies during the Central Asian prayer tea, part of the weekend event "Worthy of the Calling," based on Ephesians 4:1-3.

Sitting at round tables the ladies cleaned each other's hands before sharing snacks and tea.

Along with standing before the throne, bowing in reverence, worshiping and kneeling in petition, the women used the prayer time to focus on Central Asia. The tea, which was held before lunch, was meant to bring awareness to Muslim women, their lives and customs.

"In the end, when I was down on the floor praying ... I went back to thinking what Bobbye [Rankin] had said: nothing is impossible with God," Spence said of Rankin, wife of Jerry Rankin, president emeritus of the International Mission Board (IMB).

"It may not be He changes the whole Muslim world ... but we need to realize that this almighty God can do anything."

Rankin, a Mississippi native, was the main speaker for the two-day event. She served on the mission field with her husband for 23 years before his 17 years at the helm of the IMB.

"Somehow we want to be the best we can be [and better]," Rankin said. "What God wants is He wants us to be the best He planned us to be."

"We've got to quit calling this world home," she said. "There's a greater home coming for us."

Rankin shared about several missionaries who have been killed overseas. At one missionary's funeral there was a letter that was read that she had written before she left the United States. It said, "There are no regrets. I was called to obedience, and suffering is expected. His glory ... my reward."

Using Hebrews 12:1-3 Rankin encouraged the women to rid themselves of any painful issues from the past.

"Are we holding onto something that will cause us to not be able to serve?" Rankin asked.

Instead, women need to focus "our eyes on Jesus ... not a mere gaze but ... moment by moment."



Above, women stop to pray at H.L. Miller Park as part of a mission project through an Embrace Women's Ministry event Oct. 27 in Wake Forest. Above right: Barbara Spence takes part in a tea focusing on prayer for Central Asia. At right: Serena Pearce, left, sings with Hilma Evans, a resident of Carolina House in Wake Forest. Pearce was part of a group that visited the Alzheimer's/Dementia facility as an Embrace mission project.



Rankin shared how Jesus was the ultimate example of One who walked worthy.

"Ladies, continue to reach out to women in all strata of society," Rankin urged. "We're challenged to walk worthy of the calling."

During the event, women also had the choice of going to three of 15 breakout sessions offered on a variety of topics. There were also mission projects the women were assigned.

Spence participated with a team in H.L. Miller Park in Wake Forest. They displayed signs advertising free cookies and prayer.

Spence said their task was to start conversations with people visiting the park.

"That's what we need to do in our everyday life," Spence said. "If you just take the time to get out of your own little world, ... it's really easy to start a conversation with somebody."

"A big part of being a missionary is just being willing ... be His hands and feet."

It was Spence's first trip to Thailand and Cambodia in 2003 where she realized "God can do wonderful things through

our life and in our life," if she was willing to go. That "first mission trip I realized God is great, but He wants my heart. When He has my heart he has my service."

Other projects included outreach at two other Wake Forest parks, along with ministry at a laundry business, pregnancy support service, cleaning a woman's house and prayer walking.

One group went to Carolina House, an assisted living facility for Alzheimer's and dementia residents.

Serena Pearce, director of music ministries at Bethany Baptist Church in Wendell, said the project reminded her that ministry should be intentional.

"We're already doing a lot of activities but I see that the focus needs to be on

witnessing," said Pearce, who serves on her church's women's ministry team.

Pearce called the Embrace conference an "enriching experience."

"I feel that it is important that we keep ladies engaged in various activities that will strengthen their relationship with Christ," she said.

Spence, who serves as missions team leader for her church, said she and a few ladies at her church want to start an Embrace ministry at Glen Hope.

"We're looking for something that will really engage women and that will really cause them to see the abundance they can have in serving God," she said.

"My goal is for women's hearts to be changed." **BR**

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CHURCH NEWS



Moss Memorial Baptist Church, Hayesville

A group from Moss Memorial Baptist Church, Hayesville, went to work with Hebron Baptist Church in Green Bank, W.Va. Volunteers made repairs, held a Backyard Bible Club, conducted a soccer camp and started a Centershot archery program with 27 children. Moss Pastor Charlie Shelton and his team left equipment with Hebron so the church will be able to offer the program to more children in the area.

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

TODD HIGGINSON has been called to White Oak Baptist Church, Clayton. Higginson previously served Reynoldson Baptist Church in Gates.

Carmel Baptist Church, Matthews, has called **ALEX KENNEDY** as senior pastor. He was previously senior pastor of Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas.

TODD BURDEN has been called to Watermark Church, Troutman, as pastor of students. Burden has served as a missionary through InBounds Ministry, and will continue to be active in leading it.

French Broad Baptist Association, Mars Hill, has called **STEVE HONEYCUTT** as director of missions. Honeycutt has served as a pastor within the association for 33 years at North Fork and Long Branch Baptist churches in Marshall.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Conference aims at equipping African-American churches for ministry

Come to the African-American Church Resource Conference, “The Heart That Goes After God,” on Dec. 7-8 at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia. Featured speakers are Les Howell, Billy Houze, and Nathan Scovens. Register by Nov. 19 for \$119. Pastors, ushers, music leaders, deacons, teachers, trustees, youth leaders and potential leaders are all invited. Find a full list of breakout sessions and register at multicultural.ncbaptist.org. For assistance, contact Kate Durham at kdurham@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5628.

Tree angels for N.C. troops needed

Wake Forest Baptist Church (WFBC) is working with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg to provide a Christmas tree to families with a deployed spouse. Help bless the families of servicemen and women by ordering a tree from WFBC youth’s tree lot. Frazer Fir trees are \$55. Each includes tree transport to Fort Bragg. The deadline to order is Nov. 22. Any proceeds from the tree lot go toward WFBC mission trips. Contact Dave Shannon with questions about Tree Angles for N.C. Troops at (919) 556-5141 or uuc8956@embarqmail.com. Mail payment to Wake Forest Baptist Church, Attn: Trees for Troops, 118 E. South Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587.

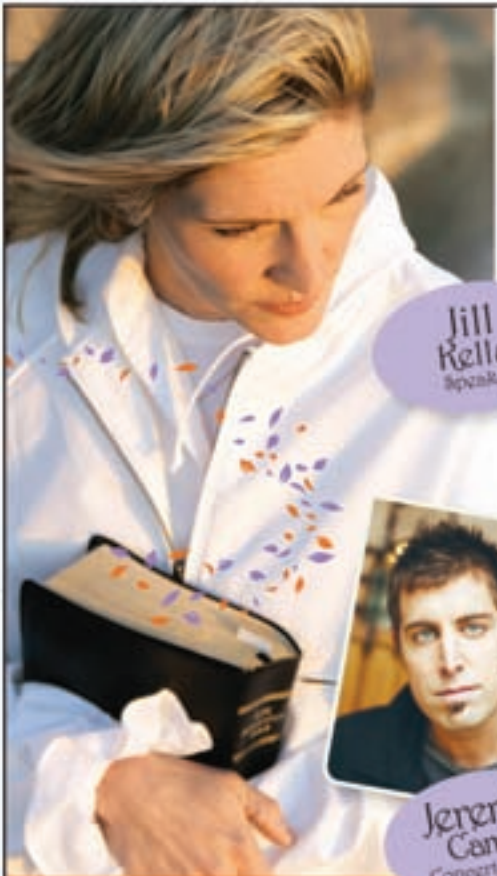


BSC leader, parson preaches in fair chapel

Milton Hollifield, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina executive director-treasurer, led two services Oct. 14 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds dressed as a parson at the church in Heritage Circle. During the fair, two services were held Sunday mornings for fair workers and any visitors. North Carolina Campers on Mission scheduled performances at the church and offered food and hygiene items. Volunteers served as chaplains during the fair’s opening hours and hosted a barbecue dinner where workers signed up for dental services. Visit nccampersonmission.org or the Raleigh Baptist Association (raleighbaptists.org) to find out ways you can get involved.


Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance. Because we are a statewide newspaper, events included are usually beyond the local church level. All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.



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Veterans Day offers ministry opportunities

By ADAM MILLER | Baptist Press

This Veterans Day churches throughout the United States are seeing a rise in the number of military veterans returning home after deployment. Many say it is an opportunity for churches to serve and help meet the needs of transitioning soldiers.

Gary Sanders, founder of the Military Missions Network, refers to the simple but far-from-easy task of being the church to returning military personnel.

“Don’t try to be some sort of a therapeutic organization. Just be the church,” Sanders said. “The best thing we can do is do what we do best and that’s community.”

First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., where Sanders serves as minister of Military Ministries, is centrally located to address the needs of service members from all branches of the military from several bases in the area. The needs of returning veterans range from home repair to financial and family strain to the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Though a local congregation is not typically equipped to handle clinical needs, they are equipped to provide a support community.

First Baptist Church in Woodbridge,

Va., just started its second year of military ministry, and the military community is responding. Through its “Welcome Home” team, the church celebrates returning military on their first Sunday after their return.

“We post a ‘Welcome Home Hero’ banner in our lobby and throw a party,” said Chris Ford, director of Military Ministry at FBC Woodbridge. This includes bringing the family down front to a standing ovation, a time of prayer and a gift package, including a book on reintegration, gift card for a family dinner, a free hotel stay and a coupon for three free hours of babysitting. “We want to do anything we can to help with reintegration of the military person with their church, their spouse, their family and their community,” Ford said.

This is part of what Sanders calls “missional military ministry.”

“Just as you would apply the gospel and gospel community to any people group, churches can address the needs and context of military culture,” Sanders said. “This applies to discipling military before they deploy, addressing their needs and reintegrating them when they return. And it also applies to outreach

“I want the local church to be the champion of change in the lives of our returning troops.”



DOUG CARVER

within the military community.”

FBC Norfolk does this through simple acts of hospitality. The church provides space and refreshments for pre-deployment family briefings. They also reach out online through *militarybeliever.com*, where service members can find resources for encouragement. The church also reaches out in a significant way to military who aren’t married – a segment of the population who may not have a family support network. This outreach recently included assembling and sending 129 care packages to the single service members aboard the USS Normandy.

“Many of them don’t ever hear from anybody, especially if they come from broken homes,” Sanders said. “We’re very proactive in outreach and in speaking their language, and we want to connect with them very fast.

“Hospitality is so important for military ministry,” Sanders added. “They move around and it takes too long to connect with people. If they’re in our area, we host monthly dinners for new military in the area. Through social networking we connect with them before they ever get to us. Sometimes they end up not coming to our church, and that’s OK. The point is to make a significant contact for the sake of the gospel.”

Doug Carver, executive director of chaplaincy at the North American Mission Board and former Army Chief of Chaplains, said it’s through the local church that the greatest change can happen among the U.S. military. NAMB is the endorsing entity for 1,425 U.S. military chaplains serving throughout the world.

“All of our veterans returning home from war require some level of reintegration,” Carver said. “That is where the local church can offer a powerful ministry to veterans and their families. When they step into a local Baptist church, veterans should be able to say, ‘I’m home with my brothers and sisters in the Lord.’ I want the local church to be the champion of change in the lives of our returning troops.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Adam Miller is a North American Mission Board writer.) **BR**

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Seminary president upholds transformational church

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (GGBTS) is more than 2,200 miles from North Carolina, but Jeff Iorg does not want the seminary to be far from the minds of North Carolina Baptists. He is the president of the Southern Baptists' western-most seminary, located near San Francisco, Calif.

Iorg was the keynote speaker for the Metrolina Baptist Association's (MBA) annual meeting in Charlotte last month. He was invited to address the meeting's theme "transformational church." But first he reported on the seminary's unique ministry.

Iorg said, "Out of 240 ATS accredited seminaries in North America, GGBTS is the 9th largest seminary in the nation, second largest in the West."

A few years ago the school contracted a national survey to learn what Baptists know about them. "In a survey of 1,000 pastors west of the Mississippi, 94 percent had a favorable or highly favorable view of GGBTS," Iorg said. When they surveyed 1,000 pastors east of the Mississippi, the same questions were asked with one additional option: "Don't know enough to have an opinion." 52 percent gave that view.

"So that tells us we have some work to do in this part of the world," Iorg said.

The school has five campuses. According to Iorg, to visit all five GGBTS campuses you would have to travel 3,600 miles. To visit the primary campuses of the other five SBC seminaries, you would travel about 3,400 miles.

"The western half of the United States is a big place. Southern Baptists expect us to do our work all over the place," he said.

GGBTS has been called the most multicultural seminary in the world. "Only 40 percent of our students are Anglo.

The rest come from the nations and peoples of the world," Iorg said. "In my preaching class of 24 students last semester, 12 spoke English as their primary language. The rest of those students spoke 7 different languages." That is the typical composition of the school's classrooms.

"It makes for a global seminary that must take more than a parochial position

and must have a global perspective on Christianity," he explained.

Iorg was asked to speak at the MBA gathering because of his contribution to the transformational church movement. He is author of the book, "The Case for Antioch" which studies the Antioch church in the Book of Acts.

Iorg's book was born from his personal ministry. In 1989 he moved his family to Portland, Ore., where he planted a new congregation in a middle school with four families. "My life's dream was to pastor that church until my retirement," he said. He started the church based on the principles he learned from studying the church at Antioch.

Today that church is the largest Southern Baptist church in Oregon. The church is strong today because "it was built on a biblical model that is always relevant and will always work," he said.

He told the audience, "There are many models for church:

megachurch, metachurch, house church, emerging church. ... There are all kinds of models and there is something to be learned from most of them. But I think we will be far better served if we would look strongly at a biblical model and work hard at changing our churches to look like what is reflected in scripture."

He believes a transformational church is empowered by the Holy Spirit. "If you think there is a trick, a gimmick, a program or a process that will produce transformation in your church, you are sadly mistaken and spiritually deceived," he said. There are three explicit refer-

ences to the Holy Spirit in connection with the church at Antioch. First, Barnabas, the leader, was described as being full of the Holy Spirit."

Barnabas surveyed the needs at Antioch, Iorg said. "As a spirit-filled leader Barnabas made a strategic, long-term ministry

decision," he said. "He brought Paul in and started a year-long teaching ministry.

"Leaders, you need the Holy Spirit's leadership in the moment of preaching, but you also need Holy Spirit-filled power in your decision-making for the long-term implications of your church's ministry."



JEFF IORG

"If you think there is a trick, a gimmick, a program or a process that will produce transformation in your church, you are sadly mistaken and spiritually deceived."

— Jeff Iorg

See Iorg page 10

How food, fellowship & Jesus can reach people groups next door

Shawn Hendricks | BR Managing Editor

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Sept. 1 issue Brian Upshaw, team leader for the Church Ministry team with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, shared tips on how to start a discipleship group in your neighborhood. In this article, we look at specific steps for connecting and starting a small group among ethnic people groups.)



Ken Tan

Sometimes it might start with something as easy as inviting your neighbors over to watch boxing, said Ken Tan, team leader of the multicultural team for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). "What's that boxer's name?" asked Tan, referring to how he has seen the professional boxer Manny Pacquiao, and other more international sporting events like soccer, draw a crowd among those who grew up outside the United States. "Yea, they'll come and watch [Pacquiao]."

Tan shared some specific suggestions for building relationships and starting a small group – to disciple new believers or to reach out to those who have little to no knowledge about Jesus – among various ethnic groups in a neighborhood.

The opportunities are everywhere – especially in North Carolina. Some studies show the state being among the top five of the fastest growing foreign-born population.

Though some Christians might not know where to start in reaching out to their neighbors, Tan said, it's easier than you may think.

Prayer

Though it sounds simple, starting any effort must begin with specific and focused prayer. "[Pray] 'God show me – what your heart is for the people around us,'" Tan said. "That prayer preparation is really what makes you conscious and aware of who is present there – whether you start to see Hispanics, Filipinos or Hindus, or Asian or whatever people groups are out there."

"It always starts with the prayer [and the] sensitivity God puts on your heart."

Find a need

For those who are new to the United States, they are going to have a variety of needs, Tan said. For instance, many international students move to the U.S. with little more than a suitcase. These students usually are in need of basic things such as furniture, or they may

need a ride to buy groceries. They may also have an interest in learning English.

Whatever that need may be, find out what it is and help them meet it.

"This is the time they are very receptive to looking for relationships," Tan said. "If it's a matter of helping them navigate, [or] how to survive here, those are things they are looking for."

These situations give Christians opportunities for conversation and to learn more about their new neighbor and share common interests. As you continue to help meet a specific need, Tan said, a natural friendship and trust begins to form.

Food, fellowship, family

After trust has been established, an easy way to build on the new friendship is to give an invitation for a meal or some type of social gathering, like to watch a sporting event – as mentioned earlier in the story. Ask them to invite a friend, Tan said.

Food and fellowship is always a requirement, he added.

"We eat, we share, we try to do life together – it's purely relational," he said. "You just want to build a connection with this person."

"You get to know who they are, their names," Tan said. "You get to know their story, where they are and they'll open up. ... I ask myself what are some things this person could be going through."

That's where the opportunity to talk about faith, or introduce the idea of starting a Bible study opens up. Tan, however, cautions Christians to resist inviting them to church – at least at first.

"Inviting people to church first can cause them to put up barriers," he said. "Many of them will not come to your church, but they will come to a Bible study."

"The Bible study has been the most effective tool for us, as far as I'm concerned, in reaching many people groups."

Topics to avoid, Tan said, include politics and criticizing other religions.

"The moment they are offended, that's it. [It's] closed the door," said Tan, who recommended steering the conversation toward Jesus if someone brings up religion.

A friendship should first be established before starting a small group, Tan said. Again, start with prayer. If they

have a specific need or concern, offer to pray for them.

"They want to be prayed for – whether they believe in your religion or not," Tan said. "You'll be surprised how much people want to talk about spiritual things."

As the relationship deepens, the new friendship will begin to feel more like family.

"The concept of family is important" Tan said. "Because most immigrants don't have any family here."

Keep it simple – start with the Bible

When the time comes to select curriculum, Tan suggests starting with the basics or what he called "foundation materials" that focus on Bible stories and scripture.

For a discipleship group, Tan recommended using the Survival Kit.

"You need to start with something

that is very basic," he said. "For the Bible study ... usually, I start with the life of Christ."

"They see that Christ is real, and they long for that deeper relationship with the Lord. ... The Bible study becomes a forum for that."

If you're teaching English, Tan recommends using the Bible from the start.

Whether the focus

is on discipleship or outreach, Tan said it is going to take time.

"If it was just for one month but you still had that chance to sow that seed, whether short time or long time, ... [it's] all in God's plan."

For more information about how you can minister among ethnic groups in your community, contact Tan at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5641. Or, to learn about opportunities to adopt an international student contact campus ministries at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5562. **BR**

"Though it sounds simple, starting any effort must begin with specific and focused prayer."
– Ken Tan

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Vision tour leads to new Boston partnership

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

When pastor Robin Fisher visited Boston and met a local church planter he learned that his church back home in rural northeast North Carolina may have more in common with the big city than he thought.

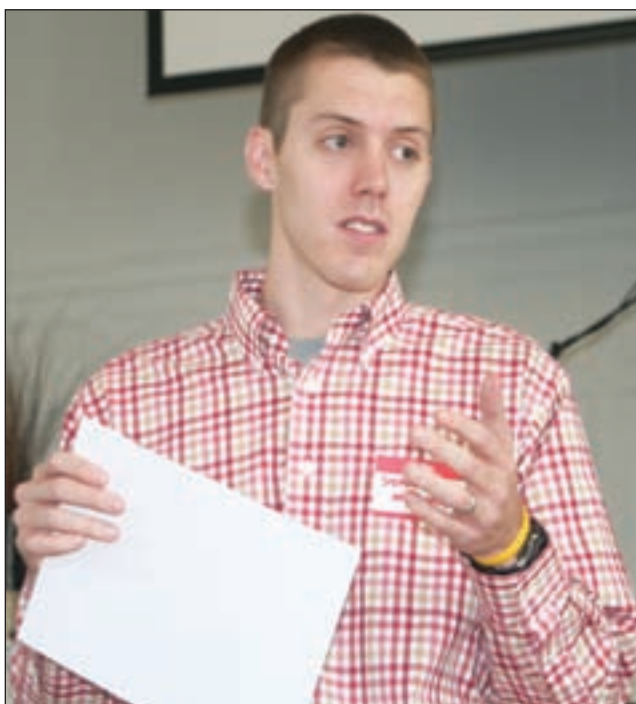
Fisher, who pastors Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, met Stephen McDonald in the Boston suburb of Lowell during a vision tour sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) Office of Great Commission Partnerships, in partnership with the North American Mission Board.

Lowell is located about 25 miles northwest of Boston along the Merrimack River and is a former mill town and major textile-manufacturing center that grew rapidly during the Industrial Revolution. When the textile plants eventually closed in Lowell, the community was forced to reinvest and revitalize.

Fisher said when he was in Lowell he was reminded of Rocky Mount, which also has a suburban feel and was once a popular industrial area.

McDonald shared with Fisher about how he and his wife moved to Lowell about a year and half ago to plant Mill City Church. The church is primarily reaching native New Englanders since Lowell is not a transient area. Lowell, like the rest of New England, has very few believers.

Among 14.3 million New Englanders, less than three percent attend an evangelical church on any given weekend. About 97 out of every 100 New Englanders do not



Stephen McDonald, an elder of Mill City Church in Lowell, Mass., receives help through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Office of Great Commission Partnerships. Part of that help may come through churches like Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in Rocky Mount teaming with Mill City to help reach the lost. (BSC photo)

know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

The BSC partnership with the Baptist Convention of New England includes a specific focus on Boston and the interior of the I-495 loop around Boston. This area is home to 4.5 million people, about 100 Southern Baptist

churches and cities as large as 100,000 that have no gospel-preaching church. “We don’t usually think there is a church planting need in the United States that would be comparable to international missions, but there is a great need here,” Fisher said.

After the vision tour Fisher knew he wanted Sunset Avenue to be involved in Boston, specifically through beginning a partnership with McDonald and Mill City Church. “He has a vision,” Fisher said. “He has a strategy and a process, and it is obvious God is blessing it.”

Fisher is working to develop a missions strategy for Sunset Avenue that will help them partner internationally as well as nationally and locally.

“We want our strategy to be about evangelism and church plants that will plant other churches,” he said. “Instead of hit and miss, we’d like to be more intentional in focusing on planters and church planting.”

Fisher said some church members may be hesitant about serving in a more urban context, since they are coming from a rural setting – but those concerns won’t last long.

“When you get there and meet the people doing the work, those concerns will be taken care of,” he said. “It’s much more about people and relationships than it is about place.”

Although the partnership is still in its earliest stages, and the concept of long-term partnership is new for Sunset Avenue, Fisher is excited about working with Mill City Church and learning from McDonald along the way.

See Boston page 10



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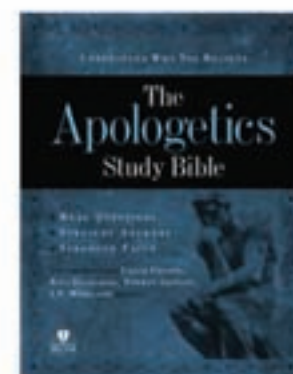
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Super Bowl QB remembers the game, growing up in N.C.

Former Super Bowl winning quarterback Brad Johnson successfully played the toughest position in football for 17 seasons in the National

Football League.

Known for his great decision making, leadership and toughness, Johnson traded in his cleats to coach and focus on his faith and family. Johnson grew up in the small town of Black Mountain, N.C., where he overcame the odds to go on to

a long and successful football career. He led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2001 to their only Super Bowl title.

Johnson discussed his NFL experience, his college days at Florida State University and the responsibility to the next generation of leaders in America.

Q: You are from Black Mountain N.C., where you attended high school; it is also the site of a very famous Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Football Camp. What is special to you about that camp?

A: It was a small town. I loved it there. Of course most everybody knows about the FCA Black Mountain Football camp. My dad ran Camp Ridgecrest for 25 years, and Camp Winshape, a Chick Fil-A camp in Atlanta.

Q: What are the biggest changes in being a QB now and back when you played?

A: The game has grown tremendously. Now ... the kids in junior high, high school and college are just so much farther ahead than we were.

When I was playing, the coach called the play and you ran the play called in the huddle.

Kids today in high school have hand signals from the sidelines and can change plays. We did not do that until I was in college. Kids see the game through video, and they play video games.

They see and understand the game better. Their knowledge is so far ahead at an earlier age. The skill level is so much better earlier.

All of these guys are big. They can make all the necessary throws. It just has evolved from decade to decade. These guys are just a lot of fun to watch play the position.

Q: You decided to attend college and play for the great Bobby



Brad Johnson, left, led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl title in 2001. Johnson, above right, raises the championship trophy after the Buccaneers defeated the Oakland Raiders. Johnson is the only quarterback in the history of the NFL to complete 60 percent or more of his passes for nine straight seasons.

Bowden at Florida State. What impact did coach Bowden's faith have on you then and today?

A: We were surrounded by great players ... a great program. If you're just trying to win a job, or a game, or a Heisman, or trying to win a national championship or a Super Bowl, it's so temporary.

Yes, it's hard to get, and it's a great reward to get it. But if it's your whole life, you're just missing the boat. You really need to give your life to Christ, and submit and live for Him and through Him. Everything else is just temporary.

Those things: awards, trophies, other things like that, just rust.

Q: This generation of young people need direction in a big way. What has changed in them from a generation ago?

A: Coming from a small town in Black Mountain, I had goals.

I wanted to be the best I could in high school, get a scholarship to college, and

play in the pros. I always felt like I was the underdog and had to work for everything that I got.

Nowadays there is so much exposure: little league, high school and college games played on TV.

When we were in college, all you wanted to do was say, 'Hi mom' on TV. That was a big deal.

My kids are 9 and 11 years old wondering when their game will be on TV. So



"Coming from a small town in Black Mountain, I had goals. ... I always felt like I was the underdog and had to work for everything I got."
— Brad Johnson

much is given to these kids at an early age. ... I think too much is put on them.

Kids need to be grounded and taught by their parents, teachers and coaches in the right way, at an early age in a positive way.

If you're not raised in the right way by your parents, then it's going to be a struggle later on in life.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Roman Gabriel III is president of Sold Out Ministries. He hosts Sold Out Sports, which is heard Saturday at 8 p.m. EST on American Family Radio. He is an evangelist and motivational speaker. Contact him at (910) 431-6483 or email soldoutrg3@gmail.com. His website is soldouttv.com.) **BR**

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BUS SALES

Moldova

Continued from page 1

The Davis' are among more than 20 North Carolina Baptist pastors, church leaders and wives who traveled to Moldova Oct. 22-29 to see how they and their congregations can partner with Moldovan believers to reach their country – and beyond – for Christ. The trip is part of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's effort to lead churches to partner with the 33 districts of Moldova.

"We've been praying for Moldova for so long, and then the opportunity came to go," said Terry, who helps lead youth and children's ministries with Andrea at First Baptist Church Leland. Terry said Moldova has meant missions to him since he first heard about the fall of Communism there in the 80s.

"It's only natural to say ... 'We're there,'" he said. "We're definitely planning to be back."

Moldova is that sliver of a country situated between Ukraine and Romania. Most of its people are known for being the poorest in Europe. But while many of its people struggle economically, there also is a growing spiritual darkness.

Though elaborate Orthodox churches and decorative crosses with pictures and statues of Jesus can be spotted along most roads in the country, there are few evangelical congregations. About 90 percent identify themselves as "Orthodox Christians," but few claim to have put their trust in Jesus as their Savior.

During the week in Moldova, the North Carolina group divides into two teams to travel up and down the country to meet many Moldovan pastors and church leaders working with the Moldovan Baptist Union. Among those churches represented on the trip are First Missionary Baptist Church, Concord; First Baptist Church Leland; Dublin First Baptist Church; Gorman Baptist Church, Durham; River of Leland; Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Fayetteville; Hephzibah Baptist Church, Wendell; New Piney Grove Baptist Church, Kannapolis; Southside Baptist Church, Wilmington; and Abiezer Baptist Church, Rock Hill, S.C.

N.C. pastors on the trip are greeted warmly by Moldovan Baptists. Local pastors share about efforts to send out missionaries and minister to their villages, region and other countries.

While most share about how God is changing lives, they also endure the challenges and hardships of life in Moldova.

"The ministry has become more difficult in the recent years, and the growth is not as fast as in the 90s," said Peter, who pastors Kalarashovka Baptist Church near the far northern corner of Moldova.

In recent years the area has become a "spiritual desert," Peter said.

"There is only one evangelical church



Above left, from left to right: Derik Davis, Gerald Marney, John McIntyre, William Ray, Aaron Wallace, Stephen Johnson, Dick Pressler, Jim Jackson, Christopher Gann, Chuck Register and Joel McMillon. (Pictured at right) Andrea Davis hands out candy to children while visiting a Moldovan church.



or group per 5 villages," he said.

Many Moldovan Baptist leaders work with local pastors who are desperate for mentorship and support from churches in the United States.

Behind all of the presentations and excitement with starting new work, there are many who struggle to provide for their families and lead a church. Unlike many pastors in the States, most in Moldova are bivocational.

Economic challenges in the country have forced many Moldovans – pastors included – to move out of the country to find a better way of life.

"It seemed like the last four or five years we started to lose the leaders more than [we] used to, and ... the main factor is economics," said John Miron, executive director of the Baptist Union of Moldova. Miron will speak at the Baptist State Convention's annual meeting in Greensboro to challenge N.C. pastors to partner with Moldova.

"When looking back we [didn't have] much freedom as we have now, but ... the big challenge now is everybody thinks 'How can I feed my family, take care of my children?'"

John McIntyre, pastor of the River at Leland Church, said he feels a "kindred spirit" to many of the pastors he met in Moldova and their struggle to lead a small church.

"I definitely know how it feels," said McIntyre, a bivocational pastor who walked away from a full-time ministry position to plant the church he is now serving.

"When we first planted, I went for six months with no income," said McIntyre, who has had to take on a variety of odd jobs to provide for his family.

"I know that [Moldovan pastors] have faith in their call, and they're greatly committed to do what they're called to do, and they know that God's going to

provide," he said. "They're definitely an encouragement to me."

"It's been a hard summer, but ... I hear them say it's been ... a hard few years."

Regardless of his own challenges, McIntyre plans to find a way for River of Leland to partner with a Moldovan church planter.

"We'll definitely be partnering in some way," said McIntyre, noting his church may team up with another N.C. church to help. "Whether that's coming once a year, maybe helping rent a facility for a new church plant to meet," he said. "A hundred dollars a month will rent a house for a new church plant. That's doable."

Moldovan pastors also are encountering and struggling with other growing issues – such as divorce – among their members. Human trafficking is another growing problem in the country.

Pastors are desperate for mentorship from experienced pastors in the States,

said Vitalie Fedula, pastor of Jesus the Savior Church in Chisinau.

"I think pastors need to be encouraged ... and taught what it means to be a pastor," he said. "My desire is for the church to be the kind of church that would make Jesus smile."

Though oceans apart, Cameron McGill, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dublin, explains his connection with many of the Moldovan pastors and his desire to help.

"The issues we face are similar," said McGill, who traveled overseas for the first time with his wife, Tiffany. She went to Moldova earlier this year with another mission team. "We're in a small town," McGill added. "We're a fairly small congregation, and if we're not careful, we'll begin to say, 'We can't do anything.' What we need to do is that which God has called us to do, and we can do these partnerships."

With a congregation of about 70 people, Ronald Hester, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Fayetteville, said his church may partner with its association.

"Reality is reality," said Hester, noting few at his church would be able to travel. "It would not be possible for our church to send a complete team, so we'll work through the association to do a partnership."

The key is for pastors to be passionate about the need, said Mike Sowers, senior consultant with Great Commission Partnerships for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

Hoping to spark more interest, the BSC led this latest trip by footing the bill for much of the expense. Each person on the team paid \$600 to help with flight, meals and hotel expense. The convention covered the rest.

"Very rarely have we taken people on a vision trip or to a spot, and they haven't caught at least some vision to get involved," he said.

"All we're doing is putting seed out there because we want to equip the local church. If it's going to be successful, it's got to be a ministry of the local church."

Aaron Wallace, pastor of Hephzibah Baptist Church in Wendell, explains that if the BSC needs the church's help then that's good enough for him.

"We want to follow our Cooperative Program dollars," Wallace said. "We want to partner with the convention. ... I don't want to work outside them."

"We could help with the medical missions. Our church is strong with camps. ... We're equipped and ready to do it."

Wallace challenged other pastors considering the partnership "to start small" when challenging their congregations to get involved.

"Let that passion go from you to a few others," he said. "That's the nature of discipleship. Kingdom growth is multiplication. It's just going to continue to grow." **BR**

"All we're doing is putting seed out there ..."
– Mike Sowers



Boston

Continued from page 7

“We want this to be a two-way partnership,” Fisher said. “We realize how much need there is in Rocky Mount, in our own region. Stephen can help us cast the vision for how we can reach our area.”

Fisher also expects to soon bring McDonald to North Carolina. “We want our people to meet him and hear his heart and vision,” Fisher said. “He will personalize the partnership for us and it will be easier to call people to pray specific prayers.”

“[Stephen McDonald] has a vision. He has a strategy and a process, and it is obvious God is blessing it.”
— Robin Fisher

Fisher recommends a vision tour to any North Carolina Baptist pastor.

“This was the best investment of a day and a half I can remember in a long, long time,” he said. “It truly did give us a flavor of the city. I would be surprised if anyone came away

from a vision tour without some kind of burden to pursue partnership.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – To learn more about Mill City Church visit www.millcitychurch.net. To get involved in Boston or participate in an upcoming vision tour visit www.ncbaptist.org/gcp. Boston is just one area in North America in great need of the gospel. Come to the North American Mission Board commissioning service Tuesday, Nov. 13, during the BSC annual meeting in Greensboro to learn more about church planters and missionaries serving in some of the nation’s most unreached areas. Visit www.ncannualmeeting.org.) **B3**

Iorg

Continued from page 5

Barnabas’ decision was very risky. Iorg pointed out that Paul was not known as a missionary at that time. “Paul was a converted terrorist, more known for killing Christians than teaching them. Barnabas had the courage to put him on the teaching team,” he emphasized.

The second reference to the Holy Spirit is in the preaching of Agabus, Iorg said. He preached a sermon and called for an offering. “One of the great evidences of the Holy Spirit’s power in your church is the offering! ... I want to challenge you to realize the offering is one of the most counter-cultural things that happens in your worship service every Sunday.”

In Acts 13, the Holy Spirit is mentioned a third time when missionaries were called out of the church. Iorg said, “The Holy Spirit was at work in this church and what resulted was ... people [were] called out to go on mission and accomplish the Gospel some place else.”

The seminary president closed his message to the MBA saying, “I’m challenging you tonight that the first and great characteristic of your church is transformational as it is empowered by the Holy Spirit.” **B3**

Living missionally for the gospel

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Although Renee* lives in Raleigh, she often feels like she is living in a different country. Her friends speak different languages and come from different religious backgrounds. Some did not attend her wedding because the ceremony was in a Christian church. They are nervous to have their cars seen in a church parking lot.

When she visits in the homes of her friends she sometimes has to be careful what she says about Jesus; if someone from the mosque drops by unannounced that kind of conversation could get her friends in trouble.

Among Renee’s friends are Muslims from the horn of Africa, atheists and agnostics from Central and Eastern Europe, and Buddhists from Southeast Asia.

“Christians are not allowed in some of their countries. In some of their countries, there’s almost no doubt they would be killed for being a Christian,” said Renee, who is a church planting missionary catalyst with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

For others, being a Christian in their homeland or even converting while living in the United States would mean being completely ostracized by family and friends.

Renee’s friends are curious about her faith, but not yet hungry to really know more.

They accept her and love her, and therefore will listen when she shares her faith, but earning the right to do that took time.

Really, life isn’t much different for Renee here than it was while living overseas as a missionary with the International Mission Board (IMB). She is still trying to reach unreached people with the gospel.

She is still facing a long road ahead because conventional methods such as inviting people to church or outreach events don’t work.

She builds relationships with people in order to earn their respect, their trust, and hopefully a willingness to hear the gospel. “They invite me to birthday parties, graduation parties, and to the hospital for a baby’s birth. They treat me like family,” Renee said. “Whatever they need, they know they can call.”

They know to call because Renee has made it clear that she cares about them and wants to invest in their lives.

As a church planting missionary, Renee is receiving financial support from the BSC just as other BSC funded church planters, but she is not serving in a preaching or teaching role.

Rather, Renee works alongside a team of volunteers to help facilitate the planting of new churches among unreached people groups, explore areas for possible church plants, and develop strategies for planters to use when initiating new church plants.

“What I do is not possible without God’s provision of help from my team and the support of the Convention, association and churches,” she said.

The ministry is challenging, Renee said. Many people

she builds a relationship with strongly object to the gospel. Some think she is arrogant to say that faith in Jesus is the only way to salvation. Others believe doing good works is what religion is about.

“There’s a lot of spiritual warfare with this type of work. It’s continual; there’s always something. But you have to keep going. Hebrews 12 tells us not to lose heart,” Renee said.

Renee is not giving up. The theme verse for her and the team is 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, which reminds them that Christ’s love compels them to continue reaching out, to continue sharing their faith.

“If you are a disciple, you are a disciple 24/7. You should be ready in season and out of season,” Renee said.

“Always be watching to see who Jesus wants you to love and where you can truly invest.”

Long road home

Renee knew she needed to leave the mission field in Central Europe in order to attend seminary, but her plan was to return as soon as possible.

“I came kicking and screaming off the mission field. Southeastern was the closest seminary to my family and friends in South Carolina. I prayed, ‘Lord, get me out of here as fast as I can so I can go back,’” Renee said.

It wasn’t long before Renee learned God had not brought her away from the mission field, but brought her closer to it. In her own neighborhood she met people from Central Europe, from the very people she once worked with.

After seminary Renee thought about getting a full time “regular” job, but “that didn’t sit right at all,” she said.

As she began building relationships and serving people in various ways, such as leading English as a Second Language classes in homes, she knew God was calling her to remain in North Carolina to help share the gospel and facilitate new church plants.

“I’m praying that they will develop a hunger for the gospel, and not just have a curiosity about it, so that they can carry the truth of the gospel to their community” Renee said.

Renee has learned that ministering and serving the people God has called her to serve is going to be a long process with fruit coming slowly. “If you push and push, you will lose the relationships,” she said. “But they know who I love and who I serve. Whenever I am talking with them, I’m imparting the Word to them. God’s Word does not return void.”

Renee is committed to doing what it takes to be faithful to serve among those who need to know Jesus Christ.

“It’s about dying to yourself daily for the cause of the gospel, and serving the needs of others, not just yourself,” Renee said. “It’s about being a Christ-centered, missional disciple all the time.”

To learn more about Renee’s ministry efforts, or about BSC church planting efforts and how you can get involved, visit ncbaptist.org/churchplanting.

*Name changed **B3**



A Muslim man ceremonially washes his hands before praying at the historic Jama Masjid (mosque) in Delhi, India. Renee* tries to reach immigrants and other unreached people who are living in Raleigh. (Photo by Kelvin Joseph)

AMENDED AND RESTATED – ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF BIBLICAL RECORDER, INCORPORATED

A North Carolina Non-Profit Corporation

The Biblical Recorder, Incorporated, by proper action of its directors, makes and acknowledges these Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of maintaining a non-profit corporation under and by virtue of the laws of the State of North Carolina as contained in Chapter 55A of the North Carolina General Statutes (the “Act”).

ARTICLE I

The name of the non-profit corporation is the Biblical Recorder, Incorporated (the “Biblical Recorder”).

ARTICLE II

The period of duration of the Biblical Recorder shall be perpetual unless sooner dissolved in accordance with the Act.

ARTICLE III

The Biblical Recorder is a charitable or religious corporation within the meaning of the North Carolina General Statutes Section 55A-1-40(4).

ARTICLE IV

The Biblical Recorder is organized exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes as permitted under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code (“IRC”), including, but not limited to, the following:

A. To promote the publication and the interests of the BIBLICAL RECORDER, the journal and primary news and information outlet of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (the “BSCNC”) and to foster the causes of the Southern Baptist Convention, with emphasis on the churches and ministries of the BSCNC. The Biblical Recorder maintains the inalienable rights and privileges of a free press, consistent with the authority of Scripture and with traditional Baptist convictions.

B. To do any and all acts and things which may be deemed desirable or expedient for the benefit of the Biblical Recorder, with its ultimate purpose being to promote the advancement of the Great Commission and glorify God among the nations of the world in accordance with Scripture;

The foregoing statement of purposes shall not be considered as limiting or restricting, in any manner, the powers conferred upon non-profit corporations by the Act, and therefore, the Biblical Recorder shall have the power to transact any business not prohibited by law and within the restrictions of the Act. The activities of the Biblical Recorder shall be limited, however, to only those activities which will allow the Biblical Recorder to obtain and maintain tax exempt status as a non-profit organization under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE V

The Biblical Recorder shall not have members.

ARTICLE VI

Management of the Biblical Recorder of its properties and affairs shall be vested in its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may delegate any management functions it deems advisable. The number and method of election of directors, meetings, and other matters relating to directors shall be determined by the Bylaws subject to the provisions of this Article and the Articles and Bylaws of the BSCNC.

ARTICLE VII

No part of the net earnings of the Biblical Recorder shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers or any “private shareholder or individual” within the meaning of IRC Section 501(c)(3); provided, however, that the Biblical Recorder shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article IV hereof.

No substantial part of the activities of the Biblical Recorder shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Biblical Recorder shall not participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distribution of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Articles, the Biblical Recorder shall prohibit any activities not permitted to be carried on:

- A. By a corporation exempt from federal income tax under IRC Section 501 (a) of the Code as an organization described in IRC Section 501 (c)(3);
- B. By a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under IRC Sections 170 (c)(2) and 2055; or
- C. By a “charitable or religious corporation” as that term is defined under the Act.

ARTICLE VIII

In the event of its dissolution, the Biblical Recorder, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Biblical Recorder, shall distribute all of the net assets of the Biblical Recorder to the BSCNC unless the BSCNC is no longer an exempt organization described in IRC Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2). In the event that the BSCNC is not such an exempt organization, then the net assets shall be distributed, as determined by the Board of Directors, to another nonprofit corporation that is an exempt organization as described in IRC Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2), or to federal, state or local government exclusively for public purposes. Any such assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by the Superior Court of Wake County, North Carolina exclusively for such purposes or to such organization and organizations, as said Superior Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE IX

The members of the Board of Directors shall not be personally liable to the Biblical Recorder for monetary damages arising out of any action, whether by or in the right of the Biblical Recorder or otherwise, for any breach of duty as a member, officer, trustee or director, except for liability with respect to: (1) acts or omissions that such director at the time of the breach knew or believed were clearly in conflict with the best interests of the Biblical Recorder, (2) any liability under Sections 55A-8-32 or 55A-8-33 of the Act, (3) any transaction from which such director derived an improper personal financial benefit, and (4) acts or omissions prior to the date the Articles are effective. Also, as used herein, the term “improper personal benefit” does not include a director’s reasonable compensation or other reasonable incidental benefit for or on account of service as an employee, independent contractor, attorney or consultant of the Biblical Recorder. If the Act is amended after the date of the Articles to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of the director, then the liability of the director shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the Act, as so amended. No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any director of the Biblical Recorder for or with respect to any act or failure to act on the part of such director party occurring prior to such amendment or repeal.

It is the policy of the Biblical Recorder to indemnify to the maximum extent permitted by the Act any one or more of the indemnified parties against judgments, penalties, settlements and other liabilities incurred by them in connection with any pending, threatened or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal investigative or administrative and against reasonable costs and expenses (including attorneys’ fees) in connection with any such proceeding, where liabilities and litigation expenses were incurred incident to the good faith performance of their duties. As used herein, the term “indemnified parties” shall mean the directors and officers of the Biblical Recorder and key employees and special committee members as listed in a duly authorized resolution adopted by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may advance expenses in connection with any proceeding to any such person in accordance with applicable law. The use of funds of the Biblical Recorder for indemnification or for purchase and maintenance of insurance for the benefit of the indemnified parties shall be deemed a proper expense of the Biblical Recorder.

ARTICLE X

The Articles may be changed or amended in accordance with this Article.

Amendments to the Articles proposed by the Board of Directors of the Biblical Recorder require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the directors present and voting when the vote is taken at a duly authorized meeting, provided that written notice of any and all such amendments be given to the Board of Directors of the BSCNC thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting for notice purposes only. Approval of such amendments by the Board of Directors of the Biblical Recorder then must be approved by the BSCNC (a) by its Board of Directors at a duly authorized meeting and (b) by its messengers during the annual meeting or during any special meeting of the BSCNC in accordance with the procedures established for amending the articles of incorporation of the BSCNC.

Amendments to the Articles proposed by the Board of Directors of the BSCNC require that written notice of any and all such amendments be given to the Board of Directors of the Biblical Recorder thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting for notice and an opportunity for review. After the consideration of any written comments by the Board of Directors of the Biblical Recorder, the Board of Directors of the BSCNC may submit the proposed amendments to the messengers of the BSCNC for approval during the annual meeting or during any special meeting of the BSCNC in accordance with the procedures established for amending the articles of incorporation of the BSCNC.

Amendments to the Articles proposed by a messenger during the annual meeting or during any special meeting of the BSCNC shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the Biblical Recorder for notice and an opportunity for review. After the consideration of any written comments by the Board of Directors of the Biblical Recorder, the proposed amendment shall be eligible for approval during the next annual meeting of the BSCNC in accordance with procedures established for amending the articles of incorporation of the BSCNC.

A roach, a spider web, and a lesson on sin

Baptist Press

I hate roaches. I just loathe them. Maybe my disgust is compounded by growing up in Florida where the roaches had wings.

The only roach I want to see is a dead one – and even then I’m a little squeamish! Maybe it’s in my woman-DNA. I was reminded of this the other day when I looked down from my office desk and saw – you guessed it – a gigantic cockroach. But fortunately, this roach had a bigger problem than terrorizing me. It had gotten caught in a thin, almost unnoticeable spider’s web. The web was so imperceptible that you almost couldn’t even see the spider that was now slowly making its way to the flailing cockroach. The faster the roach moved in the web, the more it got entangled. And the more it got entangled the swifter its imminent destruction.

And I couldn’t help but wonder – aside from “where’s the nearest can of bug spray?” – how ironic that something so much stronger was about to be devoured by something so much weaker. I mean, bug-to-bug, it would have been no contest. The spider should’ve been running from him! But the spider had this one decisive advantage – its victim was ensnared. The moment that roach stepped into that web, it was only a matter of time before it would be destroyed. It’s the same with us. There’s a web waiting for you around the corner, and it’s got your name on it. In fact, it’s even closer than that. The sticky strings set out to destroy you are within you. Sound a little dramatic? Check out what Paul said about himself: “So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members” (Romans 7:21-23).

Paul must’ve known about the spider webs in his life. He knew sin was deceptive. He knew he was free from it. He knew he was a slave to righteousness and that there was no possible way that he could hang out, get tangled up, and be comfortable in the web of sin. But he also knew that his sin nature was constantly working to trap and ensnare him.

As Kris Lungaard teaches in *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin*: “Paul uses ‘law’ as a metaphor. He needs a way to express the power, authority, constraint, and control that sin wields in our lives. Gravity, for example, is a law that bends things in its direction. Gravity is not a law as an idea or an outward precept, but a force that can make objects ‘obey’ its will. Indwelling sin works like this – enticing, threatening even bullying. So Paul calls it a law to get us to see that it is powerful even in the lives of believers and that it constantly works to press us into its evil mold.”

If you’ve ever been frustrated with your own sinful patterns (again!), ever tearfully asked why you got tangled in that self-destructive web (again!), or ever been bewildered at how in the world you were so foolish as to believe the false promises of disobedience in exchange for God’s goodness to you (again!), you’ve found this law at work in you too! It’s the old you. The you that died with Christ on the cross. And it’s trying to stage the ultimate coup d’état by re-gaining control. “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you

from doing the things you want to do” (Galatians 5:17).

And this law isn’t just working to make us weak and ineffective – it’s set out to devour and destroy us. If the Spirit of Christ is in you, you’re stronger than the web of sin. Indwelling sin isn’t your dictator anymore. Jesus has “overthrown its rule, weakened its power, and even killed its root so that it cannot bear the fruit of eternal death in a believer. Still ... sin is sin. Its nature and purpose remain unchanged; its force and success still grab us by the throat.” (*The Enemy Within*) How do we, as resurrected, adopted, victorious, Spirit-filled children of the living God get trapped and ensnared by something so small, so defeated, so already dead? It all starts when we stumble into a web of compromise and become entangled by our sin.

What are the spiders in your life? We tend to think of the “big ones,” like the giant Shelob in “Lord of the Rings.” But more often than not, it’s those seemingly little things that, at first, don’t look so threatening. They may even be hiding in a corner, nearly imperceptible to everyone except the Guardian of your soul. Like that festering unforgiveness sprouting up. Or those signs of self-righteousness that aren’t at all about God’s glory.

Where are your sticky webs of compromise? You know, those things that set you up to become tangled (Hebrews 12:1)? Like that friendship with a co-worker that’s becoming a little more personal. Or the credit card that’s supposed to be for “emergencies” more urgent than a shoe sale? Once you walk into the web, you’re pretty much a gigantic roach trapped by an exponentially smaller spider.



KATIE MCCOY
Guest Column

It’s only a matter of time before you’ll be entangled, ensnared and devoured. Make no mistake, whatever your posture toward it may be right now, wherever you are in relationship to the web, it is serious stuff. Life and death serious. That’s why the Word uses such life and death language: “We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin

might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.” (Romans 6:6-7) “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:13) “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5).

“The sticky strings set out to destroy you ...”

How do we kill the stealthy spiders in our lives? By relying on the Spirit, through the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). Don’t just read the Word – let it soak deep down into your soul. Meditate on it. Write down a verse on a note card and speak it out loud. Feed and bolster your faith by putting God’s Words in your ears (Romans 10:17). For me, the Psalms have changed my life. I hear the Psalmist’s desperation and make it my own. “Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me” (Psalm 31:2). Their battle songs become my fighting anthem. “He teaches my hands to make war ... Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip. I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed” (from Psalm 18).

Cry out, plea, praise, declare, sing and proclaim God’s words of deliverance over and over again to your soul. You

See McCoy page 13

Remaining steadfast in prayer

In my previous column I urged North Carolina Baptists all across the state to pray for our state Convention’s annual meeting in Greensboro. I asked you to pray toward our theme of “Awaken,” or spiritual awakening. Now, I am asking for you to pray that the 182nd annual meeting of the Baptist



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

State Convention ignites a revival and a powerful movement of God unlike anything this state has seen.

We have been praying for months that God’s presence and work during the annual meeting would be a catalyst for spiritual renewal. However, our prayers must not cease when the annual meeting ends. If we stop now, we will not accomplish all that God wants to do through us as we become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel.

Prayer is the force that God’s Spirit uses to empower His church. God expects His children to pray. He is glorified through our prayers and blesses us when we pray. As we pray toward the will and purposes of God and apply His Word to our life, God molds and shapes us so that we become more like His Son. Intimate time alone with God in prayer and Bible study allows us to listen to our Heavenly Father, to worship Him and to bind our heart to His heart.

If you want to know more about how things are changing in our nation in relation to a decline in the influence of Christianity, get a copy of an excellent book written by Dr. Rit Varriale entitled *Reformation in Responsibility: A New Ethic for a New Era* (visit amazon.com). Rit is a member of the Convention’s Board of Directors and the pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby. No longer should the world have more influence on the church than the Church is having on the world.

I know that we live in difficult times, but I also know that when we pray toward His passion, God can use us to make a Spirit empowered difference around us. As the spiritual darkness in this world increases, it becomes even more crucial that we who are Christ followers live as salt and light in this world. As God’s children we are His redeemed people and He calls us to make a positive difference in the world.

“Awaken” cannot be only a theme for a two-day meeting; rather, it must be the consuming desire of our hearts every day. We must commit ourselves to seek God and to live holy lives that glorify God and give witness about Him to those who do not know Him as their personal Lord and Savior.

I pray that this year’s annual meeting is only just the beginning of a spiritual awakening that will achieve much more than any of us could have imagined.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” Ephesians 6:18 **BR**

Our partnership, His glory

On Paul's second missionary journey he visited Philippi. His connection with the city became one of those mission trip experiences that a person never forgets.

There he met Lydia, "a worshiper of God." When she heard the gospel, she believed and was baptized. Lydia and her family were the first Christian converts in Europe.

By the grace of God they became the nucleus of that continent's first church and a partner with Paul in the gospel.

They were not the only reason Paul had such a strong connection with the church at Philippi. There were many in the city whose eternal destiny had been changed by Christian conversion. Without question, the Philippian church held a treasured spot in Paul's heart.

Those special relationships prompted Paul to write, "I thank my God every time I remember you." What a tender comment! He continued, "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" Philippians 1:3-5 (NIV).

Paul treasured the partnership he had with the believers in Philippi.

The Greek word he used for "partnership" is the word *koinonia*. It is the unique word used to describe fellowship, partnership, association or community.

The first time the word is used in scripture is in this often-quoted text in Acts, "And they continued steadfastly in

the apostles' doctrine and *fellowship*, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers," (Acts 2:42 NKJ).

The same basic principle was recorded in the Old Testament, "Two are better than one..." (Eccl. 4:9a).



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

There is an unbelievable power in partnership that goes beyond emotions. It makes our work exponentially more productive. Mathematically, it moves the advance of the gospel from addition to multiplication.

Fast food restaurants like Wendy's and Chick-fil-A know this principle well. One outlet can sell a lot of food.

But when they open other outlets and partner with them, the name brand broadens and the sales go up.

As I work among North Carolina Baptists, I believe I experience the same spiritual connection Paul felt. Our partnership in the gospel is treasured and unique. We have the privilege of impacting eternity together in ways we could never do alone.

I am blessed to visit many churches and associations across the state.

The "partnership in the gospel" or *koinonia* I experience in these gatherings is powerful. In recent weeks, my experience with Gerald Morris, director of missions, at the Tuckasee Baptist Association's annual meeting showed me some powerful ministry God is doing in western N.C.

Another visit with the Metrolina Baptist Association's meeting reminded me of the effective ministry happening in the Char-

lotte area under Bob Lowman's leadership. I am filled with joy because of these partnerships!

I preached recently in pulpits at Mount Pleasant Baptist, State Road; Alexis Baptist, Alexis; Pole Creek Baptist, Candler; and Oakwoods Baptist, Wilkesboro.

Being in these local churches gives me a snapshot of the exciting work of the Holy Spirit in the local church, which is "ground zero" of kingdom work.

It also reminds me that N.C. Baptists are applying the principle, "Two is better than one." We have many "outlets" for the gospel across the state and around the world. Each one is a partnership ministry as we join together for the proclamation of the gospel.

Each brings exponential benefit to the ultimate mission.

Expanding this principle, local churches and associations unite to support the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, North Carolina Baptist Men, North American missions, International missions and many more kingdom ministries. What a partnership!

Unlike the fast food industry, our end result is not simply feeding people for the moment, but giving them food for eternity. We do not exist to make another dollar, but to bring glory to God.

He gets glory out of our partnership. Our joyful *koinonia* brings honor to His name.

As North Carolina Baptists focus on a fresh awakening at this year's annual meeting in Greensboro, I pray that we will capture a greater vision of the power of working together in the partnership of the gospel. **BR**

TAR HEEL VOICES

Thank you, N.C. Baptists

From Philadelphia to Erie and many points in between, thank you to all the North Carolina partnership teams who came to Pennsylvania to help us this summer. Twenty five teams did 40 projects. We pray that you were blessed by the experience of helping fellow Christians. We certainly were blessed by you giving of your time, talents and finances. Truly the "harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few" here.

There are already about 30 requests for help next summer listed on the Baptists

on Mission website. We pray that you will consider coming once again to the "Harvest Fields."

God bless each of you!

**Roger Carlson NAMB MSC,
Construction Coordinator
Baptist Convention Pennsylvania/
South Jersey**

(EDITOR'S NOTE – To find out more about the projects, visit the Baptists on Mission website at: baptistsonmission.org. Click "Ministries," then "Partnerships;" under "Projects," click on "United States" and then, "Pennsylvania.")

McCoy Continued from page 12

will kill your spiders. In fact, they will run from you. How can we see through the sticky webs of compromise?

By seeing Jesus in all of His glory and worth and magnificence, which transforms us "into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18). The same Jesus who is for you (Psalm 56:9). Who is good and never holding out on you (Ps. 84:11). Who cares about your joy even more than you do (John 15:11, 16:24). Maybe you're ensnared in the web right now. Perhaps what looked like a small spider of sin is now an enormous in-your-face force of destruction. What hope do you have? Cry out to God right now, just like Paul did: "Wretched man that I am!

Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25).

He has killed all your spiders – no matter how big and ferocious or small and familiar (Colossians 2:13-15). He is guiding you away from the cobwebs (Psalm 18:30-34). And He will – He will – keep you from becoming entangled again (Jude 1:24).

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Katie McCoy is the editor of Biblical-Woman.org – where this column first appeared – and is pursuing a PhD in Systematic Theology at Southwestern Seminary. Biblical-Woman.org is a blog of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.) **BR**

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November 18

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

November 25

Engage in Kingdom Building

Focal Passages: Acts 13:1-4; 14:21-28

Henry Blackaby reminded us several years ago, “Where God guides, God provides.” Consequently, we must make sure we are discerning God’s guidance and not personal hunches, emotional directives or pursuits of current trends. The opening verses of Acts 13 remind us that God’s guidance is best understood through worshipping Him. When real worship happens we shift our focus to God’s praiseworthiness and reap the fruits of a Christ-centered life. In this case, leaders in the early church set apart Paul and Barnabas as missionaries according to the Holy Spirit’s leadership. We will never play a significant role in God’s kingdom work without seeking His face and responding to His direction.

The growth of God’s kingdom won’t happen apart from teaching His kingdom principles. Sadly, many contemporary American Christians seem to prefer entertainment over instruction. Some people are entertained by laughter, some by tears, and others by fire and brimstone preaching. However, these things are of no value if people aren’t being taught the Word of God. Jesus’ Great Commission mandate calls us to make disciples

through baptizing and teaching. We must not stop with teaching people enough to come to faith in Christ and then counting their baptisms. Public profession must be followed by further training in righteousness so that believers will be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:17). Only biblical instruction will prepare believers for the tribulations of discipleship.

One of the great fruits of missions comes through unity in diversity. As we take to the mission field we encounter an unbelievable variety of language, culture, geography, etc., but none of that diversity should impress us as much as the unnatural unity among believers.

People who once hated each other now love and encourage each other as fellow kingdom citizens because of the tie that binds them – the blood of Jesus. In the book of Acts this truth is clearly seen in the pronouncement of faith among the Gentiles. Even today God is calling people who (like the Gentiles in Acts) are known as heathens and turning them into fellow heirs of His grace.



TROY RUST
Senior pastor, Somerset
Baptist Church,
Roxboro

Focal Passage: Acts 17:16-31

A song from several years back reminded us that “everything old is new again.” This claim is often true not only in the fashion world, but also in evangelism and missions. For example, Acts 17 shows us that highly educated skeptic philosophers are not a new breed.

Even though we don’t wear Paul’s tunic, we can learn timeless lessons from this chapter on how to witness to the “up and out.”

He saw the idolatry of the people, went to their marketplace, and took the gospel with him.

The 21st century has more sophisticated idols and marketplaces, but we are still

called to share the unchanging gospel to remedy an unchanging lostness apart from Christ.

Paul’s Mar’s Hill sermon provides a great example of his desire to be “all things to all men” (1 Cor 9:22).

At the Areopagus he began with the common ground of religious belief and the altar to an unknown God, providing

a wonderful segue to the true and living God and salvation through Jesus.

When Paul talked with unbelieving Jews, he argued from the Old Testament. When I recently witnessed to an atheist in Spain, I approached the gospel by addressing the man’s rejection of his catholic upbringing and shared some basic proofs for the existence of God. Wherever God sends you, do your best to know your audience.

Whomever God places in your path, make sure you get to the gospel. Even good apologetic arguments for the existence of God fall short of their goal if we don’t use them as stepping stones to Jesus Christ and Him crucified. As we get to the gospel we will, by necessity, contradict many false beliefs.

For example, Paul quickly dismissed the idea that God needed anything from men and established Him as the creator of all mankind.

Although we hope for widespread acceptance of the gospel, sometimes people become more offended as we dig to the heart of the gospel.

Although most of the philosophers on Mar’s Hill sneered at the resurrection, “some men joined him and believed” (Acts 17:34). They are the ones we’re looking for!

November 18

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

November 25

Living with Troublemakers

Focal Passages: 2 Peter 2:1-22; Jude 1-25

Jesus’ words “be wise as serpents and innocent as doves” is apt instruction concerning the elusive doctrinal deception that often occurs in the body of Christ. It takes intellectual shrewdness to detect the words of a theological troublemaker. False teachers have always been a threat to the purity of the gospel, especially when they appeal to human sensuality, the questioning of biblical authority, and the desire for material gain. False teachers that have gone astray face God’s judgment for leading others to the waterless springs of Godless desires. They promise freedom, but deliver slavery and corruption.

J.I. Packer argues that the church is to be “a learning and teaching fellowship in which the passing on of what we learn becomes a regular part of the service we render to each other.” The most loving act we can offer our brothers and sisters in Christ is to admonish one another to the truth, even if it requires correction. Without theological accountability the

passing on of troublesome teaching becomes too pervasive.

The dissemination of false teaching has stretched well beyond the local church. Where false teaching was once contained by geography, it is now propagated through mass media, the Internet, and even in “Christian” literature. The gospel of health, wealth, and prosperity is not only readily available to Christians everywhere, it also appeals to humanity’s deepest sensual and material desires.

The gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in God’s authoritative word should be the litmus test of all teaching. Anyone who peddles a message that our best life is found by pursuing the good and benefits from this life now, inordinately takes the good gifts of God and establishes them above the giver, God Himself. May we be satisfied with Him and Him alone! Jesus’ presence and approval is all we need for everlasting joy.



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

Focal Passage: 2 Peter 3:1-18

The need for assurance is deeply imbedded into the human heart. As Christians we sometimes question the goodness and reliability of

God when we become impatient with the things He has promised when they are not delivered on our terms or in our time.

At the heart of our questioning is doubt in God’s love for us.

Our waning trust and lack of assurance in God’s word is often aggravated and brought to the surface by painful situations in this life.

This can be especially the case when one considers the everlasting joy and fulfillment that lies ahead in the new heavens and new earth as compared to our present lives. Have you ever felt forsaken by God?

Peter assures us that the Lord is not

slow to fulfill his promises.

Until that day, let us be a people who endure by holding fast to all that is offered in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

May we continually remind ourselves that we are secure in Christ and sealed with the Spirit.

What amazing grace is found in the love of God, as J.D. Greear has written, “There is nothing we can do that will make God love us more and nothing we can do that will make God love us less.”

Christ was forsaken by God at the cross so that we could have assurance that God would never forsake us.

Therefore, let us be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Finding assurance in the love of God is promised in His Word.

As we reflect on the Good News of the gospel we will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is the only thing that will bring us lasting assurance.

Living with Assurance

Worship STYLES

Many churches struggle with worship styles and the types of music that are used in worship. It is important that we all separate our personal preferences and pre-conceived ideas when we evaluate what worship should look like in our churches. These are some attitudes we need to shed as we consider this:

– Some people are convinced that their preferred style of worship is the only style that should be considered. They look down on churches that are not of like mind.

– Fear of conflict. This unfortunately has kept too many churches frozen in time rather than connecting with our culture, thinking missionally, and allowing God's revelation to this generation to have a voice in worship. I have had several pastors say their church worships as they did in the 50's and 60's. And they don't intend to change that because they have not and will not experience conflict

in worship.

– Fear that we might be wrong. After all, we have invested quite a bit of resources into our current worship ministries. What if we are not lining up with God's desire for His church?

I think Charles Swindoll, in his book, *The Church Awakening*, summed it up very well: What God intended for His glory and for our corporate and personal growth – worship – has been transformed from a soul-deep commitment to an ugly, carnal fight. If there is anything that brings delight to Satan, it is the disruption of the worship of God.

It's time to lay down the weapons, the insults, the accusations, the selfish desires, and all the other stuff that keep our focus on things that do not matter. Let's strive for worship that glorifies God.

– Kenny Lamm



Kenny Lamm

EDITOR'S NOTE – Kenny Lamm is a Worship & Ministry Team consultant. For more information you can reach him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5638, or klamm@ncbaptist.org. Visit his blog at www.RenewingWorshipNC.org.

engaging NC Baptists in worship
renewing worship

Operation Christmas Child collection week near

National Collection Week for gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child is Nov. 12-19 but N.C. Baptist churches have been gathering boxes for weeks and will continue to do so year-round. The main push, however, is in the fall as Christmas nears.

The shoe box effort is part of Samaritan's Purse, which has its headquarters in Boone, N.C.

The goal this year is 100 million boxes. For information about dropoff sites across North Carolina, visit www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ or call (704) 583-1463.



CHRISTMAS EVENT

Durham Memorial Baptist in Durham is inviting people to a living nativity story through "Back To Bethlehem" Dec. 7-9. Inside the church's Family Life Center, there will be a Bethlehem street featuring 15-18 shops (carpentry, fish, spices, etc.). As people pass by each shop they will learn how the coming Messiah has just been born in this small town and what

this means to the people living and working there.

In partnership with Cornerstone Community Church and Iglesia Hispana Durham Memorial, the event will be 6-9 p.m. on Dec. 7-8 and 4-7 p.m. on Dec. 9. The church is located at 133 Robbins Road, Durham, NC 27703. Call (919) 596-7350 for more information.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Woodland Baptist Church, Wake Forest, NC, is seeking a **pastor** to serve our growing rural/urban neighborhood and congregation. The church, for 150 years, has been primarily traditional in worship style and program organizations. Woodland Baptist is affiliated with the Raleigh Baptist Association as well as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We are a church that strives to function with a strong commitment of winning souls to Jesus Christ. Our church is served by a diaconate of men and women in an environment where all members' spiritual gifts are valued and utilized throughout all programs of the church. A seminary/divinity school degree is required and a minimum of 5 years experience in the pastorate is preferred. Please send resume including references to: Pastor Search Committee at: Woodland.Baptist.PSC@gmail.com. Resumes will be accepted through 12-31-12.

Pine Grove Baptist Church, Lugoff, SC, seeks **full-time Pastor**. Pastoral experience and Bible college degree required; seminary degree preferred. We're a traditional Southern Baptist church with traditional values. He must believe in the infallible, inerrant Word of God, love people, and desire to see people come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Send resumes to: Pine Grove Baptist Church Search Committee, 836 Pine Grove Rd., Lugoff, SC 29078 or pingrovesearchcommittee@yahoo.com.

Beulah Baptist Church, Yanceyville, NC, seeks **full-time Pastor** to live in parsonage. We're an SBC church, member of the Beulah Association and love the Lord. For more information email pbowes3078@comcast.net or call 336-694-6330. Send resumes to Neal Bowes, 3078 NC 119 N., Leasburg, NC 27291.

Church Staff

First Baptist Church, Forest City, NC, is seeking a **part-time or bi-vocational (20 hr/wk) Minister to Children/Youth** to coordinate teen/child ministries. Send resumes to Brian Day, Personnel Committee Chair, First Baptist Church, 211 West Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043.

First Baptist Church, Troy, seeks a **part-time/Intern Minister of Children & Youth**. Bachelors degree preferred. Send resume to: ATTN: Rosemary Huntley, FBC, PO Box 442, Troy, NC 27371, or email secretary@fbctroync.com. Submission deadline: December 1.

Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church, Wrightsville Beach, NC, seeks **full-time Worship/Music Minister**. WRBCC 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.

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, 3612 John Watts Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.

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@fbcthamasville.com.

Miscellaneous

NCBAM needs to hear from North Carolina Baptist ministers 65 or older. We're planning a special tier of services just for you! Call 877.506.2226 for more information.

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Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org
- Submit the information via the Recorder's website at BRnow.org
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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.

BRnow.org

Sandy

Continued from page 1

and the witness of our disaster relief volunteers. Pray that God's love will be shown to hurting people and they will want to know more about our great God who loves them.

- Go. If you are interested and able to go and help, please go to NCBM's website to sign up. Go to baptistsonmission.org/Sandy. Updates are also available on the website and NCBM's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ncmissions](https://www.facebook.com/ncmissions).

- Give. Give to help those in need. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check payable to NC Baptist Men, designated for Disaster Relief, and mail to: N.C. Baptist Men, Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512. You can also give online at baptistsonmission.org. Also, please support the N.C. Missions Offering. All of N.C. Baptist Men's regular budget comes from the N.C. Missions Offering.

Other relief efforts

Southern Baptists from Kentucky, New York and Virginia were working at feeding kitchens in New York. In New Jersey, N.C. volunteers were joined by others from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and South Carolina to feed storm victims. Virginia volunteers continued to serve alongside West Virginia volunteers in the Mountaineer state. Assessment teams were working in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. Chainsaw and recovery teams were also at work across the region.

Fritz Wilson, executive director for disaster relief for the North American Mission Board, said he expects



Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers prepare a meal for victims of Hurricane Sandy at the North Carolina Baptist Men's feeding kitchen on the campus of Rutgers University. Preparing a meal of baked chicken, from left, are Anne Chilton of Pilot, Marry Carroll of Hamlet and Judy Barbee of Charlotte. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

most of the teams to be serving in the New York City area by Nov. 5, with a capacity to produce 450,000 hot meals each day. Potential requests for additional meal-per-day capacity could take the number well above 450,000 meals per day provided by SBDR volunteers.

From its disaster operations center in Alpharetta, Ga., NAMB coordinates Southern Baptist responses to major disasters through a partnership between NAMB and the SBC's 42 state conventions, most of which have their own state disaster relief programs.

SBDR assets include 82,000 trained volunteers, including chaplains, and some 1,550 mobile units for

feeding, chainsaw, mud-out, command, communication, childcare, shower, laundry, water purification, repair/rebuild and power generation. SBDR is one of the three largest mobilizers of trained disaster relief volunteers in the United States, along with the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

Southern Baptists and others who want to donate to the disaster relief operations can contact their state conventions or go to NAMB's disaster relief fund site at namb.net/disaster-relief-donations. Other ways to donate are to call (866) 407-NAMB (6262) or mail checks to NAMB, P.O. Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543. Designate checks for "Disaster Relief."

Partnership in Cuba

In an Oct. 26 email Richard Brunson, executive director of North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM), asked for prayers for the people of Cuba. With sustained winds of 105 mph, Sandy, then a category 2 storm, struck near Santiago, Cuba. NCBM has a partnership with the Eastern Baptist Convention of Cuba.

Assessment teams were in the Caribbean working with local pastors to help get aid to needed areas.

"More than 300,000 houses and other facilities have been partially or totally destroyed in the city," said Victor Manuel Quesada, a pastor in eastern Cuba. "Every street in most of the main cities and towns in the province are blockaded by trees, junk and demolished materials. The situation is indescribable."


(EDITOR'S NOTE - Information was pulled from stories available through Baptist Press.) **BR**

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AFTER THEY PRAYED
THE PLACE WAS
SHAKEN ACTS 4:31
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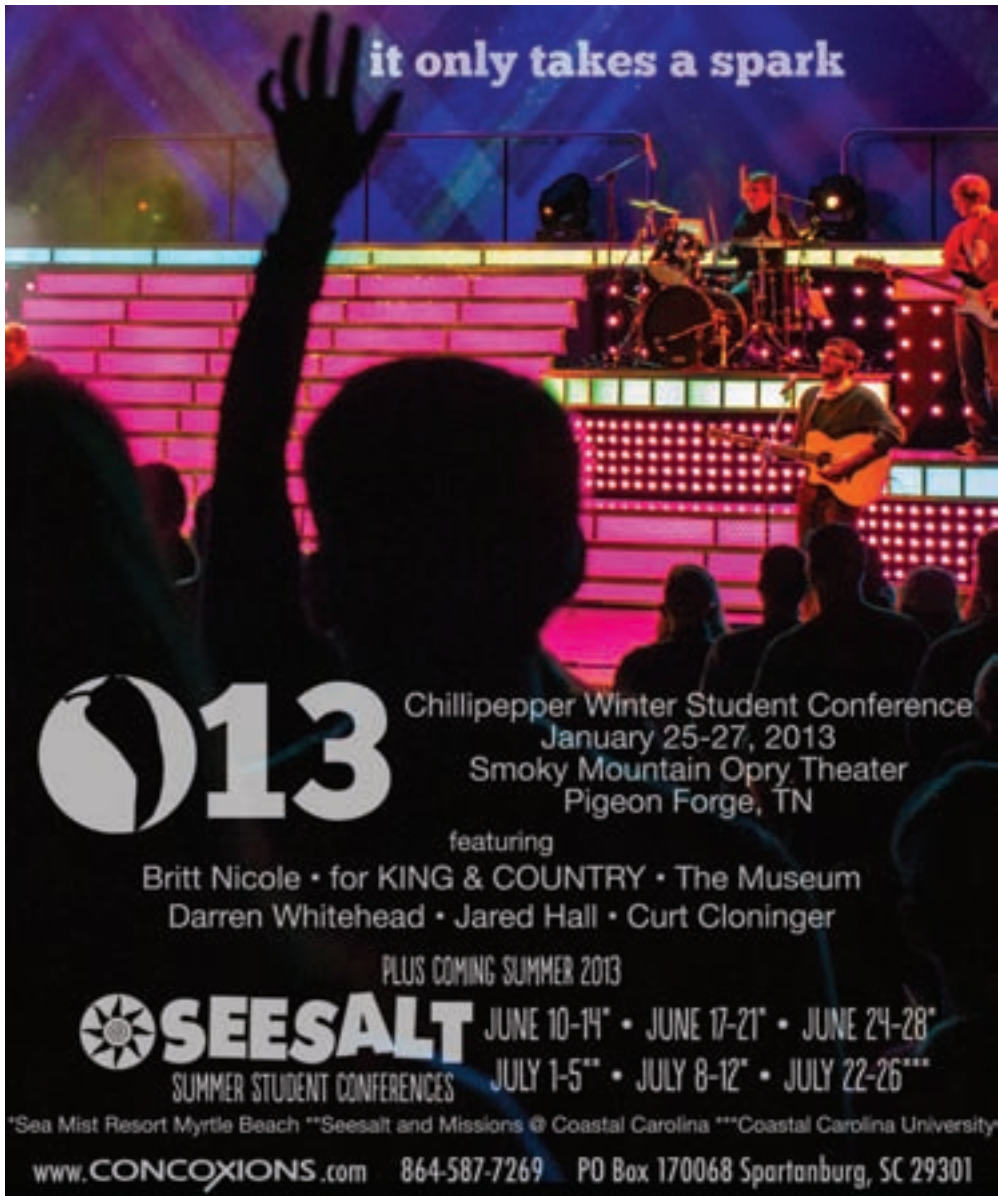
 <p>Mel Blackaby Senior Pastor First Baptist Church Jonesboro, GA</p>	 <p>Chad Pollard Worship Pastor Parkwood Baptist Church Gastonia, NC</p>	<p>Register with Ridgecrest at (800) 588-7222 For more information visit praync.org</p>
 <p>Richard Owen Roberts President International Awakening Ministries Wheaton, IL</p>	 <p>J. Chris Schofield Director Office of Prayer BSCNC Cary, NC</p>	

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