

Simple shoe box changes life

For a young Romanian girl, a shoe box from Operation Christmas Child made a difference years ago. Now the woman, a member of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, shares this ministry with students in her classroom and at church. Her shoe box showed God answers prayers. **Page 2A**



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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N.C. churches find ways to give to Lottie Moon

By **DIANNA L. CAGLE** | *BR assistant managing editor*

Of the 18 N.C. Baptist churches among the 200 top Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) givers of 2010, the smallest has an average attendance of 310 people on Sunday morning.

“It’s important for the whole church to catch the vision,” said Keith Whitener, senior pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Matthews.

Even though Idlewild has been on the list for a few years, Whitener said it still surprises and saddens him that a church of its size would measure that well against churches with far greater numbers.

On average each person in his church gave \$298.51.

“I’d love to see \$100 per person,” said Whitener of each church on the list. His church ranked No. 147. “That would be far greater than what we’re giving right now.”

“People will spend more on Halloween than they’ll give to Lottie Moon. The Great Commission has got to become the heartbeat and the passion of the church.”

That starts with the pastor and the church’s leaders.

Idlewild has done different things to promote the LMCO as well as other offerings throughout the year.

“One of the big challenges we started putting in front of our people is reminding them whose birthday this is,” Whitener said. “The birthday person gets the biggest gift. We just want to make sure we sacrificially give that gift.”

The church has used penny races or competitions between classes.

Whitener said giving to missions is

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Honoring veterans

Maplewood Baptist member awarded Bronze Star

By **RICK HOUSTON** | *Special to the Recorder*

There are people like Gene Dinkins in every Baptist church in North Carolina.

He’s the older gentleman who always sits as close to the back row as he can get, not because it’s the cool place to be but instead so he and his wife can get in and out of the sanctuary a little easier.

Every Sunday morning they’re able to attend, he very carefully and gently helps her with her walker. Always soft-spoken, he’ll smile, shake hands and exchange a greeting or two. Most of his fellow church members know he was in the military a long time ago, but not much more than that. Fellow church members wonder about it, but don’t press the issue.

Yet there’s so much more to the story.

On Oct. 9, his 90th birthday, Dinkins was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in the darkest days of World War II during a ceremony at Maplewood Baptist Church in Yadkinville. A

member of the Army’s 79th Infantry Division, Dinkins hit Utah Beach on June 14, 1944, eight days after the initial landings on D-Day.

For the next 10 months, he and the rest of the 79th fought their way across Europe and saw action in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Czechoslovakia.

“As you know, our World War II veterans are becoming a scarce group,” said Jimmy Lancaster, Maplewood’s longtime pastor, during the Sunday-morning service honoring Dinkins. “Because of their age, we are losing them in record number. When I was called several months ago and asked if there was a way we could take time to give proper tribute and to pay honor to a gentleman who had served our country abroad, I said, ‘By all means.’”

The medal was made possible by an act of Congress authorizing the Bronze Star for World War II veterans who served in combat and had not already received the decoration. David

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A simple shoe box changes Izabella's life forever

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Anytime Izabella saw a crowd running she started running, too, as fast as she could, even if she didn't know why the crowd was racing to the grocery store. "We knew that whatever was on the new shipment we didn't have at home. So we were taught to run. My brother and I got a place in line and then my parents caught up with us, bringing the money," she said.

Izabella's family was allowed only to shop at their assigned grocery store. She remembers one time waiting in line more than 24 hours for four bananas, and after waiting in line all that time, waiting several days before eating them.

"My mom put the bananas on the top shelf, out of reach, and told us we couldn't eat them yet. She said they had to turn yellow. I had no idea why we had to wait for them to turn yellow, and I had no idea how she knew they would turn yellow," Izabella said.

Growing up in the Communist-ruled country of Romania was not easy. Izabella's parents worked hard, but there was still no money for electricity. They went to work very early in the mornings, and Izabella and her brother, with only the help of an alarm clock, were left to get themselves up and ready for school. Izabella was 3 years old and her brother was 6 years old when this became their normal pattern of life.

They walked to and from school by themselves. They did their homework and then waited for mom and dad to come home.

Izabella and her brother enjoyed reading books to help pass the time. They only had four or five books and knew them cover to cover. When they discovered a new book hidden under the floorboard in the living room they couldn't wait to read it.

They began reading from page one and set out to read the entire book. "To me and my brother, this was just a new book filled with exciting stories," Izabella said. They did not yet know the stories in the book actually happened.

One day they told their dad about the book they found. "He told us we could never tell anyone we had that book in our house. We knew he was serious," Izabella said.

Her dad knew if anyone found out they had the book, which they later



Izabella McMillon, seen here with her family, went to her home country of Romania to distribute Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes last year. Izabella was given one of these boxes when she was 13.

learned was the Bible, in their home their family could die. Just walking on the street holding a Bible was illegal and grounds for government officials to kill someone on the spot, no questions asked. But Izabella and her brother couldn't put the new storybook down. They continued reading every day

huddled under a blanket with a

flashlight. From their upstairs window they could see their parents walking home from work, giving them time to return the book to its hiding place.

Izabella knew her dad didn't want them talking about the Bible, but that didn't stop her from asking to go to church with

a classmate on Saturday nights. After saying "no" for a long time her parents

would a friend, and that God would always hear and answer my prayers."

To a young girl looking at months of dreadfully cold weather, she knew just what to pray for: snow. She prayed for weeks that turned into months and still no snow. Izabella's pastor told her that God always answers prayer, even if not in the way she expected.

Izabella continued praying for snow, and still nothing. She began doubting that God existed and was ready to give up ever having her prayer answered.

God did answer, and He did so in a way that changed her life forever. When Izabella was 13 she received an Operation Christmas Child shoe box from Samaritan's Purse. She remembers running to catch up with a crowd of children and thinking they were headed to the store like usual. The crowd gathered around a truck and a group of people passing out shoe boxes. Izabella hesitated at first when offered a box because no one ever gave her anything for free. A woman knelt down, told her the gift was free, and asked if she had any prayer requests.

"She didn't laugh at me or tell me my prayer request was silly. She prayed with me right then for snow," Izabella said.

Izabella had to wait for the other children to get their boxes. When it was time to open them, one of the toys inside Izabella's box was a snow globe. She didn't know what it was or what to do with it until a boy standing next to her took her hand and turned the snow globe upside down.

As Izabella watched the snow fall inside that small globe her heart was overwhelmed. "That was a life-changing moment for me," she said. "Of course I had a lot of growing and learning to do, but in that moment, I decided that if there was a God who would orchestrate such an event in my life just to show me He loved me and cared about even the

finally gave her permission.

Izabella had many questions for the pastor. "I had never heard anyone pray. I told the pastor I was reading about prayer and wanted to know how to pray," she said.

"He told me to talk to God like I

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CHURCH NEWS



First Baptist Church, Clayton

First Baptist Church, Clayton, celebrated its bicentennial throughout October. At left, long-time member Buck Lee rings the church bell that was originally hung in the belfry of the 19th century sanctuary. It was restored and relocated to commemorate the bicentennial year of the church. Speakers for the bicentennial services were Jerry Wallace, president of Campbell University; Roy DeBrand, former interim pastor; and Mark T. White, current pastor of the church. A church history book was also prepared to commemorate the church's 200 years.

Guilford Baptist Church, Greensboro

It was a team effort to pull off the fifth dental clinic at Guilford Baptist Church, Greensboro. The North Carolina Baptist Men's dental bus returned to the church Oct. 21-22 to provide cleanings, fillings and extractions. About 50 Guilford members and 20 dental providers saw 82 patients. Each patient received a hygiene kit with dental samples, scripture about salvation, and a New Testament Bible. This free clinic serves people who do not have dental insurance regardless of their job status. A prayer room also was available for patients who had prayer requests. See photo gallery online at *BRnow.org*. (Photo by John R. Bell/Touch A Life Photography)



Liberty Baptist Church, Hendersonville

Founded in 1848, Liberty Baptist Church, Hendersonville, recently celebrated its 163rd anniversary. A former pastor, Harold McKinnish, preached. Members participated in singing hymns and sharing a fellowship meal. The current pastor, O.D. Rhodes, is a descendant of the founding pastor, H.W. Patterson

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619-8808.

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AROUND THE STATE

Retirements

KINNEY WALLACE has retired from First Baptist Church, Locust, after 33 years as pastor. Wallace has served three churches in the Stanly Baptist Association for 43 years. He and his wife, Marie, will live in Midland, where he will be available for supply or interim work: (704) 888-4771.



KINNEY WALLACE

DAN FREEMAN is retiring from the pastoral ministry after serving Berea Baptist Church, Mooresville, for over 23 years. Freeman also served First Baptist Church, Stanfield, and North Laurinburg Baptist Church, Laurinburg. He and his wife, Judy, will retire to the area at present, and Freeman is available for interim and supply work at (704) 664-2792.

Staff changes

Cherry Point Baptist Church, Havelock, has called **STEPHEN EPPERSON** as pastor. Epperson is a retired Navy chaplain and was the interim pastor at Cherry Point.

JOEY JESSUP has been called to Victory Baptist Church, Mount Airy, as pastor. Jessup served in Dobson at Copeland Baptist Church as his first pastorate.

Hampstead Baptist Church, Hampstead, has called **DONALD L. POPE** as their new pastor. Pope began his ministry at Hampstead Baptist on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011.

BUD PARRISH has been called to Piedmont Baptist Association, Greensboro, as associate director of missions. Parrish was the director of missions for Robeson Baptist Association, Lumberton, and has served in several churches.

Temple Baptist Church, Wilmington, has called **STEVE A. SPANGLER** as pastor.

JOEY HARRIS has been called as minister of children and youth at First Baptist Church, Mayodan. This is Harris' first church staff position.

Corinth Baptist Church, Louisburg, has called **MATTHEW BOWDEN** as pastor. Bowden was the associate pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Greensboro.

NATE WOOD has been called to Hampton Heights Baptist Church, Eden, as pastor. Wood is coming from the senior pastor role at Ellery Baptist Church, Bemus Point, N.Y.

SHANNON CRITCHER has been called as senior pastor of Millers Creek Baptist Church, Millers Creek. He has served as a staff minister of the church for 17 years, with responsibilities in youth, children and discipleship ministries.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Transform 122 offers collegiate mission trips

Transform 122, a partnership between N.C. Baptist Men and Campus Ministry, offers U.S. and overseas mission trips to college students.

Campus ministers on college campuses and college ministers in churches are welcome to sign up as a group. Individuals can also sign up for a missions experience. Some trips available in 2012 include New York, Cuba and South Africa. Check out Transform 122 at baptistsonmission.org/Projects/Collegiate.aspx.

BSC to host vocational evangelists

The Vocational Evangelists Conference at Caraway Conference Center will be held Jan. 12-13. The Baptist State Convention's Evangelism & Church Growth team will sponsor the event.

Enjoy worship with Cindy Johnson and Stage 2 Ministries. Speakers will include Darrell Robinson, Thomas Hammond, Chuck Register, Bruce Parsons and Dale Elwell.

Register by Dec. 16 through ncbaptist.org or contact Rebbeca Harbinson: (800) 395-5102, ext. 5563; evangelism@ncbaptist.org.



N.C. churches find ways to give to Lottie Moon

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not an either/or but a both/and ... meaning that church members should go on mission and give to mission causes.

"If they go on a mission trip they'll come back with a different worldview," he said. "I see glimmers of hope that some churches are beginning to see beyond their four walls."

Christmas is a busy time at the church. Not only do they promote Lottie Moon, but they collect shoe boxes and participate in Angel Tree.

"We do a lot at Christmas but our people just passionately want to do and want to serve," said Whitener, who expressed gratitude that his church members want to give.

Whitener said one of the first mission trips he went on with the church was to Botswana when he became pastor 12 years ago.

"We had no money in the budget for a mission trip," he said. "We took 13 people. I don't know how that happened but God."

The church also has active men's and women's groups.

One year the children's ministry set a goal of \$400-\$500 in change over four weeks. They collected more than \$1,000.

Parkwood tops list

The highest ranking Lottie Moon giver in North Carolina is Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia.

Ranked at No. 4, Parkwood's 1,125 average Sunday morning attendance each gave \$472.27 to the offering.

Parkwood Senior Pastor Jeff Long was surprised by the ranking.

Part of the reason the church ranked so high was that an extra offering in 2009 was counted as part of the 2010 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering even though it wasn't meant to be.

Long said Parkwood has been consistently generous in its offering, but not that generous.

The church's Mission Impact Celebration, held each November before the Lottie Moon offering probably helps the church's numbers, Long said.

"(The celebration) is such a part of our culture; people save all year to give to that," said Long. "They don't just think about it when we promote it."

The celebration lets the church's members meet missionaries. Long said the church uses multiple outlets

— pulpit, bulletins, emails, website, etc. — to get the message about missions across to its members, "whatever creative way we can let people know what's going on," Long said.

The pastor said the church's purpose says it all: "The purpose of Parkwood Baptist Church is to glorify God by laboring together for the growth of all believers while going with the gospel to all people(s)."

Long emphasizes glorify, grow and go.

The church also is a strong giver to Annie Armstrong Easter Offering as well as promoting local ministries.

Parkwood promotes church planting and works with people groups in Honduras and Nigeria.

"We're trying to determine the best ways to minister without creating a paternalistic culture," Long said. "We want them to be able to reproduce it on their own."

SBC name change task force meets

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The task force appointed to study the prospect of changing the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) name held its first meeting Oct. 26 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Convention President Bryant Wright announced the 20-member task force during the opening session of the SBC Executive Committee's Sept. 19-20 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

The announcement prompted a lively debate across the convention about the pros and cons of making such a change.

The 16 task force members attending the Oct. 26 meeting spent "a great deal" of time in prayer, aware of the far-reaching implications a name change would

have, task force chairman Jimmy Draper said in an Oct. 26 statement.

"We spent a great deal of time in prayer, believing that we need God's guidance and divine wisdom as we seek to serve Southern Baptists in this consideration," Draper said.

"We received a review of the history of the SBC name issue and are aware of the weighty matters that have been brought to light by previous studies and considerations."

The committee's work centers on whether the Southern Baptist mission would be advanced by a name change.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — The full text of this story and the statement released is available online at BRnow.org.) **BR**

Top N.C. givers

North Carolina has 18 Baptist churches ranked in the Top 200 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering givers for 2010:

4. Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia: \$531,306.38
5. Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem: \$513,679.76
33. Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone: \$214,761.22
39. The Summit Church, Durham: \$192,400.00
74. Green Street Baptist Church, High Point: \$131,206.45
85. Hendersonville First Baptist Church: \$121,000.00
93. Durham First Baptist Church: \$116,218.01
94. Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte: \$115,937.58
99. Charlotte First Baptist Church: \$112,005.93
113. Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Raleigh: \$104,957.59
126. Denver Baptist Church, Denver: \$100,641.65
131. Englewood Baptist Church, Rocky Mount: \$99,999.96
141. Cary First Baptist Church: \$93,622.13
147. Idlewild Baptist Church, Matthews: \$92,537.13
148. Grey Stone Baptist Church, Durham: \$92,329.20
171. Corinth Baptist Church, Elizabeth City: \$82,810.27
172. Carmel Baptist Church, Matthews: \$82,566.65
179. Westwood Baptist Church, Roxboro: \$80,480

The church took its first adult mission trip in 2000.

"From there 'til where we are today is kind of amazing," he said. "Look at what the Lord is doing and has done."

The Week of Prayer for International Missions is Dec. 4-11.

This year's theme is "His heart, His

hands, His voice — I am Southern Baptist missions" focusing on Acts 1:8. The offering goal is \$175 million.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Look in future issues of the Biblical Recorder and online at BRnow.org for more stories regarding the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and missionaries serving with the International Mission Board.) **BR**



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Enrollment up at Baptist colleges

BR staff

All five of the colleges and universities with ties to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina listed enrollment increases for fall. Below is a breakdown of enrollment figures and information from each institution.

Campbell University

Campbell University's enrollment ticked up by a few students to 3,049, from 3,034 in 2008. This figure includes 1,136 new students, more than 20 percent of whom are from outside the state.

The university's total enrollment more than doubles when graduate schools and satellite campuses are added to the equation.

Recently Campbell has been awarded pre-accreditation status for its new School of Osteopathic Medicine by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic Association.

Pre-accreditation is the initial recognition status awarded by COCA, headquartered in Chicago. Gaining pre-accreditation status is an important milestone in Campbell University's plan to open North Carolina's first new medical school in 35 years, as well as the state's first school of osteopathic medicine.

The proposed Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine, with an estimated start date of fall 2013, will be the second largest medical school in the state by class size.

Only the medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will have greater enrollment. By its fourth year of operation, Campbell expects to have 600 medical students.

Campbell will look to gain provisional accreditation from COCA. Provisional accreditation can be awarded to those institutions that achieved pre-accreditation status and meet the standards for accreditation, following a self-study and site visit. Provisional accreditation could be awarded in 2012. Campbell hopes to achieve this status and begin recruiting students for the fall of 2013.

A groundbreaking ceremony for a new 97,000-square-foot medical school facility will be held by early 2012. The school will be located on U.S. 421 in Buies Creek about one-quarter mile from the main Campbell University campus and will cost more than \$60 million in construction and start-up costs.

Chowan University

Chowan University in Murfreesboro topped its enrollment by 110 students bringing the total enrollment to 1,324.

Even the check-in day in August brought a record involvement from local businesses and churches. About 3,800 plates of food were served to help freshmen and their families get settled on campus.

As part of the effort to meet incoming students' needs, Chowan broke ground Oct. 19 on the first phase of new residence housing.

"Chowan's incredible growth over the years is propelling this project," said Chowan President Chris White. "We have maxed out of all available space, including the properties Chowan has purchased and gained through gifts around town. We are completely maxed out... but it's a good problem to have!"

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved \$4.7 million, largely out of the regular operating budget, for the ambitious campus project in their meeting Sept. 15, launching the multi-phase plans into fruition.

The first two new suite-style complexes to be built under Phase One, opening and ready for use during the Fall 2012 semester, will house 136 upperclassmen who have demonstrated good character, integrity, academic achievement and have been good citizens of the campus.

The red brick and stucco, three-story buildings will be symmetrical to each other. One will be slightly larger to accommodate double-occupancy bedrooms, and will share a common area lawn between them.

The single bed complex will have four apartments on each floor, with four bedrooms, for a total of 48 beds, while the double bed complex will house 88 in the same arrangement, minus room for a residence director and laundry facilities. The premium, single bed apartments will have their own washer and dryer rooms and a fully functional kitchen, while the double bed apartments will have a kitchenette and the complex will share a laundry room. The new look of the structures has been designed to match the neighboring Helms Center and Parker Hall.

Gardner-Webb University

While the number of freshmen and transfer students is down – by 14 and 18 respectively – at Gardner-Webb University, the graduate enrollment pushed the total up almost 400 students. There are 2,774 undergraduate students and 1,930 graduate students with a total of 4,704. Of those 211 are students in the School of Divinity.

The major growth in the graduate program has been in the School of Education. Enrollment in the Kindergarten/Twelve Administration program (also

known as executive leadership program) for the master of arts in education is up by 300 students.

Gardner-Webb has recently completed its third residence hall in three years and is working on a new science wing for Withrow Science Building. Construction for the Tucker Student Center is underway and is scheduled to be complete by summer 2012.

Mars Hill College (MHC)

Enrollment increased by 11 percent at Mars Hill College totaling 1,073 traditional students. That number includes 461 freshmen and 75 transfer students.

"Because we are in difficult economic times, the college has made an extra effort this year to try to make more of the institutional funds available to students to come to Mars Hill. I think that decision by the administration was huge, and it certainly showed a good faith effort on our part to try to meet the students more than half-way in some cases," said Ed Hoffmeyer, MHC dean of admissions and financial aid.

Hoffmeyer credited the increase to the hard work of admissions staff, in addition to a new, more stream-lined financial aid process.

Hoffmeyer also pointed to a formalized agreement with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as a factor in the increase. As a result of specific efforts to meet the needs of Cherokee students, eight new freshmen are Cherokee, Hoffmeyer said.

Including new freshmen and transfers, the Mars Hill College 2011 incoming class includes 483 students, the largest entering class in 30 years. Sixty-four percent of those students are from North Carolina, thirty-five percent are from other states, and the remaining one percent come from other countries, including Australia, Canada, Chile, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe. Eleven percent of MHC's incoming students are from Madison, Buncombe or Yancey counties. Sixty percent are men, while 40 percent are women. Twenty-six percent are Baptists and 32 percent are first-generation college students.

Wingate University

"This is the strongest class in Wingate's history – both in size and academic profile," said Lindsay Kreis, director of admissions.

"We are so proud that every single academic indicator has shown improvement over previous years."

For the second year in a row, the admissions office has had a waiting list for students. The total enrollment is 2,529 students in graduate and undergraduate programs.

In the past 15 years, 25 new buildings and athletic facilities have been built. Byrum Residence Hall, the newest residence for students, opened in January.

The Levine College of Health Sciences, which houses the School of Pharmacy and Harris Department of Physician Assistant Studies on the main campus, opened the doors to students in May. Responding to demands in western North Carolina, Wingate began classes for an MBA program in Hendersonville this summer; and classes for the School of Pharmacy are beginning now.

The university is well over halfway in achieving a \$75-million campaign goal which Wingate President Jerry E. McGee told members of the Wingate Society on Oct. 13.

Gifts to the Secure the Promise Campaign total \$59 million.

The campaign received a recent boost from Charlotte area businessman and philanthropist Porter B. Byrum, who donated Park Road Shopping Center to Wingate and two other institutions last summer.

Wingate received \$20.9 million from the sale of the center.

"The support we are seeking from both large and small gifts will help students gain the tools and support they need to apply their learning toward an extraordinary career and life," said McGee.

"This campaign will help secure the university's promise of providing new facilities, programs and endowed scholarships to students so we are prepared to respond to the remarkable demand for the Wingate experience."

New facilities covered by the campaign include a 300-bed residence hall to serve record-breaking undergraduate enrollment.

The campaign funds also will enable the construction of a new home for the School of Graduate and Continuing Education as it relocates from downtown Matthews to Wingate Commons near the John Street and I-485 exit in Matthews.

The campaign ends Dec. 31, 2014, on the date of McGee's retirement. Under McGee's 20 years as president, the university has introduced new master and doctorate-level programs, started a School of Pharmacy and the William and Loretta Harris Department of Physician Assistant Studies, added a campus in Hendersonville, and consistently ranked at the top of NCAA Division II Academic All-Americans athletic teams.

The campus has added more than 25 new buildings and athletic facilities, including the George A. Batte, Jr. Fine Arts Center and the new Levine College of Health Sciences. **BR**

Honoring veterans

Maplewood Baptist member awarded Bronze Star

Continued from page 1A

Shore, commander of American Legion Post 336 in East Bend, made the presentation to Dinkins. Dinkins was accompanied by his daughter, Carol Hamel; granddaughters Michelle Stevens, Jessica Stevens and Katy Hamel; and son-in-law Pierre Hamel. Dinkins' wife of 65 years, Joyce, was in the hospital and could not attend.

Reading from the citation, Shore said Dinkins received the Bronze Star "for exemplary conduct in ground combat against armed enemy forces in the European theater between 6 April 1944 and 1 December 1945."

With that, other veterans in attendance saluted Dinkins while the congregation applauded.

Dinkins is a man of few words as well as humble, but that makes what he does say about his experiences all the more powerful.

Originally drafted in October 1942, Dinkins spent the next 18 months stateside, on maneuvers in different parts of the country. Then, on Easter Sunday in 1944, he boarded a boat in Boston Harbor that was bound for the nightmare in Europe.

He had no idea what he was headed for, and freely admits he probably couldn't have made it if he had.

"I'll tell you ... it was hell over there," Dinkins said, and left it at that.

Landing in Glasgow, Scotland, Dinkins wound up in Plymouth, England. There, he spent time waterproofing vehicles in advance of the crossing of the English Channel and crawling around at night practicing to find land mines with his bayonet.

Everyone knew that an invasion was imminent, but they didn't know when or where. Once it did take place, the division nicknamed the Cross of Lorraine began landing in Normandy, France, on June 12, 1944, with Dinkins coming in two days later.

In 248 days of combat, the division sustained 15,203 total casualties while taking an astounding 35,466 prisoners of war. Three of its number – Carlos C. Ogden, John D. Kelly and Robert E. Gerstung – were awarded the Medal of Honor.

"It was pretty rough," Dinkins said. "One time, we hit what they called 'Bloody Hill.'"

"It was some high ground. There ain't no telling how many we lost. We fought all the way into Cherbourg (France), then."

Out of about 160 men, Dinkins remembers maybe 13 who escaped uninjured. An ammunition bearer for his company's water-cooled machine guns, Dinkins was one who never received even a scratch.

"They all didn't get killed," he continued.

"Some got wounded and some cracked up. They couldn't take the pressure. It was hard to take, I'll tell you that. I'll bet I dug enough foxholes to reach from here to Raleigh. Every time we'd stop, they'd tell you, 'Dig in, dig in.' We'd move maybe half a mile or so ... 'Dig in, dig in.'"

For Dinkins, there are no funny – or even remotely



Gene Dinkins (above left and his service photo below left), daughter Carol Hamel, granddaughter Michelle Stevens, son-in-law Pierre Hamel. (Photo by Rick Houston)



humorous, for that matter – stories to tell of his time on the frontlines.

"I was scared to death all the time," Dinkins admitted.

"I can't remember anything funny happening. I dreaded seeing night come worse than anything in the world.

"At night, you didn't know if you'd get a bayonet through you or not. ... Cold, rain, there ain't no place to go when you're out there. You can't run in the house every time it rains. You get cold, you can't run in the house and get warm. You've got to stay right in the cold."

In Dortman, Germany, when the war ended, Dinkins became part of an occupying force that stayed in the war-ravaged country until returning to the United States on Dec. 10, 1945.

A couple of weeks after returning home to Yadkinville, he met Joyce Hutchens. They were married a few months later in July 1946. Sixty-five years later, they're still together.

The war is a thing of the past, but whether it's a fortunate thing or not, Dinkins' memories of it are not.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Rick Houston is a freelance writer based in Yadkinville. Houston is also a member of Maplewood Baptist Church, Yadkinville.) **BR**

History of Veteran's Day

World War I – known at the time as "The Great War" – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles in France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The U.S. Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution June 4, 1926.

An act approved May 13, 1938, made Nov. 11 a legal holiday – a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. After some confusion with the Uniform Holiday Bill (1968), on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date beginning in 1978.

(Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

Concord church ministers to veterans, 'touches lives'

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR managing editor

As American troops wind down their presence in Iraq and return home in the coming months, many soldiers may struggle to restart their lives back in the United States. Some may show up at the front doors of churches looking for help.

It's an opportunity that Leon Hawks, pastor of Crosspointe Baptist Church in Concord, hopes pastors, their congregations and Christian veterans will seize.

For the past five years, Crosspointe has reached out to active-duty military personnel, veterans, reservists and their families through a ministry called, Crosspointe ARMS. The ministry provides counseling, helps veterans file claims for benefits and gives them someone to talk with about the challenges they face.

"Our churches are filling up with veterans," Hawks said.

"This ministry literally brings lost people to your door to pray with them and listen to them.

"It touches so many people."

After 46 years of ministry, Hawks admits he's made mistakes with counseling military veterans and hasn't always handled those situations with love and understanding.

Hawks, like many pastors, hasn't served in the military. He's never fought in a war, had to leave his family for months at a time or return home from combat and struggle to find work to pay the bills. He's never dealt with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

For most people, these are issues they only see on the news, read about in a magazine or watch in a movie.

"I just didn't know," Hawks said. "I had no idea what these guys are going through. If I would have known, I would have understood how to be a better pastor."

Through Crosspointe ARMS, Hawks has seen many veterans connect with people who know what they've been through and relate to their situation.

"A veteran will listen to another veteran," Hawks said.

"They understand the language and lingo."

A changed life

Richard Bossardet is director of the program and a chaplain with Vietnam



Richard Bossardet, director of Crosspointe ARMS and chaplain with Vietnam Veterans of America, and Pam Scheffer met through Crosspointe ARMS ministry. They were drawn together by their love of serving veterans. Their wedding date is set in 2013. (Contributed photos)

Veterans of America. He retired from the Navy as a senior chief petty officer after 26 years and served during the Vietnam War.

Bossardet connected with Hawks and Crosspointe Baptist Church about six years ago after his wife, Carla, died of cancer.

Before his wife's death, Bossardet was not attending church.

In the months following meeting Hawks, Bossardet recommitted his

life to Jesus, joined the church and helped start Crosspointe ARMS.

Since then Bossardet has volunteered most of his time to ministering to veterans throughout the state.

"The whole thing is about bringing people to Christ," he said.

"(Crosspointe ARMS) is a good avenue to do it and that's where the Lord has me."

Bossardet believes his own experiences in the military have given him opportunities to speak about his faith – and help provide a church home for people.

"A church should be a comfortable place for veterans to visit ... a home away from home, a refuge."

Many of the people Bossardet meets



and counsels struggle with some form of PTSD.

According to some studies, 30 percent of those who return home from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan show some form of PTSD. Many more, however, may not show signs until later – sometimes much later.

Bossardet contends the percentage of those who eventually develop some form of PTSD is closer to 80 percent.

"They will have emotional and physical needs," Bossardet said.

"They will be searching for someone who will listen to them and be concerned for them."

Earlier this year, Pam Scheffer, an accredited benefits officer with Vietnam Veterans of America, joined the Crosspointe ARMS ministry. Scheffer's personal experiences as a Vietnam veteran's wife have fueled her passion for ministering to veterans and their families.

Scheffer's husband died several years ago of cancer.

"My husband suffered from PTSD," said Scheffer, a member of North Kannapolis Baptist Church in Kannapolis. "People don't know what they (and their

families) are going through. My heart will always be with veterans ... and their families."

Since joining the team, Scheffer and Bossardet have gotten engaged and plan to marry in the summer of 2013.

With Scheffer's experience with Vietnam Veterans of America, she has played a key role in helping veterans file for benefits.

"We have 50 claims that are in process right now," Bossardet said. "The ministry has been going for five years and is just now starting to blossom."

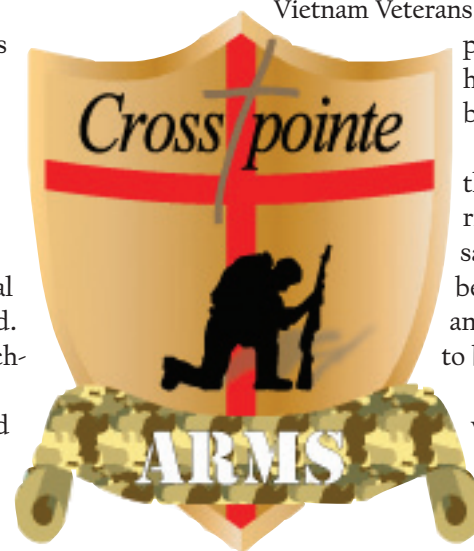
Ray Benson, an Army veteran who served in Korea, remembers a time when he was out of work and needed help from

Crosspointe ARMS.

Benson, like many veterans, wasn't aware of the benefits he was eligible to receive. Now back to work, Benson remains thankful for the ministry.

"(Bossardet has) really helped a lot of people," Benson said. "He's been a blessing called by God."

For more information, go to crosspointe-baptist.com; click on "Ministries" and then the "Crosspointe ARMS" link. Or, contact Bossardet at (704) 784-8116 or at (704) 467-2638. **BR**



**"Our churches are filling up with veterans. This ministry literally brings lost people to your door to pray with them and listen to them. It touches so many people."
— Leon Hawks**

TAR HEEL VOICES

Possible SBC names

I have watched with interest the ongoing discussion about the name change in the SBC. I suppose there are some good arguments being made on both sides. However, when this story broke I couldn't help but think of some potential name changes for the SBC. In no particular order, below are some potential names for the SBC that the task force might consider:

1. The Convention formally known as the SBC.
2. Ocho Cinco Convention: If it is good enough for Chad Johnson it is good enough for us.
3. Matthew 29 Network: Watch out

Mark Driscoll!

4. The Red Cru Convention: Crusading Southern Baptist pushing for a Red State America.

5. Mr. Roger's (Adrian) Neighborhood.

6. Big Al's Backyard.

7. RBC: The Radical Baptist Convention: An Experiment.

8. PDL: The Purpose Driven Life Convention.

9. GCBC: The Great Commission Baptist Convention.

10. BBC: Bible Belt Convention.

Ben Durand
Roxboro

Appreciate younger focus

Thanks for the recent issue (Oct. 15) of the *Biblical Recorder* focusing on the younger generation. Given that we have more young people in America than ever and as Southern Baptists we reach a remarkably small number annually, this is for me one of the two or three most pressing issues in our time. I am grateful for the focus and pray we will see this generation not merely as the future of the

church but the greatest missionary force in our history. Keep up the good work!

Alvin L. Reid
Wake Forest

(EDITOR'S NOTE – The focus on the younger generation was part of the *Biblical Recorder's* efforts to highlight the “Seven Pillars for Ministry” of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. See the complete package BRnow.org/Resources/Seven-Pillars.aspx.)

A simple formula for cooperation

In an effort to explain why Christian organizations and associations fail to cooperate effectively, a retired pastor in Western North Carolina compared Christians to children on a playground. The pastor explained how elementary school children often pick teams at recess in order to play a game of touch football. After choosing teams and beginning the game, the students are forced to halt the game because of a disagreement between the teams over an imaginary sideline marker. In other words, an unseen line between the corner of the school building on one end of the playground and a tree on the other end of the playground was a necessity in order to determine when a player was out of bounds. This, of course, created confusion when one team thought a player was out of bounds and the other team thought the player was in bounds. Some of the children would argue vehemently. Other children would plead desperately with those who were fighting to stop their feud so they could enjoy playing before the recess ended. Sadly, the pastor replied, “Christian institutions many times resemble children

arguing on a playground.”

Since Jesus was victorious on the cross, Christians should fellowship around the victory already completed instead of fighting over ambiguous issues that cause division. For instance, an atmosphere of celebration and unity is always present when the hometown team wins a championship. Everyone shouts for joy and hugs one another. In an effort to see the hand of God move miraculously, let us pray that every Christian in the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, all of the local associations in North Carolina, and all of the members of Baptist churches in North Carolina will focus on the finished work of Christ instead of vainly arguing over unimportant issues. This rejoicing over the victory we have in Jesus will create a unity so unique that the world would notice. This alone would infinitely bless our efforts in evangelism and discipleship on a much deeper level than any one program or personality.

W. Scott Thompson
vice president of academic affairs
Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

We wanted ‘dream house’;
God had other plans

It wasn't supposed to be a move that swept us away from our friends and comfortable life in Virginia.

In February, my wife and I put the first house we'd ever owned on the market. We had lived in the house for about six years, and we were looking forward to selling it. We wanted to take advantage of low interest rates, and ultimately, settle into our “dream house” along the outskirts of Richmond.

We already had the house picked out. It was located in a great school district and came complete with a garage, picket fence in the back yard and a “man cave”

office tucked perfectly behind a door in the master bedroom closet.

At the time, I worked in the International Mission Board's (IMB) media department. My wife, Stephanie, had a part-time job as a lab tech at a local university. Our 3-year-old daughter, Laura, had friends, a good preschool she attended three days a week, and our family was part of an exciting new church plant.

We were comfortable – and we had a plan.

God, however, seemed to have other ideas.

Continued on page 9A



SHAWN HENDRICKS
Biblical Recorder
managing editor

Thankful for our veterans

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, it's almost hard now to remember a time when we didn't have conversations about or hear news headlines about defending freedom. When something we value and treasure is threatened, all of a sudden we are much more aware of the possibility of it being taken from us.

Ten years ago many, many people so bravely came to the aid of those needing help. Since then, many, many more have so bravely devoted their lives – and sacrificed their lives – to help keep people in this country safe. This country has endured wars and seasons of great hardship, and those serving in our armed forces have valiantly stood strong and courageous.

Every year on Nov. 11 we pause to remember and honor all our American military veterans especially those who paid the ultimate price. Continuing the spirit of our recent observance of Veteran's Day, I encourage you to regularly thank God for the blessing of living in this country. We enjoy freedoms in this country that many people around the world cannot even imagine.

Do you realize that in some places people cannot go to church for fear of persecution? An article was published on our Convention Website not long ago about Izabella McMillon, who now lives in Durham but grew up in Romania. She talks about how her father was afraid his family would be killed if anyone found out they had a Bible in their home. The *Biblical Recorder* recently reported ac-

tual accounts of how people are being brutally murdered in other countries because they are followers of Jesus. The freedoms we enjoy have come at a price; a price that has cost many brave Americans their lives.

They sacrificed so that we may have the opportunity for a quality of life that is beyond anything we deserve. Never take for granted the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy as citizens of this great country.

Take some time to continue the observance of Veteran's Day by praying for our veterans and their families. The extreme conditions of war often wreak havoc upon the emotions and psychological condition of

veterans long after they return home from battle. Relationships with family members are often gravely impacted. Churches and individuals need to look for ways to minister to the needs of our veterans and their families.

Please also pray for our current military personnel.

Pray for God's protection and guidance. Pray for our military chaplains who stand in the gap and offer spiritual help for our soldiers. Pray that Christian soldiers will be bold in sharing their faith with their peers who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Remember to express your appreciation to our veterans for their service to our country and to the families who still grieve over the death of a loved one who died defending the cost of our freedom.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...” Psalm 33:12a **BR**



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Submissions

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619-8808.

We can't afford to drift

Drifting is a dangerous thing. I have sensed times when my life was not on a clear course. I had not lost my salvation. I don't believe that is possible. I would not say I was "back-slidden" – however that word might be interpreted across Baptist circles. I just was not tied to a specific path at that moment, and I needed some time alone with God to tie the ropes of my life to His purpose.

Drifting is expected when we are not anchored to something secure. For the small boat or the large ship, it is essential that the ropes of the vessel are tied to a dock or secured to an anchor when not on open waters. Otherwise, in the absence of a running engine, the vessel is entirely subject to unpredictable currents or fluctuating winds. Damage or even disaster is inevitable.

The Holy Spirit used the writer of Hebrews to give us this caution about drifting: "For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it" (Heb. 2:1, NASB). The letter of Hebrews underscores the supreme role of Jesus Christ in everything we believe and in all we do. The ultimate caution is to never drift from the supremacy of Jesus as the living word nor from scripture as the written word.

I like the way Hebrews returns to this analogy later in the book, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil" (Heb. 6:19, NASB). We

need an anchor of the soul! This anchor is trustworthy. It will not lose its grip.

The only dependable anchor is a complete trust in Jesus for salvation and for every breath we take every minute of our time on earth. In Him we have a hope that will keep us tied to the authority of scripture. Without that mooring, the smallest current will send us into aimless drifting. With it, we are secure.



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

Southern Baptists know about drifting. We have seen times when our seminaries, mission boards and agencies have been adrift. Theological trends have led us down the road of liberalism, doubting even the most obvious truths of the Christian faith. While many of those concerns have been addressed, there is no vaccine for drifting. Its threat is still real.

Over the last decade North Carolina Baptists have taken specific steps to tie our ropes to the anchor of scripture. Both in theology and in methodology, we have tried to apply biblical principles to our vision and to the strategies we employ.

We will be wise to take note that an important ingredient in our efforts has been involvement.

Sitting on the sidelines never resolved any problems. Attending conventions, serving on committees and building relationships has been critical to repairing our drift and to the prevention of future mistakes. The involvement of every Baptist is important and needed. Your attendance at this week's annual meeting is commendable.

If we are vigilant, we cannot be guilty of complaining about the drifting ship, and not taking action to secure the moorings. Our involvement in the process is essential!

This is an exciting time to be a N.C. Baptist and a Southern Baptist. We are people of the Book. The Bible is our authority. When we gather for conventions or meetings, we tie our ropes to the authority of scripture and move accordingly.

Bobby Blanton, the president of this year's Pastor's Conference, is wise to choose a theme which focuses on the authority of scripture. Even pastors need that constant reminder in a world where we are bombarded with secular relativism. I pray that every pastor will be refreshed in his commitment to biblical authority.

Please give your support to a North Carolina Baptist ministry that has not

"Sitting on the sidelines never solved any problems. Attending conventions, serving on committees and building relationships has been critical ..."

– K. Allan Blume

drifted from its moorings. The Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina has been faithful to its mission to children in our state for 126 years. They have taught God's word to each child. This year at least 70 children in their care have trusted Jesus as their savior. Please stand with them by supporting the Thanksgiving offering for this great ministry. **BR**

We wanted 'dream house'; God had other plans

Continued from page 8A

After putting a "For Sale" sign in our front yard, weeks and then months passed by without a single offer on the house.

We couldn't figure out why it wasn't selling. We had cleared out all of the clutter, hauled extra furniture into storage, updated the bathrooms, the kitchen and put a new floor on the back deck.

After a couple months with no offers, we dropped the price. Months continued to pass by with no offers. Our initial surprise turned into discouragement and frustration.

Why wouldn't God want us to sell our house?

Around that time some friends told me they had given my name to Allan Blume, the new editor of *Biblical Recorder*.

He was asking for suggestions on possibly filling a vacant managing editor position.

When asked if I was interested in a change, my first response was "No, not really."

I was a senior writer at IMB, and I had been there for nearly a decade. I enjoyed occasional overseas travel, working with a great staff and reporting on God's work among the nations.

Still, I decided to remain open to the opportunity.

After all, our house hadn't sold, and we weren't locked in on a new mort-

gage. If we had, I would have dismissed the job opening as bad timing. Two weeks later I was on the phone with Blume.

In the days to follow, my initial apprehension turned to peace as we spoke by phone, Skype and eventually face to face. As I learned more about the *Recorder*, Blume and his vision for North Carolina's Baptist news journal and its message, it became clear my family would be moving south.

A few weeks before accepting the position we received an offer on our house.

All of the paperwork finalized the day we moved to North Carolina. We couldn't have timed how it all unfolded better.

I'm truly excited to be in this great state and on the *Recorder's* team.

You could say I'm definitely "all in" with the direction North Carolina Baptists are heading in their desire to reach their state, nation and the globe for Christ.

What an exciting opportunity to share this story!

For now my family and I are settling into a comfortable two-bedroom apartment near Raleigh. We believe it's right where God wants us to be living – even if our "dream house" has to wait a little longer.

For those who would like to keep up with my journey in North Carolina, follow me on Twitter @shwnh01. Or, email me at shawn@brnow.org. **BR**

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November 20
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE
November 27

Respond to Difficult Situations
Adopt the Right Perspective

Focal Passages: Numbers 20:1-13; Psalm 106:32-33

Has anyone ever said to you, “Don’t make an important decision when you are angry?” Getting frustrated and angry is a part of life. We all deal with it, and how we deal with it can determine our friendships, success and destiny. Moses was a perfect example of what to do and not to do in difficult situations. In Exodus 17:1-7 Moses and the people were in similar circumstance: no water, and the people were thirsty and afraid. Without water they and their livestock would suffer and die. On that occasion Moses sought God’s direction, and responded exactly as God prescribed. He struck the rock with one blow from his staff and the water began to flow. The people and flocks were hydrated. All was well. In the passage for today, however, Moses was presented with another virtually identical difficult situation. Unfortunately, on this occasion Moses responded inappropriately. He let his frustration and anger get the best of him. For that sin, Moses would pay dearly.

The setting was the beginning of the 40th year of wandering in the wilderness. The Hebrews had settled in Kadesh, and Moses was hoping in a short time they would break camp and make the final leg of the journey to the Promised Land. This was an emotionally trying time for Moses. His devoted sister, Miriam, had just died. Additionally, his people were incessantly complaining about the water situation. Moses was sad, tired, and extremely frustrated. Furthermore, his brother Aaron was not well (he would also die that year). Yet in the midst of trying circumstances the brothers Moses and Aaron did the right thing. They implored God for direction. God ordered Moses to “speak to the rock;” however, when the time came for action, Moses doubly erred. He angrily struck the rock, not once, but twice. Although the needed waters came, Moses would not be granted the privilege of leading the Hebrews into the Promised Land. Uncontrolled anger often comes at a regretful price.



WAYNE PROCTOR
Pastor, Eure Baptist Church

Focal Passages: Deuteronomy 32:1-9, 36-39, 43

There is a tradition among recent American presidents. They write memoirs. They set up presidential libraries. They consult with the “next” president, giving insight into both domestic and foreign policy. Internally, each of these leaders is preparing himself for the personal and family transitions that will be occurring as they move from “public” life back to “private” life. Today’s lesson features Moses during the last months of his “public” life. He was now 120 years old. He had led the Hebrews (Israelites) for 40 years. No doubt his hair had also turned “very” gray. Transitions of leadership were already in place. Joshua would be the next leader (Deut. 31). He was a godly man, and was exhorted to be “strong and courageous, God goes with you and will never leave you” (Deut. 31:6). Additionally, Moses put the final touches on the writing of the

law (Pentateuch), ensuring it would have its proper place to help lead the people into their future. Finally, Moses would give his farewell address/song, part of which is found in Deuteronomy 32. Moses’ last song would have at least three important themes. Verses 1-4 speak to the awesomeness and worthiness of God. God is called the Rock – He is “rock solid” for us. He is “great,” His decisions and actions are “perfect,” His ways are “just,” He is “faithful,” and He is without “prejudice.” God is the One we can trust and depend on. Verses 5-9 shift from God’s nature to our own. It is here that personal and corporate reflection is needed. Left to our own whims, we rebel against God and sin; act foolishly and become dangerously self-centered. Thus, Moses signaled a warning. Adopt a right perspective. Realize God created you. Realize He gave you what you have. Realize He has a plan for your life that is better than what you have the ability to create for yourself. Finally, verses 36-39 and 43 speak to the sovereignty of God. As such, He is an “avenging” God, preserving His people from their enemies.

November 20
EXPLORE THE BIBLE
November 27

Do You Strive for Peace with Others?
Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

Focal Passage: Romans 14:13-23

In the war on terror, many American soldiers have been injured or killed by devices or traps that were laid by enemy troops. Those traps were intentionally laid to trip up, ensnare or destroy the American forces. In this passage, Paul shows that believers can – knowingly or unknowingly – put stumbling blocks (Gr. ‘proskomma’) or snares/traps (Gr. ‘skandalon’) in front of their own brothers or sisters in Christ. How can this happen? By committing acts that, though not sinful in and of themselves, violate the conscience of their brother or sister, Christians can cause other Christians to stumble in their walk with Christ. Immediately, our minds cry out, “Unfair! Why must I give up my freedom for the sake of my brother?” Paul gives a simple answer: love. He says demanding my spiritual “freedoms” at the expense of my brother’s conscience means I am “no longer walking in love.” In other words, if I walk in sacrificial, unconditional love for my brothers and sisters in Christ – particularly those who are less spiritually knowledgeable or mature – I will gladly sacrifice my “freedom” for

their sakes. When I live this way, I am showing my willingness to consider the needs of others as important as my own needs (Phil. 2:3-4). Further, I am following Christ’s example of selfless, sacrificial love (Phil. 2:5-11). The call of the gospel is to come and die to self and to find our life in Christ. We do not live for ourselves but for Christ, the one who died for us (2 Cor. 15:5). We do not demand our own rights for temporal pleasures or pursuits. Instead, our desire is that our lives reflect eternal values, including the building up of our brothers and sisters, even when such building up requires personal sacrifice on our part. When believers walk in love and understanding toward one another, rather than demanding the full extent of their “freedom,” the fruit of kingdom living will be clearly evident – righteousness, peace and joy. Only the Spirit of God can empower the people of God to sacrifice in this way for the glory of God.



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

Focal Passage: Romans 15:1-16:27

It is every parent’s nightmare. There you are in the grocery store, pushing the cart down the cereal aisle, looking for the cereal that is on sale. Just as you find the cheapest one, your young child’s eyes lock on one that is loaded with sugar, and is far more expensive. As you are explaining your rationale for getting the cheaper cereal, it happens ... the meltdown! There is screaming, crying and foot stomping. Immediately, your face turns red and you begin scrambling to rectify the situation. Why? You know what others are thinking. Some are thinking, “If they were a loving parent, they would stop being such a tight-wad and would just get the child whatever the little darling wants.” Others are thinking, “If they would maintain consistent discipline in their home, these kinds of outbursts would not occur.” You simply wish the grocery store

floor would part like the Red Sea and instantly swallow you up. The reason we are so upset by this scenario – especially if it is OUR child throwing the tantrum – is we know the actions of our children reflect upon us. People will think about us in a certain way, based on the behavior of our children. The same is true in our spiritual lives. If we claim to be Christians, children of God, our actions will be a reflection on Him. In this passage, like the end of Chapter 14, Paul says that our actions toward others should reflect the same sacrificial love God has shown to us through Christ. As a result, we should show preference for others (v. 1-4), live in harmony with one another (v. 5-6), show acceptance for those who are different from us (v. 7-11) and demonstrate the hope we have in God (v. 12-13). As children of God, we want every aspect of our lives to glorify Him (1 Cor. 10:31; Matt. 5:16). The only hope for this to happen is the life-transforming power of the gospel at work in us by the Holy Spirit. May our lives demonstrate such transformation and bring glory to our great God.

A simple shoe box changes Izabella's life forever

Continued from page 2A

small things in my life, I wanted to follow Him.”

When Izabella grew up she worked as a teacher in Romania and Hungary before coming to the United States in 2002. She lived in Pennsylvania two years before moving to Durham, N.C., to teach at Gorman Christian Academy, a ministry of Gorman Baptist Church. She met her husband, Joel McMillon, at Gorman Christian Academy and they married in 2006.

Joel is now the youth pastor at Gorman.

Izabella did not know until 2004 that the box she received as a child came from Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child. That year students from Gorman Christian Academy packed 100 shoe boxes. Since then, a school of about 200 students has packed more boxes every year, with 1,463 boxes packed last year.

“Every year God provides,” Izabella said. “We set our goal, and every year God shows us He is able to do far more than we can imagine.”

Last year Izabella and her family traveled to her hometown in Romania to help distribute shoe boxes.

“I met this one little girl, and when I looked into her eyes, I could see myself. She couldn't believe anyone would give her something for free,” Izabella said.

Before opening her box the little girl told Izabella she really wanted something pink; she didn't have anything pink at all. As Izabella watched her open the box, all she could see was pink. Every single thing in her box was pink.

“We hear stories like that all the time,” Izabella said. “One little boy in that village was always being picked on because he wanted to be an artist. When he opened his box, it didn't have any hygiene items or socks or a toothbrush. It was filled with nothing but art supplies.

“These boxes are called GO boxes because they are gospel opportunities. God is using something simple to change lives all around the world.”

Collection week is Nov. 14-21. Visit samaritanspurse.org. **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

CrossPoint Church of Greensboro, NC, is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. We are associated with the PBA and SBC. Candidate should have a strong pulpit presence, proven leadership skills and passion for growth. We have a blended service with choir and praise team. Send resume to CPC of Greensboro, 1806 Merritt Drive, Greensboro, NC 27407.

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

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

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

Pastor for First Baptist Church Williamsburg, KY. Beautiful, small town located near University of the Cumberlands. Diverse membership with an average Sunday attendance of 140. Missions-minded, dually aligned church actively participating in local missions and supporting missions around the world. Must have a minimum of M.Div degree and pastoral experience. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 230 S. 5th Street, Williamsburg, KY 40769 or email to fbcwoffice@gmail.com.

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

Church Staff

Local Southern Baptist church is seeking a permanent **part-time Director of Church Music**. Please mail resume to: Director of Church Music, P.O. Box 2571, Rocky Mount, NC 27802.

First Baptist Church of Boone, NC, is seeking an **Associate Pastor of Education, Children and Youth**. The associate pastor of education, children and youth will lead, develop, promote and grow ministries in churchwide Christian education and children and youth ministries. This position shall work closely with the senior pastor in planning with the ultimate goal of bringing glory to God. Resumes need to be sent to First Baptist Church Personnel Committee, 375 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Resumes need to be to the church office by Nov.30, 2011.

Minister of Music/Worship Leader. Clemmons First Baptist is seeking a dynamic individual of strong faith to direct and inspire weekly traditional and contemporary worship services. Please submit resume to: mdkinnett@fbctoday.org. Visit our website at fbctoday.org.

Stallings Memorial Baptist Church seeks **Director of Children and Youth**. Candidate should have experience in developing and leading children/youth ministry in innovative, yet biblically-based perspectives and practices. Must possess passion and skill for guiding children/youth through their faith journey. A college or seminary degree in children/youth ministry or related field. Send resume: Personnel Committee, Stallings Memorial Baptist Church, 817 South Main Street, Salisbury, NC 28144; or email: Darcell_mangan@yahoo.com or pastor@stallings-baptistchurch.org.

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

Nashville Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time choir director**. Candidate should possess a degree in music or comparable musical experience. Send resumes to: Nashville Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 637, Nashville, N.C. 27856.

Denominational

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

Miscellaneous

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

NCBAM needs volunteers for the biggest ramp-raisin' marathon this state has ever seen. Sign up for Rampin' Up – an April 28, 2012 event at www.ncoperationinasmuch.org. Check out www.rampinup.org for more information or call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

NCBAM needs servant volunteers to educate aging adults about the use of Red Bags. Contact North Carolina Aging Ministry to learn how Red Bags prevent overmedication and the use of conflicting medicines: 877-506-2226 or online at www.ncbam.org.

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

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

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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.

Two months later, Irene recovery efforts ongoing

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Two months after Hurricane Irene pounded the East Coast, residents on North Carolina's Outer Banks are still working hard to get life back to normal.

"The rebuilding process will speed up now that the highway is open. But it's not an overnight thing," said Russ Howard, pastor of Cape Hatteras Baptist Church.

Cape Hatteras was spared the worst of the damage, as the church sits on a hill in one of the highest areas along the coast, but neighborhoods around the church are trying to recover.

"When the storm came, it sat on us for so long. We watched the water being sucked out of the sound," Howard said. "There was no water in the sound. It was completely bone dry; you could tell for miles. I knew that water would come back with a fury."

When the winds shifted the water did indeed come back, causing a major flood surge. Some homes in the area have remained vacant since the hurricane.

Howard and members of Cape Hatteras are trying to help people still suffering from the flood damage.

"Everything that the water came into contact with was no good – the carpet and drywall. Insulation had to be treated

for mold. Some people literally lost everything," Howard said. "The septic systems also overflowed. Muck was everywhere."

Howard said many people in the area work in service related businesses and do not earn a lot of money. With businesses being closed for so long, and some still closed, it's hard for people to get back on their feet.

"The hurricane crushed the economy," he said. "Most of the people here live paycheck to paycheck."

Even businesses that remained open saw few tourists after the hurricane.

N.C. Highway 12, the main road that services the Outer Banks, was closed for nearly seven weeks.

While the road was closed the only way in and out of Hatteras Island was the ferry, and with so many people needing to ride, leaving the island was not easy.

Howard left home one day at 6:30 a.m. to take a neighbor to a doctor's appointment in Nags Head. A trip that by car would usually take less than two hours took all day. Howard arrived home that night about 9:30.

"There was great rejoicing when the road opened," he said.

Just being available is what has made the difference in the lives of the people living along the Outer Banks, whether cleaning out houses, passing out gift

cards for local grocery and hardware stores, helping people find places to stay and working with landlords, or just talking and praying with people.

One couple Howard met lost almost everything they had due to water damage. "I just talked to him and prayed with him, and gave him a gift card. He broke down and started crying over something that simple. He was so grateful," Howard said.

When someone donated money for coffee pots, Howard bought every one left in the hardware store and gave them to people in need. Six cases of bug spray barely made it out of the truck before it was all gone.

Every opportunity to help someone in need is a possible door to present the gospel, Howard said. He has found that in times of crisis people are often more receptive to talking about spiritual things.

"When people lose all their material possessions and they don't have Jesus Christ, they think they have lost everything because it's all they have," Howard said.

Connections made with people during the recovery efforts have opened doors for Howard to possibly help start a Bible study at a community center in the Rodanthe/Salvo area, an area with no Baptist churches.

"This is such a ripe time for people to receive the gospel," he said.

Although Hatteras was not hit as

hard as the northern Outer Banks communities, Howard said Hatteras bore the brunt of damage from the last hurricane to come through, and working together has really brought the island together.

"People are proud, and they are used to doing this themselves. They are almost afraid to take help," he said.

"We are trying to minister as the Lord allows us to."

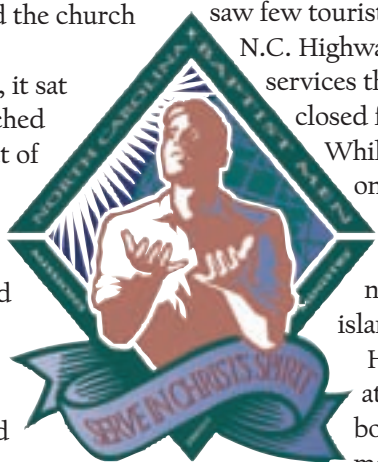
Not long after Hurricane Irene hit did NC Baptist Men send feeding teams to the Outer Banks. They also sent volunteers to help with the shower/laundry units.

NC Baptist Men have served more than 172,000 meals to people affected by the storm.

They have also completed more than 1,720 work requests. Volunteers have led devotions, passed out Bibles, worked with children and, most importantly, shared the gospel of Jesus Christ and seen people come to faith in Christ.

Volunteers are still needed on the Outer Banks.

To sign up, visit baptistsonmission.org. N.C. Baptist Men disaster relief efforts are supported through the North Carolina Missions Offering. For more information visit ncmissionsoffering.org. **BR**



Interested in old BR issues? Find them online

BR staff

For people who've grown tired of traveling to a library to flip through heavy bound volumes of material or read microfilm to finish their research on North Carolina Baptist history, many of the older issues of the *Biblical Recorder* now can be found online with the simple click of a button.

In 2010, Wake Forest University Archives at Z. Smith Reynolds Library began a project to digitize issues of the *Biblical Recorder* that were printed from 1834 to 1970. The collection includes issues from the publication's first year when the title of the publication was *North Carolina Baptist Interpreter*. The effort wrapped up in June.

The issues now can be found online with a keyword search or by typing in specific date information at recorder.zsr.wfu.edu.

The project was supported by a \$75,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Past issues of the *Biblical Recorder* are one of the library's "most used resources," said Vicki Johnson, archives librarian. People have often traveled there to read through old issues to research family history and learn more about North Carolina Baptist heritage.

"My co-workers and I are extremely excited about this resource being available online now knowing how many people consult the *Biblical Recorder*," Johnson said. "There have been many times that a patron couldn't travel to us in order to use the microfilm. Happily, we can now refer them to the issues online and they



can use it wherever they are. "Our goal is to make it available to as many people as possible."

With a future grant or financial gift, additional issues could be posted online, Johnson said. "There is still a good 40 years (remaining)," Johnson said. "We

hope to find additional funding in the future to have the remaining years digitized so they will all be available online."

"Hopefully we can find a way to make that happen," she said.

Contact Johnson at (336) 758-5089 or at johnsokv@wfu.edu. **BR**