



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Each December Baptists are asked to give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to support International Mission Board missionaries. Join in the week of prayer Dec. 4-11. Also, find out how one N.C. Baptist church is reaching an unreached, unengaged people group. [Pages 8-9](#)

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

NOVEMBER 26, 2011 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 177 NO. 24 • [BRnow.org](#)

N.C. Baptists back marriage, gambling resolutions

By **DIANNA L. CAGLE** | BR Asst. Managing Editor

Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) learned about being “All In” during a shortened two-day format Nov. 7-8 in Greensboro. Messengers also approved a \$33.5-million budget and three resolutions – two of which targeted gambling and marriage.

“All In,” based on 1 Timothy 2:3-6 and highlighting God’s desire for all to be saved, was the theme for this year’s annual meeting. There were 1,719 messengers and 138 visitors to the annual meeting at the Koury Convention Center. With more than 4,300 churches in the BSC, around 700 sent messengers to the meeting.

“I call all North Carolina Baptists to join us, to commit, to invest, and to dedicate themselves in 2012 to expanding the Kingdom for the glory of our Lord and Savior,” said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., the Convention’s executive director-treasurer. (See story, page 7.)

“This vision requires a laser focus and sacrificial commitment by all who wish to see its fulfillment.

“Are we all in?”

Increased budget

A \$33.5-million Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 2012 was approved Nov. 8. The higher budget marks the first time since 2008 that the Convention has raised its budget.

This increase reflects an overall 2.5 percent increase and a .5 percent increase in giving to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), raising the amount to 35.5 percent (\$11,892,500) of the BSC budget. The Convention has consistently raised the budget for the SBC by .5 percent the last several years.

Of the SBC portion, 50 percent goes to the International Mission Board (IMB) and 22.79 percent goes to the North American Mission Board (NAMB). This leaves 22.16 percent for the seminaries and 5.05 percent for other ministries and administration.



Mike Creswell, left, shares about the Cooperative Program with messengers Pam and Steve Jirgal at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting. Other than the convention meeting, the exhibit hall attracts the most traffic at the gathering. (BSC photo/K Brown)

The BSC keeps 39 percent (\$13,059,650) of the state’s CP dollars for its ministries, and the rest is divided among institutions and agencies (18.1 percent or \$6,057,850) as well as GuideStone and church protection benefits (7.4 percent or \$2,490,000).

Last year’s budget was \$32,685,480. The amount allotted to institutions and agencies dropped from 20.8 percent (2011) to 18.1 percent (2012). There was also a drop for North Carolina ministries: from 44.2 percent (2011) to 39 percent (2012). This reflects the addition of the GuideStone and church benefits plans.

About 10 years ago, GuideStone began phasing out its contributions to state conventions to help pay for the retirement and protection benefits for N.C. Baptist church staff members.

For the sixth consecutive year, N.C. Baptists have raised their monetary support of the church planting and missions development group, totaling a nearly 100 percent increase. The evangelism group also sees a significant increase to offset the reduced support from NAMB. Other ministries and agencies reflecting an increase in allocated funds include the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, North Carolina Baptist Hospital (School of Pastoral Care), Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, the *Biblical Recorder* and North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry.

The 2012 budget is the first in decades that does not include funding to BSC affiliated educational institutions – Campbell University, Chowan University, Gardner-Webb University, Mars Hill College and Wingate University.

The Convention will continue to support scholarships to these institutions.

Marriage, gambling resolutions

Three resolutions were approved by N.C. messengers.

One was a general resolution thanking the host city. The other two, however, tackled some significant issues in the state.

Jim Jacumin proposed a resolution supporting an amendment recognizing marriage is between a man and woman. The amendment will go before North Carolina voters in May.

Jacumin is a member of East Valdese Baptist Church in Valdese, N.C., and a member of the BSC Board of Directors. He serves on the BSC’s Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee.

“This resolution speaks for itself, but it also tells us a lot about ourselves,” Jacumin told the crowd before they approved the resolution. “Today we’re about to make a decision that will test our obedience [to God].”

Phil Addison, pastor of Stony Point Baptist Church in Stony Point, proposed a resolution against the expansion of Class 3 or Las Vegas style gambling in North Carolina. Addison is also a member of the Convention’s Board of Directors on the evangelization committee.

“With each passing year and each new legislation session that comes into effect, it seems it is becoming a progression that has now led us to what in my opinion is a very predatory and a very malicious way of bringing people in to really take advantage of them,” Addison said.

“We as a convention really need to oppose any gambling and especially an expansion of where live dealers are going to be bringing people in. This does not increase wealth. It simply takes advantage of people and we shouldn’t be for that.”

Addison’s first attempt at proposing the resolution was sent to the BSC’s Resolutions Committee for consideration,



Coverage of the annual meeting is available on pages 4-7, 10-11, 13 and 16. More stories and photos are available online at [BRnow.org](#) and will be published in the Dec. 10 issue. What did you think of this year’s meeting? E-mail editor@BRnow.org.

Continued on page 4

Campbell bans student after lockdown

A former Campbell University freshman faces felony possession of stolen weapons charges after a standoff in Buies Creek.

Jared Dale Knight, 24, had bail set at \$400,000 in a Harnett County courtroom Nov. 10. He was involved in a standoff with county deputies on the north side of campus for about four hours Nov. 9.

Campbell expelled Knight and banned him from the campus after the incident, which forced a lockdown on the campus for at least three hours. A SWAT team member finally was able to persuade Knight to surrender. Knight's Facebook page said he was studying youth ministry at Campbell.

Knight had locked himself in his home located across the street from Campbell's Lundy-Fetterman School of Business. Deputies had tried to serve arrest papers on charges alleging that Knight stole merchandise from a Fuquay-Varina gun shop, where he was employed.

Knight had been arrested in Fuquay-Varina Nov. 8 on a charge of larceny by employee. A \$1,500 AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifle from Sovereign Guns was missing,

and the owner said Knight was shown on video stashing the weapon in his bag. The owner said he realized six more guns – two rifles and four handguns – were missing Nov. 9. Investigators were dispatched to Buies Creek to question Knight, who had been released after posting \$3,000 bond.

Larry Rollins, Harnett County sheriff, said Knight slipped out of handcuffs as he was being placed in custody. He ran to a bedroom where guns were stored and locked the door.

Knight's father, Daimon, of Lubbock, Texas, said his son is an Iraq war veteran whom he believes has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Military officials said in court records that there was no evidence linking Knight's PTSD to his service in Iraq.

Knight received a bad-conduct discharge from the Air Force in January 2009 for taking about \$10,600 in military property for his own use. He was sentenced to eight months at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas.

Campbell conducted a background check on Knight before allowing him to rent the house on campus, but

the military charges didn't surface in the check.

Students, faculty and staff learned of the lockdown through the campus' emergency notification system, which sent direct messages to university email accounts and cell phones. Students were also notified through social network sites and Campbell's main website. The school updated its emergency procedures following the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech.

Although Campbell prohibits possession of firearms on campus, university spokesman Britt Davis said the decision to kick Knight out of school and off campus was a direct result of the standoff and not because he violated university policy. "In light of the charges he faces in Wake County and Harnett County, the administration felt it was in the best interest of the university and the community that he be dismissed and prohibited from returning to university property," Davis said.

Campbell's decision means that, if Knight posts bond, he won't be allowed back into the house he rents on campus – the site of the standoff.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Compiled from press reports.)

NEWS BRIEFS

Chowan University Christian Service Association selects Mills as president

MURFREESBORO – Julian Mills, a resident of Roanoke Rapids, has been selected to be the new president of the Chowan Christian Service Association (CCSA) Board of Directors at Chowan University in Murfreesboro.

The CCSA is an organization designed to help ministerial students at the institution, primarily in the area of providing scholarship funds. Mills has been a member of the CCSA Board of Directors since its inception in 2005.

Mills has also served for years as a member of the Chowan Board of Trustees. He is a 1959 graduate of Chowan, and in 2009, Mills was bestowed with the "Distinguished Alumni" award.

A native of Roanoke Rapids, Mills retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1981. He served as an Air Force combat news correspondent in Vietnam, spokesman for the president's pilot and the "Air Force One" organization in Washington, D.C., and was also editor of *Command Magazine* for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs at the Pentagon. In addition, Mills was an editor for

the *Columbus Dispatch* in Columbus, Ohio.

An ordained minister, he was pastor at Park Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids for 10 years and Community Center Baptist Church in Halifax for two years. He was also pastor at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Warrenton, Love Memorial Baptist in Goldsboro, and North Rocky Mount Baptist in Rocky Mount.

He also was interim pastor at a number of churches. Mills served as interim director of the North Roanoke Baptist Association, and spent two terms as chairperson of the Committee on Nominations for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

He and his wife, Mary, have established one endowed scholarship with the CCSA and have recently started another one in memory of their son, Julian Jr., who died in an automobile accident.

GA Journey replaces WorldVentures

GA Journey replaced WorldVentures as the individual achievement plan for Girls in Action (GA) – the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) missions organization for girls in grades 1–6 – in September. GA Journey will offer a stronger mix

of individual and group activities with an emphasis on missions, ministry and spiritual growth. Everything from content to colors has been revised to make it more appealing to both girls and leaders.

"As a long time teacher of Mission Friends and GAs, I believe the new GA Journey Leader Guide is the easiest and simplest leader's guide ever," said Rhonda Reeves, leader of the children's resource team at WMU. "And it offers tons of ideas such as projects, activities, forms, and information to help girls learn more about prayer, giving and serving others."

The new Leader Guide offers more than 100 pages of helpful information and ideas for leading members of GA through the individual achievement plan.

GA Journey is paired with badges instead of charms for recognition. Limited supplies of WorldVentures resources will remain available through national WMU until August 2012.

Baptist Men respond to tornado damage

North Carolina Baptist Men's Disaster Relief responded to the devastation of a deadly tornado that hit Davidson and Randolph counties Nov. 16.

Volunteers set up feeding and shower units at Liberty Baptist Church in Thomasville.

"More than 60 volunteers were working in the community all day on Saturday," said Richard Brunson, director of N.C. Baptist Men.

"Please pray for the families who were affected and for the volunteers who are helping."

For those who would like to contribute to disaster relief efforts, send your gifts to N.C. Baptist Men Disaster Relief, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512.

Or call Kecia Morgan at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5613. To follow the groups efforts or see photos of the clean up you can visit their Facebook page: facebook.com/ncmissions.



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CHURCH NEWS



First Baptist Church, Pinehurst

Acteens from First Baptist Church, Pinehurst, hosted “Barefoot Sunday” Nov. 6. The young ladies collected 1,442 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls. About 80 participants met on the lawn of the church for prayer and a line dance. The group filed into the church and placed their shoes at the altar where other donations had been placed. Participants ate soup and bread. The Acteens packed the shoes and sent them to a collection point in South Carolina. David Marks is pastor. Visit BRnow.org; click “Photo Gallery” for more pictures from this event.



Temple Baptist Church, Wilmington

The Board of Deacons at Temple Baptist Church, Wilmington, recognized Del Parkerson as pastor emeritus on Oct. 30. John Cowand, left, chairman of the deacons, presents the plaque to Parkerson, who had been serving as the church’s interim pastor. Steve A. Spangler is pastor.



Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville

Members of Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville, took part in Blitz Week Oct. 24-28 to rebuild a family’s home – mainly with the roof – that was destroyed during an April tornado. Above, from left, Wayne Howard, Jay Currin and Tim Moore work on some of the framing. The church partnered with a family through North Carolina Baptist Men. Church members helped with the project throughout October but had a specific week to get more of the job done. John Cook is senior pastor.

Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Goldsboro

For the fourth year, members of Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Goldsboro, provided meals to the Goldsboro Police Department. At left, from left, Doris Hinnant, Linda Edwards and Virginia Barnes were among the volunteers who helped prepare 96 meals over four different days in October. Bob Fulkerson is pastor.

Wingate honors local residents

Two Wingate residents were recently recognized at Wingate University’s 27th Annual Alumni Recognition Breakfast Nov. 5.

G. Byrns Coleman was recognized with the Honorary Alumni Award, which honors individuals who are not graduates of Wingate University but have taken active roles in university life and contributed to its success. Coleman began teaching at Wingate Junior College in 1960 and has continued teaching under four Wingate presidents. A Harry and Frances Cannon Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religion, he was awarded for “50 Years of Teaching” – a record tenure at Wingate University.

James Cauble (class of 1955) received a Distinguished Alumni Award, which honors the alumni who, through professional excellence and personal dedication, have been leaders in their communities. He taught at Wingate, achieving the rank of associate professor of psychology.

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

REBECCA HALL has been called to Ridge Road Baptist Church, Raleigh, as minister to children and missions. Hall graduated from Campbell Divinity School in 2010.



Thompsonville Baptist Church, Reidsville, has called **MIKE CAMPBELL** as pastor. Campbell was pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Charlotte, and he had served as Thompsonville’s youth pastor in 1985-86.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

NCBAM, NCBM partner in building ramps

How many North Carolina Baptists does it take to set a world’s record? The North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) and North Carolina Baptist Men are working together to build ramps during the Operation Inasmuch (OIAM) outreach April 28, 2012. Called Rampin’ Up!, NCBAM and NCBM are trying to build a record number of wheelchair ramps constructed in a single day across North Carolina. Ramp teams will need to pre-register

their intent to participate and report on the work they accomplish. A manual is available for download at the website listed below. OIAM is scheduled for April 28 and May 5. Churches are encouraged to participate in this one-day missions blitz in the surrounding community. Sign up today at ncoperationinasmuch.org or call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry for more information: (877) 506-2226.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information as soon as it happens to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Cary, NC 27619-8808. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.

N.C. Baptists back marriage, gambling resolutions

Continued from page 1

and messengers added another miscellaneous business session in the afternoon to revisit the resolution.

Noah Crowe, pastor of First Baptist Church in Robbinsville and a member of the Eastern Cherokee Indians, spoke in support of the resolution.

"I stand today in support of this resolution, giving voice to many ... members who were never asked if we wanted gambling on our reservation and never even given an opportunity to vote on the issue," Crowe said.

"Now alcohol, which we were told would never be pushed, but is now being sold in the casino."

Crowe said gambling began as a "small agreement" or "compact" entered into by the men of the tribe but "has now blossomed into a large gaming enterprise" bringing in millions of dollars.

He mentioned a gamblers anonymous meeting going on weekly for the tribe.

No messengers spoke in opposition of any of the resolutions.

Reports and recommendations

During the Board of Directors report, messengers affirmed a recommendation and approved four amendments to the Convention's governing documents. One of the reports involved policies addressing the social use of alcohol, and another focused on the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (BF&M 2000). Two committees were formed to address these issues earlier this year in response to questions raised by messengers during the 2010 meeting.

One of the committees affirmed current policies on alcohol consumption



From left: Timmy D. Blair Sr. (and his wife, Wendy), Mark Harris (and his wife, Beth), and CJ Bordeaux are the new officers of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Harris takes the president's spot while Bordeaux fills the first vice president's role. Blair takes the second vice presidency. (BSC photo/K Brown)

for the BSC staff, BSC supported church planters and individuals recommended to serve on the committees and boards of the BSC.

Messengers approved the recommendation by the Board of Directors to adopt a resolution that affirms the BF&M 2000. The Board of Directors handling of both issues was included in their written report to the annual meeting. Messengers approved four proposed amendments to the governing documents which included the following: The first motion proposed an amendment to Article VI. Membership: Composition of the Articles of Incorporation. The purpose of the amendment was to bring clarity to the use of "members" and "messengers." A statement was added affirming that both can be used interchangeably. This motion required a two-thirds majority.

The remaining three proposed bylaw amendments that were approved applied to Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute (Fruitland), which is operated by the Convention. The bylaw amendments update and make consistent the BSC bylaws with Fruitland's revised Constitution. Each motion required a simple majority. The Board of Directors also reported on the formation of the Convention's Vision Fulfillment Committee.

The committee conducted a study across the state this year of partner church's perceptions of the BSC's effectiveness in funding and implementing the BSC's vision, which was rolled out through its Seven Pillars for Ministry: Biblical Concepts for a Christ-Centered Vision.

The seven pillars include: practicing fervent prayer, promoting evangelism and disciple-making, strengthening existing

churches, planting new multiplication churches, reaching North Carolina's international community, embracing unreached and unengaged people groups, and engaging young church leaders. To read the entire report go to ncbaptist.org/vf.

Officers, other business

Officers ran unopposed and have been elected to a one-year term.

President Mark Harris, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, was nominated by Marty Jacumin, senior pastor of Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh. First vice president Conley J. "CJ" Bordeaux Sr. is pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, and second vice president is Timmy D. Blair Sr., pastor of Piney Grovel Chapel Baptist Church in Angier. Bobby Blanton, senior pastor of Lake Norman Baptist Church in Huntersville, nominated Bordeaux, and Lee Pigg, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, nominated Blair.

Tim Andrews, chair, Historical Committee, presented the winner of the 2011 History Writing Contest in the Church Category: "An Unbroken Chain: The History of Coats Baptist Church 1910-2010" by Ronnie Faulkner.

The annual meeting will return to Greensboro next year but in a different venue. The meeting will be Nov. 12-13, 2012, at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. Messengers approved Kevin Ezell, NAMB's president, as Convention speaker for 2012 and voted Larry Wynne, NAMB vice president of evangelism, as a backup speaker for Ezell.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Shawn Hendricks, managing editor of the Biblical Recorder, contributed to this report.)

Convention agencies report on God's faithfulness

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Kourri, 16, came to live at the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) about two years ago. Her family had recently lost everything they owned because of Hurricane Katrina. Kourri's troubled family background only added to her struggles.

Kourri shared during the BCH report at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting Nov. 8 about how she became rebellious and angry toward the adults in her life. That changed when she came to Broyhill Home in Clyde. Her houseparents and the BCH staff showed her God's love and taught her about the gospel. During a 2009 youth group meeting, Kourri prayed to receive Jesus Christ. "My life has completely turned around. Day by day I'm becoming closer to God," she said.

Kourri is just one of many children and teenagers who have experienced hope and healing through the

ministry of BCH. BCH president Michael Blackwell also gave an update on North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM), created in 2008. It helps churches and associations learn new ways to minister to aging adults.

Blackwell highlighted the "Rampin' Up" initiative on April 28, 2012. One of the requests NCBAM receives most often is for help building wheelchair ramps. On April 28, North Carolina Baptists will partner to build wheelchair ramps for senior adults across the state.

Church and community relations director Paul Mullen brought the North Carolina Baptist Hospital report. Ever since the hospital opened in 1923 with 88 beds, the goal has been to "care and to cure." With more than 1,000 beds, two affiliate hospitals, it is consistently ranked among the top hospitals in the nation. In fiscal year 2010, the hospital served 728,213 patients. This year the hospital opened a pediatric emergency department.

Clinical pastoral education continues to be an important ministry for the hospital as each year more than 40 students are trained in clinical pastoral care.

Mullen thanked N.C. Baptists for their support of the Mother's Day Offering, which helps patients in serious financial need pay their hospital bills. In 2010, N.C. Baptists gave \$650,410 to the offering.

Messengers also heard from Clay Warf about the N.C. Baptist Foundation. Warf, president of the Foundation since 1998, encouraged messengers to financially invest in Kingdom work and in BSC ministries.

One way North Carolina Baptists can do that is through an endowment. To help lead by example, the Foundation gave a \$1,000 endowment to three churches - one from each area of the state - registered at the annual meeting. The church endowment winner from the eastern area was Island Creek Baptist Church in Rose Hill and Billy Overby, director of development, made the presentation. Charles Fox, central area manager for the Foundation, presented an endowment to Phaniels Baptist Church in Rockwell. Western area manager David Webb presented an endowment to Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby.

Pastors challenged to pursue integrity, humility, balance

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

From the first sermon to the last, the North Carolina Baptist Pastor's Conference held true to its purpose of focusing on God's Word. The conference Nov. 6-7 featured some of the best Bible expositors in North Carolina and across the United States, and each helped expound on the theme: "Sustained by His Powerful Word: Hear it. Live it. Proclaim it," based on Hebrews 1:3a.

Logan Carson, professor of Christian theology (Ret.), The College at South-eastern, spoke on Isaiah 61:1 and how pastors are anointed to preach, thus preaching is a "commission from the Lord Jesus Christ and should not be entered into lightly." Preachers, according to Carson, are divinely called, qualified, and sent by God to preach the good news of Jesus Christ.

Using the word "preach" as an acrostic, Carson told pastors that God's marching orders for preachers are to "proclaim" the liberating message of the gospel of Jesus Christ; to "reach" the masses with the gospel; to "evangelize" the world through the power of the Holy Spirit; to "announce" that Jesus saves to those who are perishing without Him; to "comfort" all who mourn; and to "heal" in the name of Jesus those who are brokenhearted.

Carson told pastors that if they are anointed to preach they will be compelled with a sense of urgency to declare the gospel. "A minister who is anointed feels that a necessity and a compulsion has been laid upon him to preach the gospel," he said. "Like the apostle Paul, the servant of God cries 'woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.'"

Greg Mathis, senior pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville,



Officers for the 2012 Pastor's Conference, from left: Dale Robertson, treasurer, senior pastor of North Main Baptist Church in Salisbury; Scott Faw, president, senior pastor of Moons Chapel Baptist Church, Siler City; and Josh Phillips, vice president, pastor of Cherry Grove Baptist Church, Cerro Gordo.

also preached Sunday night. His message titled "The Mind of Christ" came from Philippians 2:5-11. Mathis said when believers put on the mind of Christ they are to have the humility of Christ, who gave the perfect example of humility to emulate. "There is no better example of humility than the Lord Jesus Christ," Mathis said.

According to Mathis, if believers are to have the mind of Christ they must make humility a priority in their own lives. Mathis showed the perfect humility of Christ as revealed in Philippians 2. He said that Jesus, "though he was infinitely rich and God in every way," became poor for the sake of humanity and gave up His divine privileges and then humbled Himself when He took up the cross.

Clayton King, founder and president of Crossroads Worldwide, used 1 Kings 19 to illustrate how pastors can navigate both the highs and lows in pastoral ministry. "It's a real short walk from your highest point to your lowest," he said. "Victory makes us vulnerable; weakness makes us strong."

King talked about a number of things pastors can do to maintain balance in ministry. For example, he encouraged pastors to take guilt free vacations every year, and to get away from the pressures of ministry on a regular basis for their spiritual and physical well being, as well as for the benefit of spending uninterrupted time with family.

"Follow the example of Jesus," King said. "If Jesus had to maintain his relationship with God, how can we think we are any better?"

Larry Wynn, vice president of evangelism with the North American Mission Board, followed King with a message from Matthew 9:35-38. Wynn told pastors that success in ministry starts with prayer and compassion directed toward the people in their communities.

"We need to pray for a labor force that will penetrate lostness where God has placed us," he said. "We must see people the way Jesus sees them. We must lead our churches to see people through the eyes of Jesus Christ."

John Bisagno, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, drew from his more than 35 years in full-time pastoral ministry as he shared 12 disciplines for a blessed ministry. He said of all the traits a pastor should possess, integrity and humility are two of the most important.

"Integrity is paramount," Bisagno said. "You do what people would expect you to do when no one is looking or taking notes."

Conference attendees participated in a question and answer session with Wynn and Bisagno, with most questions focused on the differences between church planting and church revitalization.

David Dykes, senior pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, preached the final sermon of the conference. Dykes spoke on the topic of overcoming discouragement in ministry, based on Exodus 15: 19-27.

Drawing from Moses' experience with the grumbling Israelites at Marah, Dykes said criticism is part of ministry. "If you're in the ministry, you are a target for criticism," he said.

"Whenever you are criticized, think about the abuse that was leveled upon the Lord Jesus Christ," Dykes said. "When you take His suffering and baptize it in your bitterness, then it's not so bad after all."

Officers are: Scott Faw, president, senior pastor of Moons Chapel Baptist Church, Siler City; Josh Phillips, vice president, pastor of Cherry Grove Baptist Church, Cerro Gordo; and Dale Robertson, treasurer, senior pastor of North Main Baptist Church in Salisbury.

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Pastor shares ‘OneCry’ for N.C. Baptists

By **SHAWN HENDRICKS** | BR Managing Editor

While pushing his way through the cobwebs as he entered the balcony of Moriah Chapel in Wales, Darryl Craft felt chills. During a 10-day trip to the United Kingdom, he stood there looking across the site of the legendary Welsh revival that took place in 1904.

Standing where hundreds of thousands of people once put their trust in Jesus Christ, Craft, senior pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, asked his guide how many people now attend the chapel each week.

“My imagination was filled with all of the crammed crowds that came when the spirit of God fell, the people cried out to God and thousands were saved ... the place was packed to capacity,” Craft told North Carolina Baptists Nov. 8 during the convention sermon at the annual meeting.

“He showed this incredible look of sadness and he said, ‘There’s usually about 15 people here on Sunday,’” Craft said.

“Today, Wales is a very dark country spiritually.”

Craft said he couldn’t help but wonder, “God, is this where we’re headed where I live?”

‘We need spiritual awakening’

We live in troubled times, Craft contended. “Our land is in a state of moral and spiritual devastation,” he said. “It is out of devastation that we must unite with one voice ... we need revival. We



Darryl Craft, senior pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, wants to see “the living power of God impressed on the hearts of the people of Christ.” Craft gave the convention sermon Nov. 8 at the annual meeting. (BSC photo/K Brown)

need spiritual awakening.”

Craft described churches today becoming more like “Divorce Court” or “Judge Judy” than a place where people worship and cry out to God.

“I’m tired of seeing the enemy overcome the saints of the Living God and watch them living in such terrible conditions of sin ... homes devastated ... lives ruined, marriages forfeited,” he said.

Southern Baptists have incredible resources, and they have accomplished many things through the years. But more money, better strategies, resources and new programs aren’t enough, Craft said.

“Resolutions at a convention aren’t going to change anything,” he said. “The deeper issue is an issue of the heart.”

“We can legislate ‘In God we trust’ all

we want,” he added. “I don’t care if it is impressed on a coin. What I want to see is the living power of God impressed on the hearts of the people of Christ.”

“We need one cry for God to invade our lives.”

OneCry

Craft shared about the initiative OneCry, a nationwide call for spiritual

awakening set to launch February 2012.

The effort seeks to attract 50,000 prayer supporters who will pray for revival and share the OneCry vision. Byron Paulus, executive director of Life Action Ministries, began the initiative.

Revival is the country’s only hope, Craft said.

Reading from the book of Joel, Craft shared how the people of Israel faced drought, locust infestations and devastation. There also was hope, he added.

Craft read Joel 3:18. “It will come about that day that the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; and a spring will go out from the house of the Lord to water the valley of Shittim.”

“Don’t you want that to happen here in our midst?” Craft asked.

“Don’t you want God to pour His spirit out on this nation ... in your church, in your city, in your home and in your life?”

Craft stressed that as it is mentioned in the book of Joel, there is hope for us today.

“I believe God is still working, don’t you?” Craft asked. “The real answer is in Him. Revival is Jesus. We need Jesus.”

Find It Here focuses on being witnesses

By **MELISSA LILLEY** | BSC Communications

Their faces flashed on the screen one after another. The faces kept coming and coming as Chuck Register, executive leader for church planting and missions development, shared about Find it Here 2012: Expanding the Kingdom during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting in Greensboro.

The video had no sound, just faces. But that’s all it took for the numbers to become reality and to move beyond just statistics.

“In this video we are looking at five faces per second. If you looked at this video every second, of every minute, of every day, it would still take you 38 years to see the faces of all the lost people in the world,” Register said. “These people

are what Find it Here is all about. It’s about lost people who desperately need the Lord Jesus Christ.”

In a world of seven billion people, only about one billion have a relationship with Jesus Christ. That means six billion people in the world are lost and will not spend eternity in heaven with Christ. That means in North America 258 million people do not know Christ, and in North Carolina 5.6 million people are lost.

Find it Here 2012 is about expanding God’s Kingdom so that more people hear the gospel and have a chance to respond in faith and receive salvation through Jesus Christ.

“Where lostness intersects with the Great Commission of Jesus – this is where you will find our 2012 Find it Here emphasis,” Register said.

Continued on page 10

Hollifield: There is much we can accomplish together

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

God is providing an “open door” for reaching the world with the gospel, and North Carolina Baptists have a tremendous opportunity to make an eternal impact, said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), during his challenge at the Convention’s annual meeting Nov. 7-8.

Hollifield challenged North Carolina to be “All In” – the 2011 annual meeting theme – in helping all peoples know and trust Jesus. In 2012, the Convention will push to mobilize the state for missions through its “Find it Here: Expanding the Kingdom” effort. It’s the third phase of a three-year initiative designed to encourage North Carolina Baptists in evangelism, discipleship and missions mobilization.

“Followers of Jesus have both a calling and a commission to take the gospel across the street as well as around the world,” Hollifield told the crowd Nov. 7.

“God continues to do some great and wonderful things through this large network of Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina ... we have ‘power’ through the call and Great Commission given by our Lord.

“What will we do with this power?” he asked.

Economic, spiritual hurdles

Hollifield noted North Carolina Baptists face challenges in reaching a lost world for Christ – both here and abroad.

He noted approximately 320,000 jobs have been lost in North Carolina in the last five years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an unemployment rate of 10.5 percent in the state in September. The state’s Justice Center reported that during 2010 the owners of nearly 68,000 housing units experienced foreclosures.

“I am keenly aware of the economic challenges people in our churches are facing,” he said, noting he and his wife, Gloria, have traveled and seen closed factories and plants and foreclosure signs throughout the state.

“Aren’t you glad that we serve a God who does not have to manage His Kingdom based upon the financial activities of the bulls and bears of Wall Street?” he asked. “God always provides for our needs.”



Milton A. Hollifield Jr. charges messengers to be “All In” in helping all peoples know and trust Jesus Nov. 7 during the first session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. View the annual meeting photo gallery at BRnow.org; click “Photo Gallery.” (BSC photo/K Brown)

Hollifield also remained optimistic that God will help North Carolina Baptists overcome the many spiritual challenges they face in expanding His Kingdom.

With the global population now at 7 billion people, Hollifield noted that there are approximately 4.5 billion people who have not put their trust in Jesus. Of that number there are believed to be 1.7 billion who have little to no access to the gospel.

He noted there is one Southern Baptist missionary for every 2.1 million people.

In North Carolina alone, there are 5.6 million people among 9.4 million who have not put their trust in Jesus – and 79 percent of its residents do not actively attend a church.

“Despite these statistics, I have hope,” Hollifield said.

“A number of our churches in this Convention have already made a commitment to pierce the darkness ... to reach souls for the glory of Christ Jesus.”

“God is blessing their efforts, their strategies, and their ministries,” he said.

A call to all N.C. Baptists

Hollifield challenged all North Carolina Baptists to join the 2012 emphasis in mobilizing for missions.

With the help of God and fellow North Carolina

Baptists, Hollifield remains confident that anything is possible.

“By God’s grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel,” he said.

“It should go without saying that we can accomplish nothing apart from the providential aid of our God.”

An important guide for achieving its goal, Hollifield contends, will involve remaining consistent with what he referred to as the “Seven Pillars for Ministry.”

These pillars include: practicing fervent prayer, promoting evangelism and disciple-making, strengthening existing churches, planting new multiplication churches, reaching North Carolina’s international community, embracing unreached and unengaged people groups and engaging young church leaders.

The list has been revised from an earlier version, which was highlighted in the Biblical Recorder from July through October.

“As core values, the seven pillars keep us focused on our vision, help us move from facilitating good ministry to facilitating great ministry, and keep us from looking inward by continually challenging us to look outward and upward as we develop strategies for missions and ministry,” he said.

Last year the Convention formed a Vision Fulfillment Committee, tasked to gather input from North Carolina Baptists on the fulfillment of its long-range strategy.

The Vision Fulfillment Committee’s report, along with Hollifield’s convention report, are available online at ncbaptist.org.

Cooperation remains a key element in achieving the Convention’s goals. That cooperation, Hollifield added, is achieved through efforts such as the Cooperative Program, in which churches pull their funds together to support Southern Baptist ministries.

“Each local church, regardless of size, can have an equal part in supporting missions when they give an adequate percentage of their income and combine it with contributions from other Southern Baptist churches,” he said.

“The Cooperative Program rose out of the conviction that Baptists can accomplish so much more together than they can independently of one another.”

‘Let the fire fall,’ says N.C. Baptist president



Ed Yount, before leaving his post as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, challenged leaders to pray for revival in a nation that is “no longer Christian.” Yount handed over leadership of the BSC to Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte. See story, page 1. (BR photo/Shawn Hendricks)

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

Before leaving his post as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), Ed Yount challenged Baptist leaders this month to pray for revival and reexamine the priorities and purpose of their churches.

Yount noted there is much for Baptists in the state to be thankful for “yet, God has given [them] a tremendous task.”

“We live in a world of 7 billion people, and it is estimated that 6 billion of them do not know the Lord Jesus,” said Yount, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church in Conover, to messengers Nov. 8 during the BSC annual meeting. “Of that number, 1.7 billion have no access to the

gospel.” Among the state’s 9.4 million people and more than 230 languages, it is estimated that 79 percent have no active church affiliation. And 5.6 million of them have not put their trust in Jesus, Yount reported.

Right now there are approximately 4,300 Southern Baptist churches in the state with more than 1.3 million Baptists. Among its congregations last year, more than 23,359 people were baptized. In the past five years, 613 churches have been added to the convention.

Yount, however, noted a low percentage of new Christians are joining evangelical churches across the country. According to a report from the North American



‘Their time is now’ Unreached

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

To an 18-year-old on his first international mission trip the scene was surreal, like something from television or straight out of National Geographic. After spending several days in a Southeast Asia country seeking to share the gospel and build relationships, Jamie Buckley and the team from Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem headed to a predominantly Buddhist fisherman’s village off the coast.

Within seconds it seemed like 100 people surrounded the team. Some in the village had never seen anyone with light skin.

The team’s translator said they could not share the gospel in this particular village, so they headed farther away from the village to a beach. Several teenagers from the village joined them.

After wading through waist-deep water to get there, the team found themselves on a beautiful beach. Buckley found himself faced with the very opportunity he prayed would come on this trip.

Buckley wanted to share the gospel with at least one person his age. That day on the beach, Buckley shared the gospel with teenagers from the village, and four prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING WEEK OF PRAYER: Dec. 4-11

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) – Jesus gave His followers a task – to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-19). He commissioned believers to be His heart, His hands and His voice to share the gospel with the world.

Through praying for, giving to and going on mission, Southern Baptists have dedicated themselves to this legacy for more than 160 years.

Yet billions of people do not know Jesus as Lord. This calls for intentional prayer, sacrificial giving and direct responsibility for helping to reach the nearly 3,800 people groups in the world that have no active Christian presence among them. Learn how to adopt an unengaged, unreached people group at call2embrace.org.

The cities

More than 50 percent of the world’s population lives in urban centers. People are migrating into cities in ever-increasing numbers, and that migration brings unique challenges to reach peoples of the cities.

Jesus’ heart cried out for the peoples of the cities: “as (Jesus) approached and saw the city, He wept over it, saying, ‘If you knew this day what (would bring) peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes’” (Luke 19: 41-42 HCSB). This year’s Lottie Moon Christmas

Offering (LMCO) goal is \$175 million. Every penny given to the LMCO is used to support nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries as they share the gospel overseas. Give to the offering through your local Southern Baptist church or online at imb.org/offering, where there are resources for church leaders to promote the offering.



Day 1

TOKYO – In Japan’s male-dominated society, a man’s identity centers on his work. Companies reward loyalty, hard work and long hours. But losing one’s position is a fall from grace that leads to shame. For many Japanese, losing a job means losing their identity. For some touched by the ministry of International Mission Board (IMB) workers to the homeless, it means new birth.

On March 11 a crushing earthquake and tsunami dealt Japan another blow. A nuclear crisis at the Fukushima nuclear power plant complicated relief efforts and led to the temporary evacuation of American citizens from Tokyo, including IMB missionaries Mark and Wendy Hoshizaki who minister to the homeless.

“Even before the earthquake, the homeless were beginning to ask, ‘What is important? What is real? Isn’t there some hope?’” Mark said.

- Pray that both the earthquake and economic crisis will lead more Japanese to turn from their pride and self-sufficiency to faith in Jesus Christ.

- Pray that small groups begun among the homeless will grow into reproducing churches.

- Pray the spiritual rebirth among the homeless will spread to other sectors of Japanese society as they become bold witnesses for Christ.

Day 2

JERUSALEM – As Jesus approached Jerusalem for the last time, He wept. He thought about the people within its walls and said, “If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace.” He knew within hours He’d be crucified by the very people for whom He wept.

Would Jesus still look over the city and weep 2,000 years later?

Most believe He would.

- Pray that the people of Jerusalem will begin to recognize the things that bring true peace.

Day 3

KARACHI – Aadam Channar* was only a boy when Baptist missionary Hu Addleton first brought the gospel to his province in Pakistan. Today he is an evangelist trying to reach Pakistan’s largest city.

About 97 percent of Karachi follows Islam. Christians make up only about 2 percent of the city’s population, according to the U.S. State Department.

- Please pray for Channar as he represents the Lord as His heart, His hands, His voice in the city of Karachi, and ask that more Pakistani Christians would respond to God’s call to do the same.

*Name changed



Unengaged embrace gospel for first time

“God answered my prayer beyond what I prayed for. He multiplied the opportunities and allowed me to see Him at work,” Buckley said.

The trip to Southeast Asia included times of teaching and equipping with national believers and leaders, and also several days in an area of the country home to many “T” people. Very little is known about the T people (name changed for security reasons), an unengaged, unreached people group with no church planting strategy and less than 2 percent evangelical presence. Previously it was thought that the T people numbered about 100,000, but so far research indicates that their population is more than 300,000, and more are expected to be identified.

Mark Harrison, missions pastor at Old Town, said only about 50 T people have been identified as believers in Jesus Christ. Around this time last year Harrison began praying about how Old Town could get involved in reaching an unengaged, unreached people group with the gospel of Jesus Christ. A year later, Old Town’s journey (read about the rest of the journey at *BRnow.org*) has brought them all the way from Winston-Salem to Southeast Asia.

Harrison said the trip to Southeast Asia proved more fruitful than he could ever have imagined. “Just by showing up, God led us to the next person and the next person we needed to meet,” he said. “God is lining things up for

us.” The team engaged T people in evangelistic conversations, and although most had never heard the gospel, the team experienced firsthand their receptivity to the truth.

One day Harrison and several other team members stopped at a Christian cemetery and met the caretaker of the cemetery. “I asked the man if he knew what the cross on the tombs meant. He said he thought it was some kind of good luck charm,” Harrison said.

Harrison shared with the man – who is among the T people – what it means to know Jesus Christ. “The man prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior,” Harrison said.

The trip was marked with stories just like that; stories of God bringing people into their path who needed to hear the gospel. The team also met national believers who want to help make disciples among the T people.

“We got this sense that, for the T people, their time is now. Their time for salvation is here,” Harrison said. “This is the most exciting, and intimidating thing I’ve ever done.”

After the trip Old Town committed to praying 40 days for the T people. During this time they are also praying for God to affirm this sense of calling to serve among the T people, and to help them discern exactly how to do that.

“We want to see the T people effectively reached through the generations,” Harrison said. To do that,

benchmarks must be set throughout the process in order to maintain momentum, while at the same time leaving the commitment open-ended.

“We want to engage this people group until the Great Commission is fulfilled; until they are making disciples who are making disciples,” he said

Harrison continues to keep the T people before the Old Town congregation and continues to share with them how God is at work in this journey. “The congregation must own it,” he said. “We have to empower people to have ownership of what we’re doing.”

Harrison wants to see other North Carolina Baptist churches across the state work together to fulfill the Great Commission by embracing unengaged, unreached people groups. Through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina he is working with the Office of Great Commission Partnerships to help create a Global Impact Network for churches wanting to work with the T people or other similar people groups in the area. The journey to embrace an unengaged, unreached people group continues to challenge – and remind – Old Town leadership that everything the church does must be focused on God’s Kingdom, and on intentionally sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To learn more about engaging an unreached people group, visit ncbaptist.org/gcp.

Day 4

LONDON – Though she has always lived in London, Fatimah grew up observing her family’s Islamic rituals, just as if she were living in her father’s homeland of Iraq.

And she has faithfully passed these traditions on to her own children.

Fatimah’s parents make the hajj to Mecca every year, and she has been five times herself, she says.

“We don’t drink alcohol or smoke, so we save that money to use to go to Mecca,” she explains.

“It’s really lovely there, like a festival, with everyone there for the same purpose,” she says.

Fatimah lives in an area of west London teeming with ethnic restaurants, clothing shops, mosques and Sikh temples.

To walk the streets of Southall is to encounter a very different London from what most tourists to Britain experience.

“London is an amazing place to get to relate to people from all over the world,” says Patrick Sims*, IMB missionary.

This multicultural aspect of London brought Sims, strategy leader for the London team, to work here nearly a decade ago.

- Pray for missionaries in London to develop deep, cross-cultural relationships in this urban environment.

*Name changed

Day 5

JOHANNESBURG – Lisha* was just a little girl who trusted her pastor, but he raped her. As a teenager she trusted her friend, but he raped her.

Lisha was kicked out when her mom found out about her pregnancy, which forced her to find a home with her abusive boyfriend. Lisha, 33, is just one of an estimated 27 million victims of human trafficking.

- Pray that God would save trafficking victims and their owners. Ask Him how He wants you to join the global fight against trafficking.

*Names changed

Day 6

DONGGUAN – Factories are the bus stops and the monuments and the landmarks. Everything exists to serve them in Dongguan, China.

The city is divided into 32 districts, each one specializing in a different kind of manufacturing with more than 3,000 factories crammed into one town.

- Pray that factory workers in China will open their hearts to the gospel and take it back to the village.

- Pray how you will give to the LCMO to support workers who partner with national believers.

Day 7

EUROPEAN CITY – Sanaz left Iran with nothing but her daughter and a will to live. At 27 years old she had seen enough destruction. Her workplace, her family, her hopes for the future had been chewed up in a political machine determined to obliterate dissent. Not knowing whether her husband was dead or alive, she set out on an invisible passageway well trafficked by refugees fleeing oppression in North Africa, Afghanistan, and Iran.

She ended up on the crowded doorstep of a European city. Here she found a government overrun with requests from asylum seekers. She found a society groaning under economic pressures not helped by a burgeoning immigrant community. Instead of freedom to pursue a new life, she found barriers.

Until some Afghan friends told her about a place where IMB workers are welcoming weary travelers. With food, training and the Good News, they are helping refugees find spiritual freedom – perhaps not what they left home to find, but something better.

For Sanaz, this has made all the difference. “I have hope that my future is bright because my heavenly Father is with me.”

- Pray for IMB workers in this European city to have wisdom and skill in crossing cultural and language barriers with refugees who are arriving daily from places like Afghanistan and Iran.

Day 8

RIO DE JANEIRO – Sprawling along the hillsides beneath the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue, Rio de Janeiro is a city of juxtaposition. A middle-class gated community may share a wall with a gang-controlled slum. This proximity allows Eric and Ramona Reese to reach out to both extremes within the Brazilian megacity.

- Pray God will help the Reeses be His heart, hands and voice as they build strong relationships with Brazilians from opposite walks of life.

- Pray many Brazilians will accept Christ through these friendships.

Get longer versions of this prayer guide online at *BRnow.org*. Also, look online and in future issues for stories relating to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

BR report introduces new staff, updated logo, website

BR staff

This year has brought several changes to the *Biblical Recorder*. These changes were shared during its report to North Carolina Baptist messengers Nov. 8.

K. Allan Blume was elected to the position of editor/president in April. This year the paper has launched a new logo, new design for print and website *brnow.org*.

"A year ago, I asked you to pray ... that God would lead the search team for the board of directors to find the person he had for us to call as the editor/president of the *Biblical Recorder*," said Gerald Hodges, chairman of the *Biblical Recorder*'s Board of Directors.

"And I'm thankful to Him for your prayers and His guidance in that process.

"[Allan Blume] really needs no introduction," Hodges said.

"[He] has served as a pastor in this state for 34 years. He has served this convention for many of those years. He and Pam have a heart for God's glory in this convention and this state and around the world."

Before beginning his new role, Blume was pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Boone for 16 years. Blume has served as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Board of Directors and served as chairman of the Convention's Vision Fulfillment Committee prior to being named editor.

"Certainly our God is a God of great surprises," said Blume, as he began his report.

"I never imagined I'd be standing here in this role and addressing you about this ministry, but I want to thank you. It is a privilege to serve as your editor."

Blume introduced the staff. Shawn Hendricks, a former



Gerald Hodges, right, chairman of the *Biblical Recorder* Board of Directors, prays for K. Allan Blume and his wife, Pam. Blume assumed the editor/publisher role in May. (BSC photo/K Brown)

senior writer for IMB, is the *Recorder*'s newest staff member.

He began work Oct. 24 as managing editor. Hendricks joins Dianna Cagle, assistant managing editor; Alison McKinney, business and advertising manager, and Daphne Woodall, circulation manager.

"We are here to serve you," Blume said.

Blume shared the *Recorder*'s three goals: to be biblical, committed to the Great Commission and glorify God.

"We want to tell the great stories of North Carolina ministries that are making a kingdom impact for the glory of God," he said. "We want to support and encourage these great ministries and tell these stories."

Blume reported subscriptions are on the rise, and he thanked North Carolina Baptists for their support.

"Pastors and church leaders ... you're making that possible," he said. "The *Biblical Recorder* cannot grow without your help and your leadership."

"Thank you for encouraging your people to subscribe, and ask them to keep visiting our website and to pass the word to others."

Blume also announced the *Recorder* will feature articles by Roman Gabriel III, a former professional football player. Gabriel's story was featured in the Oct. 1 issue. He will write stories focused on how God is working through athletics.

Gabriel was later on hand at the *Recorder*'s booth to draw the winners of several items that were given away by the publication.

The prizes included: three Holman study Bibles, two digital Fuji cameras, a Kindle Fire and an iPad. Robert Ivey, Freedom Biker

Church in Fayetteville; Jan Freeman, Williamston Memorial Baptist Church in Williamston; and Vickie Bowden, Mint Hill Baptist Church of Charlotte, won Bibles. Sue Hatfield, Mount Vernon Baptist Church of Boone; and Pam Jirgal, Lakeview Baptist Church of Monroe, won cameras. Kelly Bullard, Temple Baptist Church of Fayetteville, won the Kindle; and Kenn Hucks, Sardis Baptist Church of Indian Trail, won the iPad.

Also, during the meeting, new *Biblical Recorder* board of directors were approved. The new members include: Kevin Atchley, Elizabeth Baptist Church of Shelby; Chris Byrne, New Friendship Baptist Church of Winston-Salem; Cindi Stevens, Cross Culture Church of Raleigh; and Peggy Bass Weiss, Rocky Hock Baptist Church of Edenton.

Find It Here focuses on being witnesses

Continued from page 6

The 2012 emphasis is the final year in a three-year emphasis on intentional evangelism, transformational discipleship and mission mobilization. Although attention next year turns to missions, evangelism and discipleship must remain central focuses in the local church in order for the Great Commission to be fulfilled.

Don McCutcheon, executive leader for evangelization, encouraged North Carolina Baptists to continue next year as they have the past two years with a special focus on evangelism in the weeks leading up to Easter. McCutcheon encouraged churches to once again engage in four evangelistic activities on or before Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012: pray for the salvation of non-Christian family, friends and neighbors; invite non-Christian family, friends and neighbors to Easter services; preach an evangelistic sermon; and baptize new converts.

Lynn Sasser, executive leader for congregational services, also challenged North Carolina Baptists to continue next year the efforts begun this year in transformational discipleship.



Don McCutcheon, Baptist State Convention executive leader for evangelization, wants more churches involved in Find It Here in 2012. (BSC photo/K Brown)

"A disciple is one who abides in Christ and does the things that Jesus did," he said. "So we must worship God, we must be involved in His evangelistic mission, and we must come together in community to nurture our faith and worship God more."

Sasser noted that each component of Find it Here is necessary in the life of a local church and in the life of a believer in

Jesus Christ. "Every day of every month we must be about each of the three intents; it's not one or the other," he said. "The scripture makes it abundantly clear that we cannot be obedient, fruitful disciples without engaging in God's great mission in the world."

To help North Carolina Baptists engage in God's mission of redeeming lost humanity, Find it Here 2012 is built on the foundation of Acts 1:8 and seeks to help churches formulate a strategy for reaching their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the earth with the gospel.

Find it Here includes four strategic phases: discover, develop, implement and evaluate. As churches move through the phases they will assess the current mission strategy, create the framework for a comprehensive mission strategy, implement that strategy and evaluate the effectiveness of that strategy.

The Find it Here 2012 planning guide includes resources such as diagnostic tools, Bible studies, sermons, prayer guides and video resources to help churches in each of the four phases. The planning guide is available as a free download at finditherenc.org.

"It is time for us as a family of faith known as North Carolina Baptists to put our words into actions," Register said. "You can make an eternal difference in the lives of people locally and globally." Register challenged messengers to commit to participate in Find it Here 2012, and by doing so committing to growing as an individual Christ follower who consistently engages the lost with the Gospel and who helps develop those who embrace Jesus as Lord into mature, reproducing disciples.

He also challenged messengers, as influencers in local churches across the state, to commit to helping their church fulfill the Great Commission, intentionally proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all peoples and nations, and intentionally making mature, reproducing disciples of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ.

"A lost and dying world waits to hear the life saving message of Jesus," Register said. "The only question is: are you all in?"

To sign up to participate in Find it Here, or for more information, visit finditherenc.org.

N.C. Baptist church anniversaries

200 Years

- Clayton First Baptist Church, Clayton
- New Bethel Baptist Church, Garner
- Flat Creek Baptist Church, Weaverville

175 Years

- Booneville Baptist Church, Booneville
- Holloways Baptist Church, Lexington
- Louisburg Baptist Church, Louisburg
- Badin Baptist Church, Badin
- Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Olin
- Zionville Baptist Church, Zionville
- Blue Ridge Baptist Church, Cedar Mountain
- Sugarfork Baptist Church, Franklin
- Tuckasegee Baptist Church, Tuckasegee

150 Years

- Warrick Baptist Church, Hobbsville
- Bethel Baptist Church, Marshville
- Dudley Shoals Baptist Church, Granite Falls
- Fork Mountain Missionary Baptist Church, Bakersville

- Gold Mine Baptist Church, Franklin
- Boylston Baptist Church, Mills River
- Cove Creek Baptist Church, Waynesville

125 Years

- Cleveland First Baptist Church, Cleveland
- Liberty First Baptist Church, Liberty
- Ephesus Baptist Church, Sanford
- Rock Spring Baptist Church, Henderson
- Carters Chapel Baptist Church, Selma
- Stovall Baptist Church, Stovall
- Aulander Baptist Church, Aulander
- Poplar Branch Baptist Church, Grandy
- Ansonville Baptist Church, Ansonville
- Concord First Baptist Church, (Branchview), Concord
- McAdenville Baptist Church, McAdenville
- Gibson Baptist Church, Gibson
- Centerville Baptist Church, Lumberton
- Tabernacle Baptist Church, Raeford

- Calvary Baptist Church, Wilmington
- Soldier Bay Baptist Church, Ash
- Smyrna Baptist Church, Whiteville
- Pilot Mountain Baptist Church, Todd
- Mountain Grove Baptist Church, Granite Falls
- Moravian Falls Baptist Church, Moravian Falls
- Liberty Grove Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro
- Center Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro

- Liberty Baptist Church, Sparta
- Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, State Road
- Zion Hill Baptist Church, Sugar Grove
- Middle Fork Baptist Church, Bat Cave
- Pine Grove Baptist Church, Franklin
- Mount Hope Baptist Church, Franklin
- Hot Springs First Baptist Church, Hot Springs
- Watauga Baptist Church, Franklin

‘Let the fire fall,’ says N.C. Baptist president

Continued from page 7

Mission Board, 99 percent of the growth among evangelical churches has been “transfer growth” – people moving from one congregation to another.

“Only 1 percent is conversion growth,” Yount said. “... the population in America is 313 million, and now 232 million are estimated to be lost.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we no longer live in a Christian nation.”

“The fire is going to fall”

Reading from 1 Kings 18, Yount shared the story of Elijah and how he called down fire from God. Yount contended that “the fire is going to fall” again.

“The fire of God is going to fall on this convention,” Yount told the crowd, “... on our churches and on our nation, and it will be the fire of revival or it will be the fire of God’s judgment, but the fire is going to fall.”

Southern Baptists have become a distracted people, he said. Churches are becoming increasingly “inward.” Many are plateauing and declining.

“If you listen carefully ... you can hear the death rattle in the throat of many of our churches today,” he said.

Many of today’s churches are not answering the challenge because they’re too consumed with programs, planning and new promotional campaigns. “Misplaced priorities will inevitably lead to professional shepherds, developing new ways to entertain worldly sheep,” Yount said.

Herman’s story

Yount shared a story of a new Christian, Herman. A few days after Herman placed his trust in Jesus, he shared his testimony with a friend. When the friend

laughed at him, Herman told the man he was going to “bust hell wide open” if he didn’t turn his life over to Jesus. Herman’s friend began to “cuss [him].” Herman responded by burning his friend’s hand with a cigarette lighter and telling him, “You think that’s hot, boy? Well, hell is a lot hotter.”

Herman’s pastor later lectured him for not sharing his faith “the proper” way. The pastor told Herman he needed to enroll in “soul winning class” so that he could learn how to do it right.

Herman responded, “Preacher ... He got saved! He wants to be baptized with me today!”

“I like the way Herman did it better than the way some of us are not doing it,” Yount said. “Here’s a man with no training. He’s just burdened about his buddy, and he found a way.”

Today’s churches face more competition than ever before, Yount

contended. “There is a revival going on today, but the devil is having it,” he said.

“There is a revival of atheism, there is a revival of humanism, a revival of demonism, a revival of sorcery, a revival of immorality,” he said. “The most dangerous thing today is the surge and the interest of religion that has a form of Godliness but it denies the power of [God].”

Yount said it’s time for Baptists to put aside the “infighting and the petty bickering and fall on their faces before God.

“With my final words of challenge as your president, I plead with you ... go back to your homes and go back to your churches and gather your families and gather your people around the altar of God and pray ‘Oh God, start a revival in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches,’” he said. “‘Oh God, send a revival, let the fire fall.’”

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Worship in many small churches is a ‘dry and thirsty land’

Bruce Cannon, associational missionary for the Bladen Baptist Association, commented that it seems like we are worshipping in a “dry and thirsty land” in many of our churches. Almost every week I hear from a pastor or associational missionary concerning the desperate situation in so many North Carolina Baptist churches that lack needed worship leadership.

One pastor described his church’s situation as having a pianist who can only play in three or four keys and an organist who has very little ability.

Although the pastor was very grateful for volunteers willing to serve, he shared that the church is limited in the older, more traditional, music they can do, and they cannot even venture into newer music.

The pastor asked what could be done to help his church’s corporate worship times.

These stories are not at all uncommon. The younger generation is producing very few instrumentalists to replace retiring church musicians. Many churches find they have instrumentalists with vast limitations or no musicians at all.

Volunteer leadership in many of our churches is in great need of training. Many churches long to move beyond traditional forms of worship, but find that impossible with the limitations they have. What is a church to do?

After much time interfacing with smaller membership churches and hearing from concerned pastors and associational missionaries, I have developed a training event that will inform and equip the church worship leadership on ways to

renew worship in churches with limited resources.

The event is called “Worship Leader Boot Camp: Special Edition (Leading Worship with Limited Resources).” It takes the popular Worship Leader Boot Camp training event, offered throughout North Carolina last year, and changes the direct application of the biblical and leadership principles through practically helping churches with limited resources to engage technology and new ways of thinking to lead worship with only one or two, or perhaps no instrumentalists.

The theology of worship and leadership principles taught in the original worship leader boot camps are unchanged. The practical application will instruct participants to use resources such as LifeWayWorship.com and other technology to inexpensively provide meaningful and musically excellent worship experiences in the local church. All times of worship



KENNY LAMM
BSC senior consultant

Special edition Worship Boot Camp

A Worship Leader Boot Camp: Special Edition is scheduled Feb. 10-11, 2012, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center; fee: \$30/person; housing/meals cost: single occupancy – \$105 (includes lodging and three meals) double occupancy – \$68/person.

Contact Ridgecrest for commuter fees and meal plans for off-campus participants: ridgecrestconferencecenter.org or (800) 588-7222.

will be led by only one to three musicians, demonstrating worship in churches with limited resources. For instance, a worship segment may be led by one keyboardist utilizing only tracks on some songs, just keyboard on some songs, and a combination of the two on other songs. The songs will be woven together in a seamless fashion to demonstrate the effectiveness and use of these practices.

Finding excellent new songs for use in worship and learning about the best ways to introduce new songs into a congregation’s worship is another vital part of the training.

Participants will be encouraged to bring their computers, if available, and people from their church with technical

ability and some knowledge of music since there will be some hands-on time of constructing musical segments for worship.

For more information, visit my worship blog at www.RenewingWorshipNC.org. The blog articles are written specifically for pastors and worship leaders, to assist them in their journey to renew worship in the local church. At the blog, you will find out how to connect with me on Twitter and Facebook.

You can also find additional information about the BSC worship & music ministry at worshipNC.org.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Kenny Lamm is a senior consultant for worship and music at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.)



Be thankful unto Him

Throughout the years of my journey with God something that has always been and continues to be a source of great encouragement, inspiration and challenge is reading the Book of Psalms. Even from my earliest days as a Christian, this particular book of the Bible has had a special meaning in my life.

One of the reasons I enjoy reading the psalms so much is that they are rich with emotion and are marked by a great sense of transparency.

From the highs and lows, the mountain tops and the valleys, the psalms do not hold back. It’s all there – any feeling you have ever experienced you can surely read about in the psalms.

We know that King David wrote many of the psalms. One pattern we see

throughout his writing is that whatever the situation, no matter how desperate or painful, he turned to God. When David feared for his life, he cried out to God. When he sinned, he cried out to God.

David also rejoiced in the Lord. He knew that all the good things in his life came from God, and he praised God for His provision.

Sometimes the psalms speak about God’s people not turning to God and forgetting God. God did great things for Israel – deliverance from slavery, dividing a great sea, providing food from heaven, bringing forth water from a rock, just to name a few – yet they forgot

to praise God and to give Him thanks.

Psalm 105:4 tells us to “seek his face evermore.”

When our focus is to seek God’s face we are less likely to forget God’s faithfulness and more likely to spend time meditating on God’s goodness to us.

God sent His son Jesus to save us from our sins. No matter our circumstances in this life, we have reason to praise God and to give Him thanks because our eternal salvation is secure in Christ.

The psalms are a wonderful reminder of the joy that comes when we praise God.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive director-treasurer

Psalm 16:11 tells us that in God’s presence is “fulness of joy” and at His right hand are “pleasures for evermore.”

Psalm 30:11 reminds us that God will turn our mourning into joy. In Psalm 146 we see that we can trust God and praise Him because He will reign forever.

Psalm 98:4 says we are to rejoice and sing praise, and Psalm 34:1 says the praises of our God should continually be on our mouths.

If you haven’t been to the psalms lately I encourage you to spend some time there during this Thanksgiving season. You will be blessed as you remember God’s great faithfulness!

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psalm 100:4

Pastors, do we 'get it'?

Recently, I asked a young missionary to tell me about his home church. Although I'm somewhat familiar with the pastor and the church, I don't know a lot about either. I would say it is a very good church, with beautiful facilities and a very good pastor.

The young man was not critical, but with a sense of grief said, "It is a very good church, and our pastor is a good man, but I don't think he really gets it."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"The Great Commission," he said. "I don't see any evidence that the church or the pastor gets it."

His evidence: no missionaries have been sent, no teams are doing overseas mission work, Cooperative Program support is weak, and they give a mediocre Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Perhaps a mediocre mission vision is endemic within the routine proceedings of church life. But tragically, it has become epidemic.

I know the temptation to be ensnared by routine church life and the desire to avoid the front lines of mission engagement. Pastor, I fully understand the demands on your life. But this is our calling.



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

We cannot minimize the assignment that Christ maximized.

It is a highlight of my year when I am able to attend an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary appointment service. Each of the services I have attended over the years has been a powerful milestone in my life. Last week Pam and I attended the service in Hattiesburg, Miss., where 77 newly appointed missionaries were introduced. Eight of them are from North Carolina.

For security reasons, six of those eight cannot be publicly identified. The other two are Kanöot and Sarah Midkiff, who will be serving in the Ukraine. Both are N.C. natives. Kanöot has served as the minister of missions at Mount Vernon church in Boone for nine years.

Sarah was the administrative assistant to Jonathan Yarboro, Baptist campus minister at Appalachian State University. This gifted couple and their children, Fisher and Faith, will be missed in North Carolina, but God has a greater assignment for them in Eastern Europe.

The quality and commitment of all 77 appointees is beyond description. In 30-second testimonies, we heard the unique way God has drawn each one to

their new destination.

At every appointment service the IMB president presents a challenge.

Newly inaugurated president Tom Elliff described the new "Embrace" strategy. "Embrace is an invitation for you to allow IMB to partner with you and your church, seeking to reach these 3,800 unengaged people groups of the world.

... IMB is doing a lot of other things among a lot of other people groups, and we're not going to stop that."

"Last year, through the work of your IMB missionaries, over 350,000 came to Christ and followed Him in baptism, planting almost 30,000 churches, and we don't intend to stop," he added. "We cannot hire enough missionaries to reach the ends of the earth. Don't you agree that it's going to take all of us?"

Pastors, do we get it?

Are we willing to embrace the ends of the earth? The work will not be done by women's mission groups or men's mission groups. Para-church organizations cannot do it. It will be done when pastors take the lead, and the whole church gets a vision for the unreached.

I am concerned that too many pastors have relegated the work of international missions to mission groups in the church and ministries beyond the church. Sometimes those groups have not been the pastor's friend or supporter, causing him to distance himself from the whole missionary enterprise. But have we noticed this strategy is not working?

No one, no group and no ministry can



Kanöot and Sarah Midkiff are headed to the Ukraine to serve with the International Mission Board. While there are eight people headed overseas from North Carolina, only the Midkiff's identity can be revealed due to security reasons. See related stories, page 8-9. (IMB photo/Bill Bangham)

effectively replace the role of the pastor in leading the church toward an unrelenting vision for the lost of the world.

I plead with every pastor to become more passionate about reaching people for Christ in our neighborhoods and to the ends of the earth.

Listen to the passion of Elliff: "We

cannot make Jesus come again. God the Father knows exactly when that moment will occur. But we do know this: coincidentally with the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ the Bible clearly and specifically states that there will be a multitude from every language, people,

tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ. That is the vision of IMB."

Don't minimize this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. While North Carolina typically gives more than any other state convention, we should give far more.

Pastor, your leadership is critical! For the sake of the gospel, please make this your priority.

**"I plead with every pastor to become more passionate about reaching people for Christ in our neighborhoods and to the ends of the earth."
— K. Allan Blume**

TAR HEEL VOICES

Revival definitely needed

I heard and greatly appreciated the words by theme interpreter, Al James, and convention sermon pastor, Darryl Craft on Tuesday evening (Nov. 8). Resonating powerfully was the call for unity and love of each other as believers.

However, I wondered what disunity or lack of love they have observed, prompting such fervor. The claim that we've turned a corner and are doing great work in great ways suggests that we are now unified. Indeed, I perceived no dissent at any point in the meetings or hallways. Is the call intended to motivate us to reach

out to other evangelicals more clearly?

Is the call to recognize our organic unity with believers in the mainline churches? Does the call include believers from Roman Catholic or Orthodox communities? Does the call for love of brother include the moderate?

We do need revival, and my need for personal renewal conditions my prayer life. I wonder who will take the first steps of love, humility, forgiveness and unity?

John Alden Tagliarini

First Baptist Church of Bryson City

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina
Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

Volume 177 No. 24
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 847-6939
B3now.org

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 - Bulk (10+) \$11.50
 - Single copies, .60 cents each
- Payable in advance. North Carolina sales tax is included.

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 232 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939.

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619-8808.

December 4

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

December 11

Recognize God's Gift

Focal Passage: John 1:1-4, 10-18

A few years ago I stopped at a local gas station to refuel my car. While paying for my purchase inside the little service mart, I was struck by what the attendant said. It was approaching Christmas time and she remarked, "I'd rather skip Christmas. I don't like getting presents for people I don't even like." Quite a shocking statement! Yet, it describes our misplaced values and belief system as a culture. Fortunately God did not have such an attitude about "gift giving."

God's gift is more than presents under a tree, and more than a baby born in Bethlehem. It's all about perspective, and the writer, John, has given the world a perspective that far exceeds one moment in time.

John's point is that Jesus Christ is more than a baby. He is the Word, the *logos*, God. In Greek thought the *logos* was the discourse, the reason, the communication of God's proof. It was the theological argument for God's purpose in both creation and re-creation, and that purpose was centered in Jesus Christ, His

only Son. The corresponding evidence is found both in Genesis 1 and Colossians 1. As the Word, Christ is pre-existent. He existed before time as we know it. He is the "agent" of creation as well, the One who keeps the cosmos (our world) from being chaos. According to John's gospel, He is "Light," meaning he is the self-revelation of God, and He is "Life" (salvation). A great verse for us to commit to memory is v. 12; to as many as believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the "power" (meaning authority and privilege) to be the children of God.

Proper perspective is recognizing God's gift for all that He is. We who are Christians need to make the connection

between the baby Jesus (the story found in Matthew and Luke) with the Jesus who is the center of the universe. Because we have opportunity to receive that gift, maybe our perspective on Christmas this year will be such that we will "want" to give gifts even to those whom we don't like as much.



WAYNE PROCTOR
Pastor, Eure
Baptist Church

Focal Passages: Matthew 1:18-20, 24-25; Luke 1:28-31, 34-38

Ethel Waters was born in the worst of circumstances. Her teenage mother was raped at knifepoint by a man named James Waters, resulting in her birth. She was raised mostly by her grandmother; however, there was no solid foundation in her life. According to her, "no one raised her. She was neither coddled nor loved; she ran wild." Life was difficult for Waters, but she found solace and purpose through using the gift God had given her, the gift of music. Later in life she would make famous the song "His Eye is On the Sparrow," as she sung this and other gospel songs while touring with Billy Graham. Although she was presented with so many unexpected challenges, she chose faith over fear and found that God was sufficient.

The texts for today's lesson describe the difficult decisions before Joseph and

Mary when they discovered that Mary was pregnant. Matthew records the story from Joseph's perspective. Joseph was a good, just and morally solid man. He and Mary were working through the process of marriage, called "betrothal," when he learned of Mary's unexpected pregnancy. He knew he was not the father, and although shamed, he wanted to protect himself and Mary from further embarrassment. His plan was to file for a private divorce. Mary's perspective is recorded by Luke. She was a virgin. Undoubtedly she was excited about her marriage, and was horrified to discover she was pregnant. What would she do? Who could she tell? Where did this baby inside her come from? The answers to Mary and Joseph's questions were provided by God's angel, Gabriel. The pregnancy came from God Himself, the Holy Spirit. The baby to be born was to be named Jesus. And Joseph was to fulfill his marital obligation to Mary, even if the child was not biologically his own.

It's been said that faith is the opposite of fear. They cannot co-exist. Like Waters, like Joseph and Mary, we must choose.

December 4

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

December 11

Stay True to Your Commitments

Focal Passage: Numbers 6:1-15

If you saw someone who was committed to total abstinence from alcohol, who carefully kept their distance from dead bodies, and who had long, possibly unkempt hair, your first thought wouldn't probably be, "Wow! Now there is a person really dedicated to serving God!" However, as Numbers 6 shows us, that is precisely what people in Israel would have thought if they saw someone living out their Nazarite vow. So, what does an Old Testament text like this teach us about living for God today?

In God's grand plan of redemption, after man fell, God set aside a people for Himself.

In so doing, He demonstrated both the demands of His holiness – as seen in the Law – and the incredible extent of His grace, mercy and love. God's intent in setting aside such a people was not just to bless the nation of Israel, but rather to bless all the nations of the earth through the Savior He would send.

Today, all who have repented and believed the gospel have been set aside by God for the purpose of loving, obeying and glorifying Him.

Though believers can certainly set aside certain periods of time for intense spiritual devotion – by means of disciplines such as fasting and solitude, for instance – the normal pattern for all of God's people is constant, Spirit-guided surrender and obedience to the God who is not just "near" us, but who lives "in" us. And every aspect of our lives – whether we are eating, drinking, or doing anything else – is to be for His glory (1 Cor. 10:31).

Rather than giving us outward physical signs of our devotion to Him, God works to bring about spiritual fruit in our lives that ushers forth in surrendered service. So, God works into our lives things like peace, love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

As a result, we love our enemies, forgive those who sin against us, and help those in need. As we live this way as salt and light, people see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.



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

Stay on Track with God's GPS

Focal Passage: Numbers 9:1-11a, 15-19

GPS technology has revolutionized travel. People seem more willing to travel, and more confident as they travel, thanks to these small devices. For the most part, the GPS works well to help us navigate geographically. The question is: what kind of GPS-like tools has God provided to help us navigate spiritually through our lives, so that we live lives of obedience to His will in a way that will bring Him glory?

There are at least four things God uses in our lives today to give us His guidance:

- the Bible
- prayer
- other believers
- our circumstances.

We must remember that these various tools are neither equally weighted nor equally trustworthy. The Bible is listed first for a reason. It simply must be first. Regardless of the situation we are facing in life, our first place to turn for wisdom and guidance must be the Word of God.

Because the Word of God is given to us by the Spirit of God – who, by His very nature and character, cannot lie – we know we can trust the Word of God to tell us the truth and not to lead us astray.

The other three elements can, and should, be considered. They should always, however, be tested in light of scripture.

For instance, God will never tell us something in our prayer closet that contradicts His revelation to us in His Word. If there is ever a divergence between the two, we must always go with God's Word. Further, God has graciously placed us in the Body of Christ so we can challenge and encourage each other to walk in obedience to Him. If, however, a brother or sister in Christ leads you in a direction that is contrary to God's Word, you must follow God's guidance, not man's. Finally, God will sometimes use circumstances in our lives to guide and direct us.

In the midst of such circumstances, we must make sure that we allow God's Word to interpret our circumstances and not vice versa. God has graciously provided His direction for us. Will we follow Him?

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Beach Road Baptist Church in Southport, NC, is seeking a **senior pastor** with vision and passion for evangelism and outreach. We are a conservative church with blended worship. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Beach Road Baptist Church, PO Box 11457, Southport, NC 28461, or email: brbcatt@att.net.

New Morgan Hill Baptist Church in Candler, NC, is looking for a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Submit resume w/sermon DVD to Danny Wilkins, 65 Whitted Knoll, Candler, NC 28715.

Senior Pastor: Ardmore Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, NC (www.ardmorebaptist.org), is seeking a senior pastor with pastoral experience of at least five years, a terminal degree, and a servant-leader attitude. Ardmore is known for its worship-centered spirit and passionate missionary heart. It is most closely affiliated with CBF, has ordained women deacons and ministers, and has recently completed self-study and an exciting Strategic Ministry Map to guide its 1,082 members. Submit resumes to Pastor Search Team, PO Box 24983, Winston-Salem, NC 27114 or to ardmorepastorsearch@yahoo.com.

Bellview Baptist Church in Woodruff, SC, is prayerfully seeking a **full time senior pastor**. Must have a Southern Baptist seminary degree and minimum 5 years pastoral experience. Please send resume and references to Pastor Search Committee, 901 Bellview Rd., Woodruff, SC 29388.

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.

Denominational

Stone Mountain Baptist Association in Wilkes County, NC, seeks a **bivocational Director of Missions** to help us strengthen the unity & fellowship of our churches as we: 1) fulfill the Great Commission, 2) grow disciples & churches, & 3) plant new churches. More information is available at <http://smba-nc.com/>. Please send resumes with references to stonemtnassoc@aol.com.

Church Staff

Minister of Youth: First Baptist Church, Statesville, NC (www.statesvillefbc.org) is seeking a full-time minister of youth to lead our mission-minded youth group and families. We are a dually aligned CBF-SBC affiliated church, and have both contemporary and traditional services. The candidate should preferably be a graduate of a seminary or divinity school and have experience in youth and activities ministry. Please forward your resume by Dec. 15, 2011, to FBC Statesville Youth Minister Search, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677, or to maryjane@statesvillefbc.org.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER.

Part-Time Position. Qualifications: worship leadership abilities; technical music expertise; strong interpersonal skills; experienced in contemporary worship technologies/methods; mature in one's faith. Responsibilities: 10-12 hours per week; lead Sunday AM Contemporary Worship Service; set-up/tear-down of stage; weekly rehearsals-Praise Team & Band; attend weekly staff meetings when possible. Growing SBC church in Northwest Greensboro, NC. Send resume to: joann.hampton@cornerstonesbc.org.

Pastor of Students. Do you have a passion to get close to God, close to students, and see students come to salvation and grow closer to God? Do you have proven leadership abilities and experience in reaching, relating, and rallying students (6th grade – college) to reach their fullest potential in Jesus Christ? Send resume to: TCBC Search Team, c/o TCBC, PO Box 40, Conover, NC 28613 or TCBCSearchTeam@gmail.com (FT position, experience, college degree required). Visit www.tcbc.org to learn more.

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 Worship and Discipleship: Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, in Shelby, NC, is seeking an energetic worship leader for our music and media ministries, as well as our growing discipleship ministry. The ideal candidate will successfully blend traditional and contemporary music styles into our DayBreak (8:30 AM) and Celebration (11:00 AM) worship services. In addition, this person would be leading our adult hand bell choir and heading up our discipleship ministry. Send résumés and inquiries to the Music Ministry Search Team c/o Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 198 Pleasant Ridge Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152, or to Eric@PRBCShelby.org by Dec. 1, 2011.

Minister of Music. Part-time minister of music position on a collaborative pastoral staff in a small, growing, urban, CBF and Alliance of Baptists congregation. Creative, free-church, liturgical worship. Contact Dr. Tim Moore, Sardis Baptist Church, 5811 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270, tim@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org, or 704-362-0811 by Jan. 31, 2012.

Spray Baptist Church, Eden, NC, seeks **part-time music director** to lead music Sundays and Wednesdays, work with choir. Must possess knowledge of music and individual parts, be willing to lead/prepare choir for weekly services, and be present for required church events. Must be able to work with pastor, staff and possess a good work ethic with a desire to see God glorified. Send resume to Martha Bridges, PO Box 3602, Eden, NC 27289-3602, or Thbridges001@triad.rr.com.

Miscellaneous

House for Rent. Johnston County SBC church is offering its former parsonage for rent. The house is located on the main church campus. For more information, call 919-965-3204.

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 Baptist Aging Ministry to learn how Red Bags prevent overmedication and the use of conflicting medicines: 877-506-2226 or online at www.ncbam.org.

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Minister's wives encouraged to share burdens

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Asst. Managing Editor

Laughter and tears seem to be key ingredients for a successful women's meeting. That combination was demonstrated at the North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives 56th annual meeting Nov. 7.

"You all are part of a really exclusive club," said Allison Speer, a singer from Nashville, Tenn. Speer has performed with the Gaither Vocal Band and Gaither Trio as well as other Christian artists.

Raised in Kentucky, Speer shared stories of her mother and grandmother with the 50 ladies who were part of the event.

"We are called to bear another's burden," Speer said, sharing of her dad's struggle with Lou Gehrig's Disease. Speer stayed with her father and cared for him several months before he died. "I kept thinking, 'God, why have you sent me off to war?'"

Speer spoke of faithful Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) ladies from a local church who brought food every day for nine months. At first, Speer's father refused the food.

He also didn't want to see the pastor when he visited, but the pastor continued to come regularly.

"That little country pastor led a dying man to Jesus," said Speer, whose father accepted Christ about six weeks before he died. "Ya'll don't get weary in your doing good."

Speer encouraged the women to "keep the faith," even when they might not know how to pray.

During the meeting Deedee Whray, outgoing presi-



Some of the new leadership of the North Carolina Ministers' Wives posed for a photo Nov. 7 during their meeting. From left: Jennifer McClure, Susan Troutman, Harriett Lovett, Lisa Miller, Gina Powell, Chrissie Redding and Renea Henderson. See BRnow.org; click on "Photo Gallery" to see more pictures from this event. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

dent of the group, presided. Whray, whose husband leads Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Bladenboro, said Speer's songs and words "truly blessed" the ladies present.

The group is working on a master list of associations and churches to try to spread the reach of the organization.

Whray passed the gavel to new president, Renea Henderson, at the end of the meeting.

"We have a special calling," said Henderson, who is a member of Cross Road Baptist Church in Asheboro. She asked the ladies present to share with other pastor's wives in their area about the group.

Other officers (2011-'12)

Vice president: Vickie Parker, Baton Baptist Church, Granite Falls; president elect: Chrissie Redding, Hull's Grove Baptist Church, Vale; vice president elect: Dakota

Spurling, Freedom Biker Church, Hickory; secretary/treasurer: Gina Powell, Cross Road Baptist Church, Asheboro; publicity: Penny Church, Union Grove Baptist Church, Albemarle; retreat chairperson: Lisa Miller, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Marshville; vice retreat chairperson: Harriett Lovett, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant; 2013 retreat chairperson: Marlene Hampton, Calvary Baptist Church, Mocksville; 2013 vice retreat chairperson: Judy King, Emma's Grove Baptist Church, Fletcher.

Regional representatives (2011-'12)

Western 1: Susan Troutman, Fallstown Baptist Church, Troutman; Western 2: Judy King, Emma's Grove Baptist Church, Fletcher; Central 1: Jennifer McClure, New Home Baptist Church, Vass; Central 2: Amy Harmon, Pittsboro Baptist Church, Pittsboro; Eastern: Beverly Spears, Stedman Baptist Church, Stedman.

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