



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

DECEMBER 5, 2015 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 181 NO. 25 • BRnow.org

IMB PERSONNEL ACCEPT VRI CONTINUE SERVING

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Production Editor

Missionaries considering the voluntary retirement incentive (VRI) from the International Mission Board (IMB) need prayers. Marty and Melissa Childers and Isaiah* and Josie Gabdon*, who have opted to take the VRI, have requested fellow believers surround those who made the decision in prayer.

"Many of them don't have any idea what they're going to go to," Isaiah said.

Both couples feel fortunate to have been in the United States when the VRI was announced in September. The IMB has not revealed how many have agreed to take the VRI, which was announced in September. An early goal the IMB set was 600-800 people.

North Carolina roots

Melissa and Marty are natives of North Carolina. She grew up in Durham while he was raised in Hildebran.

They met at Gardner-Webb University.

When he graduated and started a master of divinity degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, she transferred to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to finish her degree.

They were first called to missions at a Fort Caswell event, where they had taken youth for a weeklong retreat.

Melissa recounts a missionary couple from Chile who were

See VRI page 6

At left, a Peruvian mother pauses with her infant daughter after hearing a Bible story. Southern Baptist missionaries, like Marty and Melissa Childers, often share the gospel with South American peoples by telling Bible stories orally, helping to overcome language and literacy barriers. (IMB photo)

Missionary tells of terror, hope in Paris

By SETH BROWN | BR Content Editor

Colby Corsaut sat sleepless in the early morning hours of Nov. 14, reflecting on the terror that broke out across Paris, France, the night before. He and a group of friends had walked through the middle of a global terror scene, and he now felt his call to serve the people of France was as sure as ever.

Corsaut moved to France in early 2015 with his wife and children to serve as missionaries with the International Mission Board (IMB).

IMB reported shortly after the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks that all personnel were safe, but safe isn't the same as untroubled. So, in those moments of uncertainty immediately following the mayhem, Corsaut began to write about his experience, coping with the tragedy at hand on his personal blog.

'Listen to the sound ...'

"It all started with soccer. I hate soccer ... [a] slow and mildly entertaining sport for my tastes," said Corsaut, "but [it's] something my people here in France love so I want try to love it for their sakes."

Corsaut, who is an Oklahoma native, and nine friends attended the exhibition

See Paris page 13



Generous mission support

What does generous giving look like? Jesus pointed out a great example in Mark 12:41-44. As He watched people put money in the temple treasury, He took note that rich people gave large sums. But the gift that Jesus held up as most outstanding was from a widow who gave two mites. He said the poor woman gave more than all others because she gave out of her poverty. She gave sacrificially.

With our mission dollars dwindling, Southern Baptists need more of our flock to give as this woman gave. It's time to fan into flames the fading embers of international mission support.

I hope those among us who have great resources will give generously. But our

international mission strategy has always depended on the sacrificial gifts of ALL Baptists, not just the "rich" ones.



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

On page 10 of this issue we printed two formats of the churches in North Carolina who were the top givers to the 2014 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for International Missions. In one format we show the churches that gave the largest dollar amount. The other list shows the churches that gave the largest gifts on a per capita (per person) basis. Please examine these lists.

Churches who model generous giving in these lists are to be commended. Not all churches can make the list of the largest gifts. But every church can give generously and show up on the list of churches that lead in per capital giving. In fact,

many smaller churches are leading the way in generous per capita giving.

There are two observations I want to underscore from these reports. First, 10 churches were in the top 20 of both lists. This is exceptional. We don't know if the majority of members in these churches are giving sacrificially or someone in the church gave a large gift, making the rest of the people look generous. In either possibility, these churches have done well. They are:

- Central Baptist, Henderson
- Parkwood Baptist, Gastonia
- Grey Stone Baptist, Durham
- Mount Vernon Baptist, Boone
- First Baptist, Durham
- First Baptist, Cary
- Denver Baptist, Denver
- Calvary Baptist, Winston-Salem
- Green Street Baptist, High Point
- First Baptist, Hickory

Second, churches that are models of generous LMCO support are typically giving an amount that is three to six times their weekly budget offering. I looked into the giving standards of churches on the per capita list. Their pattern is a good model for all churches. Consider a LMCO goal for your church that is three to six times the weekly budget needs. If that is too great to consider at the moment, is your church at least giving an amount to LMCO that equals your weekly budget offerings?

I've noticed that many churches believe they are giving generously when they are not. A quick view of the pricy cars in the church parking lot reveals that not many "widow's mite" gifts are going to LMCO. If missions is a priority for Southern Baptists, we need to give accordingly. Now is the time to practice what we preach. **BR**

TAR HEEL VOICES

Meeting missionaries makes a difference

Having read your article (in the Nov. 21 issue) regarding the Cooperative Program's (CP) strengths and weaknesses, I am moved to add my thoughts. Primarily, I agree with "George" as I spent 44 years pastoring churches outside the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). My first eight years were spent in church planting under an independent home mission board. We had to raise our own support by contacting and visiting churches. While this is a vigorous work, the contact with churches brought us into many warm fellowships, often with people or families that may or may not have given financially, but kept in touch, assuring us of their prayers for us.

We kept in touch with all churches that gave to our support and to many that showed interest but did not give financially. This meant sending out letters, which was extra work but kept us in touch with wonderful people, and we were well aware of their prayers for us.

Although our income was lower than many would expect, God never let us down. We never had to go without anything we needed and our four young girls were well dressed, fed and educated. After establishing two churches that are still growing and serving God, we were led of the Lord to an established church. I served as pastor in Virginia (nine years), Indiana (six years) and

New York (19 years). In the new churches we planted, we began by teaching the people that the church should give at least 10 percent of their budget to missions.

The established churches were already giving to missions, but some needed to have better communication with their missionaries.

All of our churches were giving closer to 30 percent of their budget to missionaries whom they knew, plus they willingly helped in needful projects the missions or missionaries needed. This is perhaps a reflection of my home church where I grew up where we had a missionary conference every year and other missionaries visiting throughout the year. The result was that many of the young people in our church were touched by the missionary contacts and yielded to the call to serve, going to various fields in the world.

I retired from the pastorate 13 years ago and moved to North Carolina where two of my daughters live. We joined a SBC church and have been active in teaching, singing and substituting in the pulpit as needed. Our pastor preaches the Word well and encourages missions. We have a number of people each year going on mission trips and our people respond well to mission offerings. But we miss the face-to-face communication of missionaries, especially from foreign fields.

Our people do not know what they are missing but we know that if they met and communicated with missionaries personally, it would increase their interest and especially the youth who are taught about missions but need the personal communication. In the last 12 years we have had two North American Mission Board missionaries visit, and we give to their support in small measure. Their visits were to us a breath of fresh air that invigorated our spirits.

I know that CP has worked well and does have great advantages. Missionaries under the SBC have far less economic problems than those under independent churches and mission boards. It would be good experience for SBC missionaries to visit churches and make personal acquaintances that would encourage them as well as the people in the churches.

We are grieved at the reported decreases in missionary giving. We pray for the needs to be met. Thank you for your paper and articles that have been keeping me learning and appreciating the SBC and the Baptist State Convention of N.C. We are thankful to God for all missionaries who are serving Him through the teaching and preaching of the gospel.

Wayne McAllester
Lexington

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

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

Volume 181 No. 25
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 467-6180
BRnow.org

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

Seth Brown, Content Editor
seth@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Production Editor
dianna@brnow.org

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

Emily Blake
Editorial Aide

Liz Tablazon
Circulation Manager
(919) 459-5693
liz@brnow.org

Kelly Hunter
Graphic Designer

Board of Directors

Chris Byrne, chair; Jerry Stephens, vice chair; Cindi Stevens, secretary; Kevin Atchley; Kelli Benfield; Angela Brady; Christina Brown; Kevin Clubb; Gene Fowler; Lisa Harris; Gerald Hodges; Chester Jones; Lee Pigg; Rob Poche; Michael Smith; Aaron Wallace; Tammy Weeks; Peggy Weiss; Keith Whitfield and Ed Yount

Subscriptions

• Individual subscriptions, \$15.99 (one year); \$27.99 (two years); \$39.99 (three years)
• Bulk Plan (10+) \$11.50
• Family Plan, \$12.50
• Club Plan, \$13.50
• Single copies, .60 cents each
Payable in advance. N.C. sales tax is included. Digital rates: \$5.99 (one year); \$10.99 (two years); \$15.99 (three years).

Publication

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

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

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

‘Because of who He is’ compels us to give

As the Christmas season approaches, I have been taking some time to ponder the spirit of giving that surrounds this time of the year. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God gave the world the greatest gift it would ever know. Our Heavenly Father gave us a gift to save us from our sins.

When we give, we celebrate God’s very nature – His love, grace and kindness. Fittingly, this season is also the time when Southern Baptists throughout the country give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO), an offering that supports missionaries and their ministries around the world.

This year, the offering theme is “Because of who He is” – a reminder that all we do is ultimately for Him and His glory. He is worthy to be worshipped by all the nations.

Lottie Moon, the offering’s namesake, spent much of her life making the name of Jesus known to the people of China. Now, the offering that bears her name helps make Christ’s name known in countries around the world through those who are serving with the International Mission Board (IMB).

This year, the offering’s goal is \$175 million. Last year, your support of the LMCO helped 1.75 million people to hear a gospel witness, 275,000 people to become new believers, 14,000 new churches to be formed and 4,000 new groups to be formed.

Because of your support for the LMCO, a missionary was able to get access to the resources to dub DVD presentations of the gospel in the native languages of Central Asia. These DVDs were then broadcast on a local television station so that more people might have access to the gospel.

Join me in praying for and giving to the LMCO this year. When we give, we are helping to take the gospel to the corners of the world, providing a way for those who might have never heard the name of Jesus to come to faith in Him. In the words of Lottie Moon herself, “Why should we not ... do something that will prove that we are really in earnest in claiming to be followers of Him who, though He was rich, for our sake became poor?”

For more information about the LMCO, visit imb.org for downloadable resources including videos, prayer guides and more.

There is more I would like to share with you from my own perspective about what has happened in recent weeks and will happen with the IMB, but I will do that at another time. Suffice to say for now that I believe our president of the IMB, David Platt, is making decisions that had to be made. I believe he has done and is doing the right thing.

I encourage you to pray for and trust our leader during these days. In consideration of all the necessary changes that are happening with IMB and our international missionary force, this is a time of challenge for individuals to give sacrificially to support this annual missions offering. In 2014, N.C. Baptist churches led the Southern Baptist Convention state conventions in contributing \$12.6 million to this offering.

Will 2015 be the greatest LMCO that NC Baptists have ever given?

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.” – Psalm 96:3 (NKJV) **BR**



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ideas

If you are a Southern Baptist reader, you probably know that we’re beginning the season of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Even in the midst of difficult transitions, we still need to give to support God’s global work. And even if you’re not a Southern Baptist, maybe these simple ideas will help you think about gifts you might give to missions this year:

● **Give to God’s mission the equivalent of the dollars (plus at least one dollar more) that you plan to spend for Christmas presents.** Spend on what matters.

● **Give 25, 50, or 75 cents, one dollar, or more per unreached people group (6,000 groups).** Billions still need to hear.

● **Give 50 cents, one dollar or more per unengaged, unreached people group (3,000 groups).** Help get the gospel to groups for whom there is no current witness.

● **Give Lottie Moon Christmas gifts in honor of someone you love.** Most of us need little else, and many of our loved ones won’t be offended if they receive no gift; after all, the world needs the gospel.

● **Give \$25, \$50, \$100 or more for every year you’ve been a Christian.** You’ll still never match what God gave for us.

● **Let the Word motivate you to give (see 2 Corinthians 8-9).** When we read and hear the Word, we really have no other option but to give.

● **Give sacrificially in honor of the one who shared Christ with you.** Give because you have been one of the privileged ones to hear.

● **Remember your largest gift given to ANY need – then add to that amount.**



CHUCK LAWLESS
Guest Column

Give more to Lottie Moon than you’ve ever given.

● **Give 10 percent of your church’s Lottie Moon goal.** If nine others join you, you’ve met the goal. If more than nine join you, praise the Lord!

● **Give one penny or more for every new believer baptized through IMB work last year (193,000).** The return will be worth it.

● **Train your children to give their allowance to missions this season.** The dollars may be few, but the missions DNA you’re developing in the next generation will pay long-term dividends.

● **Give to cover the cost of keeping a missionary on the field for a certain number of days.** The daily cost is approximately \$139; use that figure, and multiply it times the number of days you will cover.

● **Give sacrificially in honor of a veteran missionary who is retiring.** These folks will always be missionaries who want to get the gospel to those who’ve never heard. Honor them by supporting that work.

● **Fast for one meal per week between now and Christmas, and instead give the cost for those meals to the offering.**

Praying and fasting will likely only increase our giving – and missing one meal a week won’t hurt most of us.

● **Prayerfully give until your faith is genuinely stretched.** Many of us give only out of our excess.

Ask God to help you to give this year until you’re forced to trust Him to meet your remaining needs.

What other ideas would you add?

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Chuck Lawless currently serves as professor of evangelism and missions, dean of graduate studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and as president of The Lawless Group, a consulting group for church leaders. This post first appeared at chucklawless.com.) **BR**

Our purpose is to declare who God is to all nations

Reaching the world for Christ is the vision and passion of our Southern Baptist Convention.

Our grand task to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and make disciples of all the nations is what our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is all about.

This is why each one of us personally and in our churches collectively must pray diligently and ask God what He wants us to give to reach the world for Christ.

The need has never been greater. The call is clear to advance the gospel, whether it is through planting churches, ministries of compassion or equipping the next generation.

Now is the time to come together and give more than ever before to sending missionaries around the globe. Because of who He is, we must find a way together to declare His name to all the nations.

Let’s rise up in this critical hour and give in an unprecedented way to our 2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Now is the time to reach the world for Christ.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Ronnie Floyd is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas.) **BR**



RONNIE FLOYD
Guest Column

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period. All submissions will be edited by *Recorder* style guidelines. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance.

All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited for style and length. Include cost and contact information in your email or correspondence. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

Panel urges engagement, response to sexual brokenness

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR Writer

Calvary Baptist Church of Winston-Salem kicked off a month-long sermon series on the theology of sex with a forum on Nov. 8, featuring R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of recently released *We Cannot Be Silent*; Daniel Heimbach, senior professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Gary Chapman, senior associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church and author of *The Five Love Languages*. Calvary's senior pastor, Rob Peters, moderated the discussion.

The forum, along with the sermon series titled "The Theology of Sex: Creation, Fall, Redemption," was intended to equip Christians to effectively respond to sexual brokenness in today's world. In light of the Supreme Court's June 26 decision to legalize same-sex marriage, the growing acceptance of polygamy and relative gender identity, the speakers stressed the importance of the topic.

Heimbach emphasized that redefining right and wrong in terms of sexuality, while not an unforgivable sin, redefines everything about God, reality and moral judgment.

"We believe the one true and living God who created us has revealed this to us, and that means it's for His glory and for our good," Mohler said. "We're not saying these things to win an argument. We're speaking and defending these truths because we believe they make an eternal difference."

Chapman suggested that many social ills are the effects of the breakdown of marriage and family and the departure of biblical values. He referred to several statistics: only four out of 10 children in the United States grow up with both biological parents, and 43 percent grow up without a father. According to Chapman, the church must invest in families and marriages to help decrease the rate of high school dropouts, abuse and crime.

The rapidly increasing pace of the moral revolution in America stems from people choosing to worship themselves over God, the panelists said.

Heimbach quoted the theologian Francis Schaeffer, who explained there is a hunger in the human heart for spirituality, and people eventually will not tolerate the denial of free will, love or personal responsibility. "People will demand to fill that void," Heimbach said. "When that happens, there's gonna be only two ways to go: you go the biblical way, which is to submit to God's authority ... or you affirm it the pagan way. You make yourself God."

Chapman explained that people either worship the God of the Bible or the god of happiness. Mohler defined a moral revolution as a shift in perspective made by moral authorities, including movie producers, courts and those who license professions and award scholarships. The church is the only counter-balance to the revolution, said Mohler. This puts it in a position in which it appears to be the villain in society, to which Heimbach offered an explanation.

"Those who are driving this agenda do not want to have any opposition by anybody at all. ... It's not about tolerance; it's not about being nice to people you disagree with. It's about destroying or at least silencing any reminder that what you're doing is not right," he said. "We're dealing with religious war. There isn't a willingness on the other side to allow a space for people to disagree. The church is the only engine of those who disagree."

Peters asked the panelists about one of the biggest concerns church members have: What other moral issues will become the cultural norm? As long as people can give authentic consent, issues that are morally questioned will inevitably become accepted, Mohler responded. He gave the example of current efforts to lower the criteria and age of consent.

"Once you buy into the fact that there's no objective morality, then everything's negotiable. And in a world in which everything's negotiable, everybody's in danger," said Mohler.

Heimbach warned of the significance of legalizing same-sex marriage being much larger than people may think. The activism which was driven by an argument for equality is not actually a matter of equality, but an act of redefining the most essential social institution in human relationships, he said. He described a social institution as something requiring objective structure, and as something measurable that does not change.

"It's not something about affirming the way people feel," he said. "How they're attracted may be a motive for getting married or not married, but it doesn't define what the marriage is."

Heimbach later clarified the misconception that people with same-sex attraction are different sinners. Nobody has normal sexual desires, he said, because the fallen nature creates deceptive desires of the flesh that do not meet God's standards.

"We need to submit to the authority of God – something above our flesh – to align what our desires should be. All of us need to learn to control our desires within boundaries that God sets, not by our feelings."



"Once you buy into the fact that there's no objective morality, then everything's negotiable. And in a world in which everything's negotiable, everybody's in danger," Al Mohler said. (Calvary photo)

Mohler added that people cannot battle sin on their own. "We are united with Christ ... and Christ is not united to sin," he said. "Christ is victorious over sin in a way we cannot be, but we can be in Him."

All three panelists urged parents to talk about issues of sexuality at home in ways appropriate to boys and girls of different ages. Chapman suggested utilizing resources such as *The Story of Me*, a children's book published by NavPress that explains how God designed the

body. Making the discussion about sex a normal and natural conversation at home will help children trust their parents in this area. He encouraged parents to affirm their love to children who may open up about sexual sin, but to acknowledge that forgiveness does not remove consequences.

The speakers addressed other questions, including whether to attend same-sex weddings and how to minister to same-sex couples in the church. They called Christians to live out their witness primarily by living out the beauty and joy of marriage, which will stand out in a world of broken relationships.

Mohler noted the church's apathy regarding no-fault divorce and its failure to hold members accountable to their marital covenants.

"Part of what makes marriage beautiful is that it lasts in good times and in bad," he said. "The real beauty of marriage is it pictures the union of Christ and his church. The church, united with Christ, can go through trial and persecution and martyrdom, but that union cannot be broken." **B**

Are you available?

"The hand of the Lord came upon me ... and set me down in the midst of the valley."
(Ezekiel 37:1)

In this passage, the people of God are in despair because of their departure from the Lord and His judgment upon their sin. They are in exile and suffering greatly at the hand of their captors. Their hearts are discouraged, their hope is diminished and their outlook for future change is nonexistent. Their homeland is in waste and they feel "cut off" from the Lord (Ezekiel 37:11).

In fact, their condition is compared to that of an army that has been annihilated and overrun – they were dead, dry bones with no life, no hope and no future (see Ezekiel 37:2).

However, it is in these dark times that God can do His greatest work of revival among His people. In this passage, God used Ezekiel as an available instrument because his heart and life were prepared by the Lord for such a time as this – that's how God works!

Ezekiel's present availability was the result of his daily faithfulness as a priest, a watchman and a prophet. He was con-

stantly walking with the Lord, in His Word, making known God's message to His obstinate and exiled people.

Ezekiel's life of obedience allowed for yet another instance when He could be used as God's available instrument.

God's use of instruments never takes place in a vacuum and cannot be understood apart from His redemptive and eternal purposes.

The people of God were in desperate need of a fresh word from

God. They also needed a renewed vision of God's grace, anointing and hope. They had taken their eyes off of God and had nothing left to offer. They needed help, and they needed hope.

In that day, God's instrument of help and hope was Ezekiel.

Are you available for use as an instrument of revival in God's hand?

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Chris Schofield is director of the Office of Prayer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5514, or cschofield@ncbaptist.org.)



DR. CHRIS SCHOFIELD

'Peoples Next Door' continues amid refugee controversy

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

A new initiative for ministering to international people groups in North Carolina was announced at the 2015 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting Nov. 2-3 in Greensboro. The effort is called Peoples Next Door N.C. and it is part of the Office of Great Commission Partnerships (GCP) under the Church Planting and Missions Partnerships team, led by Chuck Register.

The initiative's goal is to assist individuals and churches in identifying and engaging international people groups in North Carolina with the gospel. At least 154 distinct people groups currently live in the state.

"God, in His sovereign will, has seen fit to bring the nations to North America," Register said. "Now it is up to His people to be obedient in reaching those He has brought to us with the gospel."

Political asylum seekers from countries like Myanmar, Iraq and Somalia are among the people groups in North Carolina.

One group in particular – Syrian refugees – became a source of national controversy after a Nov. 13 terrorist attack in Paris, France.

A Syrian passport was found near the site of one of the Paris bombings, and Islamic State supporters have allegedly expressed intent to infiltrate the West while posing as refugees.

President Barack Obama recently ordered his administration to prepare for the admittance of up to 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016. More than 30 state governors across the nation have voiced opposition, calling for a halt on the resettlement of incoming Syrian refugees in America, due to potential terror threats.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory is among those in favor of bringing Syrian immigration to a standstill, and at least one N.C. representative has suggested the National Guard round up and deport those currently living in the state, according to *The News & Observer*.

State officials say 44 Syrian refugees are already settled in North Carolina, making up about 5 percent of the total refugee population.

The U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement utilizes nine non-profit organizations, most of which are faith-based, to manage the immigration and assimilation of asylum seekers.

World Relief is one of those organizations, and GCP often connects churches and individuals with their N.C. offices

for ministry opportunities among refugees.

Andrew Timbie, office director for World Relief High Point, said he works closely with the individuals and families resettling in North Carolina.

"I know the names of every refugee that comes into North Carolina through my office," Timbie told the *Winston-Salem Journal*. "And I know it months in advance."

"I also know their middle names, their birth dates, ethnicity, religion, what country they are coming from, their languages, their previous occupations, and other facts."

He added, "I also know where they work now and where they live and even their updated phone numbers."

Timbie also praised the involvement of volunteers. "[M]ost refugees are even connected to members of local churches who help these refugees live life on a

daily basis," he said.

"Through World Relief, N.C. Baptists can minister to arriving immigrants as they work through a host of resettlement issues, such as housing, medical care, food acquisition and education," said Register.

The Peoples Next Door N.C. initiative and the GCP's effort to help refugees and other immigrants will continue despite the political controversy.

"Regardless of a person's origin of birth, the need of every human heart remains the same," Register said, "all people, from every nation, need Jesus."

"Therefore the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, through the Peoples Next Door N.C. initiative, is committed to assisting North Carolina Baptist churches as they engage all people groups, brought to North Carolina by our sovereign Lord, with the life-transforming message of the cross." **BR**

Gardner-Webb reintroduces counseling focus on marriage, couples & family

Gardner-Webb University Communications

The school of psychology and counseling at Gardner-Webb University (GWU) will relaunch the master of arts (MA) in marriage, couples and family counseling program at GWU's Charlotte campus next fall.

The program will be offered in addition to other established graduate counseling programs, such as school and mental health counseling.

"Healthy marriages and strong families

are essential components of a well-functioning society," said Jasmine Graham, assistant professor of mental health counseling and director of the program.

Graham believes the coursework, while similar to the current master of arts in mental health counseling, will benefit potential students by giving them a chance to focus their counseling skills.

GWU's professional counseling programs are qualified by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Contact (704) 406-4363. **BR**

Kivett's - Your Source for Renewal

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

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

PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS
NEW PEWS CARPETING
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
1-800-289-7397
Church Interiors Inc.
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialists
High Point, North Carolina
www.churchinteriors.com



embrace
REFRESH
a day to equip and encourage ministry wives

Saturday, March 5, 2016
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Old Town Baptist Church | Winston-Salem, NC

Registration online at ncbaptist.org/ministrywives16

Registration deadline is February 26, 2016.

For more info please visit embracenc.org, email embracenc@ncbaptist.org or call 1-800-395-5102, ext. 5561.


North Carolina Baptists

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 447-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptists.org

The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.



FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
ENROLL NOW FOR NEW QUARTER ON JAN. 5, 2016

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- Earn an Associates Degree in Religion (choose from Christian Ministry, Church Planting, and Christian Worldview tracks)
- Our Associate degree is now fully available online
- Courses offered for Spanish speaking students at several N.C. locations (Call Robert Fernandez at 828-399-0109)

**For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write: David Horton, President
Fruitland Baptist Bible College, 1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792
Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina**

VRI Continued from page 1

retiring. The woman shared, “We know we can retire because we know God is calling out more people.”

When they contacted the Foreign Mission Board (now IMB), they only accepted career missionaries 25 and older. The Childers were told to “grow up” and get some pastoral experience. She was 21; he was 23.

A few weeks after their decision at camp, Marty and Melissa prayed for the willingness to do whatever God called them to, even pastoral ministry.

The next day he received a call from a small church in Georgia looking for a pastor. Two weeks later, he preached at the church. In another two weeks, the church offered him the job. He served as pastor four and a half years.

They had two sons, Jeremy and Caleb, and in 1988 were appointed. By the end of the year, they were in Costa Rica for language school.

While they started as church planters in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, their ministry was varied over the years.

Marty realized the need to equip nationals and began pouring himself into training in the mid-1990s. In the early 2000s, Melissa had a vision to start a Christian coffee house, which led to a Bible study with eight young men in their home. Those men began to bring their girlfriends, parents and even grandparents until 45 people were meeting in their home. “It was a lot of work,” she said. “We were busy all the time.”

When the IMB started narrowing their focus to the 10/40 window – a term used to describe regions of the eastern and western hemisphere between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator with little to no Christian population – the Childers prayed about several places they might serve, but each time they felt God telling them to stay.

In 2007, ministry was booming. Marty said churches were being planted and the coffee house had grown. Someone asked what the hardest thing would be for the Childers. They both said, “Go back to the United States.”

They were asked to become a personalizer for South America. That role would bring them to the U.S. to develop partnerships with churches. They lived in Hillsborough from 2007 to 2010. In July 2010 IMB asked them to remain in the same role but in September requested they cluster developing partnerships on the field.

Their heart for unreached peoples led them to Mexico. Marty supervised 65 missionaries in 14 countries and traveled about 150 days a year.

About a year ago, IMB asked the



Marty and Melissa Childers are praying about what God has for them next. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

Childers to return to a personalizer role in the United States. What they thought was going to be a three-year position turned into a one-year position with the possibility of extending.

“You’ve got all these employees,” Marty said. “You’ve only got so many, and you can only put them in so many places. Our calling hasn’t changed. The location of living out that calling is going to change.”

Since David Platt, IMB’s president, asked the missionaries to pray about staying or leaving, Marty said the decision has not been easy.

“In fact, we’ve been through the gamut of emotions,” he said.

IMB’s decision wasn’t unexpected. For several years the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has fallen short of its goal. IMB leaders tried to supplement the needed revenue by selling properties.

Marty stressed support for Platt. “This was not an easy decision for him,” he said.

Soon, Melissa will finish her degree at SEBTS (master of arts in biblical counseling). Their son, Caleb, lives in Carrboro with his wife. Jeremy, their oldest child, resides in Riverside, Calif., with his wife and two children. Melissa’s father is 83 and lives in Durham. His health issues have been a concern and were part of the decision to stay in the U.S.

At age 54, Marty is learning how to make a resume. While he doesn’t feel God is calling him to be a senior pastor, they are trying to remain open to God’s plan for them, he said. They feel they would like to serve at a church, perhaps in the role of missions pastor.

They are staying at Durham Memorial Baptist Church’s mission house as long as they need it. “We’re not going to be homeless,” Marty said. “Their support has been amazing.”

In talking about the VRI, Marty used the pruning analogy from scripture.

“Sometimes you have to cut things off in order for it to bear fruit,” Marty said. “I just feel like we’re going to look back and be amazed at what God was doing through this.”

One of the pastors Marty encountered shortly after the VRI was announced said the decision was really more a statement about the conditions of our churches.

“It goes beyond the IMB,” Marty said. “Our desire is that our Southern Baptist churches will wake up and make [missions] a priority. I hope we’ll look back in 10-15 years and say, ‘Wow, look what God was doing.’”

Missionaries to South Asia

Isaiah and Josie were raised overseas. Isaiah’s parents served in Latin America, and Josie’s were in East Africa. She was in Africa from age 9 through high school. The Gabdons met at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

“When we were at [Southwestern] we felt together that the Lord was calling us to serve overseas,” Isaiah said. “We had both felt a strong call from Him, but He really affirmed that together.”

Their call to the international mission field was delayed when their first son had a brain hemorrhage that led to cerebral palsy. Their second son was extremely healthy when born, but was diagnosed with cancer as a baby. “God just really grew us a lot, and we really see how He has led us and grown us through different chapters in our lives,” Isaiah said.

Isaiah and Josie worked mainly with Muslim peoples in rural settings.

“The peoples that we worked with really had no access to not only the gospel but to health care,” Josie said. “I really believe that God called me to be a nurse so that I could help people with their whole health, not just their physical health but their spiritual health as well.”

They developed resources in local languages like Bible stories and radio programs.

The Gabdons also adopted their daughter from the country where they served. They credited the children with opening many doors to share the gospel.

When the boys finished high school, Isaiah and Josie were mobilizing churches to be involved in South Asia from the United States. When they returned to South Asia, they moved to a more urban setting where Josie was training IMB personnel and national partners in using health strategies throughout the region.

About a year and a half ago, the couple was asked to return stateside to assume roles of interviewing candidates.

They thought they would be doing that for one term (three years) and by

then, their daughter would be graduated from high school and settled in college before the couple would return overseas.

Their plans did not include a VRI announcement.

“I think one of the really difficult things has been that we didn’t want some of the positive and the real benefits of being in the U.S. – to be near family, to be with our daughter when she goes into college instead of having to leave her and go across the world again – we didn’t want those kinds of things to be confused with having a ‘sense of peace’ you know?” Isaiah said. “But on the other hand we didn’t want the grief that we felt to be confused with a sense of unsettledness or a check in our spirit.”

He shared about their Imago Dei Church family in Raleigh and their support. The couple had not planned to retire for another 10-15 years, so “we really had to step back and really pray and really ask God ‘What are you doing now?’” Josie said.

They asked advice of elders in their current church as well as friends and people who have walked with them in ministry through the years.

The Gabdons refer to the VRI as the Voluntary Redeployment Incentive. They both stressed the IMB’s generosity during this uncertain time.

The Childers and Gabdons both have benefited from being in the States at the time of the announcement. That has made the transition easier. Because of their work with nationals in South Asia, the Gabdons have been helping their church as well as others reach internationals in the Raleigh-Durham area.

“We want to help in any way we can,” Isaiah said. “We’re not walking away from that call. We want to be using this here and the ways in which He has ordained.”

Josie has accepted a position using her nursing and ministry skills.

How can people pray?

The job load for the remaining missionaries is changing. Melissa requested prayers for those missionaries. They are losing family, and some might feel overwhelmed with taking on more responsibility. Missionaries returning to the States will also be battling the feeling of abandoning nationals.

Some of the people returning have spent a majority of their adult lives overseas. Many returning missionaries haven’t prepared a resume in quite a while.

Isaiah encouraged churches and individuals who have job opportunities as well as housing or vehicle options available to contact the IMB transition team: transitionteam@imb.org.

* Name changed.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – K. Allan Blume, BR editor, contributed to this story.) **BR**

Alexis church applies revitalization plan

By **SETH BROWN** | *BR* Content Editor

A well-known Southern Baptist pastor, W.A. Criswell, once said, “Methods change; principles don’t ... This is a new day and a different one in which we live, and how to reach these people for God, [may] the Lord give us His benedictory wisdom from heaven.” Criswell’s statement was a reflection on three decades of ministry in Dallas, Texas, and his words were given at a dinner banquet for another congregation, encouraging them as the church experienced transition.

Sandy Marks, another Southern Baptist pastor – this one in Dallas, N.C. – seems to agree with Criswell’s sentiment as he leads Alexis Baptist Church into a new season of ministry. What began as a new system for deacons to serve the congregation and reach out to the community has become a way for each member of the church to experience robust discipleship and live on mission.

The North American Mission Board estimates that 80 to 90 percent of Southern Baptist churches are either plateaued or declining in membership numbers. When Marks learned that statistic, it left him with a burden that compelled him to pursue further pastoral training.

“I was convicted that if Alexis was going to experience revitalization,” said Marks, “we as a body had to change our culture to a disciple-making culture.”

At the time, Marks discovered that Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was the only Southern Baptist seminary offering a doctoral studies emphasis in church revitalization. So, he enrolled in a hybrid doctoral program that allowed him to learn more about reinvigorating the ministry of his local church.

Marks’ study included an in-depth analysis of how Jesus trained His disciples. He noticed three distinct aspects of Jesus’ ministry: educational, experiential and relational.

Marks employed those three elements to help him answer the question, “How can we prepare people ... to be a disciple?”

He reflected on his previous ministry method at Alexis, “We had been doing all these topical studies – marriage, finances, this or that.”

Marks began to see that if the congregation had a deep “biblical understanding,” then they would be able to approach all aspects of life from a biblical perspective.

Marks implemented a plan in September 2015 to teach his congregation the “overarching, redemptive story of the Bible.” On Sunday evenings, the church is currently doing an overview of the Old and New Testaments, covering each testament for six months. Next year, they will add to the program more intensive studies of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) and the New Testament Gospels, for six months each.

In early 2015, Marks and the deacons at Alexis had decided to restructure their deacons’ ministry. They didn’t feel like their current plan was effective at meeting the needs of the community nor utilizing the gifts of the deacons.

Marks said team-based ministry seemed like a good approach. Deacons formed four groups: caring, congregational, connection and communication ministry teams.

The caring ministry team attends to member visitation, including hospital and shut-in visits, averaging around 150 contacts per month. The congregational

ministry team carries out neighborhood mission projects. The connection ministry team welcomes visitors to the church and coordinates plans for meeting the needs of the community.

Making contact through social media and relaying information about church events is an important part of ministry in today’s world, according to Marks. That effort is carried out by the communication ministry team.

What started as an opportunity for the deacons to expand their ministry efforts developed into an avenue for the whole church to become involved, covering the experiential aspect of the revitalization plan.

Marks admitted that many churches have teams of deacons doing various aspects of ministry, but he said the vision for Alexis was broader. “At some point in this process the Lord asked me, ‘Why just have these teams for the deacons?’” said Marks. So, he decided to invite the whole congregation to get on board.

The church has dedicated Wednesday nights for ministry team meetings, replacing their traditional, midweek prayer and Bible study. “They meet, they plan, they rejoice over what they’ve done in the last week,” Marks said, describing how the time encompasses the relational aspect.

Plans for the future include yearly re-evaluations of the ministry teams to determine whether or not they continue to effectively meet the needs of the church and the surrounding community. “The idea is to stay very liquid and fluid,” said Marks, explaining how this approach matches the biblical concept of needs-based deacon ministry.

Transition is difficult for many churches, but Marks said, “They have responded in a tremendous way, and it has brought renewed excitement and vision to our entire church.” **BR**

Culture Impact Tour calls for action

By **K. ALLAN BLUME** | *BR* Editor

Mark Harris is concerned about cultural shifts that have forced same-sex marriage on Americans and fostered anti-Christian sentiments. As the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, he is traveling the state to mobilize pastors to take positive steps of action against destructive forces in the culture.

The Cultural Impact Tour (CIT) is a series of events Harris has led in 2015, with plans to continue into 2016. CIT is sponsored by Family Research Council, North Carolina Policy Council, Vision America and other organizations.

Ten pastors across N.C. are leading an organizational strategy to host vision luncheons for pastors. During a November event at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, Harris told the pastors it is not a mistake that “God has placed you in your position as a pastor and Christian leader of the church you serve.”

He is concerned because Christian leaders will one day stand before God and give an account of their life and ministry. Addressing the significant cultural

changes, he said, “We have allowed it to happen under our watch, and we have nothing else to do but to step up to the plate and let God work in and through all of us to bring our nation back to Him in repentance and brokenness. But it takes leadership to do that.”

The first step is to “take responsibility that this happened on our watch,” he said. Then we must be willing to correct the course of the nation. “It’s now time to take the action.”

In the pattern of patriot pastors who prepared their people for the Revolutionary War, Harris said pastors must take the lead in the battle. Much of the training during that pivotal war took place in the churches, led by pastors. “The churches [are] where they hid the gunpowder in the Revolutionary War,” he added.

CIT calls for pastors and churches to take action. “Today is not about hearing, it’s about doing,” said Harris. “We need men of God that will do what has to be done.”

Another speaker at the event, Rick Scarborough, is the founder and president of Vision America, as well as the

former pastor of Pearland Baptist Church in Texas. Vision America’s website, said the organization “informs, encourages and mobilizes pastors and their congregations to be proactive in restoring Judeo-Christian values.”

Scarborough said in June that “the Supreme Court decided to mandate that which God forbids and natural law proves is incorrect.”

He pointed to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was executed April 9, 1945, by Hitler’s Socialist Party. “His crime was refusing to say that Hitler was his führer,” Scarborough said. He inserted one of Bonhoeffer’s famous statements, “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

“Increasingly, as a nation forsakes God and as a general principle the fear of God evaporates, that culture will digress to lawlessness,” Scarborough said. When the Ten Commandments are taught to be irrelevant, they are irrelevant to students.

There are two choices for the pro-family movement in America according to Scarborough. “We can pray and hope

for the best, or we can pray and act.” He called the pastors to respond to a scripture “we have all preached.” James 2:17 says, “*Faith without works is dead.*”

Pastors need to act because Judeo-Christian values are the foundation of Western civilization, he declared. “People are recognizing that there is something wrong with the culture. Even those who are not church attenders are seeing a shift in values. Foundations and freedoms are being threatened.”

Harris said he invited pastors to the luncheon to ask them to do three things.

First, “Determine in your heart to have a Culture Impact Team in your church,” he said. “The team serves to inform, equip, alert and mobilize the membership of the body of Christ.” He explained that just as a church has a personnel committee and finance committee, it needs a Cultural Impact Team.

Second, Harris asked the pastors to choose a leader to attend the training session. Pastors are invited to attend the training but it is not necessary if the lay leader will attend.

“I’m not here today to ask you to do

See CIT page 15

[nc]connect

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina  ncbaptist.org  facebook.com/ncbaptist  twitter.com/ncbaptist

Our Vision “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 of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Disciple-making conference to help attendees ‘reveal’ the gospel

by Chad Austin

REVEAL

SHARE YOUR LIFE ■ SPEAK THE GOSPEL

As Paul and Silas established the church at Thessalonica, they not only imparted the truths of the gospel with the people there, but they invested their lives in those individuals to help them grow to maturity in Christ.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:8, Paul writes, “So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

Paul and Silas’ ancient example provides a modern model for believers in the disciple-making process. And 1 Thessalonians 2:8 is the theme verse for the 2016 Disciple-making Conference, which is titled “Reveal” and scheduled for Feb. 29 at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro.

“Revealing the gospel involves not just a verbal witness, though that’s essential, but it also involves the sharing of your life,” said Brian Upshaw, who leads the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Disciple-making Team. “Disciple-making involves both things.”

This year’s conference includes an exciting lineup of speakers who will address both the practical and spiritual aspects of disciple-making.

“Often times we focus on the process of disciple-making so much that we can sometimes forget that it’s the Spirit of God that moves us for evangelism and discipleship,” Upshaw said.

Chuck Lawless, professor of evangelism and missions at Southeastern Baptist

Theological Seminary, will open the conference by addressing spiritual warfare and disciple-making.

“Sometimes we overlook the fact that we have an enemy who doesn’t want us to make disciples,” Upshaw said. “When we engage in evangelism and disciple-making, we are engaging in spiritual warfare.”

“Revealing the gospel involves not just a verbal witness, though that’s essential, but it also involves the sharing of your life.”
- Brian Upshaw

Dhati Lewis, a church planter and pastor of Blueprint Church in Atlanta, will share on disciple-making in an urban context. Bruce Frank, lead pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, will address disciple-making in North Carolina. Frank’s wife, Lori, will also lead sessions for women.

“All of our speakers are passionate about making disciples and leading churches to do the same,” Upshaw said. “They will be sharing their heartbeat and passion for disciple-making, as well as share what this looks like in their daily lives.”

Jerry McCorkle, executive director of Spread Truth Ministries, will also

share about an exciting new partnership between Spread Truth and North Carolina churches. The partnership involves training, equipping and encouraging churches and their members to share their faith using Spread Truth’s new mobile app that is related to “The Story” evangelism tool. Learn more about “The Story” and download the free mobile app for iPhone and Android devices at viewthestory.com.

In addition to the speakers for the large-group sessions, attendees may also choose from a number of breakout sessions that will focus on specific and practical aspects of disciple-making. Topics to be covered include: prayer, evangelism, small groups, missions, church planting, leading an evangelistic Bible study and more.

Throughout the event, Upshaw said he hopes attendees will see opportunities for making disciples flow from the relationships they have with others.

“We hope the conference helps people understand their identity in Christ as a disciple,” Upshaw said. “We also want to help them understand that it’s through the relationships we have with others that we are best able to share the gospel.”

“So we want our lives to reveal the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, and speak the gospel into everyday situations.”

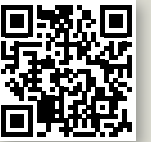
The conference is free to attend, but advance registration is required. Lunch is available for \$7.

disciplenc.org

Connect *now*

ANNUAL MEETING

All the videos presented and all the sermons preached are now available on our Vimeo.



 vimeo.com/ncbaptist

RESOURCES

Tons of **FREE** resources are available on our ncbaptist.org website and through @ncbaptist on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Login or follow us and get connected to all.

 ncbaptist.org/resources

TWITTER

Follow @ncbaptist for up-to-date event and ministry information.



 twitter.com/ncbaptist

FACEBOOK

We are putting out tons of great resources on Facebook this year. Go “like” our page today!



 facebook.com/ncbaptist



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

By Emily Rojas

Learn to lead like Jesus through Equipping Tracks

 ncbaptist.org/leadership

When Jesus walked the earth, He led in a way that was revolutionary. Jesus didn't hold an official position of leadership or spiritual authority – at first, He didn't even have a large following. Instead, Jesus led by making disciples.

Throughout 2016, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will host several equipping tracks on spiritual leadership to prepare others to lead as Jesus did and make disciples. All leadership sessions will be held at the BSC offices in Cary and the dates and topics are:

- Jan. 14: Lead Like Jesus
- April 21: Emotionally Healthy
- Aug. 4: Building Powerful Ministry Teams
- Oct. 6: Conflict Resolution

Each leadership session will highlight the four key leadership components for making disciples: character, capacity, context and competency.

To have the character of a disciple-making leader, Christians must develop a sense of understanding of their identity in Christ, including what it means to be His disciple.

Having the capacity of a disciple-making leader involves knowing one's personal, spiritual strengths.

It involves operating at the most effective level for God's glory.

Disciple-making leaders need an understanding of the context in which they live. They need to be able to look at current realities and deduce how to carry out ministry.

"A spiritual leader ... uses their God-given influence to make disciples who then become the disciplers of leaders," said Ken Tan, BSC leadership development consultant.


Potential Associational Missionary Training

January 14-15, Talladega, Ala.

 ncbaptist.org/AMtraining

Vocational Evangelist Retreat

January 14-15, Caraway

 ncbaptist.org/ver

Lead Like Jesus

January 14-15, Cary

 ncbaptist.org/leadershipevent1

Reveal: Disiple-making Conference

February 29, Greensboro

 disciplenc.org

Embrace Refresh Equipping Day

March 5, Winston-Salem

 ncbaptist.org/ministrywives16

The Banquet

March 5, Garner & Mooresville

 ncbaptist.org/banquet

Awaken: Statewide Prayer Conference

March 11-12, Charlotte

 ncbaptist.org/stateprayer
 ncbaptist.org


2016 Events

Embrace Refresh: A Day to Encourage and Equip Ministry Wives

On March 5, Embrace Women's Missions and Ministries will host "Refresh," a day of equipping, encouragement and engagement for ministry wives.

This event is designed to train ministers' wives in their distinctive roles, as well as to provide a place for ministers' wives to develop relationships with one another to share about the unique struggles and joys that they experience in their life of ministry.

The event will include interactive sessions to problem solve collaboratively with other wives about ministry life, and there will

also be opportunities for fellowship. Meals and program materials will be provided.

"Refresh" will be held at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, and it will last from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration closes Friday, Feb. 26, and the cost is \$25. Contact Ashley Allen at aallen@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5559, for more.

Learn more at

 ncbaptist.org/ministrywives16

Awaken: 2016 Statewide Prayer Conference

"Awaken: Watch & Pray," the annual North Carolina statewide prayer gathering, is scheduled for March 11-12 at First Baptist Church of Charlotte.

The event will feature two sessions of worship, messages and prayer focus. The gathering's theme is from Ephesians 6:18: "Praying always with all prayers ... being watchful ... with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

Speakers include: John Franklin, founder of John Franklin

Ministries; Mark Harris, senior pastor of First Baptist Charlotte; Richard Owen Roberts, president of International Awakening Ministries; and Chris Schofield, director of the Office of Prayer.

Attendees can register at the door. No registration fee is required, but a love offering will be received. Contact Betsy Roland at broland@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513, for more.

Learn more at

 ncbaptist.org/stateprayer

One Day East & One Day West

Join N.C. Baptist evangelism and discipleship consultants for intensive training and equipping sessions in every ministry area of the local church at One Day, with events being held in the eastern and western parts of the state.

One Day East is scheduled for Saturday, April 9 at Temple Baptist Church in New Bern. One Day West is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 20 at Western Avenue Baptist Church in Statesville.

The One Day events are designed for pastors, staff, teachers, leaders and volunteers and will include training in Sunday School

and small groups, children's and youth ministry, worship and music ministry, women's ministry, evangelism, special needs ministry, pastoral leadership and more.

Early bird registration is available for as little as \$15 per person. Registration includes plenary sessions, equipping sessions, event resources and lunch. Contact Lauren McCall at lmccall@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5628, for more.

Learn more at

 onedaync.com


Giving to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering survives as part of most Southern Baptist Convention churches each December. The Week of Prayer (Nov. 29-Dec. 6) this year focuses on the theme “Because of Who He Is.”

The charts below follow giving in two different ways. The chart on the left lists churches in order of per capita giving and includes the total gift from the church. The chart on the right shows the top overall gifts from North Carolina churches.

Figures are based on giving received and recorded by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the International Mission Board between March 1, 2014, and Feb. 28, 2015.

– The Editor

Top N.C. LMC0 gifts 2014 (Per Capita amount)

NC	Per Capita	Total	Church	Location
1	\$366.02	\$91,871.73	Central Baptist Church	Henderson
2	\$340.40	\$446,945.39	Parkwood Baptist Church	Gastonia
3	\$322.83	\$19,370.00	Elm Grove Baptist Church	Nashville
4	\$306.85	\$46,947.85	Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church	Asheville
5	\$305.55	\$39,722.05	Bogue Banks Baptist Church	Atlantic Beach
6	\$274.41	\$89,185.55	Grey Stone Baptist Church	Durham
7	\$272.73	\$214,093.36	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Boone
8	\$227.44	\$119,404.65	First Baptist Church	Durham
9	\$224.80	\$105,882.57	First Baptist Church	Cary
10	\$214.29	\$3,000.00	Epoch Baptist Church	Greensboro
11	\$205.41	\$8,216.50	McLean Road Baptist Church	Charlotte
12	\$186.27	\$122,196.32	Denver Baptist Church	Denver
13	\$177.17	\$585,366.62	Calvary Baptist Church	Winston-Salem
14	\$176.32	\$42,669.05	Westwood Baptist Church	Roxboro
15	\$175.53	\$182,375.22	Green Street Baptist Church	High Point
16	\$173.17	\$68,054.78	First Baptist Church	Hickory
17	\$171.43	\$1,200.00	Cape Fear Baptist Church	Fayetteville
18	\$169.32	\$31,324.19	Whitnel First Baptist Church	Lenoir
19	\$165.03	\$10,397.00	Mount Lebanon Baptist Church	Asheboro
20	\$165.00	\$10,560.00	Bethany Baptist Church	Colerain
21	\$164.58	\$89,695.01	Christ Baptist Church	Raleigh
22	\$153.76	\$5,381.50	New Hope Baptist Church	Fayetteville
23	\$153.67	\$5,839.41	Little Rock Creek Baptist Church	Bakersville
24	\$151.80	\$3,036.00	Abbottsburg Baptist Church	Bladenboro
25	\$149.71	\$11,228.00	East Belmont Baptist Church	Belmont
26	\$148.38	\$33,386.40	College Acres Baptist Church	Wilmington
27	\$147.34	\$11,787.00	Barlow Vista Baptist Church	Hampstead
28	\$146.91	\$14,690.71	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	North Wilkesboro
29	\$146.23	\$54,105.07	Sunset Avenue Baptist Church	Rocky Mount
30	\$145.53	\$60,978.46	Old Town Baptist Church	Winston-Salem
31	\$142.22	\$41,688.45	Wakefield Central Baptist Church	Zebulon
32	\$139.53	\$31,812.12	Fruitland Baptist Church	Hendersonville
33	\$139.43	\$41,688.45	Woodland Hills Baptist Church	Asheville
34	\$138.89	\$2,500.00	Friendship Baptist Church	Morganton
35	\$138.07	\$23,195.85	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Charlotte
36	\$131.91	\$43,530.00	West Albemarle Baptist Church	Albemarle
37	\$130.20	\$49,477.00	Cool Springs Baptist Church	Sanford
38	\$130.06	\$4,422.00	Mount Liberty Baptist Church	Murphy
39	\$129.16	\$6,199.90	Harrellsville Baptist Church	Harrellsville
40	\$129.01	\$22,964.06	Calvary Baptist Church	Reidsville
41	\$128.84	\$31,952.89	Fairview Baptist Church	Apex
42	\$128.41	\$51,619.01	University Hills Baptist Church	Charlotte
43	\$126.00	\$6,300.00	Piedmont Baptist Church	Rutherfordton
44	\$122.81	\$2,947.50	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Bladenboro
45	\$122.31	\$6,360.00	Green Valley Baptist Church	Waynesville
46	\$120.88	\$42,067.77	Second Baptist Church	Rutherfordton
47	\$120.78	\$34,412.50	Calvary Baptist Church	Rocky Mount
48	\$120.04	\$10,803.50	Crestview Baptist Church	Rockingham
49	\$119.80	\$83,858.10	First Baptist Church	Matthews
50	\$119.41	\$29,853.30	Coats Baptist Church	Coats

Top N.C. LMC0 gifts 2014 (Total amount)

NC	US	Per Capita	Total	Church	Location
1	2	\$177.17	\$585,366.62	Calvary Baptist Church	Winston-Salem
2	11	\$340.40	\$446,945.39	Parkwood Baptist Church	Gastonia
3	15	\$89.36	\$342,614.66	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	Charlotte
4	24	\$42.05	\$274,100.00	The Summit Church	Durham
5	43	\$272.73	\$214,093.36	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Boone
6	55	\$175.53	\$182,375.22	Green Street Baptist Church	High Point
7	110	\$93.09	\$124,829.95	First Baptist Church	Hendersonville
8	116	\$116.86	\$122,700.22	Bay Leaf Baptist Church	Raleigh
9	118	\$186.27	\$122,196.32	Denver Baptist Church	Denver
10	119	\$87.17	\$122,041.04	Lawndale Baptist Church	Greensboro
11	124	\$227.44	\$119,404.65	First Baptist Church	Durham
12	146	\$224.80	\$105,882.57	First Baptist Church	Cary
13	177	\$366.02	\$91, 871.73	Central Baptist Church	Henderson
14	179	\$80.85	\$91,686.68	Englewood Baptist Church	Rocky Mount
15	184	\$164.58	\$89,695.01	Christ Baptist Church	Raleigh
16	185	\$274.41	\$89,185.55	Grey Stone Baptist Church	Durham
17	199	\$119.80	\$83,858.10	First Baptist Church	Matthews
18	211	\$73.46	\$79,479.57	Wetern Avenue Baptist Church	Statesville
19	**	\$173.17	\$68,054.78	First Baptist Church	Hickory
20		\$103.02	\$67,579.81	First Baptist Church	Charlotte
21		\$26.67	\$64,006.35	Carmel Baptist Church	Matthews
22		\$145.53	\$60,978.46	Old Town Baptist Church	Winston-Salem
23		\$54.57	\$60,027.00	Pleasant Garden Baptist Church	Pleasant Garden
24		\$66.94	\$56,230.91	Salem Baptist Church	Apex
25		\$106.17	\$55,740.26	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Greensboro
26		\$100.00	\$55,000.00	Oak View Baptist Church	High Point
27		\$78.90	\$54,834.68	Pitts Baptist Church	Concord
28		\$146.23	\$54,105.07	Sunset Avenue Baptist Church	Rocky Mount
29		\$102.53	\$53,318.04	Cross Road Baptist Church	Asheboro
30		\$128.41	\$51,619.01	University Hills Baptist Church	Charlotte
31		\$44.96	\$50,987.15	Life Community Church	Jamestown
32		\$48.12	\$50,190.43	Center Grove Baptist Church	Clemmons
33		\$130.20	\$49,477.00	Cool Springs Baptist Church	Sanford
34		\$91.50	\$48,039.08	Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church	Raleigh
35		\$306.85	\$46,947.85	Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church	Asheville
36		\$16.01	\$46,246.71	First Baptist Church	Indian Trail
37		\$131.91	\$43,530.00	West Albemarle Baptist Church	Albemarle
38		\$111.48	\$43,476.25	First Baptist Church	Hudson
39		\$176.32	\$42,669.05	Westwood Baptist Church	Roxboro
40		\$120.88	\$42,067.77	Second Baptist Church	Rutherfordton
41		\$142.22	\$41,954.47	Wakefield Central Baptist Church	Zebulon
42		\$38.59	\$41,946.42	Village Baptist Church	Fayetteville
43		\$139.43	\$41,688.45	Woodland Hills Baptist Church	Asheville
44		\$101.51	\$40,602.40	Friendly Avenue Baptist Church	Greensboro
45		\$79.56	\$39,778.45	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Jacksonville
46		\$305.55	\$39,722.05	Bogue Banks Baptist Church	Atlantic Beach
47		\$70.96	\$39,029.80	Providence Baptist Church	Harrisburg
48		\$114.82	\$38,464.15	Troutman Baptist Church	Troutman
49		\$53.08	\$37,050.00	Christ Community Baptist Church	Huntersville
50		\$100.26	\$36,394.58	Corinth Baptist Church	Elizabeth City

Disclaimer: This information reflects 2014 giving provided by the International Mission Board Development Office and represents dollars received and recorded at the state convention or IMB from March 1, 2014, through Feb. 28, 2015. **The provided list does not include later U.S. rankings for North Carolina.d

BE SURE TO CHECK
OUT OUR WEBSITE



Visit **BR**now.org

ADVERTISE in the

Biblical Recorder

(919) 459-5691

Greensboro church to ‘give Christmas’

By LIZ TABLAZON | BRWriter

Members of Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro want to make Christmas look a little different this year. They hope to give it away by giving to someone else in need, instead of emphasizing the presents on their wish lists. Lawndale’s annual Greensboro Christmas Spectacular Dec. 12-13 will feature a 100-voice choir, 75-voice children’s choir, full orchestra and a 100-member cast, including about 60 students. Another 150 people work behind the scenes in construction, technology operation and costume design. Terry Adams, associate pastor of worship and music at Lawndale, said while the music ministry plans the event, the entire church works together to reach the community through it.

Three acts make up the Christmas production. The first is a collection of favorite holiday songs; the second is an original drama written by Lawndale staff; the last is a nativity presentation, complete with live animals and costumes from biblical times.

This year’s drama is titled “Give This Christmas Away” and is based on the true story of Edna Olgan. When she was a child in the 1940s, Olgan’s mother taught her family how to “give Christmas away.” They earned and saved money to contribute to a special offering designated to a family in need. They ended up giving

more than any other family did, only to discover that they were actually the recipients of the offering. Adams’ wife personally contacted Olgan and wrote the script for the drama. The story is a “wonderful challenge to each of us to give Christmas away to someone in need,” Adams said.

In the spirit of generosity, volunteers from the church distributed vouchers for free tickets to a thousand families on Nov. 24 as part of Lawndale’s Feeding the 5,000 outreach event. The event is not funded by the church budget; rather, members donate food and money to provide 1,000 families a box full of all the necessities of a Thanksgiving dinner. Volunteers distributed 1,000 bags of groceries in addition to the dinner boxes. Families can return the accompanying voucher to receive free admission to the Greensboro Christmas Spectacular. Adams said offering the vouchers makes the Christmas Spectacular available to those who may not otherwise have an opportunity to attend.

Some Lawndale members purchased tickets in bulk and gave them away to encourage people to see the performance. Adams has seen people reserve rows of seats and bring friends.

“The membership really embraces the event because the gospel is presented in a beautiful way,” he said.

Lawndale’s senior pastor, Joe Giaritelli, delivers a brief message after each production and offers an



Lawndale Baptist Church performs a production that highlights favorite songs as well as points to the gospel. (Contributed photo) invitation for people to give their lives to Christ. Adams said many of the approximately 5,000 visitors respond positively to the event every year.

Performances are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit lawndale-baptist.org. General seating is \$5, and reserved seating is \$10. **B3**

Rafael Cruz calls for Christian civic involvement

By M.H. CAVANAUGH | Christian Action League

The man The Associated Press said has a “booming voice and ferocious onstage presence,” Rafael Cruz, visited with Baptist leaders recently in Greensboro. Cruz, who is the father of presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, dropped in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina during its annual meeting Nov. 2-3. He said he attended the gathering to meet some key leaders in the state.

That led the 76 year-old Cuban immigrant, who now hails from Dallas, Texas, to visit the Christian Action League’s (CAL) booth at the meeting.

The elder Cruz sat down with Mark Creech, executive director of CAL and shared his concerns for the country.

Cruz told Creech that although he was stumping for his son’s presidential campaign, his primary mission was traveling around the country speaking at pastors’ conferences and similar appearances, to urge Christians to get involved in the civil affairs of their society. He said Christians needed to stop making excuses for their non-involvement in the nation’s political life.

Quoting Proverbs 29:2, Cruz said, “‘When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.’ Because Christians don’t run for office, because they don’t study-up on the issues, because they

don’t vote, what is left but wicked people being elected?”

Cruz cited George Barna’s research that recently revealed an estimated 12 million Christians are not registered to vote. Another 26 million are registered but didn’t cast a ballot in the 2012 presidential election.

Midway through the conversation, Creech told Cruz he agreed with his message. “Mr. Cruz, I am on cloud nine listening to your words. I’ve been taking essentially this same message to churches across our state for more than 16 years. And I think that churches are just starting to wake-up. I’m so very thankful to God you’re taking this word around the country.”

Cruz said he also believed the church was waking up. “The catalyst to stir the church out of its slumber occurred on June 26, when the United States Supreme Court imposed same-sex marriage on every state in the nation. That decision was a frontal attack on Christianity, and it will only intensify,” he said.

“The sleeping giant, the church, is beginning to realize we’ve been complacent. Before the June 26 decision, people in the churches didn’t really think these things affected them. But now we can see it’s a direct attack on the family – the primary unit of society,” said Cruz.

Rafael Cruz’s own personal story is a compelling one that’s highlighted with points of tribulation and redemption.

While a teen in the 1950s, he became disenchanted with Fulgencio Batista, Cuba’s dictator at the time.

When Fidel Castro appeared on the scene, Cruz, not knowing that Castro was a communist, believed he would be Cuba’s savior.

Cruz became a part of the resistance movement against the Batista government and was eventually jailed and beaten. When he was released, he wanted members of the underground to help him reach Castro. But it seemed too risky, and his parents convinced Cruz to escape to America.

With only the clothes on his back and a hundred dollars that his mother had sewn into his underwear, Cruz arrived in America on a ferry to Key West, Fla.

After taking a bus to Austin, Texas, he got a job as a dishwasher at a local restaurant. He learned English and started making speeches for Cuba’s revolution. Cruz returned to Cuba in 1959, however, only to become disillusioned with Castro’s regime.

At numerous speaking venues since his son began running for president, the elder Cruz said the similarities between the policies once touted in Communist Cuba and the ones being touted in America today are striking.

During the late 1970s Cruz made a decision to give his life to Christ – a decision that also changed his political worldview. Since then, he’s been a strong

advocate for freedom in Christ, and a love for America and the Constitution.

He said he often tells audiences, “When I lost my freedom in Cuba, I had a place to come to [speaking of his escape to America]. If we lost our freedom here, where are we going to go?”

Cruz was also informing messengers of the Nov. 14 “Rally for Religious Liberty” at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. Speakers included his son, Ted Cruz, along with Tony Perkins, the Benham Brothers, Michael Brown, E.W. Jackson, David Welch and Joe Kennedy.

Cruz said his son has made religious freedom a centerpiece of his platform for his campaign for the presidency of the United States. “Teddy is standing firm for religious freedom, the Constitution, and the rule of law. He fights against corruption in both parties, which he calls the Washington Cartel,” he said.

“It may be his son that’s on the ballot,” said Creech, “but, after meeting the elder Cruz, I’ve become convinced he has a lot to do with what makes his son tick.”

“I believe that God may be making His last call for the church to repent and engage our culture with His Word – to be involved in the political process from a strong Christian worldview. He’s sending us prophets like Rafael Cruz. We had better listen and obey or we are going to lose this country, our freedom and liberty for our children and children’s children,” added Creech. **B3**

A look at 500 largest SBC churches

Each year LifeWay Christian Resources lists its 500 largest churches within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The list is based on churches who turn in an Annual Church Profile (ACP), a form that tracks the churches overall membership as well as numbers who are involved in various ministries like Sunday School or missions.

“Even though we have more smaller churches, we have more people migrating to the larger churches,” Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay, said in a Nov. 10 podcast.

Texas ranks number one with 118 megachurches. There are 13 states with 10 or more churches above 1,000 members.

- The top states include:
- Texas – 118
 - Florida – 53
 - Georgia – 47
 - Tennessee – 38
 - California – 28
 - North Carolina – 27
 - South Carolina – 24
 - Alabama – 24
 - Virginia – 23
 - Louisiana – 17
 - Kentucky – 13
 - Oklahoma – 11
 - Mississippi – 10
- North Carolina ranks sixth among the states. It has 27

churches ranked in the top 500. These churches vary in size from almost 1,100 members to more than 7,100.

This list shows that megachurches are not only reaching people for Christ but they are increasing in number as well.

More congregations are developing in urban areas as the American population moves closer to the cities.

The list reveals the intentional push toward diversity in leadership.

Of the top 20 largest SBC churches, 20 percent are predominantly non-Anglo churches. The number of non-Anglo churches in the SBC has increased by 66 percent.

The average tenure for senior pastors in the top 20 largest churches in the SBC is just under 22 years. LifeWay leadership stressed that churches can be effective without being a big church.

In analyzing the SBC 500, researchers found the South – and particularly Texas – is the epicenter of SBC megachurches.

The study also found that:

- Non-Anglo churches and megachurches are on the rise in the SBC.

- Revitalization works have led to great growth among some traditional churches in the SBC.

- Pastoral tenure is vital for long-term significant church growth.

Visit thomrainer.com to find the blog/podcast from Nov. 10 and to access the complete list.

Largest SBC-affiliated churches in N.C.

U.S. rank	Church name	City	Attendance
18.	The Summit Church	Durham	7,186
25.	Biltmore Baptist Church	Asheville	6,054
62.	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	Charlotte	3,500
68.	Calvary Baptist Church	Winston-Salem	3,196
72.	Mud Creek Baptist Church	Hendersonville	3,000
79.	First Baptist Church of Indian Trail	Indian Trail	2,938
89.	First Baptist Church of Jacksonville	Jacksonville	2,839
128.	Carmel Baptist Church	Matthews	2,400
139.	Bethlehem Baptist Church*	Gastonia	2,287
143.	Word Tabernacle*	Rocky Mount	2,250
203.	Temple Baptist Church	New Bern	1,854
236.	C3 Church NC	Clayton	1,710
246.	Lee Park Baptist Church	Monroe	1,683
269.	Daystar Church	Greensboro	1,550
294.	Osborne Baptist Church	Eden	1,478
309.	Parkwood Baptist Church	Gastonia	1,428
313.	North Asheville Baptist Church	Asheville	1,405
316.	Lawndale Baptist Church	Greensboro	1,400
370.	Hendersonville First Baptist Church	Hendersonville	1,294
371.	Hopewell Baptist Church	Monroe	1,292
427.	Scotts Hill Baptist Church	Wilmington	1,190
462.	Life Community Church	Jamestown	1,138
468.	Nations Ford Community Church	Charlotte	1,128
478.	Pleasant Garden Baptist Church	Pleasant Garden	1,100
478.	Faith Baptist Church	Youngsville	1,100
478.	Central Baptist Church	Dunn	1,100
492.	Green Street Baptist Church	High Point	1,093

Churches with * did not report in 2014; the information used was from their most recent Annual Church Profile (ACP) report.

DISCLAIMERS: The numbers are self-reported by the churches and have not been verified. The churches on this list have met the requirements to be a part of the denomination. We are not making qualitative comments about larger churches with this list. We are simply providing information. If you think a church should be on the list and it is not, the church probably did not report the data; 41 churches did not report. These churches represent the top one percent in attendance in the denomination. Conversely 99% of the churches are not on the list.

Going with peaceful obedience to God’s call

By HARPER MCKAY | Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

As an accountant, giving someone a blank check goes against everything Brent Kapps* knows. When it came to God’s call for his family, however, Kapps and his wife, Brianna,* offered their lives as a blank check before the Lord.

“Our call is a call of obedience,” Kapps said. “We don’t want to miss the opportunity to be salt and light wherever God places us.”

After faithfully serving at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) for nearly six years, eventually becoming an associate vice president, Kapps and his family stepped out in faith to be missionaries in Central Asia with the International Mission Board (IMB).

They will soon join a team of IMB missionaries who provide humanitarian aid and community development in areas of Central Asia left in shambles by years of war. Kapps will fill a need for an accountant for the team’s non-governmental organization (NGO).

“I want to show people that I am here because I love [their] country,” Kapps said. “We will be able to help serve vital needs and help the country rebuild.”

It was this call to missions that initially led the family to SEBTS several years ago.

Kapps had been a successful accountant for 10 years, consulting for non-profits on accounting software when his heart began to stir for missions.

“I began wrestling with passages like Romans 10:14 where it asks ‘How will they believe in him of whom they have not heard?’ and other stories such as Jesus’ call to Peter, James and John to follow him,” he remembered.

These passages called Kapps away from his ideal job. “It was a call for me to leave the American dream and say yes to the Lord,” he said.

The family took a step of faith and applied to the IMB. While in the application process, Kapps began taking classes at SEBTS to be equipped for ministry.

They did not find a position during an IMB job expo, but not long after that, Kapps was asked to take a position at SEBTS in the finance department.

Kapps saw this opportunity as valuable preparation for the mission field and as a way to be involved in the Great Commission right where they were.

“We turned toward our community and began connecting deeply with our neighbors. We were able to host Bible studies in our home and lead a few families to Christ. We just used where God had placed us to be his messengers,” Kapps said.

The Kapps family also had many people minister to them during their time at the seminary, including fellow students, friends and the pastor of their local church in Raleigh.

Kapps credits his supervisor at SEBTS, Ryan Hutchinson, executive vice president of operations, with shepherding him both spiritually and professionally.

“He has been a huge encouragement to me here and was able to weave spiritual lessons into our day-to-day work,” Kapps said.

Life began to change around February of last year when

“Our call is a call of obedience. We don’t want to miss the opportunity to be salt and light wherever God places us.”
– Brent Kapps*

Paris

Continued from page 1

match between the French and German national soccer teams.

“When we arrived at the stadium the energy around the match was electric,” he said. “We sang La Marseillaise, slurred some cheers in our broken French and prepared ourselves to be wooed by ... the ‘beautiful game.’”

Only a short time passed before the stadium’s energy shifted from electric to unnerving. After hearing a loud boom, Corsaut said to a friend, “I think a bomb just went off.”

His friend assured him it was a theatrical cannon firing or something similar. Corsaut’s experience suggested otherwise.

“When you go to football games at the University of Oklahoma they use cannons sometimes, but they are from visible places and at times that make sense,” he said. “This was not like that.”

A few minutes later another blast rattled the ground underneath their feet.

“There was a wave of anxious noise that rumbled through the stadium and people got noticeably nervous,” said Corsaut.

Islamic State strikes the ‘city of light’

Chilling news reports began rolling into U.S. media outlets as a series of attacks rocked Paris, including the blasts near the stadium. The violent acts took place at more than a half-dozen locations across the city, killing at least 129 and injuring many more. Makeshift bombs and automatic weapons were the barbaric instruments of choice for the perpetrators who identified themselves as Islamic State supporters.

Attackers had planned to carry out further mayhem at Stade de France that evening, but Associated Press reports that a combination of good security, quick thinking, modernized stadium infrastructure and apparent mistakes in the terror plans appeared to have averted a massacre. Corsaut and his group tried to calmly exit the stadium, but panic overtook the crowd.

“It could only be described as a wave of pure terror,” he said. “People were running for their lives, thousands of them, all at once. I have only seen such things in movies, but I can tell you that they do not feel the same as this. Absolute chaos.”

The group decided to make their way toward the nearest train station. Corsaut admitted to being equally afraid of the unpredictable crowd as he was of the explosions. The group made it onto a train, but just after the first stop everyone was ordered to exit the train and leave the station as quickly as possible.

“[W]e fought to keep our group in one piece,” he said. “The worst thing for us was not so much that we were moving slow, but the potential of losing somebody in our group.”

They were still miles from home, but the group began walking. “It was not until we were already in the middle of the city that we learned about how widespread the situation really was,” he explained. “We were essentially walking directly through the middle of it. The attacks were on all sides of us.”



Colby Corsaut is a missionary for the International Mission Board in Paris. (Contributed photo)

Corsaut said, after reflecting upon the events of the night, that God gave the group an unusual sense of peace as they trekked through the city amid the mayhem.

Dealing with tragedy

“As I sit here, I have a deep sense of gratitude to the Lord who shepherded us along a path that would eventually lead us home. I limped home with the help of some friends. We passed police lines and blocked streets. The walking made us feel better. It was progress. One foot in front of the other was a helpful therapy as we passed the Seine and crossed the bridge into the south.”

The group eventually made it to a place where someone was able to pick them up in a van, saving them extra miles of walking.

The ride home offered a quiet moment to think about what they had just experienced.

“Honestly, I do not think I have felt this weird, emotional cocktail of anger and heart-break since I saw the planes hit the World Trade Center,” said Corsaut. “Everybody seems to remember where they were when they heard the news. It was like that.”

Though tragedy is always difficult, this attack has only served to reinforce Corsaut’s calling to take the gospel to France.

“Maybe it is for just such a time as this that [God] has brought my family to France. These are important days in the life of France and long ago the Lord worked to position us here,” he said.

Corsaut concluded by asking for prayer: “... our deepest desire is for you to pray for us to be bold with the gospel. Pray for the hearts of the French people who have yet to know what life looks like because all they know is death.

“It is no small understatement to say that [God] is the best thing we have to offer to France. It is also not wrong to say that it is worth any cost in order to introduce Him to them. ... We would love for you to link arms with us as we mourn, pray, share, and heal alongside our people.”

The Corsaut family is supported through the IMB by Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering giving. The goal for the 2015 offering is \$175 million. Gifts can be submitted online at imb.org/giving or by mail: IMB Development, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. **BR**

CHURCH NEWS



Grandview Baptist Church, Waynesville

Celebrating a hallowed evening Oct. 31, children trick or treated at Grandview Baptist Church, Waynesville. Children were met by Lydia, the seller of purple, and then went through the educational building meeting adults dressed as Bible characters. Each character explained who they were and what part they played in the Bible. As they exited, a Gideon gave children a Bible; 100 Bibles were distributed and about 150 children heard Bible stories.

AROUND THE STATE

Obituary

LYNDELL EDWIN STIKE died Nov. 16.

A West Virginia native, Stike’s served in the Army Air Corps (later known as the U.S. Air Force) where he retired in 1966.

He married Nieves Lopez in 1949 and became a Jesus follower in 1957. He surrendered to preach and pastored churches in Maine, Labrador, Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina for 55 years. He served in the Chowan Baptist Association in N.C.

He is survived by his wife, Nieves Lopez Stike, three sons, Lyndell Stike Jr. of Birmingham, Ala., Lucky Stike of Phoenix, Ariz., and Lynn Earl Stike of Moyock, N.C.; 10 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; brother Lowell Stike of Portsmouth, Va.; and two sisters, Sandra Jarrett of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Nancy Saxon of Chesapeake, Va.

Staff changes

The Pee Dee Baptist Association has called **C.J. BORDEAUX** as the director of missions. Previously Bordeaux was the senior pastor at Gorman Baptist Church, Durham. He will assume his new position Jan 17.

Retirement

RON HARRISON retired from his position as director of missions at the South Yadkin Baptist Association in August 2015 after 21 years of service. He began his ministry on Jan. 1, 1994. Harrison, a Statesville native, came from Parkview Baptist Church in Durham. He also pastored four churches prior to that one. When Harrison and his wife Sandra arrived the association was made up of 53 member churches, and it has grown to 70 now in the year of his retirement. Harrison also established several ministries such as the Campus Impact ministry to Mitchell College, the garden ministry and The Care Network prayer ministry. His wife, Sandra, has been the community missions director, working with a food pantry, clothes closet, toy store, fair ministry and more.



RON HARRISON

December 13

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

December 20

Freed By God's Forgiveness

Focal passage: John 8:2-11

All Christians have a deep problem of the soul. We are wired by nature towards self-righteousness. We tend to view our own sin in a therapeutic way. "Well, at least I am not as sinful as most people." However, if you and I could solve our problems with sin, what difference does it make that Christ was crucified?

Ignoring the reality of sin leads to ignoring our need for a savior.

This is the problem with the religious leaders in John 8:2-11.

The Pharisees saw themselves as sufficiently righteous. In fact, their self-righteousness was so great they were ready to murder a woman who had been caught in adultery.

They had failed to see the purpose of the law. For them, God's law was a means of earning salvation. By their own standards, they were not only righteous enough to achieve God's acceptance, but also to exact God's punishment on those who hadn't.

If we think we are good enough to fulfill the law ourselves, we tend to look

down in judgment on others. However, Jesus looks at the Pharisees and declares, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her" (v. 7).

After an honest assessment, each Pharisee dropped their stones and walked away. An honest assessment of sin brings forth a good sense of humility. We realize that the law is not meant to be a means of salvation, but a means to reveal the holiness of God and our own need of salvation from the sin deeply embedded in our hearts.

Jesus' initial coming into the world was not to cast stones of judgment, but to cast himself towards the cross for the payment of sin. Salvation is not based on our righteousness, but His. However, he will come again one day to judge. If we believe in Him now, we are able to go and sin no more, not as a means of salvation, but in a Spirit-filled and worshipful response to His salvation. We must realize that self-righteousness is just another sinful way of rejecting Jesus as Savior.



MATT CAPPS
Pastor, Fairview
Baptist Church, Apex

Saved by God's Son

Focal passage: John 1:1-5, 9-14

We live in a spiritually dark world. There is a lurking darkness not only in the world around us, but also deep within our souls.

The bad news is, there is no escape. No political or moral agenda can rescue us from this darkness.

Even worse, there is no way for us to rescue ourselves from the darkness of sin in our own lives.

When G.K. Chesterton was once asked, "what is wrong with the world?" His response was personal and profound. He simply said, "I am."

The Good News is, Jesus came to earth to rescue us. He came to rescue us from the sin that plagues the world we live in. Jesus also came to rescue us from us.

Jesus entered into the darkness of our world, and there was light.

The Good News of the gospel is that Jesus, the light of the world, "...shines in

the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Jesus is our only hope. And just like in Genesis, when God spoke into the darkness and there was light, the light of the spoken gospel shines in our hearts and saves us from the darkness of sin. This light of God's love gives us warming comfort in the cold darkness of the world we live in.

As God's people, we are called to be a light to the nations, a city on a hill. In this sense, God calls us out of the darkness into the light, and then commissions us to go back into the darkness with the light.

The Good News of the gospel is a light to everyone groping around in the darkness of sin. Jesus, the light, is our salvation. And the Good News gets even better.

Those who come to the light will one day forever dwell in the radiant glory of God.

The New Jerusalem is described as having "...no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk" (Revelation 21:23-24).

December 13

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

December 20

The King Arrives

Focal passage: Matthew 1:18-25

Have you ever made a promise that you just could not keep? Maybe you promised to arrive for a meeting early, but on the way you got stuck on a one-lane road behind a school bus.

Finally, after the bus turned off, you were able to pick up the pace for a mile or so only to come upon bumper-to-bumper traffic caused by an accident.

You promised to be early and you gave your very best effort, but you just couldn't overcome the obstacles.

We have all had an experience of breaking a promise that we intended to keep.

God, however, has never had this experience.

Every single promise that He has ever made has come to pass or will come to pass. For God, every promise made is a promise kept.

The opening verses of Matthew's gospel account display God's faithfulness to His promises.

Matthew walks through the lineage of Christ from Abraham to David in order to demonstrate God's great grace to His

people and His great faithfulness to His promises. From the opening pages of scripture, God promised that the Seed of the woman would reverse the curse of the fall by crushing the head of the Serpent (Genesis 3:15). He continued this promise through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 21: 1-3; 22:15-18).

Matthew wants us to reveal in God's faithfulness from Abraham through David so that we may see that this Jesus, is the Christ sent, "to save His people from their sins" (1:21).

The baby born to the virgin is the kept promise of Isaiah 7:14; He is God with us.

Matthew is shouting, "The promised Seed sent to save His own has arrived; the Serpent's head will soon be crushed."

God never has and never will run into an unforeseen problem that prevents Him from keeping His promises. He sent His Son to be broken in order to keep His promises unbroken. May we, as His people, be those who see and celebrate the promise-keeping God in His Word this Advent season.



CLINT DARST
Pastor, Freedom
Church, Lincoln

The King Worshiped

Focal passage: Matthew 2:1-12

At the close of 2013, the *Oxford English Dictionary* selected "selfie" as their word of the year. They defined "selfie" as "a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website."

Geoffrey Nunberg of National Public Radio responded by observing, "When we look back on 2013, we'll recall this not just as the year when everybody was posting pictures of themselves on social media, but as the year when nobody could stop talking about it."

What does it say about a culture that its members are obsessed with pictures of themselves?

The biblical answer is clear: it displays that we are hardwired to worship, and because of the Fall we direct that worship towards those made in the image of God rather than toward the One who is the image of God (Colossians 1:15).

Matthew highlights precisely this

contrast in His account of the wise men's visit of Christ.

Jesus is worthy of the worship of all nations, and so the magi come asking, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him" (2:2).

However, Matthew continues, "When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled" (2:3).

The foreigners from the east came to worship Jesus while Herod plotted to murder Him.

Driven by narcissistic self-obsession to maintain his little kingdom, Herod felt threatened – even by a child.

This is the root of sin. Like our first parents in the garden, we too believe that being made in the image of God is not enough; we want to be God.

Like Herod, we want to be in charge. Yet this sets up the great glory of the gospel.

The toddler in the manger is the One who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but instead humbled Himself even unto the point of death on a cross so that we might turn from our little "selfie" kingdoms and worship the One True King (Philippians 2:6-9).

CIT

Continued from page 7

something that's going to add one more thing to your plate," Harris told the pastors. It is not the pastor's responsibility to do the work of the team. "The pastor's responsibility is to identify a lay leader in the church who will be trained."

The CIT training is a two-and-a-half hour evening event. "All I am asking you as a pastor to do is to sup-

port it and to choose the lay person in your church you feel like would be great to be equipped. They will be reporting to you," said Harris.

Christians feel like they don't have the information they need to deal with the pressures they experience. "They are being bullied," he said. "They're being told they are bigots and that they are wrong."

Third, he offered a tool that helps a church discover how many people in the congregation are registered to vote and how many voted in the last election. He said it

is the greatest tool to help a church be effective in cultural impact. "This is all public information," he added. "The means are now available for churches to find out how many in our church are registered and how many voted."

CIT organizers believe pastors can lead better when they have good information, which is available in print, on websites and through equipping sessions. Seven events are listed on the organization's website through January. Visit watchmenpastors.org/events. **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

First Baptist Church of Black Mountain, NC, is seeking to fill its position of **Senior Pastor**. We are a traditional, moderate and missional congregation with supportive relations with local and state Baptist entities. Please send cover letter and resume to Chair Bill Walker: fbcbkmtn@bellsouth.net.

Bellview Baptist Church of Woodruff, SC, is seeking a **Senior Pastor**. The candidate should have at least three years of experience as a senior pastor, have a seminary degree from a Southern Baptist seminary, and be willing to relocate to within a 10 mile radius of the church. Information about our church and church family, as well as a list of our desired qualifications can be found on our website at www.bellviewbaptistchurch.org/#/contact-us. Resumes including statement of faith, references, DVD/CD can be mailed to Pastor Search Committee, Bellview Baptist Church, 901 Bellview Rd., Woodruff, SC 29388, or emailed to secretary@bellviewbaptistchurch.org no later than 12/31/15.

First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, seeks a **full-time senior pastor** to lead our congregation spiritually and administratively; to work collaboratively with all groups in the church and community; and to guide revitalization of our ministries and missions as a downtown church. We affirm both women and men in leadership roles, are affiliated with CBF and SBC, and prefer blended and traditional worship styles. A master's degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school and relevant experience are required. Submit cover letter and resume to psc@fbcfay.com or FBC Pastor Search Committee c/o Steven Lawrence, P.O. Drawer 2737, Fayetteville, NC 28302. Deadline: December 15.

Manteo Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor** for congregation of 150 with blended worship format. As an affiliate of Southern Baptist Convention of N.C. and the Chowan Association, we are accepting resumes from those who hold a seminary degree with at least 5 years pastoral experience. Resume and a sample DVD may be sent by December 31, 2015, to Manteo Baptist Church, Attn. Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 670, Manteo, NC 27954, or via e-mail to mbc2015psc@gmail.com.

Church Staff

Full-Time Minister of Music/Discipleship/Education needed for blended worship services for a progressive and growing church affiliated with SBC in Western North Carolina. A masters of music, or equivalent experience, is required. Duties will include planning, developing and implementing the music program, as well as, discipleship/educational/ministry needs as directed by the church. Knowledge of current computer technology is required. Submit resumes to: Newfound Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 6, Leicester, NC 28748, or reply electronically to tomseals@att.net. A complete job description is posted on our website at www.newfoundbaptist.com >Ministries>Music.

Green Creek First Baptist in Columbus, NC, is seeking a **full-time Student Pastor**. This individual must have at least a bachelor's degree in church ministry and two or more years experience in student ministry. They will be responsible to oversee and facilitate the K-12 ministries of the church and teach 7-12 Bible studies. Green Creek First is a conservative minded church that partners with the SBC, BSCNC and the Polk Baptist Association. Please send resumes to gcfbpersonnel@yahoo.com by December 31, 2015.

First Baptist Church of Maggie Valley, NC, is seeking a **full-time Youth/Worship Leader**. Please send resume to the attention of: Dr. Mike Odom, PO Box 369, Maggie Valley, NC 28751.

Small town SBC church is prayerfully seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor**, a man who loves God and his neighbor, who knows God and desires that people come to know God and inherit eternal life. He must exhibit the qualifications found in 2 Timothy 3:1-7. KMBC has a children's day care ministry, two worship services, and a multi-generational congregation seeking the advancement of God's Kingdom through prayer, disciple-making, and ministries that are committed to an intentionally evangelistic church strategy. We need someone whose heart's desire it to "rejoice at all times, pray ceaselessly and be thankful in all circumstances," and who zealously desires the Holy Spirit to gift Christ's Body to do the work of the ministry. We believe we are in the beginning stages of revival, and we are praying for a man who will allow God to use him as a "living sacrifice." We expect no less of ourselves. Submit resumes to: kenlymbc@centurylink.net or Kenly Missionary Baptist Church, PO Box 237, Kenly, NC 27542.

FBC, Clayton, NC, dually aligned with SBC and CBF, seeks a **part-time Children's Minister** to plan and coordinate a comprehensive program of ministry to children birth through fifth grade. Candidates should have a passion for children and an understanding of family dynamics. Resumes should be sent to FBCClaytonPersonnel@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church of Locust is seeking a **full-time Minister to Youth and Children**. For a detailed job description, please contact the church office at (704) 888-2431. To apply, please send a resume, statement of faith and a cover letter to FBC Locust, PO Box 159, Locust, NC 28097.

Eastside Baptist Church, Shelby, NC (Southern Baptist/1963 Faith & Message) seeks **full-time Minister of Music and Education**. Responsible for all music programs as well as training and education. Job description/requirements: www.eastsidebaptistshelby.org. Send letter of interest and resume attention: Personal Committee, 1165 Wyke Rd. Shelby, NC 28150, or officeebc@carolina.rr.com.

Bethany Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music** to plan, direct, and coordinate worship for both contemporary and traditional services. See website for more details: www.bethany.ws (3-5 years experience is desired).

Three Forks Baptist Church, Taylorsville N.C., seeking an **Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor**. Mail resumes to attention of Personnel Committee, TFBC, 4685 Three Forks Church Road, Taylorsville, N.C. 28681, or e-mail carsonmoseley123@netzero.net.

Bethel Baptist Church is looking for a **part-time worship leader** who will be able to lead a blended worship service. You can view our website, bbcnc.net, to find out more about us or email questions to info@bbcnc.net. Interested applicants should email their resumes to info@bbcnc.net too.

Mountain View Baptist Church of Hamptonville, NC, is seeking a **part-time Director of Children's Ministries** (for grades 1-6). Responsibilities include coordinating a Wednesday evening discipleship program, quarterly children events and summer day camp. This position also serves as staff liaison to our Preschool Ministry. Please send resume to mvbcb@yadtel.net.

Polkville Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time Worship Minister** with a heart to follow God's will, being gifted in communicating and coordinating worship experiences, along with the pastor and musicians. Send resume by email to: employment@polkvillevillebaptist.com; or by USPS to: Search Committee, Polkville Baptist Church, Post Office Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.

Associate Pastor of Worship and Discipleship. First Baptist Church of Mount Olive, AL, is seeking a minister of music and education, to lead a growing congregation in blended worship, and discipleship programs. Bachelor's degree required and two to five years experience preferred. Send resumes to Stephanie@fbcmo.org.

Miscellaneous

Great gift for pastor and wife, for Anniversary, Birthday, Christmas – a **Biblical Tour of Israel** led by an experienced BSCNC pastor, May 10-20, 2016. For color brochure and information call 252-937-9811, ext 223, or email mcloer@englewoodbaptist.com.

NCBAM needs inter-generational teams to build wheel chair ramps during Rampin' Up! April 30 and May 7, 2016. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

Do you have staff changes at your church or association? Let the *BR* know by calling (919) 847-2127 or email editor@BRnow.org.

ADVERTISE
(919) 459-5691

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org.
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at BRnow.org.
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

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

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

Call

Continued from page 12

Kapps heard of a need for an accountant in Central Asia. The job seemed like a good fit, but he was hesitant about the location.

"I tucked it away. I thought that place needed someone braver or more courageous," he remembered. "It was a great opportunity but one that was too frightening for us."

Kapps and his wife decided to take a vision trip, first stopping to explore another job in Central Asia. Though the job was interesting and the area was safer than other options, both Kapps and his wife felt unsettled.

"We didn't have a peace, although we were willing to be there. Something was missing," Kapps recalled.

Upon visiting the area they had feared at first, God called them to obey and gave them the courage to do so. "We knew early on that it was a special place," Kapps said.

"We had peace about being there and how we fit with the team. We knew God was calling us there before we left to come home."

With peace from God, all other things began to fall into place.

Kapps saw Proverbs 3:5-6 become a reality as the path for his family became

clearer with each step of obedience.

Kapps' time at SEBTS wrapped up in October 2015, and the family left for training with the IMB before heading to Central Asia.

The entire family is excited for this new phase of life, even their four children.

"Troy* (8) expresses this through prayers for the people and the country. His prayers really show his understanding of the Great Commission," Kapps said. "Ruth* (11) told us she just wants to go wherever God calls us to go."

Brent is thankful for the time they spent at SEBTS before taking this next step. "It is a Great Commission seminary," Kapps said. "We were able to be equipped and trained while having the opportunity to serve the local church."

The Kapps family remains humbly dependent upon God and grateful for his guidance.

"We are just an average family, and God has given us an open door to go and be a part of His Great Commission," Kapps said. "It is an honor and a privilege to get to be a part of God's story that He is writing for this country."

They also recognize that they are a part of a greater effort to reach this area



Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is asking its students and faculty to consider where God is calling them. Brent Kapps* holds a sign for the school's #iamgoing campaign. (SEBTS photo)

of Central Asia with the gospel.

"For many years people all around the world have been bathing this area in prayer, and now we are that family they have been praying for," Kapps said. "We don't want to be set apart as different or put on a pedestal. We are all tied in to the Great Commission."

*Name changed BR

Partner with the Kapps

Join the Kapps family as they seek to share the message of Christ in Central Asia. Here are a few ways you can partner with them in prayer:

- **Peace amid transition.** Pray for the whole family to continue to abide in Christ (John 15) and in God's Word during all the changes that are about to take place.

- **A family to befriend them.** Pray for the Kapps family to meet a local family with whom they can share life with and learn culture from. Ask that their children will be able to learn language from this family and feel accepted into the community.

- **Language and culture acquisition.** Pray for Brent and Brianna to learn the local language to be able to communicate the gospel. Pray for them to persevere through the hard days and to get out of their comfort zones.

- **Strong connections with their local partners.** Pray for them to maintain good connections with their local church and be accountable to them. They want to honor those who have committed with them to reach their people with regular updates and prayers.

Prayer is a huge request for any of the missionaries, but you can also support them through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

REVEAL

SHARE YOUR LIFE ■ SPEAK THE GOSPEL

2016 DISCIPLE-MAKING CONFERENCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Lawndale Baptist Church
3505 Lawndale Drive
Greensboro, NC 27408

DISCIPLENC.ORG



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive • Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptist.org
The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Mission Offering.

Discover your mission. Go change the world.

Come visit us
in Wake Forest
or at iamgoi.ng/br



The College at
Southeastern

