

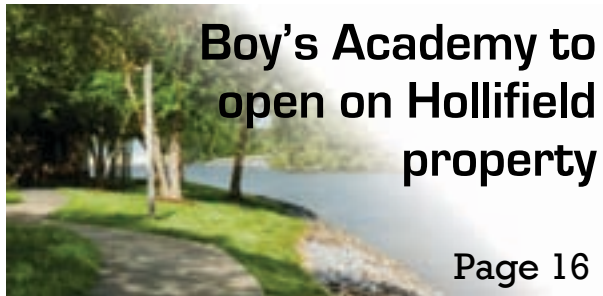
C.J. Bordeaux  
wants to use  
influence to help  
small churches

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Boy's Academy to  
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# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

DECEMBER 7, 2013 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 179 NO. 25 • [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org)

## 11 MONTAGNARD MEN ORDAINED

By **MICHAEL MCEWEN** | BR Content Editor

**O**n Nov. 16 at Glenwood Friends Meeting in Greensboro, 11 Montagnard men were ordained to spread the gospel.

Since the waning of the Vietnam War, the Montagnard people have sought freedom from their communist government. In fact, the Montagnards were allies with the United States during the Vietnam War.

“Commissioning this many pastors

to serve the Montagnard population in North Carolina will strengthen the efforts of N.C. Baptists to impact lostness,” said Milton Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), who was present at the service. “Through their Spirit-filled work in churches and communities both here and abroad, these couples will reach many lost Montagnard people with the gospel. They will also help converts become

vibrant followers of Jesus Christ as they create disciple-making communities all around them.”

Originally from the central highlands of Vietnam and neighboring Cambodia, the Montagnard population began increasing in North Carolina, particularly in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte.

In the mid-1980s, the refugees were resettling in these areas because of the number of Special Forces veterans living in the area, the supportive businesses, the numerous entry-level job opportunities and the close similarities of climate they knew from their native land.

Special programs for the re-education of camp detainees permitted Montagnard immigrants to relocate to America. Also, the Orderly Departure Program, an agreement between the United Nations and the Vietnamese government, relocated refugees so they might reunite with family members already residing in the U.S.

Then there are the Montagnard Christians who fled to escape the intense persecution of the Vietnamese

[See Ordained page 4](#)

At right, Baptist State Convention leaders Milton A. Hollifield Jr., top row left, and Chuck Register, top right, join with other leaders to pray over 11 Montagnard men who were ordained and their wives. The Nov. 16 service was a culmination of much study for the men and was held at Glenwood Friends Meeting House in Greensboro, above, where Montagnard Christian Bible Church meets. (BR photo by Michael McEwen/BSC photo by Mike Creswell)



## Asheville church planter helps hearing congregation reach Deaf Malagasy

By **DON GRAHAM** | Baptist Press

**I**t's like learning to swim by being pushed off the high dive – and Mason Barrett just got shoved. The 33-year-old real estate agent sits wide-eyed in a tiny, crowded living room in Madagascar's capital city, trying desperately to understand what anyone around him is saying. Hands fly in a flurry of conversation, mostly get-to-know-you type questions: What's your name? Are you married? Were you born deaf?

That last question might sound strange if this wasn't one of the thousands of Deaf

communities that Barrett has come to serve. He's part of a team from Warren Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., that has traveled more than 9,000 miles for a single purpose: sharing Jesus with the Deaf Malagasy.

Tucked away off Africa's eastern coast, Madagascar is home to roughly 110,000 Deaf, less than 1 percent of whom are disciples of Jesus Christ. Most follow a centuries-old tradition of ancestor worship. There may be a “veneer of Christianity,” says missionary Matt Spann, a Texas native who leads the International Mission Board's

[See Deaf page 11](#)

Genetics are most likely responsible for the stunning color variance in the eyes of this Deaf Malagasy student in Antsirabe, Madagascar. (IMB photo by Joann Bradberry)





# Former ASU wrestler sets sights on 2016 Summer Olympics

**A**ustin Trotman is the most accomplished wrestler in Appalachian State University (ASU) wrestling history with 129 wins. As a three-time All-American and a four-time NCAA Championship qualifier, Trotman had a memorable performance in taking third in the 2012 NCAA Championships at ASU. He's now a legitimate threat to represent his country at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In November 2012, he won the NYAC Holiday International Open and was also named "Outstanding Wrestler."



ROMAN GABRIEL  
Sports Q & A

As a strong representative of Christ, Trotman is using his wrestling platform to speak to young people, especially on behalf of the North Carolina Sold Out School Alcohol Abstinence Education Program. I sat down to talk about his philosophy of wrestling, his chances at the 2016 Summer Olympics and his commitment to spread the gospel.

**Q:** You are known as a wrestler for having the reputation of outlasting your opponents. What is your mindset when you walk onto the mat to compete?

**A:** You do not compete to lose. A match is seven minutes long, which does not seem like much and some guys view it as a sprint. If you get opponents past three minutes you can break them. There are very few who can actually go the full seven minutes in a match. Conditioning is such a huge part of the sport.

**Q:** You are currently ranked as the number five wrestler in the world and in good position to make the team for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics. What has been the process for making the 2016 Team USA Wrestling team?

**A:** After graduating in 2012, I received a call from one of the U.S. Olympic Wrestling coaches about trying out for the 2016 Summer Games.

When a wrestler places high in the NCAA Tournaments and wins a lot of matches, his odds of competing for one of the [U.S. Olympic] positions is much higher. I have been training regularly at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado and also with the ASU team.

The top 10 guys in their weight class have an opportunity to compete in a handful of elite tournaments, and



One of the things that keeps Austin Trotman busy is visiting schools on behalf of the North Carolina Sold Out School Alcohol Abstinence Education Program.



Austin Trotman hugs one of his Appalachian State University (ASU) wrestling coaches after a match. Trotman is currently ranked in the top five for wrestlers in his weight class. He is training with the ASU team and at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado to help keep him in good condition to compete for a spot on the 2016 Summer Olympics team. (Contributed photos)

the top five make the U.S. team. I am currently in the top five in the 185 and a half weight class.

**Q:** You use your wrestling platform to tell others about your faith. Talk about this unique opportunity.

**A:** Every time I get the chance I tell people that I'm a Christian. Wrestling is a missional opportunity. One particularly cool story was when we were in Turkey and staying across the hall from a team with a Muslim background. They didn't speak English, but for some reason they wanted to come and listen to our Bible study. What a great opportunity!

**Q:** You're going to be with me in Avery County speaking to students from our Sold Out Alcohol Abstinence School Education Program. Speak about the experiences you've had with middle and high school students concerning this program.

**A:** I feel that if I'm going to ask young people to make an alcohol and drug abstinence commitment, then I need to be committed as well. I tell the stu-

dents that it's great to be at this level of competition but in order to be here, you have to treat your body right and put good things into it. I believe that being alcohol and drug abstinent is important whether you are or are not competing. It's critical to success.

**Q:** Austin, I am inspired by your commitment to the Lord and your positive attitude about life! Tell everyone how they can follow you on this journey to the Olympic Games in 2016.

**A:** If someone is interested, they can follow the USA Team at [Mat.com](http://Mat.com). On this site, anyone can keep up with all of the action with team USA. They can also follow me on Twitter: @A-Trotty or search on Facebook for Sold Out. Lastly, they can watch our conversations at [www.soldouttv.com](http://www.soldouttv.com).

**"You do not compete to lose. ... If you get opponents past three minutes you can break them. ... Conditioning is such a huge part of the sport."**  
— Austin Trotman

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Roman's Sold Out Sports Talk Radio program on American Family Radio can be heard in 200 cities nationally or streaming live at [afr.net](http://afr.net). It's all about faith, family and sports. Visit his website: [soldouttv.com](http://soldouttv.com); Facebook page: Roman Gabriel III Fan Page; connect with him on Twitter: [romangabriel3rd](https://twitter.com/romangabriel3rd); email him: [soldoutrg3@gmail.com](mailto:soldoutrg3@gmail.com) or call (910) 431-6483.) **BR**



# Rockingham youth take on 'least of these'

From submitted news

**T**he youth group from Mount Olive Baptist Church in Rockingham has taken serving the "least of these" as a challenge over the past few months.

In July, the group took a mission trip to Jacksonville Beach in Florida. That trip impacted the group in different ways.

"God knew what He had planned the whole time for this group," said C.J. Smith, youth director, who said the youth worked with Light of the World Ministries serving the homeless and less fortunate in Jacksonville.

Shortly after returning from the trip, the local homeless shelter in Rockingham – the Baker House – was destroyed by fire.

"Since that time, this youth group has taken an initiative to be the hands and feet of Jesus for those that are homeless and less fortunate in the area," Smith said.

In November, the group held its first "Picnic in the Park" for homeless.

They used the time to hand out jackets, blankets and clothes, as well as feed the people. There was a medical and prayer table set up at the park, and a Bible study was held with those who were interested.

Residents who were staying in the local shelter have been forced to use tents and cardboard boxes in nearby woods.

The group is praying for more individuals and churches to step out in faith and minister to these people, including sharing the gospel. Smith shared the story from Matthew 25 where the goats and sheep were commanded the same thing from Jesus. Both groups responded differently to the command.

"The sheep helped those in need and were blessed for it," he said. "Meanwhile, the goats did not listen and faced punishment because of it." **BR**



November was the first time Mount Olive Baptist Church in Rockingham held a "Picnic in the Park." Through the event homeless people were fed and clothed. The youth were inspired after a mission trip to Jacksonville, Fla. (Contributed photo)

## CHURCH NEWS



### Brown Creek Baptist Church, Wadesboro

Brown Creek Baptist Church, Wadesboro, honored Tom Taylor for 40 years of perfect attendance on Aug. 11. Curtis Williams, the church's pastor, presented Taylor with a plaque during the church's homecoming service celebrating 185 years. Taylor has held many positions in the church, including deacon and trustee.

## Submissions

Send church news, staff changes, etc., to [dianna@BRnow.org](mailto:dianna@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

### BSC offers computer training

Each year the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina offers computer training courses at no cost for churches and associations. Below you will find a schedule for the first part of 2014.

Judy Autry and Lei Salmonson are the teachers. Classes cover a range of topics from Microsoft's 2010 software to website development, and are designed to help church members learn the basic skills that will allow them to better serve their church. All classes will take place in the Baptist Building Lab from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The address is 205 Convention Dr., Cary, NC 27511.

Register for classes by emailing [jautry@ncbaptist.org](mailto:jautry@ncbaptist.org) or [lsalmonson@ncbaptist.org](mailto:lsalmonson@ncbaptist.org).

- **Excel** – Jan. 16
- **Word** – Feb. 6
- **Wordpress Church Website** – Feb. 11
- **Powerpoint** – Feb. 27
- **Publisher** – Mar. 6
- **Wix Church Website** – Mar. 18
- **Windows Movie Maker** – Mar. 27
- **Weebly Church Website** – Apr. 8
- **Advanced Excel** – Apr. 15
- **Advanced Word** – Apr. 29
- **SquareSpace Church Website** – May 6
- **Wordpress Church Website** – June 10

### Retreat planned for vocational evangelists

A conference is being held for people interested in vocational evangelism and/or currently employed as evangelists. The retreat will be held Jan. 9 from 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. and Jan. 10 from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Caraway Conference Center. The key speakers will be Jim Henry, Keith Kimball, Chris Schofield, Ralph Thompson, Wray Wheelless, Brian Upshaw and Cindy Johnson.

For more information email [evangelism@ncbaptist.org](mailto:evangelism@ncbaptist.org) or contact Marty Dupree at [mdupree@ncbaptist.org](mailto:mdupree@ncbaptist.org) or (800)-395-5102, ext. 5563. The deadline for registration is Dec. 16.

### Pastors, church staff invited with spouses to retreat at Ridgecrest Conference Center

A conference is being held for pastors, their spouses and church staff in evangelism or administration areas. The event will be held Jan. 14 from 2-9 p.m. Jan. 15 from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at Ridgecrest Conference Center. The key speakers will be Claude King, Richard Owen Roberts, Chris Schofield, Chad Pollard, Phyllis Foy and Tara Furman.

For more information visit [www.praync.org](http://www.praync.org).

### Southwestern offers revival preachers

Churches can join Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in promoting spiritual awakening across the United States by hosting revival preachers as part of the seminary's Revive this Nation program, March 9-12, 2014. Revive this Nation is open to churches in all 50 states, and Southwestern aims to send preachers to every state.

"This long-standing tradition of Southwestern is one of the most exciting parts of the year," said Steven Smith, vice president for student services and communications.

During Revive this Nation, Southwestern will send more than 100 students and professors to preach in churches across America and to evangelize the communities around them. The seminary has provided this program for more than 50 years.

Southwestern pays for round-trip transportation of preachers to and from the revival locations, while churches provide housing, meals and local transportation. Churches of any size can request revival preachers and download resources at [www.swbts.edu/rtn](http://www.swbts.edu/rtn). Call (817) 923-1921, ext. 7304.

## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituary

**BUFORD "CHIEF MAC" MCKENZIE**, 94, died Oct. 15.

He had worked with Campbell Loughmiller for 18 years who pioneered Christian therapeutic camping in Texas. Then, McKenzie spent 12 years establishing the Eckerd Foundation wilderness camps in Florida. McKenzie took the lead in 1981 when building Cameron Boys Camp for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

In the late 1990's Chief Mac led the establishment of Wilderness Road Therapeutic Camping Association, Inc., a group of camps committed to preserving and promoting the original Loughmiller program model.

He is survived by his wife, Lois; two sons, Kris of San Angelo, Texas, and Kerry of Bahama, N.C.; three daughters, Karen Collins of Fair Play, S.C., Kayla Gibson of Cameron, and Kobi Hart of Louisville, Ky., and 19 grandchildren.

Memorials to: Wilderness Road Therapeutic Camping Association, Inc., 133 Camp School Lane, Fair Play, SC 29643.



# Ordained

Continued from page 1

government, which consisted of imprisonment, intimidation, fines, torture and death.

Every one of the men ordained in the Nov. 16 service, and some of their wives, suffered governmental persecution. Some were beaten and forced to work for the government while others fled to nearby Cambodia and lived in refugee camps.

Some hid in the jungle for nearly two decades and other men were put in prison several times – one for five years.

The hope for religious freedom was a great desire for the Montagnard Christians – a hope they found eventually in America.

The 11 Montagnard men – Nca Cam, Y Chuoih Kpor, Weh Ksor, Ajac Kpa, Y-Oal Nie, Y Dhieng Buan Krong, Y Nguan Bya, Y Simon Eban, Y Ghak Adrong, Hial Eban Y, Rcom Bleh – recently completed a rigorous three-year study of the Bible, Christian doctrine and pastoral leadership that was developed by K. 'Them Nfn, pastor of Highland Christian

Church, a Montagnard Baptist congregation in Asheboro.

'Them Nfn started the first Montagnard church in Greensboro in 2003 and in 2008 he moved to the smaller Asheboro church so he and his son, Simon Touprong, also a minister, could focus on discipleship and pastoral training.

A few weeks before the ordination service, each of the men stood before an ordination counsel comprised of men representing BSC member churches. John Jarman, pastor of Rankin Baptist Church in Greensboro, and Steve Sells, director of missions for Randolph Baptist Association, said that they felt unworthy to question the faith of these men who were provided solid, theological training.

"Whoever aspires to the office of overseer desires a great and noble task. It is clear from 1 Timothy 3 that the pastor is to be known by his integrity and his Christian virtues," said Sells, who preached the ordination sermon.

"He must demonstrate truth, honesty



Milton A. Hollifield Jr., right, presents Weh Ksor with his certificate of ordination Nov. 16 in Greensboro during a service where 11 Montagnard men were ordained. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

and irreproachable character. The church needs more men like you to surrender to the ministry. "In fact, we are all very fortunate that God has called and allowed each of you men to enter into the ministry because there are far too few who are willing to go."

With the laying on of hands, the Montagnard men and their wives were then prayed over by all ordained pastors present to celebrate the special day. One of the 11 ordained men will return to Cambodia as a missionary, two will be starting new Montagnard churches in N.C., and the others are already serving as pastors of churches.

Before receiving their pastoral certificates from Milton Hollifield, he said, "The certificate you are about to receive represents that you will be a pastor of God's people.

"Many of you have experienced difficulties in life and ministry because of your love and obedience to Christ and your willingness to proclaim the gospel of salvation. As you continue this journey, I pray for rich blessings upon your life, your family and your ministry." **BR**

## AROUND THE STATE

### Staff changes

**DANNY PRIDMORE** has been called as pastor at Gethsemane Baptist Church, Hendersonville. He previously served at Valley Hill Baptist, Hendersonville.

Laurel Springs Baptist Church, Deep Gap, has called **TIM LYNCH** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Supply.

**CHRIS REINOLDS** has been called as pastor at Howard's Creek Baptist Church, Boone. He previously served as pastor to children and families at First Baptist Church, Millington, Tenn.

Midway Baptist Church, West Jefferson, has called **WAYNE OSBORNE** as pastor of youth and children. Osborne previously served as pastor at Friendly Grove Baptist Church, West Jefferson.

**MICHAEL PUCKETT** has been called as Baptist campus minister at Appalachian State University. Puckett previously served with the North American Mission Board doing collegiate ministry in northeast Ohio. He was on staff at Broadman Baptist Church, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Friendly Grove Baptist Church, West Jefferson, has called **KEVIN YORK** as pastor. York previously served as youth pastor at Hebron Baptist Church, Statesville.

**CRAIG HAMLIN** has been called as pastor of missional discipleship at New Morgan Hill Baptist Church, Candler. Previously Hamlin was pastor at Fairview Baptist Church, Apex.

New Morgan Hill Baptist Church, Candler, has also called **DAVID SPRAY** as children's pastor.

**DAVID FITZGERALD** has been called as minister of worship, music and arts at Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem. He assumes his position on Jan. 6. Fitzgerald previously served at Wake Forest Baptist Church, Wake Forest, as minister of music.

Benson Baptist Church, Benson, has called **PAUL BURGESS** as pastor. Burgess previously served as associate pastor of youth and outreach at First Baptist Church, Clayton.

### Retirement

**MIKE WILLARD** has retired after 20 years of pastoral ministry at Main Street Baptist Church, Kernersville. Willard also pastored at Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, and Griffith Baptist Church, Winston-Salem.

He and his wife, Myra, will continue to live in Kernersville. He is available for supply preaching and interim ministry. Contact (336)-423-8347 or at [mikewillard316@gmail.com](mailto:mikewillard316@gmail.com).

### Montagnard Baptist churches in N.C.

- Bunong Christian Church, Greensboro
- Kroi Kong Plei Ku Church, Charlotte
- Oyadao Baptist Church, Charlotte
- Montagnard Christian Bible Church, Greensboro
- Dega Christian Church, Charlotte
- United Montagnard Christian Church, Greensboro
- Sang Oi A Dai Mathio Anih, Charlotte
- Jarai Baptist Church, New Bern
- Ana Jarai Baptist Church, Charlotte
- Montagnard Baptist Church, Raleigh
- Highland Christian Church, Asheboro

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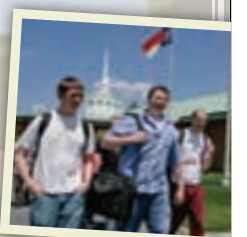
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# Newly elected president Bordeaux on life and ministry

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

**T**he newly elected president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) wants to see N.C. Baptists “catch fire for our Savior and be excited about what God has done, is doing and wants to do in our state.” C.J. Bordeaux, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, is a North Carolinian to the core.

Born in Whiteville, Bordeaux has seen what church ministry looks like from childhood. His father, Garland, was a pastor of small churches for 55 years prior to his death in 2007. “My dad was a church planter before we ever heard the term ‘church planter,’” he said.

Bordeaux preached his first sermon at the age of 12 in a youth service at White Lake Baptist Church in Elizabethtown where his dad pastored. Later it became the first church he was called to pastor.

He attended Chowan College for a short time before entering the Army, where he met his first wife, Linda. Her father was a Baptist preacher in Texas. “We got married and were sent to Germany. There I felt God’s call to preach, but Linda already knew it,” Bordeaux said.

They left the Army in 1976 and re-

turned to N.C. “On Friday, December 31, 1976, I announced my call to preach at a watch night service. A day-and-a-half later on Sunday, January 2, I preached at Emmaus Baptist Church in Pittsboro, and I’ve been busy preaching ever since,” he said.

He and his wife entered Campbell College and three months later White Lake called him as a part-time pastor. He also served Bear Creek Baptist Church and Maysville Baptist Church.

“We had been at Maysville two months when Linda began her last semester at Campbell,” Bordeaux said. “On Thursday, January 8, she was in a car wreck and was killed on her way home from Campbell. We did not have any children. We were married about seven years. It was a very tough time in my life – a very trying time.

He had entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary only a few months before the accident.

“It was good that classes didn’t start back until later in January, because it gave me some time to get myself together,” he said. “I went to Texas and stayed three weeks with her family and came back right at the drop-add time to continue. It was so hard to do. My life had been



C.J. BORDEAUX

turned upside down.”

He finished that semester at Southeastern, but never returned.

While preaching a revival at her church, Bordeaux met his present wife, Donna. Her husband had died and left her with a 3-month-old son.

“I was really struggling – spiritually, emotionally, mentally and in every way,” he said. “When you’re 26 years of age and a widower, it’s unusual. [Donna] was a big inspiration.”

They fell in love, and 32 years later they are faithfully serving the Lord together. Bordeaux transferred to Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., where he finished the master of theology and doctor of ministry programs.

He served as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Lumberton for 10 years and West Monroe Baptist Church for 12 years.

“The burnout rate is incredibly high in ministry, and I was on the borderline of becoming one of those guys,” he said. “West Monroe was a wonderful ministry, but I lost my zeal for preaching.”

Bruce Martin, pastor of Village Baptist Church in Fayetteville asked Bordeaux to join his staff as an administrative pastor, where he also preached every Sunday night.

“I began to regain that fire for preaching. Then the Lord brought me and Gorman Baptist Church together,” he said. He has been at Gorman for more than five years. “I love what I do there. I have two young staff men. They are helping this old man regain some energy.”

Bordeaux served as the N.C. Pastors’ Conference secretary-treasurer for four years, and later as president. His involvement in the state includes service on the Committee on Committees and the Giving Plan Study Committee. He has completed two terms as the convention’s second vice president and two terms as first vice president.

He served eight years on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist

Convention, including two years as secretary. “I really, really enjoyed that time of service,” he said. “It’s so great to meet people from all over the United States and other parts of the world.”

Bordeaux is excited about the direction of the BSC, but concerned that many are not aware of the broad ministries of the convention. “I wish all N.C. Baptists could see what I have seen in this convention,” he said. “I see guys coming on the [BSC] board of directors for the first time. After their first meeting they walk out and say, ‘Man, I didn’t know we did all of that.’”

“I wish we could have an annual meeting where we just show every department of the convention and what they do. Maybe that would open some eyes,” he said. “We do so much more than people realize. Those who want to be critical are critical because they don’t know.”

He admits that there was a time when he was very critical of the state convention. “We’ve fought a lot of battles together along with Mark Corts, M.O. Owens and others. ... and we saw this convention changed through the efforts of these men. I couldn’t be sitting here 10 years ago. What a change! God has given us the strength to stay the course.

“I deeply love to serve in our convention. The things that I was critical of years ago are so different now,” he said. “The face of this convention changed with the election of Milton Hollifield. I love him, I respect him, I have learned so much from him. He is a godly man.”

Bordeaux is concerned that many young leaders are not involved in the work of the BSC. “We have some brilliant young people in this state, and they have a hot heart for Christ. They just love Jesus,” he said. “They think they don’t need the convention because they are so involved in their church. ... We need their input. As president I would like to say to them, ‘Guys, we need your fire, your energy and your excitement.’”

There is the impression among most Baptists that much authority accompanies the president’s position. However, the president of the convention’s board of directors has much greater power to influence the work of the BSC.

“I understand that the president of the convention doesn’t have any power, but he does have the opportunity to be heard,” Bordeaux said.

“I’ll go speak in any church of any size if they invite me, but I really want to talk to small church pastors who feel like they don’t have a voice and help them be encouraged to impact the lostness of their community.”

Contact [conley4777@gmail.com](mailto:conley4777@gmail.com). **BR**

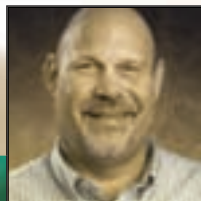
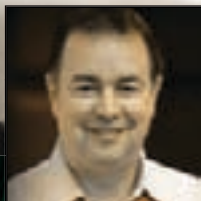
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# Convention institutions, agencies bring reports

By **MELISSA LILLEY** | BSC Communications

**A**s a 12-year-old, Kimani arrived at the Baptist Children's Homes Broyhill Home campus weighing 32 pounds and wearing size three toddler clothes.

"I came from an unloving family who abused me and made me sleep in a closet. I would go two-three days without eating," Kimani shared with messengers during the 2013 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting in Greensboro. "When I came to Broyhill they immediately showed me love."

Kimani, now 18, experienced hope and healing during his time at Baptist Children's Homes. He went to school for the first time and, most importantly, heard about Jesus' love and received Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior.

"I was hopeless, and now I have hope," Kimani said. "I never thought I'd be alive today. If it weren't for Broyhill none of this would have been possible."

The theme for this year's Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Children's Homes was "Blessed," based on Mark 10:16, and the goal is \$1,475,000.

Messengers also heard a report from the N.C. Baptist Foundation, which focused on highlighting ways North Carolina Baptists can be good stewards of the material and financial resources the Lord has provided.

Although their salvation is secure in Jesus, Foundation president Clay Warf said many people are not ready to meet death because they are not yet prepared as Christian stewards. "We're not ready to go on until we have a plan for what is going to happen to our stuff, and what is going to happen to help meet the needs



Michael Blackwell, president of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH), raises hands with someone helped through BCH and North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry during the Baptist State Convention annual meeting. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

of our loved ones and Kingdom work," Warf said.

Through endowments and charitable trust funds, Christians can ensure that they continue making a difference in ministry and missions for years to come. Believers should also be good stewards as they prepare documents such as their last will and testament.

The N.C. Baptist Foundation is ready to assist North Carolina Baptists with financial services, investment planning, gift planning and church growth investment funds.

In 2012, the Foundation made 203 presentations to churches and opened 78 new accounts.

Paul Mullen, who recently retired as church and community relations director, brought the N.C. Baptist Hospital report. Since 1923, N.C. Baptist Hospital has sought to provide excellent care to patients.

"We are so very grateful for a long-lasting partnership with North Carolina Baptists," Mullen said. "We fully anticipate that this relationship will become

more dynamic, more alive, in the years ahead."

The hospital continues to prove a national leader in health care, being ranked among the "Best Hospitals in America" by *U.S. News and World Report* in 12 different specialty areas. The hospital is ranked as the No. 1 cancer hospital in North Carolina and No. 12 in the nation. Nearly 300 physicians are recognized among the "Best Doctors in America" and 2,800 nurses are recognized by Magnet (American Nurses Credentialing Center).

"That's a testament to the compassionate care being provided every day," Mullen said.

Mullen also introduced Leland Kerr, who is moving into the role of liaison for FaithHealthNC.

Kerr previously served as pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Shelby. He is also a former director of missions and officer of the BSC.

"FaithHealthNC is one of the signa-

ture achievements of the medical center and the partnership with North Carolina Baptists," Mullen said. "Leland is just the right person to take this ministry forward."

Through FaithHealthNC, participating congregations appoint volunteer congregational care coordinators who facilitate care for members and their neighbors during times of illness.

"My entire adult life has been spent in ministry," Kerr said. "We believe the partnership between FaithHealthNC, the churches and the Convention will produce a strong bond that results in the shared mission of caring and healing."

Also bringing a report to messengers was *Biblical Recorder* editor Allan Blume, who encouraged North Carolina Baptists to be aware of all the many ways God is using churches and individuals to impact lostness. "If you are reading the *Bibli-*

*cal Recorder*, you will be better informed and better supporters of the Cooperative Program and Kingdom work," Blume said. "We are telling stories of God at work."

The *Biblical Recorder* shares how God is working in North Carolina and around the world through its print edition, digital edition, website and weekly e-newsletter. The *Biblical Recorder* also has available a free smartphone app.

"Your people need to know what is going on. The *Biblical Recorder* is your partner in the process of keeping information in front of your people," Blume said. "We cannot exist and help you if your people are not aware of our ministry. Please tell your church family who we are." **BR**



LELAND KERR

## Impacting lostness through developing rural strategies

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

**W**ith 5.8 million lost people in North Carolina, the depth of lostness extends to every city, town and neighborhood across the state.

"Lostness is everywhere, not just the eight population centers of North Carolina," said Lester Evans, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) team leader for associational partnerships. "We are not off the hook in rural areas. Lostness is just as great there, and every soul is important to God."

Evans spoke during a breakout session at the recent BSC annual meeting that focused on helping rural churches develop a contextualized strategy for impacting lostness, as well as understanding the dramatic increase in lostness in North Carolina.

Immigration is one factor, as people groups continue migrating to North Carolina from non-Christian cultures. Another factor is the rise of secularism, which has

combined with immigration to create a distinctly post-Christian culture.

"You are encountering people who have never heard about Jesus, particularly those who have come from other religious backgrounds," Evans said. "They don't get up on Sunday morning and decide to go to church. It's just not on their radar."

The changing cultural landscape means believers must find new ways to engage non-believers, and this will only happen as churches are intentional about becoming healthy disciple-making churches, and as believers understand their role in fulfilling the Great Commission.

"If we see becoming a believer as the end of the journey, then our service to God becomes going to church and going home," he said.

"Becoming a believer is the beginning of the journey. The Great Commission happens in the lives of every believer as we reproduce ourselves."

As part of the Convention's new five-year strategy to

impact lostness through disciple-making, Convention staff are ready to assist local churches across the state to become healthy disciple-making churches. In addition, Convention staff will work with local churches and associations to form local strategy teams to develop strategies for impacting lostness.

A strategy team may include members of a local church, or members from several churches, who come together to gather information about unreached people groups in a specific area and then develop a framework for reaching those groups.

Prior to forming a strategy team, pastors and associational leaders should lead churches through a season of prayer, asking God to give believers a burden for reaching the lost.

Then, leaders should enlist people who have a passion to reach the lost to assist in establishing a local or regional strategy team.

"The strategy team will develop a framework to

See Rural page 15



# Baptist Men reports on ministry efforts

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

**T**wo years ago Carroll and Cheryl Voliva's home was destroyed when Hurricane Irene ripped through their town of Bayboro just east of New Bern.

"We didn't know what we would do or how we would rebuild," Cheryl said.

But not long after, N.C. Baptist Men (NCBM) volunteers came to Bayboro and built the Volivas a new home.

"We had no idea what God would provide for us through them," Cheryl said.

"He has provided many hearts filled with love and generosity."

Richard Brunson, NCBM executive director-treasurer, shared the Voliva's story with messengers during his report to the 2013 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

They are just one example of the thousands of families and individuals who have received help from NCBM volunteers during times of disaster.

This year, volunteers continued helping with disaster relief needs in Pamlico County related to Hurricane Irene. Since 2011, 122 homes have been rebuilt and 8,490 volunteer days recorded.

"We must live in a way that people will see Jesus," Brunson said.

"When will you share the Good News? Will you share the Good News during times of disaster and in the midst of needs?"

Disaster relief is just one of the ministry opportunities provided through NCBM.

Brunson also shared about the medical/dental buses, which have served more than 3,700 people this year.

"There are many people who have never met a dentist," Brunson said. "But they come and meet a person who also cares about their spiritual needs."

Through the aviation ministry, 168 flights were made possible this year. The aviation ministry provides transportation for people in emergency situations, such as medical or a natural disaster.

Brunson told the story of a recipient



**"We must live in a way that people will see Jesus."  
— Richard Brunson**

of the aviation ministry named Richard, who spent 15 years living as a recluse because his face was so severely damaged during a gun accident.

Brunson said that with help from the aviation ministry, Richard was able to travel for medical appointments to prepare him for a 36-hour surgery that would save his face and give him a new lease on life.

Thanks to the volunteer pilots who love Jesus Christ, "Richard also heard about the life-changing message of the gospel," Brunson said.

This year was a record year for Deep Impact mission weeks, which are week-long mission camps for middle and high school students.

This year 1,606 students and adult

leaders served in mission projects in 13 locations such as Cuba, Honduras, New York and Charlotte, as well as in the communities surrounding Red Springs and Shelby, where NCBM sponsors mission camps.

The Shelby and Red Springs mission camps house hundreds of North Carolina Baptist volunteers who come to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Brunson also reported on NCBM involvement in national and international ministry efforts.

Nationally, volunteers continued to serve in Vermont, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, the Appalachian coalfields and the Rocky Mountain region.

Internationally, volunteers are sharing the love of Christ in countries such as Haiti, Kenya, India, Honduras, Armenia, Guatemala and South Africa.

"Our purpose is to help men, women, children and youth see that God wants to use them to be missionaries for Him," Brunson said.

"God is still working and still healing. He's rebuilding broken lives and relationships. Thank you for praying, giving and going."

To learn more about N.C. Baptist Men, visit [www.baptistsonmission.org](http://www.baptistsonmission.org). **B3**

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Worshippers at Iglesia Bautista El Centro Del Señor participate in a special service Nov. 3 marking the church's 12th anniversary. (BSC photos by Mike Creswell)

## Cullowhee Hispanic church celebrates 12th anniversary

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

**M**ost churches do not strongly celebrate 12th anniversaries. But Iglesia Bautista El Centro Del Señor held a special service Sunday, Nov. 3, to mark its 12th year as a Spanish-speaking congregation in Cullowhee, N.C.

About 200 people gathered, including pastors and members from half a dozen other Hispanic Baptist churches across Western North Carolina.

The service celebrated not only El Centro's birthday, but also was an unofficial indicator of the growing Baptist presence among Hispanics in Western North Carolina.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports Hispanics number more than 800,000 in North Carolina.

Many of those now live in the western part of the state.

El Centro Pastor Robert Fernandez has been important in Baptist efforts to reach Hispanics for Christ in the West. He has started two other Hispanic churches in Robbinsville and Canton.

He has also taught in the Spanish program of Fruitland Baptist Bible College (formerly Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute) for six years.

Recently, he became director of that program, which has satellite centers across the state that offer instruction in Spanish.

Fernandez was born in Cuba but moved with his family when he was young to the area of Tampa, Fla. There he became a Christian and also met his future wife, Wanda.

Having grown up speaking English, Fernandez and his wife raised their two children using English.

He used his Spanish mostly to talk to his extended family. They moved to North Carolina in 1989.

At first Fernandez served as pastor of an English-speaking church, but as thousands of Hispanics began settling in Western North Carolina, he realized his Spanish was needed and he began working with Spanish speakers.

He found state and regional Baptist leaders who were earnestly seeking to reach the many Hispanics flooding into



El Centro Pastor Robert Fernandez has started Hispanic churches in Robbinsville and Canton. He also directs Fruitland Baptist Bible College's (formerly Institute) Spanish program including some satellite options for Spanish-speaking people.

the area.

Mitchell Shields recalled noticing the increasing presence of Hispanic families when he was shopping at Wal-Mart.

Shields is the director of missions for the Truett Baptist Association.

A partnership to increase outreach to Hispanics developed between Truett, Tuckasegee, Tennessee River, Graham and Cheoah Baptist associations, Fruitland Baptist Bible College and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

Since then more Hispanic churches have started across the area.

Felix Villerreal was the only other Hispanic pastor in the area during that time. Villerreal started a Spanish language church in Hamburg and later moved to other locations.

More recently he started a new church

in Highlands and has continued mission trips to Mexico. In his most recent trip, he said the team saw some 80 people pray to receive Christ as Savior.

El Centro was the first Spanish language church Fernandez started in 2001. The church remains relatively small with almost 50 members.

He reminded those attending the anniversary service that the church has sent out followers of Christ back to many of the Spanish-speaking countries. William Ortega gave the keynote sermon Sunday afternoon. He is the new Hispanic church planting consultant with the BSC's church planting team.

José and Mary Alonso from Iglesia Bautista Agua Viva in Hendersonville provided special music, along with singing by music groups from El Centro and from the Emmanuel Group from Mt. Olive. **B**



An offering is taken during a Nov. 3 service at Iglesia Bautista El Centro Del Señor.



# Moldovan leaders pray for ‘strength to stay’



Moldovan women prepare food for a volunteer mission team from North Carolina. Through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Office of Great Commission Partnerships, churches can pair with churches in Moldova to train leaders and pursue ministry opportunities. One church who has established a partnership is First Baptist Church in Dublin, N.C. (BSC photo)

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

He scanned the crowd gathered for the revival service and his gaze rested on a man with a beard. Pastor Andrei Ciobanu wasn't quite sure why, but he knew something was different about him.

The man came that night ready to question everything he heard, but instead he listened and left a changed person. That night he came to know Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.

The man went home and began praying for his son, Mihai Caraivan, to come to faith in Christ. He prayed for a year and a half before his son repented and trusted in Jesus. Not long after, Caraivan's father heard from pastor Ciobanu.

"I went to him and said, 'Give me Mihai,'" the pastor said. Pastor Ciobanu began mentoring the 19-year-old, encouraged him to attend the Bible college in Chisinau, Moldova's capital, and set him on a path of vocational ministry.

As pastor Ciobanu and his translator shared this story with the 10-member mission team from Dublin First Baptist Church in Dublin, N.C. – all gathered in

a two-room concrete home on the last street in a southern Moldovan village – he was in a world of his own, reliving that special night more than 20 years ago.

The team crowded into one room of the home because the single mom and her two daughters did not use the other room; they could not afford to heat it.

Pastor Ciobanu is no stranger to this family. The single mom is Caraivan's sister-in-law. The translator that evening? Caraivan, all grown up now with a family of his own. And the two-room house near the Romanian border? Caraivan's childhood home. His parents lived there until his father was called to help with another church in a neighboring village.

Even after his dad came to know Jesus, Caraivan wanted nothing to do with God. He left home, but returned after running out of money and options for work. "My dad prayed that whatever it took, God would save me. I was completely broken," he said.

When Caraivan began working with pastor Ciobanu he rode his bike 10 miles to the church in the Vadul lui Isac village.

An electrician by trade and also a youth pastor, Caraivan has invested his ministry in reaching out to youth. "When you change a young person's life, they still have a full life ahead," he said. "That is why I'm still in youth work."

In October, the Dublin mission team

spent a week serving alongside Caraivan and Ciobanu and saw firsthand the fruit that has come from their ministry together, as youth and college-age students are looked to as leaders in the church.

From helping lead in worship services to serving in after-school activities with children, the church values the next generation of Christ followers.

The Dublin mission team devoted much of their week in Moldova to building relationships and exploring future ministry opportunities. Dublin has committed to a long-term partnership with pastor Ciobanu and the church, and this was their first time to work with the church.

Although the first time for Dublin members, the trip to Moldova was number three for Tiffany McGill whose husband, Cameron, is pastor of Dublin First Baptist. She had traveled twice in 2012, once with a Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) Embrace women's

ministry trip and another time on a vision tour with her husband through the BSC Office of Great Commission Partnerships.

Moldova, which

is divided into 33 districts and is the poorest country in Eastern Europe, is bordered on the north, east and south by Ukraine and on the west by Romania.

**“Partnership missions have caused me to re-examine my calling ...”**  
– Cameron McGill

## Courage to stay

At this time last year Pastor Ciobanu was very sick and doctors gave him only months to live. Although they told him to go to the United States, he would have none of that; he wanted to continue serving until the end.

Now, after a liver transplant, Ciobanu is healthy and working in the village where he grew up. He has pastored the same church for 20 years.

"One year after being saved I had a vision. I cannot explain it," he said. "But I heard this loud voice saying, 'There remains so little time. You need to enter the work.'"

Ciobanu is trying to motivate leaders and church members, but it's a challenging task. In his village of 3,000 people, about 1,000 work out of the country because of Moldova's poor economy. Many Christian leaders are tempted to leave Moldova because of the economic situation.

Moldova is less than two percent evangelical. Ministry is challenging because Orthodox beliefs are so ingrained in the minds of Moldovans that having a personal relationship with God, and the

## In tune with the Holy Spirit

Recently a sweet friend and prayer partner emailed me to ask if I had any prayer requests. She normally signs her emails "Blessings!" with her name underneath. This time, however, she signed her email, "May your work be full of grace inside and out!" I took note of the signature change and began to think of grace working both within me and around me.

Later in the day I received a different email – an email from someone who made a commitment and was asking to back out.

I didn't respond to the email immediately because I had to think through the situation, the overall impact and how my response would have either a positive or negative effect. I felt as though I was between a rock and a hard place.

The next morning I sat down to pen an email response to the request. While my email wasn't terse or negative in tone or content, as I read through it before I hit "send," the Lord brought to mind how in a similar situation several months prior I had not been shown grace and

the word wounds of a friend still sting, even though that wasn't the intent. I suddenly remembered the email signature of my prayer partner the day before, "May your work be full of grace inside and out!"

I quickly deleted my email draft and sent an email releasing this individual of any obligation.

I'm grateful for a woman who was in tune with the Holy Spirit even as she penned and signed an email to encourage me. God used her to continue teaching and reminding me about grace. I

was also reminded that even the simple things we do daily – like writing an email – need to be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit because He can use those in the lives of others. Are you in tune with the Holy Spirit today?

*(EDITOR'S NOTE – Ashley Allen is director of Embrace Women's Missions and Ministries for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach her at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5559. Read her blog at [www.worthyofthecalling.com](http://www.worthyofthecalling.com).)*



ASHLEY ALLEN



# Women asked to lead by mentoring, modeling in everyday life

By **EMILY BLAKE** | BR Editorial Aide

**“A**s we invest in the lives of others, we should be teaching and training them to be like Christ,” said Ashley Allen, director of Embrace Women’s Mission and Ministries for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). “We provide an example of what it means to follow Christ, but we should not be making them to be like us.”

At the BSC annual meeting held Nov. 11-12 in Greensboro, Allen led a breakout session called “Follow Me As I Follow Jesus: Mentoring in the Everyday.” Allen’s focus was to encourage and instruct women in discipling one another through mentorship.

She spoke from many passages of the Bible including Deuteronomy 6, which commands the Israelites to teach and live daily according to God’s commands – even to the extent that they bind the scriptures to their bodies and their homes.

Mentoring happens when a spiritually or chronologically older Christian teaches and trains a spiritually or chronologically younger Christian through actions and words so that the younger believer grows in their relationship with the Lord and emulates the Lord Jesus in their daily life, explained Allen.

There are several examples of this in the Bible and it seems to be one of the more common forms of discipleship displayed in the New Testament.

Titus 2:3-5 gives women criteria both for mentors and also for what they should be teaching younger women. It says mentors are to be reverent in their behavior, not gossips, not addicted to much wine and able to teach what is good.

Mentors are to teach women love, purity, kindness, sensibility, hard work and submission to their husbands.

Allan pointed out the many pitfalls and problematic issues that women face in the modern, American world. Post-modernism and a lack of role models of-

ten leave young women feeling as though there are no absolutes to guide their lives.

Everything is seen as open to interpretation. Society has a great influence in the home and church, and Christianity seems to be declining. Peer pressure, feminism and a sense of entitlement are just a few of the other factors that can create problems for a new female believer.

Young women need relationships with older Christian women more than ever. They need to spend time watching women model biblical Christian living, and they need a source of wisdom they can rely on.

Appealing to the older women in the group, Allen said, “Young women desire to be mentored. They just don’t know how to approach you. It’s usually up to the older woman to invite the younger woman to be mentored.”

*(EDITOR’S NOTE – For more information on BSC’s Embrace Ministries visit <http://www.ncbaptist.org/embrace>. To contact Ashley Allen email [aallen@ncbaptist.org](mailto:aallen@ncbaptist.org) or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5559.)* **BR**

## Impacting lostness via collegiate partnerships

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

**A**lthough students represent the largest population on college campuses, collegiate ministry must aim to reach the entire academic community.

“The academic community includes students, staff, faculty members and their families,” said Chuck Register, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) executive leader for church planting and missions partnerships. “In the academic community there are many people who desperately need Christ.”

Register spoke during a breakout session at the BSC annual meeting about how the new BSC Collegiate Partnerships Team will seek to equip churches to minister on college campuses as part the Convention’s new five-year strategy to impact lostness through disciple-making.

“The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was created to assist the local church to do ministry,” he said. “We are moving to a paradigm that will better help us assist the local church to do ministry in the academic community.”

Register praised the efforts of everyone involved in campus ministry under the previous model and thanked them for their faithfulness. He said the new paradigm will allow North Carolina Baptists to increase their presence on more campuses statewide. “With this old paradigm we’ve only been able to impact 32 campuses on a consistent basis,” Register said. “The beauty of this new paradigm is that we now have the potential to impact 202 campuses across the state.”

The Collegiate Partnerships Team, which includes three regional campus ministry consultants and two international ministry consultants, will help churches and associations develop and implement a contextualized, localized ministry model to engage college campuses with the gospel.

“The new paradigm is to assist local churches to reach college campuses in their community,” Register said. “We want to come alongside local churches and associations to help make the greatest impact on campuses statewide.”

Consultants will also facilitate collegiate ministry networks. These networks will include clusters of churches, or clusters of churches and associations, that unite for the purpose of pooling resources and to covenant together to impact local colleges and universities. In addition, consultants will offer coaching, leadership development and resources about various campus ministry models.

“We can talk to churches and associations about developing a holistic campus ministry strategy that might involve multiple models on the same campus and it may be a strategy that involves more than one campus,” Register said.

As with the previous model, the Collegiate Partnerships Team will sponsor collegiate conferences in the spring and fall, and student missions mobilization will remain a priority.

“We believe that the number of students engaged in missions will increase under the new model,” Register said.

Collegiate Partnerships will provide a platform by which the BSC and local churches can partner together to effectively reach every college campus in North Carolina.

“Our goal is to provide effective and contextualized approaches to reaching students, faculty and staff on college and university campuses across the state,” Register said. “This new model gives North Carolina Baptists a tremendous opportunity to reach many people for Christ.”

For more information about the BSC five-year strategy visit [www.ncbaptist.org/strategy](http://www.ncbaptist.org/strategy). To learn more about the new collegiate partnerships model contact Rick Trexler, collegiate partnerships team leader, at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5560, or [rtrexler@ncbaptist.org](mailto:rtrexler@ncbaptist.org). **BR**



**CHUCK REGISTER**

## Can you have ministry without regrets?

By **MICHAEL MCEWEN** | BR Content Editor

**E**ddie Thompson, Baptist State Convention consultant for family evangelism and discipleship, taught a breakout session on ministry without regrets at the Baptist State Convention Nov. 12 in Greensboro.

Thompson has served as BSC senior consultant for marriage and family since 2008.



**EDDIE THOMPSON**

He pastored churches in Monroe, Apex and Charlotte. Thompson has also served as president of Faithful Families, a ministry dedicated to strengthening and encouraging the family. For more than 20 years, he and his wife Janet have led marriage and family conferences.

Thompson said, “Around the age of 50, most individuals begin to really realize the number of regrets they’ve made through the years. We’ve collected many of them over 50 years, so how can we make powerful decisions now that make an impact for our ministries and our families?”

One of the biggest problems in ministry today, Thompson said, is teaching and modeling how to forgive in both the family and ministry dynamics. “The family is where most of our regrets occur. The prime disciplers of children are mom and dad. What if we learned then how to model forgiveness through discipleship in our own homes?”

Thompson said that one of the pastor’s greatest responsibilities is to equip the saints for ministry. “I do not believe that most of our equipping comes from the pulpit. The greatest equipping will come from life-on-life experiences with family and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

“So, listen to your wife and watch out for long-term stress, pastor. Most importantly, become an expert at identifying and handling conflict. Denial is a place where we go when we don’t want to deal with problems. Conflict can easily take over your homes and your church if you don’t stop it in its tracks.” **BR**



# Deaf

Continued from page 1

(IMB) Madagascar team, but “they fear their ancestors more than they fear God.” That’s what Warren has come to change.

Sending a hearing church to evangelize the Deaf may seem a fool’s errand, especially since Warren has absolutely no experience with Deaf ministry. Roger Henderson, Warren’s missions pastor, said the decision left many scratching their heads – including the very people he tasked with choosing which unengaged, unreached people group (UUPG) Warren would embrace.

## Blessed mistake

Cue a young men’s discipleship group Henderson affectionately refers to as the “Ten Angry Men.” They were “angry” because of the lack of Christ-centered leadership they saw in many of today’s Christian men.

Sorting through the more than 3,800 UUPGs identified by IMB, the Ten Angry Men researched and prayed through their top picks, eventually voting on their selection in Madagascar. The process went smoothly, save for a “slight hiccup” – they didn’t realize the UUPG was Deaf.

“All throughout the Bible, God uses our weaknesses to display His strength – from Moses to David to Paul,” says Vesta Sauter, who leads IMB’s global Deaf work with her husband, Mark. “I think He knew exactly what He was doing when He chose Warren Baptist to bring the gospel to the Deaf of Madagascar.”

And just like God gave Aaron to his tongue-tied brother when He ordered Moses before Pharaoh, He gave Warren Baptist a man named Phillip Easterling.

Easterling, 51, is a pastor and church planter from Asheville, N.C. He’s also Warren’s way of gaining access to Madagascar’s Deaf community, a job Sauter says is notoriously difficult for the hearing. Easterling was born deaf. He started Asheville Deaf Church, which he currently pastors, and has helped Southern Baptists plant Deaf congregations all over the world.

Sauter says Easterling was a critical addition because the Deaf are used to being ignored, abused and marginalized by the hearing. But Easterling’s intimacy with Deaf culture instantly breaks down those walls, lending acceptance to the hearing members of Warren’s team.

“It’s such a blessing that Warren had foresight and [was] sensitive to God’s plan,” Easterling said. “They don’t know about deafness or Deaf culture ... but they basically adopted me so that I could be a liaison, a bridge, and begin to share the story of His love and salvation.”

## Mind the gap

Back in the tiny, crowded living room in Antananarivo, Easterling watches as Barrett and the rest of Warren’s team struggle to communicate with their hosts, a middle-aged couple named Didi and Jeannette. News about their American guests has spread quickly, and the couple’s house is overflowing with more than 20 visitors.

Easterling tries to translate both sides of several conversations. But after 20 minutes, he stands abruptly and leaves Warren’s team members to fend for themselves.

“He walked out on us so we would be forced to communicate with them,” Barrett says. “We are starting to be able to connect. If anything, it’s inspiring. You want to learn more.”

But there is a huge language gap between small talk



Above, students sign with Mason Barrett during Warren Baptist Church’s first encounter with the Deaf Malagasy at a Deaf school in Antananarivo, Madagascar. At right, Phillip Easterling, left, signs with one of the teachers at a Deaf school. Born deaf, Easterling pastors Asheville (N.C.) Deaf Church. (IMB photos by Joann Bradberry)

and explaining why Jesus died on the cross. Warren’s crew gets a taste of just how big that gap is while visiting one of Antananarivo’s three Deaf schools.

Henderson has challenged each member of Warren’s team to tell a Bible story using Malagasy sign. Some of them, like John Stevenson, stayed up late the night before crafting and rehearsing their story.

Stevenson, 32, looks nervous but smiles as he steps in front of his audience, a group of 18 students ranging from elementary to high school. It’s an intimidating crowd. Most already know Malagasy sign well enough to determine whether they’ll listen to – or laugh at – Stevenson after the first few signs.

His introduction is flawless, signing his newly adopted sign name, “Dimples,” by pointing to his cheek with an index finger, then curling the finger like the letter “J.” But it’s downhill from there. Stevenson bravely stumbles through Luke 6:48-49, Jesus’ parable about anchoring one’s faith like a house built on solid rock. The students are patient and courteous, trying their best to understand Stevenson’s broken signs. Some nod or smile while others stare blankly – a few giggle. But Stevenson takes it all in stride. It may be embarrassing, but this is what he’s come here to do.

The rest of Warren’s team struggle through their stories too, and are rewarded with polite applause. “It’s very, um – spontaneous!” the school’s director says with an impish smile when asked about Warren’s performance.

By the time Easterling steps up, the students’ eyes are glazing over. But they immediately snap to attention when Easterling launches into his own Bible story. It’s a payoff that comes from a deep understanding of sign.

“You almost get a little jealous,” Stevenson admits, “because you have to take a back seat and let God work through Phillip (Easterling). And you want to get there, too.”

## Digging in

Henderson believes God will equip Warren to overcome these kinds of barriers. He says this first trip is just the beginning, a litmus test of sorts. In a week, Warren’s team has managed to learn a surprising amount of Malagasy sign and forge genuine relationships – confirmation that Henderson and the Ten Angry Men aren’t crazy. God can use a hearing church to share Jesus with the Deaf.

Besides, Warren won’t be making the journey alone.



That’s because the church is supported by ministry partners like Easterling, the Sauters and Matt Spann. Intimate with Malagasy society and language, Spann is helping Warren navigate cultural nuances and church-planting pitfalls, not to mention providing logistical support for incoming teams.

“In our preparation for embracing the Deaf Malagasy, Matt Spann stepped forward and helped us understand the culture of Madagascar and the history of evangelical work there,” Henderson says. “Matt also arranged our transportation and hotels, even told us how to navigate the airport and handle visas – all the things that you don’t know when you’ve never been there before. It was very reassuring to know that whatever happened, there was a base of support from a Southern Baptist missionary.”

Ironically, it is Warren and thousands of other Southern Baptist churches across the United States that make this support possible through their giving through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

“Warren’s support for Lottie Moon not only is directed toward an area like Madagascar, but to all IMB missionaries throughout the world who are reaching the lost,” Henderson said. “When you go out there and meet them face-to-face, it puts a real, live person to the offering. And that tangible connection is just so gratifying, especially when you’re trying to evangelize a UUPG!”

Henderson says he has high hopes for what God will do through Warren Baptist’s generosity – in Madagascar and around the world.

“It was an unimaginable challenge that a church that does not have a Deaf ministry, a church that does not have Deaf members, that we would choose to embrace the Deaf Malagasy,” he said. “But there was no doubt that that is where God was leading us.”

Through IMB’s Embrace initiative, you and your church can take the gospel to an unevangelized people group. To learn more, go to [call2embrace.org](http://call2embrace.org).

Give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions through your local Southern Baptist church or online at [imb.org/offering](http://imb.org/offering), where there are resources for church leaders to promote the offering.

See how others are being Totally His ... heart, hands, voice at [totallyhis.imbresources.org](http://totallyhis.imbresources.org).

(EDITOR’S NOTE –Don Graham is a senior writer with the IMB.) **BR**



# Where there's a wheel, there's a way

About two months back, I came across nine steel car wheels that had been stacked in a storage shed behind my house. Seeing they were just taking up space, I became inspired to put them to good use, in fact to put them to God's use. I loaded them in my son's pickup [and] headed off to the scrap yard to make a little extra cash to help out with a mission trip to Moldova that our church would be taking in October.

A terrible thing happened on the way to the recycling yard. A friendly state trooper pulled me over [and] lectured me on the importance of wearing my seat belt. As I sat there waiting for the ticket to be written, I experienced all the stages of grief: denial (this cannot be happening to me); anger (how dare he pull me over, after all, I was trying to support missions); depression (this is going to cost me big bucks) [and] finally acceptance (I might as well deal with it, I sure can't change it)... but then came an unexpected stage – INSPIRATION! A message from God came to me as I was sitting there sulking, "Metals for Missions."

I decided then [and] there that I would take a bad

situation [and] made something good out of it. I began making calls (even before the trooper returned with my \$182 ticket) asking people to consider donating their scrap metal to the church for missions.

I was amazed at just how much junk people had that they would give their pastor if he'd just come [and] get it.

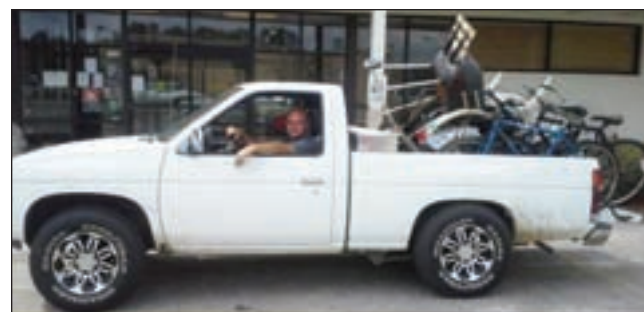
For the next month or so, I picked up every broken bicycle, discarded lawn chair, rusty BBQ grill, tin can [and] of course, spare wheel in Bladen County that I could get my hands on (after asking permission of course). But it went much further than I could have ever imagined as our entire community got behind the effort. Cars, trucks, tractors [and] commercial items were taken to the scrap yard with the same instructions: "Put it on the church's account." After six weeks of metal

recycling (which is good for the environment [and] the church), we have raised about \$6,000 for missions in Moldova [and] New York where our church has adopted two churches. Now that's what I call turning lemons into lemonade.

"Metals for Missions" is a God thing. Only He could



CAMERON MCGILL  
Guest Column



Cameron McGill collects metal to raise money for Moldova.

orchestrate such. Environmentalists call it repurposing (turning junk into treasure). I'd say this is eternal repurposing ... Imagine, scrap metal in Dublin, N.C., turning into missions in Moldova [and] New York.

So maybe you're wondering how you can afford to be more involved in missions. While I cannot tell you exactly how God will choose to bless you [and] enable you to be on mission, I can tell you this... "Where's there's a wheel, there's a way. Moldova here we come!"

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Cameron McGill is pastor of First Baptist Church in Dublin and second vice president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He wrote this before visiting Moldova in October. See story related to his church's visit on page 9.) **BR**

## A grand and glorious event

Gloria and I were blessed to be a part of what I would describe as an historic event for God's Kingdom and the work of N.C. Baptists on Saturday, Nov. 16. In a two-hour worship service in Greensboro, before a strong number of international people, 11 Montagnard men were ordained to the gospel ministry. It would be newsworthy if any 11 men were ordained at the same time, but the ordination of 11 Montagnard men is unprecedented in North Carolina. This was a major event important in several ways.

The Montagnards are a people group who have come to North Carolina from the Central Highlands of Vietnam and neighboring Cambodia. Thousands of Montagnard Christians have come here over the past decade to escape intense persecution by the Vietnamese government. That persecution has included imprisonment, torture and death. The Montagnards sided with our forces during the Vietnam War. After the Americans withdrew in 1975, the communist government continued to attack the

Montagnards, especially the Christians who sought to worship Jesus Christ freely. So our new Montagnard neighbors arrived here seeking freedom of religion just as our own Baptist ancestors did in an earlier time.

It humbled me to learn that each of these 11 men spent time in communist prisons in Vietnam. Several spent as much as 17 years hiding out in Vietnam's rugged, forested mountains as they preached, evangelized and led worship while evading capture by communist soldiers.

These brothers have demonstrated their commitment to

prepare themselves for the pastoral ministry. They recently completed a three-year study of the Bible and Christian doctrine, plus additional study about pastoral leadership. Their course of study was developed by Rev. K. 'Them Nfn, pastor of Highland Christian Church, a Montagnard Baptist congregation in Asheboro. He started the first Montagnard church in Greensboro in 2003 and in 2008 he moved to the smaller Asheboro church so he and his son, Simon Touprong, who is also a minister, could focus on discipling

and training their people. Some American pastors from BSC member churches were part of an ordination examination council that invested 9 hours questioning and sharing with the candidates. Pastor John D. Jarman from Rankin Baptist Church said he felt unworthy to question the faith of these brave men. Steve Sells, director of missions for Randolph Baptist Association said the men knew an incredible amount of "solid, theological information."

Pastor K. 'Them has trained 35 students across N.C. This disciple-making was carried out in partnership with several Montagnard leaders, plus support

from Randolph Baptist Association and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Sei Hun Kim, who has led Asian church leader training for our convention, was a prime mover and encourager. One of the 11 ordained men will return to Cambodia as a missionary. Two will be starting new Montagnard churches here.

The others are already serving as pastors of churches. There are 11 Montagnard Baptist churches in our state. During the recent annual BSC meeting, we focused on creating disciple-making churches to impact our state's lostness. Our new brothers and sisters from Vietnam have shown us this can indeed be done. **BR**



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.  
BSC executive director-treasurer

### Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to [editor@BRnow.org](mailto: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. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.





# Too big for us!

**T**aking the gospel to the whole world is a big assignment – too big for all International Mis-

sion Board (IMB) missionaries together. We'll need serious multiplication – not addition – of this current mission force just to make a dent in the task of proclaiming Christ to the world. And that's not going to happen at Southern Baptists' current rate of giving.

Statistics show that Southern Baptists are giving about \$7 per person to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (LMCO). Can we pause here and let that embarrassing figure sink in? Our Savior has a mission for every believer. In describing that mission we use words like “all,” “everything,” and “whatever it takes.” This year's theme reflects those absolute words: “Totally His” – His heart, His hands and His voice. I'm having a hard time reconciling our giving habits with this theme.

I'm not implying that there is something wrong with the theme. I am suggesting that some major obedience, major generosity and major cooperation needs to surface among Southern Baptists.

Like Lottie Moon, our current mission personnel are serving in places that are sometimes uncomfortable, potentially unsafe and always challenging. It is important that we pray for them, stand with them and serve beside them in their assigned field.

As a pastor for 35 years I was privileged to serve churches that were heavily involved in fulfilling the Great Commission. Occasionally I am asked what made those churches mission-focused fellowships. I share the following observations with the hope that this will strengthen the missions vision of our churches and move us beyond \$7 per Southern Baptist to LMCO.

**1. If giving to the LMCO is important to the pastor it will be important to the church.** The pastor sets the tone and gives leadership to every aspect of church life. If he is passionate about mis-

sions all year long, it will not be difficult for the church to respond generously in December.



**K. ALLAN BLUME**  
Editor

I did not wait until December to talk about international missions. Most sermons throughout the year contained information or illustrations about God's work around the world. Underscoring the scriptural foundation for missions was always on my agenda. Keep talking about the Father's passion for His glory to be known among the nations.

In addition, missionary guests stood before the congregation all year long. Some were invited guests who were given a few minutes in the Sunday morning service, or they were given the entire service. Others were missionaries who just came to worship with us, but they were recognized as honored guests.

It is not difficult for the congregation to discern if the pastor genuinely believes the Great Commission is important, or if he is following a denominational obligation. When December rolls around, they are ready to hear more specific stories that the IMB provides to tell the work of our international missionaries.

**2. If the pastor demonstrates sacrificial giving to missions, the church will follow.** When I began my first pastorate, my family gave sacrificially to LMCO and many other missions offerings.

A few years later the Lord convicted me that my giving was based on my reasoning rather than God's revelation. We determined that instead of calculating what our family could afford to give, we asked God what He wanted us to give. When He gave us the figure of \$1,000, we knew it was beyond our ability. But He said, “You have not, because you ask not.” So, we asked God to allow us to give \$1,000 to the LMCO. He provided, we gave, and it set a pattern for the rest of our lives.

I know people who have asked God to allow them to give an amount that would support one IMB missionary each year. This year, that amount is \$51,000. They

asked, God provided, and they continue giving by the same pattern. That's radical faith. What are you asking God to provide through your family this year? Is it a reflection of your ability, or is it worthy of God's ability?

**3. If Baptists are informed about the work of the IMB, they will respond generously.** It has been my practice to use a variety of IMB materials. Posters, envelopes, prayer guides, videos and a host of other materials are available to encourage and inspire.

**4. Giving to missions increases as a church becomes personally involved in overseas missions.** Nothing inspires as powerfully as a personal visit to another country. Walking the streets with a missionary in a foreign land is a life-changing experience. As more church members participate in mission trips, awareness of the need becomes very real. Their contagious spirit spreads like an epidemic among the fellowship.

Frankly, the involvement of volunteers is an essential element in multiplying the missionary force. Some will receive a call to career mission service. Many others

will want to get more deeply involved.

**5. I had a habit of reminding our church that we are a missionary training center.** We don't gather each week simply for worship, Bible study, fellowship and other activities. We are training missionaries! Some will go overseas; others will be missionaries in “Jerusalem.” I often said, “We are not just Anytown Baptist Church.\* We are the Anytown Baptist Missionary Training Center.”

These are just a few thoughts. I hope they are helpful. There are thousands more to be added by other pastors and church leaders. Share your suggestions with us. We look forward to telling stories of how God used your church to support our IMB missionaries.

Please use the prayer guide in the Nov. 23 edition of the *Biblical Recorder* and available at [imb.org](http://imb.org) to pray specifically for international missions and for generous giving among Southern Baptists. (At the IMB website choose the “Week of Prayer” under Quick Links on the left-hand side of the screen.)

\*Insert your church's name here in place of Anytown Baptist Church. **BR**

## Televangelist Paul Crouch dead at 79

By **ADELLE M. BANKS** | Religion News Service

**P**aul Crouch, the religious broadcaster who co-founded Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) and was known for his prosperity gospel messages and lavish lifestyle, died Nov. 30. He was 79.

His death was announced on the network's website. “We are grateful for the life of this amazing servant of God,” it said. “Please pray for the Crouch family during this time.”

Crouch and his wife, Jan, started the network in a rented facility in Santa Ana, Calif., in 1973. Now based in Costa Mesa, it grew to include a “family of networks” and became the largest and most-watched Christian broadcast company in the country. In October, Crouch was taken to a Dallas-area hospital

after falling ill. By November he had returned to California, where a spokesman said his doctors were addressing “heart and related health issues.”

Crouch was the host of TBN's “Behind the Scenes” and co-host of TBN's flagship “Praise the Lord” program.

Crouch had his share of controversy. In 2004, the network denied allegations of his involvement in a homosexual encounter after the *Los Angeles Times* reported that he reached a \$425,000 settlement with a man who made the claims. Three years later, the ministry defended itself after ABC News' “20/20” reported on luxurious living by the Crouches, including private jets and mansions. More allegations were raised about expenditures in 2011. He has also faced criticism for espousing the prosperity gospel. **BR**

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December 15

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

December 22

## A Love You Can Experience

**Focal Passages: Romans 5:6-11, 18-21**

One of the greatest threats facing the church in America is we have forgotten what it means to be helpless, lost and in need of a Savior. Have you ever been separated from your parents as a child?

Do you remember the fear that came over you as you realized your parents were no longer by your side? On the other hand, do you remember the extreme joy you felt when you were reunited with them?

I believe many Christians have forgotten what it is like to be completely desperate and separated from God. For example, if God's love is so amazing, why do so many Christians act like it makes little difference in their lives? I believe it is because they do not rightly understand or have forgotten the depth of their sin and the grace that has been extended to them by Christ.

One of our focal verses for this lesson is Romans 5:8: "... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (ESV).

We need to remind each other that

God loves sinners. In other words, Christ died for the ungodly which includes you and me.

We bring nothing of worth to the table when it comes to salvation. In fact, as I wrote in past lessons, our best efforts are filthy rags before the Lord. However, this teaches us that even at our worst, God still loves us. His love for us is not based on our own goodness, but on Christ's finished work.

So, how can we experience that love in a more real and impactful way?

First, be honest with yourself. Pride can deceive your heart. If you think you're special, that is a sign you are probably not.

Second, spend time meditating on the cross of Christ. The cross is where God's love is most profoundly demonstrated. You will not regret it.

Finally, practice what you have been given, namely, unconditional love. Seek out the unlovely and smother them with love.

**Focal Passages: Matthew 1:18-25; 2:19-23**

When we celebrate the birth of Christ there will be many people who struggle during this time of year. Not because they despise Jesus, but because they miss their loved ones who have gone on to be with the Lord. Therefore, this week's lesson is about having courage, regardless of our circumstances. We will explore how Joseph responded with courage to God's message of the incarnation and apply it to our lives. Out of the numerous lessons we could take from Joseph's life, I would like to suggest three that could help us be more courageous.

First, we should always listen to God over the opinions of man (Matthew 1:18-20). Joseph initially intended not to marry Mary once he found out she was pregnant, but instead he chose to obey God. There will be times in our lives when the crowd is going in one direction



**BARTLEY WOOTEN**  
Pastor, Beulaville Baptist Church, Beulaville

and God's Word is going in the opposite direction. A truly courageous person will always obey God over man.

Secondly, it is better to do what is right than to do what is easy. Joseph could have easily separated himself from Mary, but He knew God called Him to something greater. There will be many people this Christmas who will have to make an important decision. They will throw off the chains of discouragement and get out of the house to make a real difference for Christ or they will shut their doors and live in loneliness. I pray God will give them the strength to do the right thing and make such a meaningful difference.

Finally, a truly courageous person will put others before himself. Joseph had the legal right to divorce Mary, but out of obedience to God, he put Mary's well-being first. Perhaps, this Christmas will provide an opportunity for us to step out of our comfort zone to be bold in order to serve others. Given our consumer-minded culture, anyone willing to serve others during this time of year could make a significant impact for the cause of Christ. What will you do?

December 15

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

December 22

## Believe Exclusively

**Focal Passages: John 14:1-14, 27-29**

If you live in Charlotte and you ask folks how to get to Myrtle Beach, S.C., you will get a variety of responses. Each person may tell you a back road that they prefer to take and offer choices about how to get there the "best" way. There might be a best way, but there is definitely not just one way.

It is a bit different when we are asked how to get to God. Jesus tells us in John 14:6 that there is one way, and only one way.

When we choose to believe in Jesus, He then provides a way to be with God for eternity.

Jesus promises the disciples in John 14:1-6 that He will go and prepare a place for them with the Father. He states that the only way to be with the Father is through Him.

When we choose to believe in Jesus, He provides a way for us to know and to grow in the knowledge of God now (John 14:7).

As Jesus healed, He taught us that God is compassionate.

Because Jesus demonstrated His com-

mitment to prayer, we understand that prayer is important to God. Jesus said, "The Father who lives in Me does His works" (John 14:10). As Jesus went about His ministry on earth, He revealed the Father to us.

Jesus went on to assure the disciples that, even when He left the earth, communication with the Father would continue.

When we believe in Jesus, we learn to pray in the name of Jesus. Jesus said, "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14).

In addition, when we believe in Jesus we are able to enjoy God's peace.

"I do not give as the world gives," Jesus reminds us (John 14:27).

Peace is a supernatural gift from God that is very real.

Don't we want those we love to know true peace?

There is only one way to know that peace, and it is through a relationship with Jesus Christ.



**SHERRA STILL**  
Writer, University Hills Baptist Church, Charlotte

**Focal Passages: Luke 1:30-35, 38, 46-49; 2:4-7**

How do you like to celebrate? I recently celebrated with a friend who told me that the cyst she had was in fact benign. How sweet it is to hug and praise the Lord with a sister in Christ who has seen such a joyous answer to prayer! At Christmas we have so many reasons to celebrate! There are many ways to celebrate Jesus, but in our culture we find the need to be intentional about it.

One way to celebrate Jesus at Christmas is to find ways to declare who He is to us. It is important to ponder how you can declare the precious name of Jesus in your workplace, while you shop and in our personal Christmas traditions. For example, at work I love to decorate the cabinets above my desk with beautiful Christmas cards that declare the name of Jesus.

People of all faiths come by my desk

each day, and I find such joy as they read the cards. During Christmas shopping have you thought about intentionally looking for ways to be a blessing to those around you in the long lines and at the checkout counter? Our personal Christmas traditions might need a little sprucing up to more clearly declare the name of Jesus.

The reasons abound for celebrating Jesus at the special time of Christmas. Our lesson this week reminds us to appreciate how Jesus came to earth, to praise God for His greatness and to welcome Jesus in all that we do. Let's spend time reflecting on the fact that Jesus came to earth in such a humble manner and through the miraculous work of God (Luke 1:34-35, 38).

Mary provides a beautiful example of praising God for His greatness, even in the midst of circumstances that would not make sense to anyone in her community and family (Luke 1:46-49). Mary gave birth in difficult circumstances, then gently laid Jesus in a manger as she welcomed Him to life on earth. How can we welcome Jesus into our Christmas celebrations today?

## Celebrate Jesus at Christmas!



# Clayton King slated as new 'True Love Waits' author

From press releases

**L**ifeWay Christian Resources will release this month its revamped series, "True Love Waits," along with its new author, Clayton King.

True Love Waits (TLW) is an international campaign challenging teenagers and college students to make a commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage. Originally created by LifeWay, it encourages adolescents to moral purity by adhering to biblical principles.

Clayton King is the founder and president of Crossroads Worldwide and Clayton King Ministries. He also serves as teaching pastor at NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C., and as campus pastor at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

TLW first debuted in 1994 when King was a college student at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs.

King said, "I was part of the movement when it began. I spoke at one of the very first TLW/DiscipleNow weekends. I signed the [commitment] card, along with hundreds of thousands of students, and I still meet people today who give testimony to a season in their adolescence when they began to discover God's design for love and intimacy. ... It certainly changed the trajectory of my life as a young man."

In honor of its 20th anniversary, LifeWay has renamed TLW and changed its purpose. Renamed "The True Love Project (TLP)," this redesigned campaign will still emphasize sexual purity but with a



Clayton King, seen here with his wife, Sharie, signed the True Love Waits pledge as a college student and now is writing for the True Love Project. (Photo courtesy of Colin Mukri)

particular focus on sexual health.

LifeWay will be releasing the first wave of TLP resources this Christmas.

TLP will feature an eight-session video-driven Bible study and focus on how the gospel of Jesus Christ can serve as a catalyst for sexual purity. Understanding God's true design for love and sex, students will learn that sexual abstinence is centered in a desire that honors and pleases God.

King said, "I want the [TLP] to challenge young women and men to dig deeper into the reality of relationships and human connections. ... I want them to defy the stereotype of the typical American teenager by living for the glory of God ... I want them to discover a love for the wisdom of scripture and uncover the rich intimacy found in prayer and worship."

TLP is available for pre-order at [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com). The materials will be widely available Dec. 15. **BR**

## Leaders Continued from page 9

assurance of salvation, are completely new concepts to many people.

"Everyone thinks they are already a Christian," Ciobanu said. "They think the priest is distributing the grace of God, and the priest is resolving all the problems of sinners."

### Engaging in partnerships

Dublin has embraced an Acts 1:8 mission strategy known as "Here, there and everywhere," with the Moldova partnership being the open door from God to serve globally in Kingdom work.

Dublin is also engaged in a partnership with a church in Woodside, Queens and will participate in the "Coats for the City" outreach in New York City later this year. Next summer, Dublin will send 50 people to serve in New York City.

"Partnership missions has caused me to re-examine my calling from the Lord and helped me see our church transition from "in-reaching" to "far-reaching," said Cameron McGill. "Partnership mis-

sions has made me a better pastor who is now more committed to the Great Commission than ever before."

Chuck Register, BSC executive leader for church planting and mission development, described Dublin First Baptist as the "model church" for North Carolina Baptists when it comes to strategic missions partnerships. "Simply put, when it comes to Acts 1:8, they get it," he said. "Their Kingdom partnerships in New York City and Moldova are touching hearts and transforming lives with the gospel."

Locally, Dublin is also seeking to make a Kingdom impact. Instead of moving forward with a sanctuary expansion, next year the church is planning to launch a second campus 25 minutes east in the White Lake area.

"Dublin has become a church on mission," McGill said. "I'm excited about our future mission work - here, there and everywhere."

Visit [www.ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://www.ncbaptist.org/gcp). **BR**

## Rural Continued from page 6

impact lostness that is contextualized to your area," Evans said. "Be intentional in implementing the plan. If you're not intentional it will not work."

Evans said although both failures and successes will come, North Carolina Baptists should not stop at the failures. "Take the risks, celebrate the success and then evaluate the process," he said.

Above all, Evans said to make a plan

and remember the goal.

"The end result is reproducing disciples," he said. "That's what we are all after - disciples who can reproduce themselves."

Visit [www.ncbaptist.org/strategy](http://www.ncbaptist.org/strategy). To learn more about local strategy teams in rural areas contact Lester Evans, associational partnerships team leader, at (877) 224-5615 or [levans@ncbaptist.org](mailto:levans@ncbaptist.org). **BR**

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# Boy's Academy to open on Hollifield property

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

**T**he Hollifield Leadership Center on Lake Hickory, owned by North Carolina Baptists since 2000, will become the home for a new ministry to troubled boys in 2014. A branch of worldwide Teen Challenge is purchasing the property for a ministry to be known as North Carolina Boy's Academy (NCBA).

John Steigerwald, executive director of NCBA, believes God has led him to the 30-acre property. He said it is an ideal location for the organization's vision.

Boys from all walks of society will spend 12 to 15 months in a customized, life-changing program that is biblically based. "The boys can come from an under-resourced family; they can come from an affluent family," he said. The target group is "boys that have behavioral issues; boys that have truancy issues; boys that are experimenting with drugs or alcohol – it could be any young man who has difficulty growing and discovering what it means to be a young man."

"We'll do assessments on them before they enter the program, develop a relationship with them, introduce them to Jesus, disciple them into a biblical image of masculinity and manhood, give them the tools to grow and discover who God has designed them to be and help them recognize they have a purpose in life."

The NCBA ministry started earlier this year in March when Steigerwald sensed God's call to start a boy's academy in the central portion of Western N.C.

"In my mind I thought we needed access to a lake [for fishing and other water activities], so I wanted it to be somewhere in the Troutman area," he said. "My strategic plan called for a location south of [Interstate] 40 and north of Charlotte, somewhere along the I-77 corridor."

In a discussion with a pastor in the Mooresville area, Steigerwald asked the pastor if he knew of any properties for sale that could be used for the boy's academy. The pastor replied, "Yes, there's one on Lake Hickory. We have held staff retreats on property owned by the [Baptist State Convention]."

"My brilliant follow-up question was, 'Is it north of 40 or south of 40?'"

Steigerwald said his friend told him the property was north of Interstate 40, which caused him to "mentally dismiss it" because he preferred the property to be south of Interstate 40. But the property would not leave his mind. "I didn't know the name of it, but I thought, how difficult would it be to find out the name of property on Lake Hickory owned by the Baptist convention?" Within a few minutes of surfing the Internet, he was able to identify the property as Hollifield Leadership Center.

"When I looked at the pictures on the website, it was absolutely beautiful. ... I thought for sure, certainly these guys have 'photoshopped' these pictures! I called a couple of friends, told them about the property and said, let's go down ... and see if it is all that it is marketed to be."

Steigerwald met the real estate agent and Larry Phillips, director of Hollifield Center. "Larry gave us a tour of the property, and we thought to ourselves, 'Wow, this



One of the features of Hollifield Leadership Center is its proximity to water. The North Carolina Boy's Academy has purchased the facility and will begin in September 2014 with its first group of boys spending 12 to 15 months in a biblically based program. (BR file photo)

is an ideal setting," he said.

After negotiations with John Butler, the convention's executive leader for business services, they came to agreement on an offer. The Executive Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina accepted the offer in its July 11 meeting.

Steigerwald said, "We want the property to be used for the glory of God, and certainly the convention and John [Butler] communicated they wanted the property to be used for the glory of God, so we settled on the terms." The closing will be this month.

Founded in 1958 by David Wilkerson, Teen Challenge is well known in N.C. and around the world. They operate about 1,000 programs in 93 countries and 250 programs in the U.S. They operate several adult male programs in N.C. and a girl's academy in Raleigh, but no adolescent programs for boys.

Capacity for the Lake Hickory academy will be about 50 boys. With the potential of two parents for each boy, they will be personally working with about 150 people. "The program is a residential

boarding school," he said.

The boys reside at the academy for 12 to 15 months, and parents are required to visit six times a year to see their son's progress.

"We will do experiential learning, discovery learning ... some of the therapeutic activities include rowing, fishing, working with horses," he said. "There's a horse farm just around the corner from the property. And after reopening, they will operate an equine-assisted learning program that helps boys discover how to be effective communicators and how to honor and respect others in a trusting relationship. When you have a 1,500-pound animal, you better learn to honor and respect it."

The goal is to welcome the first group of boys September 2014. There will be a staff of about 10 people.

There are two components of the program. The academic component involves an evaluation of each boy's learning level.

The second component is the spiritual element of the program. The boys are broken up into small groups of seven or eight. They are pastored and disciplined in biblical principles.

Steigerwald contends that culture puts bad images of masculinity in the minds of youth. He said, "Just think about the last 40 years. What are some of the images of masculinity that come to mind? Years ago there was 'Father Knows Best' – programs that honored men and gave an image of what it means to be man. Today what do you have? Movies and TV shows give images of men who are not leaders and lack courage."

One of the mantras at the academy is "strength for service." He said each boy is asked, "What does it mean to be a courageous man? It means to persevere through adversity and use the strength God has given us to serve others. We anchor it in Philippians 2:7-8. Jesus humbled Himself and did not look out for His own interests, but He served others."

"Teen Challenge has bridged the denominational barriers. In our relationship with the Baptist convention in North Carolina and John Butler, we are finding a beautiful partnership in order to extend the Kingdom."

The facilities are currently available for small conferences and church retreats for about 12-30 people and will continue to be available when the academy opens. Steigerwald said, "The doors will open in February, but when boys arrive in September there will still be facilities for guest groups. We do hope area churches will take advantage of our facilities. We not only want to build leaders for tomorrow; we want to strengthen the 'front line' leaders of today. My heart is to be there for pastors as well."

Funds from the sale of Hollifield Center will go toward the New Beginnings capital campaign at Caraway Conference Center and Camp near Asheboro.

North Carolina Boy's Academy invites readers to "like" its page on Facebook and visit the website, [www.ncboysacademy.org](http://www.ncboysacademy.org). **BR**



John Steigerwald, seen here with his wife, Deralyn, is the executive director of North Carolina Boy's Academy. (Contributed photo)