

### Feeding the masses

History Channel highlights Manna One, a North Carolina Baptist Men feeding unit. [Page 2](#)

# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

DECEMBER 10, 2011 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 177 NO. 25 • [BRnow.org](#)



TOM ELLIFF

## Elliff shares encouragement, Lottie challenge with N.C. Baptists

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

After being inaugurated in November as the 11th president of IMB (International Mission Board), Tom Elliff expressed his appreciation to North Carolina Baptists for their ongoing support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and their willingness to embrace the unengaged, unreached around the globe with the Gospel.

N.C. Baptists gave a total of \$11,652,395.33 to the 2010 Lottie Moon Offering, and 18 of their churches were ranked among the top 200 offering givers. The Baptist State Convention (BSC) also has committed to challenge Baptists in the state to take the gospel to 250 unengaged, unreached people groups over the next 10 years.

“Knowing [BSC] leadership, I wouldn’t have expected anything less,” Elliff said during a phone interview.

“Anytime I hear of a state convention [like North Carolina] stepping up to the plate and hearing the state leadership say

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## ‘Queen’ reflects fondly on 35 years in Nigeria

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

Shirley Gunn learned to live by some simple rules during her nearly 35 years as an IMB (International Mission Board) missionary in Nigeria – spend time with and love others, hold tight to the Word of God, and keep her eyes open when praying with strangers.

Dubbed by some Nigerians as the “queen of robberies” after being robbed multiple times – including one time at gunpoint – the 67-year-old retired missionary has lived to tell about some difficult years. But the challenges are just part of the story for Gunn, who has grown especially thankful for her career overseas.

With the holiday season upon us, Gunn is quick to share about how blessed Americans are and how so many could sacrifice just a little more for God’s work. She saw firsthand the importance of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Today the offering – with a goal of \$175 million – sup-

ports nearly 5,000 missionaries around the globe.

“There is so much consumerism and materialism [in this country],” said Gunn, who retired from IMB in 2009 and now lives in Reidsville where she attends First Baptist Church.

“Is this what Christmas is about, or do we try to teach the true meaning – God sending His son?”

Traveling the tough roads of Nigeria for so many years, Gunn realized how important the offering was to keeping her ministry going strong amidst a challenging environment. Over the years, Gunn watched missionaries pack up and leave Nigeria because they were unable to adapt to the lack of resources, poverty and crime.

“Living in Nigeria, living in West Africa is difficult,” Gunn said.

Still, Gunn misses the place that had be-

come her home. “I miss the Nigerians,” Gunn said. “I miss my work.”

Gunn was appointed to Nigeria in 1975. She went to work for the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbo-moso. There, she served as a librarian for

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## LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2011



Missionary Shirley Gunn misses her work among the people in Nigeria. Retired from IMB, Gunn encourages N.C. Baptists to give sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.





# Modern Marvels features N.C. Baptist Men's Manna One

BR staff

**T**he popular History Channel show *Modern Marvels* featured the North Carolina Baptist Men's Disaster Relief unit "Manna One."

In the segment, originally aired Nov. 14, the show highlights food trucks and how Manna One can transform from an 18-wheel truck into a fully operational kitchen in about three hours. At 40-feet long, more than 8 feet wide and 24,000 pounds, the unit was described on the show as "one of the biggest food trucks ever built."

To see the full episode of *Modern Marvels* go to [history.com/shows/modern-marvels/videos#modern-marvels-food-trucks](http://history.com/shows/modern-marvels/videos#modern-marvels-food-trucks). (Note: Manna One coverage begins at the 12:05 minute mark in the 45-minute video.)

N.C. Baptist Men's Disaster Relief ministry began using Manna One in 2007. The unit is one of five other mobile kitchens and a total of 80 pieces of equipment used by the group. Those pieces of equipment don't include recovery units owned by churches and associations in the state.

But those involved in the disaster relief ministry will tell you none quite match up to the efficiency of Manna One.

"We can pull this kitchen in if we have no water, no electricity or anything," said John Gore, N.C. Baptist Men's incident commander for the Williamston area, in the episode.

"We can set it up and run."

In August, Manna One fed more than 46,000 people after Hurricane Irene struck the East Coast. The disaster left more than 1 million people in the state without power.

Similar, but smaller, relief units were also used to provide meals when a deadly tornado hit Davidson and Randolph counties Nov. 16.

"We've responded to more disasters this year than ever before," Gaylon Moss, director of Disaster Relief, said. "I think we're at 19 responses right now."



When the North Carolina Baptist Men respond to disasters, they are not out to receive glory but instead to serve those in desperate situations and bring glory to God. But a History Channel show called "Modern Marvels" brought its cameras to the Baptist Men's largest feeding unit while it was in use after one of the many disasters this year. It is featured in a show about food trucks. (Contributed photo)

When big disasters involving hurricanes and floods strike, Manna One is often the go-to unit.

"What Manna One brought to us was an efficient mass-feeding platform that streamlined our ability to heat and serve food in a quick manner," Moss said.

"Prior to Manna One, the system was to unload a truck, unload the trailer which is basically a warehouse on wheels, unload a trailer, we set up our stuff, and we cooked it."

Though Manna One is a sophisticated piece of equipment, Moss pointed out the volunteers are the ones who make it run.

Setting up and tearing down usually involves a crew of 9 to 12 people.

"They're the ones who scrub it, clean it, manage it, do all the heavy lifting," Moss said.

"They are the ones who really make it work."

Other highlights from the 5-minute feature include:

- At full capacity the unit can support 60 cooks and serve up to 30,000 meals a day.
- Each side of the truck unfolds to form deck areas that help create a kitchen space almost 1,000 square feet in size.
- The unit operates on a 45-kilowatt strong generator that can provide enough energy "to power up a small town."
- 1,296 patties of meat can be cooked at one time in less than 15 minutes.
- Two automatic can openers are able to open 12 large cans of food a minute.

To learn more about the N.C. Baptist Men's Disaster Relief ministry you can follow them on Facebook or contact them at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5605, or [baptistson-mission.org](http://baptistson-mission.org). **BR**

## CHURCH NEWS



### Little River Baptist Association

Little River Baptist Association's leadership has been distributing signs to its churches to let congregations – and passersby – know they are being prayed for by Dan Deaton, director of missions, and leaders from the association and churches. Deaton said the yard signs showcase a simple message. "For the future of our state, we need to pray for God to lead our leaders," Deaton said. It's about "an awakening for people to look to God [for guidance]." Deaton said he learned of a similar prayer ministry in another state and thought it would be a wonderful promotion of prayer for his association. Fifty signs were made and distributed at the annual meeting, and churches were asked to display them in a prominent place near their church sign or by the road. Kennebec Baptist Church was one of the recipients of the signs. "Basically, they want word to get out around the state about the simple message of prayer, and that through prayer God would guide their state leaders and help North Carolina to do what's right," said Larry Whichard, associate pastor at Kennebec. "They are not trying to promote any position in particular other than that the Lord knows what is best for North Carolina. Therefore, they are placing these signs in visible places to get the word out to the community." Deaton hopes this type of ministry will be copied by other associations and encouraged by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Visit [lrba.net](http://lrba.net).

## Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news, mission trips, retreats, and events with a statewide interest. One of the most frequent questions the *BR* staff gets is "Why isn't my church in your paper?" The answer usually is that we didn't know about your news. Contact Dianna Cagle, *BR* assistant managing editor, with questions about submissions or deadlines: (919) 847-2127. Please send information to [dianna@BRnow.org](mailto:dianna@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512.



## Elliff shares encouragement, LMC0 challenge with N.C. Baptists

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[they're] going to lead our churches in engaging the unengaged people groups of this world, to me that kind of leadership speaks of vision, compassion and a passion to see the great commission fulfilled."

Despite economic challenges around the globe, Elliff remains optimistic that Southern Baptists can step up to the challenge of this year's Lottie Moon goal of \$175 million. The total amount raised by Southern Baptist churches last year fell \$8.3 million less than IMB needed to meet its 2011 operating budget.

"All together I believe if we give, throwing ourselves on the providence of God, I believe our \$175 million Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is achievable," he said. "But only if we are willing to do that," he added. "Awakened hearts, by the very act of giving, catapult themselves into God's economy rather than man's economy."

### Embracing the challenge

This past summer, Elliff challenged Southern Baptists to "embrace" 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups – those with no church-planting strategy and less than a 2 percent evangelical presence – at the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

"God gave me a very clear picture he



Former IMB President Jerry Rankin prays for his successor as denominational leaders, seminary presidents, IMB trustees and missionaries lay hands on Tom and Jeannie Elliff at Elliff's inauguration Nov. 14 as the new president of IMB at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. (BP photo)

has painted on the walls of my heart that could only be by His grace," Elliff said.

"And part of that was seeing the unengaged people groups of this world engaged."

According to the latest available IMB figures at press time, 70 North Carolina churches had committed to exploring how their church can embrace an unengaged, unreached people group. A total of 968 Southern Baptist churches have made that same commitment. "It's encouraging to hear the convention as a whole believes that this is a responsibility that belongs to us," Elliff said.

"We have several state conventions that have said this is what we're going to do," Elliff said. "I think the Lord is going to bless in an unusual fashion, each of those ... that have such a passion for the world – not just the folks on their doorstep but folks all over the world."

"That to me is an exciting prospect."

This year, IMB's media department highlighted two North Carolina churches – Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky

Mount and Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. Englewood was featured this past summer for their ongoing work among the Koli, a formerly unengaged – but still unreached – people group in South Asia. Old Town was highlighted for their efforts to pursue an unengaged, unreached people group in Southeast Asia. Melissa Lilley, BSC research and communications coordinator, has also been following Old Town's journey. The stories are available on the *BR* website, *BRnow.org*. Elliff clarified that helping finish "the task" is not the IMB's responsibility, but it is the responsibility of all Southern Baptists. "This is the task of every believer," he added. "My belief is that the best ideas for missions are still out there in the pews of our local churches."

This year, IMB has hosted several Embrace Equipping Conferences around the country. Next year, IMB will host three other conferences: Highland, Calif.; Orlando, Fla.; and Graceville, Fla.

For more information on how your church can receive training on embracing an unengaged, unreached people group go to *call2embrace.org*. Or for information about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering go to *imb.org*. **BR**

## Christmas Day services will go on

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – Nine in 10 pastors plan for their churches to host Christmas Day services this year.

A LifeWay Research study of 1,000 Protestant pastors shows that 91 percent of Protestant pastors plan to have services on Christmas Day while 69 percent said they plan to host Christmas Eve services.

"Having church on Christmas Day when it falls on a Sunday seems as if it would be as much of a given as having Thanksgiving on a Thursday, but this has been an issue of discussion and contention in recent years," Ed Stetzer, presi-

dent of LifeWay Research, said. "Also, just because an overwhelming majority of pastors think that way doesn't mean those in their congregations necessarily share their perspective."

Almost two-thirds (63 percent) plan to host both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Nearly as many Protestant pastors plan to host services on New Year's Day (88 percent) as Christmas Day (91 percent). Far fewer are planning New Year's Eve services. By comparison, only 26 percent said they were planning for their church to host a Dec. 31 meeting. **BR**

## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituary

FARRELL LEE SHIMPOCK, 87, of Albemarle, died Oct. 6 in Concord.

Shimpock served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and was a Baptist minister for 62 years. He served churches in Stanly, Cabarrus, Randolph, Rowan, Davidson, and Montgomery counties. He was a member of Canton Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Doris "Dot" Thomas Shimpock; son, Edwin Thomas Shimpock of Oakboro; daughters, Karen Shimpock Lowder of Badin, and Angela Shimpock Barbee of Oakboro; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

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## WE'RE MOVING!

The *Biblical Recorder* staff is pleased to announce that we will move our office into the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina building this month. Our last day in the Raleigh office is Dec. 16. We are looking forward to this move, which will help save Cooperative Program dollars as we combine some of our operational resources with the BSC headquarters. Our new street address will be 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, and our new mailing address is PO Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Any mail sent to the old address will be forwarded, and our phone number will remain the same.

As always, we welcome any questions and inquiries. We are here to assist North Carolina Baptists, but please be patient with us during our transition process as we may be difficult to reach during our first few days in Cary. Also, please hold off on sending faxes because it has not yet been determined what our fax number will be in our new location. Contact the *Biblical Recorder* at (919) 847-2127, or e-mail Alison McKinney; [Alison@brnow.org](mailto:Alison@brnow.org). — BR Staff



# N.C. Baptists leaders ask messengers if they're 'All In'

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

**N**orth Carolina Baptists are not alone in losing sight of their primary objective.

Just like the people in Ephesus, Greg Mathis says Paul's words are relevant to N.C. Baptists. He was calling the people back to their primary objective: spreading the gospel.

"They had forgotten that God loved everyone," said Mathis, pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville.



GREG MATHIS

"When it comes to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ it is unfortunate that we even have to ask," he said, referring to the "All In" theme of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) annual meeting

Nov. 7-8. The two-day meeting brought together messengers from across the state to make decisions about BSC business and to discuss the "All In" theme, which centered around 1 Timothy 2:3-6.

"Sadly some Christians choose the sin



of silence," Mathis said. He said messengers are living in a "society that believes all religions lead to the same God." A clear message rings out through scripture for believers to not let other religions be more aggressive.

Jesus' life and death became a conduit for God's forgiveness for sinners.

"Shouldn't we be 'All In' to get the message out," Mathis emphasized.

At each session there was a speaker and someone who led messengers in prayer focused around the theme.

Mathis spoke during the first session Nov. 7. Bartley Wooten, pastor of Beulaville Baptist Church, led the prayer time. Wooten called messengers to pray:

- For harvest for those who do not know Christ.
- For workers.

- That God will give us a heart of compassion.

Wooten had messengers pair off for prayer and asked God to "break our hearts for the lost. "Lord please use this great convention to bring glory and honor to your name."

Clinton Pressley, senior pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, led off the first session Nov. 8 addressing how God reveals Himself in scripture beyond general revelation to specific revelation.

"[Jesus] rose again to convince them to be 'All In,'" Pressley said.

"Christ is the avenue that God speaks. He didn't just forgive our sins. He purified us. He's not only taken our sin away, He's taken the stain away.

"Because He is 'All In,' I am 'All In.'"

Pam Blume, who works with BSC's Embrace Women's ministry and is the wife of *Biblical Recorder* Editor K. Allan Blume, led messengers in prayer through Psalm 67:1-3, emphasizing four separate elements:

- Praise Him for His graciousness
- Thank Him for the blessings we have already received
- Ask that He may look on us with favor
- Commit ourselves to see His salvation among all the nations beginning here in North Carolina.

"It is our Father's desire that all will come to know Him," Blume said.


Merrie Johnson, who works in student evangelism at the convention, brought sand from Fort Caswell, North Carolina's Baptist Assembly on Oak Island.

She leads the youth weeks each summer at Caswell, which this year focused on identity.



CLINTON PRESSLEY

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# Panel shares about making global impact in N. America

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

**J**an Vezikov and his family emigrated from Estonia to Rhode Island in 1989. A few years later his father planted a church in Rhode Island. Not long after that, Vezikov's father began driving once a week to Boston to lead a Bible study because he also felt a burden for the people of Boston. "He prayed for a church planter," Vezikov said.

At the time, Vezikov did not anticipate that he would become that planter. After attending college in Providence, R.I., the Federal Bureau of Investigation recruited him to work as a Russian analyst. Vezikov stayed at that job until God called him to attend Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. He then moved to Boston in order to plant a Russian-speaking church. Vezikov also helped plant an English-speaking church that began meeting last month.

"In Boston, people do not have a framework for God or sin. They do not have a Christian perspective or framework. You have to first build the house of a Christian worldview," Vezikov said.

Bo Ellis, who first met Vezikov during a mission trip to Boston with a group from Southeastern, said it takes time to

build relationships. "In Boston, you just have to love people. It can take a year before you earn the right to share the gospel. It's not just throw up a church and everyone come," he said.

Ellis and Vezikov were part of a panel discussion breakout session Nov. 8 during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) annual meeting in Greensboro.

The session focused on giving North Carolina Baptists a chance to hear from church-planting catalysts and pastors in Boston, Toronto and New York City, all areas where the convention is partnering to help impact lostness.

Ellis described Boston as the "land of I'm all set," as people do not see a need for God. "Some have never really met a Christian," he said. "They have a reverence for God, but don't want to come to church."

The greater Boston area is home to 4.5 million people and less than 2.5 percent are evangelical.

## Reaching 'Golden Horseshoe'

Toronto is another urban center where spiritual darkness is great. Dan Collison, director of Toronto church planting, is working in an area where there is about



Todd Brady, pastor of The River Community Church in Fayetteville, and Carlos Soca, pastor of Hispanic ministries at Open Door Baptist Church in Raleigh, share about church planting efforts during a breakout session Nov. 8 during the Baptist State Convention's annual meeting. (BSC photo/Melissa Lilley)

one church for every 275,000 people and only 40 Southern Baptist churches.

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) includes a portion of Southern Ontario known as the "Golden Horseshoe," which extends beyond the GTA down to the U.S. border and includes the entire area that touches Lake Ontario. The GTA includes communities that completely lack an evangelical presence.

Collison shared with those attending the breakout session that many church planters in Toronto are "holding on by their fingernails." Church planting is a challenge and many planters are experiencing seasons of trials.

Collison asked North Carolina Baptists to pray for the work in Toronto. "Prayer is the overarching air support cover. It's a spiritual warfare we're engaged in," he said.

Scott Rourk is a Toronto church planter serving in one of the most dangerous areas of the city. The children who attend soccer camps hosted by Rendezvous Church are often harassed by drug dealers. Rourk said when the drug dealers are hanging around he tries to run the soccer camps longer in the day. "We try to play and outlast the drug dealers so they don't bother the kids," he said.

Todd Brady, pastor of The River Community Church in Fayetteville, is leading his church to partner with Rourk and Rendezvous in order to plant a church. This summer members of River Community helped Rourk with a Vacation Bible School and soccer clinic.

"We worked with kids from all over the world. It's a beautiful tapestry of what God is doing," Brady said. "We

need to quit mission vacationing and build relationships long term."

## New York City and beyond

Carlos Soca, another Southeastern Seminary graduate, is looking to begin investing long term in Clifton, N.J. Soca is a second generation Cuban American whose parents came to New York City in 1970 seeking a better future for their family.

Soca was raised Roman Catholic, but at age 16 came to know Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. When Soca moved to North Carolina to attend seminary he had no intention of moving back north, and neither did his wife.

About a year and a half ago Soca heard George Russ, executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA), speak at Open Door Baptist Church in Raleigh where Soca is pastor of Hispanic ministries.

The BSC is partnering with MNYBA, an association with an area of influence that encompasses New York City and beyond, including Long Island, the lower Hudson Valley and Northern New Jersey. More than 21 million people live in this area, which only has about 240 Southern Baptist churches.

After Soca heard Russ speak about the great need for church planting in his association he and his wife felt God leading them to return north to plant a church in New Jersey. Soca couldn't get the vast number of lost people in that area off his mind.

"I was one of those people once, walking around without hope, without Christ," he said.

In the summer of 2013 Soca and his family will move to New Jersey to begin this next chapter of their lives.

If you or your church want to get involved in reaching the cities, visit [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp) to learn more. **BR**

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# GCP breakfast highlights partnership opportunities

By **MELISSA LILLEY** | BSC Communications

In late August, as the east coast watched to see where Hurricane Irene would strike, Dickie Spargo had his eyes set on something very different. Spargo was preparing to leave that same week for a vision trip to New York City, and although the storm caused the trip to end early, experiences from those three days sent Spargo on a whirlwind of change.

When Spargo, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gastonia for 21 years, returned from New York he knew it wouldn't be long before he headed back. During the trip he met Boto Joseph, pastor of House of Worship Church in Queens. "I felt a real sense of kinship with Boto," Spargo said. "In Queens you have the most diverse zip code in the United States. And you don't see a lot of things about Christ in that neighborhood."

In Jackson Heights, Queens, 130 languages are spoken and Greek Orthodox, Sikh, Roman Catholic, Hinduism and Buddhism are all represented.

Seeing firsthand the diversity and desperate need for the gospel is what the vision trip was all about. The Office of Great Commission Partnerships (GCP) coordinated the vision trip as well as other trips to partnership areas throughout the year. GCP hosted a breakfast before the Nov. 8 morning session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting.

Bethlehem is intentionally reaching out to its community through ministry efforts such as Hope for Gaston and Coats for Kids. Ministry at home is important and must continue, but Spargo is ready to step up and do more.

In September, Spargo met with Joseph to talk about how Bethlehem can partner with House of Worship. "I really want Bethlehem to be a catalyst for change in our county, our country and in the world," he said.

Bethlehem will be partnering with Joseph and House of Worship to plant a church in Queens. "Queens is a very pluralistic area. It's hard to imagine groups or people any more distinct," Spargo said.

Although being in Queens helped Spargo understand even more the depths of spiritual darkness and lostness in the world, he also saw the power of God at work. For example, the priest of a Sikh temple in Queens met Joseph, got to know him and attended a service at House of Worship.

"Ministry is relational, and it takes time. Seeds have to be watered. We can't



Boto Joseph, pastor of House of Worship Church in Queens, leads a song during the Office of Great Commission Partnerships breakfast Nov. 8 prior to the opening of the second day of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting. (BSC photo/K Brown)

sit back and do nothing. We've got to love them," Spargo said.

One of the first things Bethlehem and House of Worship are going to do through their partnership is "Coats for Queens." The goal is to collect 750 coats and Bibles and to distribute them to people in Jackson Heights during an outreach event this month.

Bethlehem is already involved in sponsoring a similar effort in North Carolina called "Coats for Kids," which has provided coats for thousands of children in Gaston County who do not have one.

Many people in Jackson Heights are not used to cold weather because they are from warmer areas of the world. Spargo prays that this outreach is a tangible way to show God's love and will provide opportunities to share the gospel.

"I pray that our congregation will develop a passion to reach out and love and share the gospel with the people God brings to our own soil," Spargo said. "God has told me that we as a church need to be targeting an area outside our own community. New York City may be the most strategic city in the world."

George Russ, executive director for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA), would agree Spargo is right on target.

"New York City has always had an international impact. It is a central point for the flow of ideas, people, commodities and money. What happens in New York has always touched the world," he said during the GCP missions breakfast in November.

"Most of the people in the world do live in cities. God is urbanizing the world so we can have access to reach people."

During the breakfast Spargo and other pastors, mission leaders and lay leaders from across the state heard Russ' heart for the nations and for his hometown New York City.

Russ explained that while the Pilgrims were settling farther north, the Dutch settled in New York and began Manhattan as a business enterprise for the sole purpose of becoming a world-wide enterprise. "This was fundamentally different from all the other colonies," Russ said.

"The genetic makeup was not religion. It was a government hub with bankers, lawyers and office towers."

Despite that beginning, Russ said New

York City is experiencing an "evangelical renaissance." The number of evangelicals is growing faster than the population. On average, in 2008 and 2009, one new church was founded in Manhattan every week.

North Carolina Baptists can join the work being done in New York by helping with service evangelism and mercy ministries, or helping reach people in a high-rise apartment complex. Russ explained many such complexes are like communities, and it really takes someone living in that community to reach that community.

North Carolina Baptists can partner with an existing congregation to help plant a church.

Or, they may take the Acts 17 approach, coming to the city with a specific platform that will help cross bridges in order to share the gospel.

"When Paul went to Athens he could have gone as a tourist, like the disciples did in Jerusalem. But his spirit was provoked. He had a spiritual discomfort; pain in his heart," Russ said.

"I pray you will have an inner discontent to enter the city like a missionary. To come as a learner, with no preconceived ideas of what a church needs. Strip away what you think a church needs – a building, a parking lot. All you need are two people who love Jesus and want others to love Him."

For more information about how to get involved in New York visit [ncbaptist.org/gcp](http://ncbaptist.org/gcp). To donate Bibles or coats contact Spargo at [drspargo@bethlehembc.com](mailto:drspargo@bethlehembc.com). **B**

## Changes to the Seven Pillars

During the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting Nov. 7-8, changes were introduced to the *Seven Pillars for Ministry: Biblical Concepts for a Christ-Centered Vision*. The pillars include prayer, promoting evangelism and disciple-making, strengthening churches, planting churches, reaching North Carolina's international community, embracing unreached and unengaged people groups, and engaging young church leaders. Visit [brnw.org/Resources/Seven-Pillars.aspx](http://brnw.org/Resources/Seven-Pillars.aspx) for the old and new lists.

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# NCBM rely on volunteers, funds to operate

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

**N**orth Carolina Baptists are known for their heart. That's evident to the many peoples that have been ministered to by the North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM).

"Thousands of people have found out that God cares about them" through the efforts of Baptists from the state, said Richard Brunson, NCBM executive director. "I get to see what He's doing every day."

Brunson shared a report Nov. 8 with messengers during the 2011 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting in Greensboro. He mentioned a visit a few years ago to a hurricane site coordinator.

One of the people said, "I've lived in this town all my life, and I didn't know there was a Baptist church [here]."

Brunson thought to himself, "She'll never forget that Baptist church."

In 2011, N.C. Baptists responded to 19 different disasters, including April 16 tornadoes and Hurricane Irene.

Funds to support Baptist Men are

collected through the North Carolina Missions Offering.

Brunson estimated that more than 30,000 volunteer days have been worked with 278,000 meals served. More than 3,300 disaster relief projects have been completed, and thousands of showers and loads of laundry completed.

During a session Nov. 7, Brunson introduced messengers to visitors from Armenia (see story, page 10), Haiti and India who would be at the exhibit hall booths during the meeting. These are three of many partnerships that the Baptist Men lead.

Since January 2010, more than 1,200 volunteers have gone to Haiti to help

with relief and recovery efforts. Medical volunteers have seen more than 116,000 patients and 1,400 have come to know Christ.

In India, more than 850 wells have been drilled through the work with Transformation India Movement (TIM). Most of the 100 million people living in Bihar, India, among 45,000 villages, do not have access to clean drinking water. Less than half of 1 percent of the population are Christians.

"I believe it is the responsibility of every believer to help them to hear about Jesus at least once," said Biju Thomas, TIM's leader.

Because of North Carolina Baptists, Thomas reported that 114 villages have

been adopted, and 39 church planters are traveling to remote villages in hopes of planting churches.

Before N.C. Baptists got involved in Armenia, there were 60 churches, seven buildings and 2,000 Baptists. But Asatur Nahapetyan, general secretary of the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches of Armenia and director of the Theological Seminary of Armenia, said the numbers have increased since volunteers have been helping. The country now has 150 churches, 30 buildings and 5,200 Baptists.

Baptist Men debuted its latest medical/dental bus during the annual meeting. The \$450,000 vehicle was available outside the Koury Convention Center for tours. The medical/dental ministry is one of many ways Baptist Men find to serve the state and beyond. N.C. Baptists have partnerships with 14 different states along with several countries and several focused ministries like the mission camps, aviation, educators and more.

"People know that N.C. Baptists care about them, but more importantly God cares about them," Brunson said. **BR**



## Making fruitful disciples of the next generation

By BUDDY OVERMAN | BSC Communications

**A** recent study by the Barna Group found that nearly 60 percent of young people leave the church either permanently or for extended periods of time after age 15.

A 2006 Barna study (<http://tinyurl.com/3ao3q7p>) found that 61 percent of young adults involved in church as teenagers no longer attend church, read the Bible or spend time in prayer.

Brain Upshaw, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) church ministry team leader, and Steve Wright, pastor of Family Discipleship at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, believe there is a way to reverse the trends.

During a breakout session Nov. 8 at the BSC annual meeting they shared how the church and parents can partner together to make fruitful disciples of the next generation.

Upshaw and Wright said the root of the problem is that many parents and churches fail to embrace the

biblical mandate that requires the participation of both the faith community and parents in the discipleship of children.

In recent decades too much responsibility has been placed on the church.

"We have unintentionally communicated to parents that if you will bring your children to church we will disciple them and give them back to you as informed disciples," Upshaw said.

Wright suggested the next generation will be reached if parents and churches each do their part.

He told parents to share with their children the glorious truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to follow the example of how families in the Bible lived on mission for God.

"In scripture, family would be engaged in the mission of God whereby eternity would be weighed in the balance," he said.

For example, parents can model missional living by devoting family time to studying God's Word, praying with their children for the lost people in their neighborhoods, and by sharing their testimony with their children.

In doing so, parents will teach their children how to live boldly for Jesus Christ.

Wright said that churches using the attraction model for youth ministry need to rethink this strategy. The attraction model calls for the youth pastor to build the youth group around numerous fun activities and to organize exciting outreach events in an effort to get young people involved in church.

During the past three or four decades, the attraction

model has been a mainstay of youth ministry in many churches.

According to Wright, the problem is that the attraction model can send the wrong message to children because it often appeals to the flesh rather than placing an emphasis on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Appeals to the flesh set kids up for disaster, especially when they go off to college," Wright said. "If there is any hope of reaching the next generation, they must know and understand the gospel. Only that message will endure [for] eternity."

In addition, Wright told the audience that young adults are leaving the church in part because too many of them have been involved

in youth groups that are segregated from the rest of the faith community. As a result, many teenagers do not have a basic understanding of the church's role in the life of a believer and as the bride of Christ.

"Our kids graduate from those types of youth groups and they go off to college having never been incorporated into the life of the church," Wright said.

"The last place they want to be on Sunday morning is in a boring, dull church."

Wright said the solution to reclaiming the next generation for Jesus Christ is to approach youth and children's ministry from a biblical perspective. "The church and parents are not barriers. They are part of the God-given solution."

To learn more about how churches and family can partner together, listen to the Church and Family Connect Podcast. Visit [ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org); click Resources and under Audio, choose "NC Church & Family Podcast." **BR**



STEVE WRIGHT

**"Appeals to the flesh set kids up for disaster, especially when they go off to college. If there is any hope of reaching the next generation, they must know and understand the gospel."**

**— Steve Wright**



# Glimpse of heaven seen at annual banquet

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

**T**his year's Heavenly Banquet Nov. 8 offered a small picture of what heaven might look like.

With 160 participants from various tribes, tongues and nations, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) multicultural ministries offered participants a chance to learn from a multicultural church planter and a panel of experts working with various ethnic groups.

"If Jesus loves everybody, why then does the local church not reflect that," said Derwin L. Gray, lead pastor of Transformation Church in Indian Land, S.C.

Gray played professional football with the Indianapolis Colts and Carolina Panthers. His multi-ethnic, multi-generational church was named the second fastest growing church by percentage and the 14th-fastest growing church by number of participants in America in 2010, according to *Outreach* magazine.

Known as the "evangelist linebacker," Gray, who grew up in a Jehovah's Witness home and attended a historically Baptist college in Texas, talked of God's sense of humor.

Gray said he found his validity in playing football. His greatest fear was not being able to play.

It was through a Christian teammate that Gray began to learn about God's love for him.

"The NFL would not teach me to love my wife," Gray said, but God's Word has opened up many avenues for him to learn how to be a better husband, father and pastor.

Gray said it was important for him to use different musical genres to reach a variety of people at Transformation Church.

"We dropped our preferences for the Prince of Peace," he said.

"On that blood-soaked cross Jesus gave us His all. There's only one race ... the human race. Are we allowing the gospel ... to fully integrate into our life?"

During the banquet, there was a panel of experts: Glenda Reece, international ministry coordinator at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh; Jairo Contreras, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Cristo Vive and New Hope



David Moore, left, Baptist State Convention senior consultant, leads panelists through questions relating to working with multi-ethnic churches. The panelists were: Glenda Reece, international ministry coordinator at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh; Jairo Contreras, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Cristo Vive and New Hope Baptist Church; and Simon Touprong, pastor of Asian American Outreach in Greensboro. (BR photos/Dianna L. Cagle)

Baptist Church; and Simon Touprong, pastor of Asian American Outreach in Greensboro. David Moore, BSC senior consultant, led the panel through a series of questions about their ministries.

Reece said Forest Hills ministers to at least 11 different people groups through its ministry.

Reece admitted some resistance from the all-white congregation during the late 70s, early 80s, but the church held cross-cultural workshops to try to teach the congregation to love its neighbors.

"Our people have learned and felt good" to be part of this growing ministry, she said. "If God puts them on your doorstep it is a sin to walk blindly [over them]."

Being so close to North Carolina State University offers Forest Hills a front seat to international missions. "God did not call us to plant a perfect church," she said.

Reece shared a story of a visiting professor from China who "desperately needed English." The church offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes using the Bible as an English book.

She advised people to make good on their promises. If they say it is an English class, teach English. Within

four months, that professor went from not believing in a god to believing in the Almighty God.

When asked what the future church in America will look like, a frustrated look spread across Reece's face.

"I would like to say the church of the future would look like this room, but we need to reach the people not in this room. Are we just preaching to the choir?"

Contreras ministers to mostly Central American people but his church has African-American and Anglo

leaders participating to appeal to a wider audience.

"Never give up," Contreras urged. "Try your best."

Churches should look at what the people in the community need and work on building a foundation through relationships.

Contreras would like to see fully integrated churches everywhere, but he realizes there are a lot of barriers with language and culture.

Touprong said he resisted God's call to plant a church at first, but "following God's will is much more important" than being comfortable. Starting in 2008 with just 12 people, Asian American Outreach didn't experience much growth for about a year.

Then, God began to bring more people. Touprong advised flexibility to churches. He shared a story of an African-American visitor who started crying during the worship music.

Touprong moved the invitation to accommodate the Holy Spirit working in that man's life.

In the future, Touprong said he hopes "to have every church a multicultural church."

After the lunch Gray sold copies of his book - *Hero: Unleashing God's Power in a Man's Heart*. Gray and Ken Tan, BSC multicultural team leader, led a breakout session later that day on becoming a church for all people. **BR**



DERWIN L. GRAY

## N.C. Baptists leaders ask messengers if they're 'All In'

Continued from page 4

"As I walk that beach every summer I love to look back to see my footprints," Johnson said, sharing that everyone likes to leave "an impression that lasts."

Johnson, who is celebrating her 10th anniversary at the Convention, said around 74,000 students have been to Caswell during her tenure.

Of those, over 7,500 are now Christians and 45,000



MERRIE JOHNSON

recommitments have been made. More than 2,000 have expressed some sort of call to ministry.

"It's not about me," she said. "It's about God working in and through me."

Johnson led youth to focus on packaging food for Haiti.

The goal was to raise \$40,000 and have youth pack 160,000 meals.

Instead, the youth raised \$60,000 and packed 220,225 meals.

"That's a go-God thing," Johnson said.

Next year, the goal is 300,000 meals.

"What kind of impression do you leave?" Johnson queried.

"All together, all of us in, we can do amazing things. It's about God working in and through us."



AL JAMES

"If God receives us He will receive our prayers."

Al James, professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Carey Baptist Church in Henderson, urged messengers to cry

Jairo Contreras, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Cristo Vive and New Hope Baptist Church, said his members like to pray.

"We should be praying with a clean heart and a pure mind," said Contreras.

out for the nations. James said being "All In" was not a joking matter, "or are we playing spiritual cards while people are doing without the gospel and going to hell?"

Referring to Romans 9:1-3, James said, "If Paul was willing to give up his salvation, there was nothing he was not willing to sacrifice."

Closing out the final theme highlight with prayer, Brad Lynch, pastor of North Albemarle Baptist Church, focused on John 17:20-26.

He asked messengers to focus on unity.

"Is there anyone that you are not one with," Lynch asked.

"I pray for a holy, spiritually infused oneness." **BR**



# ‘Queen’ reflects fondly on 35 years in Nigeria

Continued from page 1

14 years. Though Gunn enjoyed her position with the seminary, she longed for days when she was able to spend time ministering to Nigerians suffering from leprosy [or Hansen’s disease].

“I would go out there and just be with them,” said Gunn, who would take them supplies, food and medicine.

In 1990, Gunn went to work for the Nigerian Baptist Convention in Ibadan, a much larger city between 3 and 5 million people.

With the convention, she helped head up the publishing ministry that produced a variety of materials – in three languages –for Bible studies, family and personal devotions, discipleship, evangelism, children’s ministry and literacy education.

It was in Ibadan, however, – where the city’s resources were unable to keep up with its exploding population – that Gunn found herself in a city of many desperate Nigerians struggling to make a living.

For many Nigerians, a single, American woman seemed too tempting a target.

“The office was robbed, the car I was driving was taken at gunpoint, and I was robbed in my house twice,” she said.

HISHEART HISHANDS HISVOICE



2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering\*  
National Goal: \$175 million

Through all of it, Gunn escaped virtually without a scratch, but the car robbery haunted her for many months.

“I had nightmares for months,” she said. “I would wake up seeing a guy with a gun.”

She recalled the time when a group of men forced their way into her home and were unable to find her hiding in a walk-in closet.

“An angel hid that door from them because they came in the room, took things out of the drawers, and went into the bathroom,” she said. “They never even tried the door.”

There was another time Gunn sat in her living room as robbers threatened her and nearly “tore down the house.” Gunn remembers sitting in a recliner praying out loud for the intruders. “I said, ‘Now Lord I know that you have created them for a purpose,’” she said.

“My prayer is that they will find a purpose for which you have created them.”

“I was never physically harmed,” she said.

“They did push me, but I didn’t fall.”

Gunn said one of her drivers gave her some advice that she often didn’t take.

“He said, ‘Momma, I have tried to teach you that you do not close your eyes when you are praying with somebody you do not know,’” she said.

All of her trials, though, have left her undaunted and have strengthened her faith in God.

“I said if somebody is trying to drive me away this is not going to work,” she said. “When God tells me to go, I will go.”

In 2009, Gunn officially retired from IMB and returned to North Carolina where she was raised.

Today, Gunn takes care of her 94-year-old mother, Gladys, and tutors three

days a week for the Rockingham County Literacy Project.

Gunn admitted she remains saddened when she reads headlines of trouble in her former homeland – where poverty and Muslim extremism is on the rise and Christians confront persecution.

She still believes there is hope for Nigeria.

“Reaching the rest of them is going to take a lot of being there and establishing relationships,” she said.

Gunn’s advice to future missionaries? “Try to be with [your assigned people group] as much as possible and love them,” she said.

“We may not see the harvest ... in our generation [but] the story will be told until Christ comes for sure.”

Like IMB President Tom Elliff, Gunn said the responsibility of impacting the tough areas of the world falls on all believers in Christ – not just missionaries.

“Everybody is a missionary,” she said. “All of us must be missionaries where we are and now.” **BR**

## Jerusalem: Searching for peace

By REED FLANNIGAN | Baptist Press

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

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

Most believe He would. Jerusalem is a city where stress runs high and the strain of so many people practicing so many religions in such a small area makes the tension palpable. They seek a blessing or a healing or some connection with God through well-meaning, but mistaken, devotion.

Bitter division resides just below the surface. Christians, Jews, Muslims – each group would be pleased if the other two simply exited the city walls and disappeared into the barren countryside.

Rebecca\* considers herself nonreligious.

She’s a bus driver expecting her first child and is married to a devout Jew. She says the relationship works. She ponders the question: What would it take for peace to come to Jerusalem?

“[Peace] between the Jewish people or between everybody?” she asks. “It’s a good question because there is no peace between the Jewish people. The religious [don’t] accept the not religious. The

religious people themselves, they have a few groups they don’t like or don’t accept each other, and with the Arabs I think when we have the peace between us it will be easy to make the peace with them, I hope.”

Many who actually want peace see it as something to be brokered; something that’s been pursued by leaders for decades, yet to date has proven elusive. Still many hold out hope for a negotiated solution.

“We all want peace,” says a local rabbi. “In order to achieve this goal, we must realize that Jerusalem is holy for the Jews, for the Christians and for the Muslims, and let’s think about a solution that all the three monotheistic faiths will be OK with.”

Waging peace through sharing the gospel is not without its challenges. Bitter persecution is coming to those proclaiming the same Good News Jesus shared along these stone streets.

“We work toward peace, we work toward bridging the gap between cultures and between the differences in people, but really it’s God’s grace and only God’s grace that will ever appear,” says a Southern Baptist worker.

Faithful followers of Jesus are preaching His resurrection and reconciling men to God through Christ, just as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5.

\*Name changed

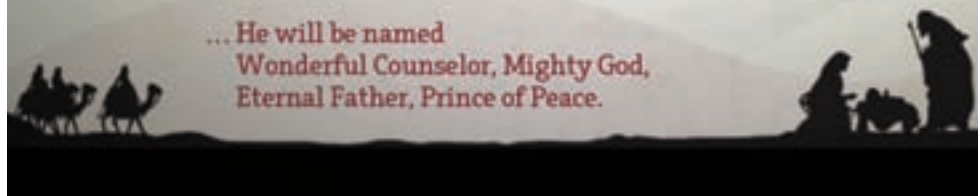
(EDITOR’S NOTE – Reed Flannigan served in Europe on IMB’s Communication Team.) **BR**



### from your Biblical Recorder Staff

During the holidays our office will officially be closed Dec. 23-27 and Jan. 2. After Dec. 16, our new office will be located in the Baptist State Convention (BSC) building, 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511. Our new mailing address is PO Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Please contact us at (919) 847-2127 if you have questions or need more information. Thank you for your patience during this time of transition. Merry Christmas!

... He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.





# Armenia experiencing revival, hopeful about future

By BUDDY OVERMAN | BSC Communications

**A**rmenia is a small country nestled between its much larger and predominately Muslim neighbors of Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan. Situated at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, it is a nation with a unique and varied history, including a Christian tradition that dates to the apostolic age.

Sometimes referred to as the land of Noah, due to its proximity to the mountains of Ararat, Armenia's population is 94 percent Christian (Armenia Apostolic Church). The Armenian Apostolic Church is a non-evangelical church with considerable influence inside Armenia. Only two percent of Armenian Christians are evangelical.

Surrounded by large Muslim countries and largely void of evangelical Christianity, Armenia needs the gospel of Jesus Christ. North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM) is working hard to get the gospel to this country through its partnership with the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches of Armenia.

The partnership began in 2003 with an initial focus on construction. Through the coordinating efforts of NCBM, churches and associations from North Carolina began sending construction teams to Armenia to build church buildings for Armenian Baptists. The construction teams supplied the funding and labor that Armenian Baptists lacked to complete such projects.

The church buildings provide a public meeting place where Baptists can gather instead of meeting in private homes. Jim Burchette, NCBM Armenia Partnership Coordinator, said Armenian homes are not considered suitable for worship. "Most Armenians will not worship in a home. Most are too small and it's against the social norm. They like to have a building where they can go to worship," he said.

Another initial focus of the partnership was financial assistance for Armenian church planters and students at the Theological Seminary of Armenia. The seminary graduated its first class of 17 students in 2001.

Financial assistance from North Carolina Baptists has enabled more than 300 students to graduate from the seminary since 2003, including 100 students from a Muslim country.

Asatur Nahapetyan, General Secretary of the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches of Armenia and Director of the Theological Seminary of Armenia, is grateful for the support from North Carolina Baptists and believes the partnership has sparked revival in Armenia.

"We are so thankful for the partnership with North Carolina Baptist Men. Because of the partnership we have been able to start churches in areas where there was no gospel witness before," Nahapetyan said. As the gospel of Jesus Christ is taking root, the partnership is expanding its focus.

"The construction teams and sponsorships for students and church planters are still an important part of the partnership," Burchette said. "But in recent years, as the number of Baptists has grown, we have started



Vacation Bible School is one of the most common ways North Carolina Baptists help in Armenia, a partnership with N.C. Baptist Men that began in 2003. (Contributed photos)

sending additional teams to conduct Vacation Bible School, eye glass ministry, and training for church leaders and pastors."

Vacation Bible School in particular has played an important role in the revival. "We have seen Vacation Bible School reach a lot of children and their parents with the gospel of Jesus Christ," Burchette said.

Altogether, the construction teams, sponsorships and various ministry teams have helped fuel a significant growth in the number of Baptist churches and the number of Armenians who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

"Before the partnership we had 60 churches, seven church buildings and 2,000 Baptists," Nahapetyan said. "Today we have 150 churches, 30 church buildings, an orphanage center and 5,200 Baptists."

Armenian law forbids children from officially join-

ing the church, thus the overall numbers are actually much higher. "At last count there were 10,000 Armenian children actively involved with Armenian Baptist churches. Many of them have also accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior," Burchette said.

Although the numbers are encouraging, Burchette and Nahapetyan know the job is not complete. As a former Soviet Republic, Armenia's economy has never fully recovered from the collapse of communism.

The sluggish economy means nearly all Armenian Baptist churches are dependent on outside

help for survival.

"Of the 150 Baptist churches in Armenia, only four are financially independent," Burchette said. The need is great, but so is the desire to see the gospel flourish in Armenia. "There are no plans to end the partnership," Burchette said.

"We will continue to help build church buildings, support seminary students and strengthen existing churches in Armenia through continued funding of church planters. We will also do that through discipleship efforts such as Vacation Bible School led by North Carolina volunteers."

Nahapetyan welcomed the continued support. "We need more teams to come and help us with Vacation Bible School, medical evangelism and house visiting with personal witness," he said.

"And we need more construction teams to come to Armenia because many of these planted churches do not have places to meet." Nahapetyan is hopeful for the future and thankful for the support already received.

"We are very blessed by North Carolina Baptists. This revival could not happen without you," he said. "God needs you on mission."

For more information about joining the work in Armenia contact Jim Burchette at [jburchette@ncbaptist.org](mailto:jburchette@ncbaptist.org).

Learn about this partnership and other ministries online at [baptistsonmission.org](http://baptistsonmission.org). **BR**

**"We have seen Vacation Bible School reach a lot of children and their parents with the gospel of Jesus Christ."  
— Jim Burchette**



Volunteers hold an eye clinic to help provide for the needs of the Armenian people.



# Southern Baptist Convention, change that name

USA Today, Religion News Service

**W**hat's in a name? As Shakespeare has it, a rose by any other name smells the same. But in the case of America's largest Protestant denomination, changing the name could change everything.

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bryant Wright recently told his organization's Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn., that he had appointed a task force to study a possible name change. Abandoning the 166-year-old identifier, he argued, would help the group thrive both in America and internationally.

"First, the convention's name is so regional," Wright said. "With our focus on church planting, it is challenging in many parts of the country to lead churches to want to be part of a convention with such a regional name. Second, a name change could position us to maximize our effectiveness in reaching North America for Jesus Christ in the 21st century."

Wright is, well, right. The label is no longer accurate. Until the mid-20th century, the denomination was concentrated almost exclusively in the American South and Southwest. That is no longer the case.

While most congregations still exist below the Mason-Dixon line, SBC churches – all 40,000 of them, as well as 16 million members – have spread to all

50 states, and the SBC's missionary effort has planted thousands more globally. The denomination also comprises more than a quarter of all American evangelicals.

It's safe to assume that if the denomination were forming today, the name "Southern Baptist Convention" wouldn't even be considered.

"The SBC is not driven by a Southern agenda nor a Southern vision," said Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "In the context of the United States, 'Southern' refers to a region. That region gave birth to the Southern Baptist Convention, but it no longer contains it."

Mohler went on to say that the name sounds "strange, if not foreign" to those in the Pacific Northwest and New England, for instance.

Then, there's the stigma attached to the name. A 2006 Center for Missional Research/Zogby poll found that many Americans have a negative impression of the denomination. More than 40 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds said knowing a church was Southern Baptist would negatively affect their decision to visit or join.

In the past, the SBC has been a magnet of controversy. From boycotting Walt Disney for its "pro-gay stances" to a perceived near alignment with the Republican Party, it always seemed to play

the role of cultural crusader. This waning reputation led some congregations to drop the word "Baptist" from their name.

In recent years, however, the denominational ship seems to be turning. A new generation of Southern Baptists seems less concerned with fighting such battles

and more united around missions and church planting. A new name could give the body a fresh start.

But the greatest reason for a change could be the need to break with its past and embrace an increasingly multi-ethnic reality in America. I was reminded of this recently when an African-American friend asked me about the denominational alignment of our church. I saw pain in her eyes when I told her "Southern Baptist."

Much of Southern Baptist history is laudable, but we cannot forget that the denomination was founded in 1845 over slavery. The first SBC churches were birthed out of a desire to appoint slaveholders as missionaries. Many Southern Baptist preachers vocally opposed the civil rights movement and supported Jim Crow laws.

Southern Baptists are, in many ways, facing a struggle that has played out in the broader American culture. Changing their name would be akin to Southern schools dropping "rebel" mascots and

Southern states scrubbing Confederate imagery from their flags. While the SBC has made strides in repudiating its shameful past, including a 1995 resolution apologizing to African-Americans, this bold move would be another important step.

As Jon Akin, a Southern Baptist pastor in Tennessee says, "We've obviously made statements and resolutions saying that we do not affirm what happened in our past ... but it's something we've got to continue to answer in terms of our heritage – that we aren't going to be a mostly Southern, mostly middle-class, mostly white denomination, that we want to reach all nations."

No doubt, there will be much resistance. Motions to change the name have been presented to the convention – and failed – eight times since 1965, most recently in 2004.

The denomination must now decide whether it cares more about its past heritage or its future vitality.

Shedding "Southern Baptist Convention" could inject the body with a new energy already stirring among the group's younger leaders. Doing so would also put our denomination on a path to thrive in this century and beyond.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Jonathan Merritt is author of the forthcoming "A Faith of Our Own: Following Jesus Beyond the Culture Wars." He serves at Cross Pointe Church in Georgia where his father, James Merritt, is senior pastor.) **BR**



**JONATHAN MERRITT**  
Guest Column

## N.C. Baptist pastor's book focuses on importance of missions

*When Missions Shapes the Mission:*

*You and Your Church Can Reach the World*

by David Horner (B&H Books, June 2011)

**“W**e need to distinguish between missions from a biblical perspective and the way the word has come to be used as a catchall expression to elevate, validate, or justify nearly anything people have introduced as a worthy cause for their church, denomination, or agency to embrace.”

David Horner in his book confronts the importance of missions in a way that is not just a corrective response to the dissolution of what Christ intended in Matthew 28. But thankfully, he provides a very helpful and practical plan to encourage churches to embrace missions in a truly authentic, biblical way. Because of the practical encouragement offered, this is far from just an evaluative critique of the state of missions. It is, in fact, a practical call to refocus on the Great Commission and an encouragement to rethink how we approach missions in the church.

Horner walks the reader through the book utilizing his own study of traditionally evangelical churches and making use of lessons learned from his church experi-

ence, but also from those churches that participated in the study. From start to finish he challenges pastors, church leaders, and lay people to use their best resources, in people and material, in order to effectively reach the lost around the world.

As Horner says, "this book is intended to challenge the status quo and incite more of you to change columns from the majority who are neglecting missions for all practical purposes, to the minority who are stepping up to make the changes necessary to make a difference." By right, there is much to be concerned about in how missions has been diluted and downwardly evolved into merely helping with human misery without offering truly eternal value. While acknowledging the need for such social and help ministries, which sadly have come to mean "missions" in many churches, Horner encourages the reader to not stop there, but to move into what God has called us to do with the Great Commission. It may perhaps be

a challenge that steps on toes, but it is done with appropriateness and a great deal of encouragement. Horner's book takes on an encouraging "come join us" tone reminiscent of *Come Help Change the World* by Bill Bright. This

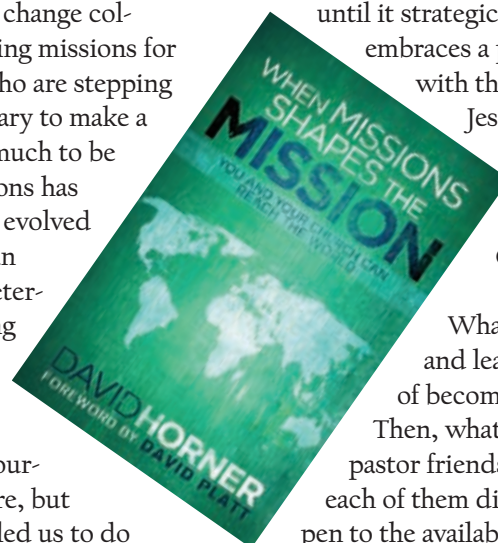
book is not a slap on the hand, but good advice from a pastor who has walked the walk.

If you think your church may be in need of some great practical input and encouragement in your approach to missions, this is a great resource for you. Horner writes, "Missions is not really biblical missions until it strategically and comprehensively embraces a plan to reach all those areas with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ." With that he lays out helpful how to's in approaching the important task of helping fulfill the Great Commission. "Let's dream a godly dream. What if you committed to step up and lead your church in the pursuit of becoming a mission-focused church? Then, what if you invited ten of your pastor friends to join you in the effort – and each of them did the same? What would happen to the available missions force beginning right here in the West?"

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Neale Davis, a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has served with Campus Crusade for Christ for 27 years. He is a volunteer counselor at The Summit Church, Durham. He lives in Cary.) **BR**



**NEALE DAVIS**  
Book Review





# Will a Band-Aid suffice when heart surgery is needed?

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bryant Wright, who serves as pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., announced to the SBC Executive Committee on Sept. 19 that he was appointing a task force to study the prospect of changing the Convention's name.

Wright made his announcement after speaking of the energy and unity within the denomination after the SBC annual meeting this past June in Phoenix. He reasoned that the Convention's name is geographically regional, which he said could be a barrier to starting new churches outside the South.

The announcement provoked a lively debate among Executive Committee members. Darrell P. Orman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Stuart, Fla., stated, "Every man here wants to do something significant in his life for Christ and His Kingdom. A name change could be a future necessity for our convention, but it should start from the bottom up, not the top down."

Others contended that the Convention is already divided and that a debate over changing the name could exacerbate the division. Terry Robertson, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York, told Fox News that the potential name change is somewhat "polarizing."

Robertson added, "While a name change of the convention may be a worthy consideration, my prayer is that God will send a Great Awakening which will result in a change of hearts across the nation."

Al Mohler, president of Southern Seminary and a member of Wright's task force, indicated that he is "personally traumatized by the very idea of changing the denomination's name," but added, "This is a highly-charged issue that holds great potential to divide the Convention if not handled well and responsibly. The task force must act in a way that unifies Southern Baptists and helps us all to gain a much-needed understanding of what is and is not at stake."

On at least a half dozen occasions the idea of changing the name of the Convention has surfaced. The last time it received widespread attention was when President Jack Graham addressed the Executive Committee in February of 2004 and called for a new name and indicated that he would appoint a committee to study the idea.

Since Graham pressed for the name change seven years ago it is not surprising that he quickly voiced his approval of Wright's proposal, stating, "The value of changing a name/brand is intangible. But change can create a new momentum and unity for a new generation of Baptists."

However, before we plunge headlong into a name change for the Southern Baptist Convention there are some things that need to be considered.

● First, do we really need a name change?

What is gained if we change the name and what is lost if we don't?

Is the Southern Baptist Convention not known for its fidelity to the Bible, its fervency in evangelism and its passion for missions? Do those identifying marks not more accurately characterize us than the word "Southern"?

Kentucky Fried Chicken has a fairly regional name, but even with restaurants in Michigan, Maine and Min-

nesota, the chain has given no thought to changing its name to my knowledge.

New York Life Insurance, with offices across the nation, started their operations about the same time Southern Baptists formed their convention and have given no apparent thought to a name change. Why, we even have Texas Roadhouse restaurants in Georgia.

But then, I have never pastored a church in Washington state or New Hampshire, so it is hard to know if the name "Southern" is a liability to them or not. The word "Baptist" would be non-negotiable for me. The word "Baptist" is woven into the very core and fiber of our being.

● Second, the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention indicate that the SBC president can appoint only three committees: the Committee on Committees, the Tellers Committee and the Resolutions Committee.

Therefore, it would appear that President Wright has named the aforementioned task force more as a fellow Southern Baptist and that any Southern Baptist could appoint a task force and, hopefully, receive equal consideration at any given annual session.

For example, it would appear that a Baptist state college president could appoint a task force to consider the impact seminary baccalaureate programs have on Baptist state colleges and get an equal hearing as Wright's task force. Or a denominational worker could appoint a task force to study the relationship between tithing and spiritual awakening.

Do the SBC Constitution and Bylaws give special privileges to the president that would validate his task force more than any other Southern Baptist? Is it possible that numerous Southern Baptists could come to the annual session next June in New Orleans with task forces prepared to report their findings to the messengers?

● Third, while I feel confident that Bryant Wright's motives are pure, is the timing right on this proposed name change?

Many seem to think not. Are we still not attempting to sort out the implications of the Great Commission Task Force recommendations?

Have psychologists not repeatedly stated that too many rapid changes increase one's stress level? Does the devil not often use timing and intensity to accomplish his diabolical agenda?

● Fourth, what will a name change cost?

The legal fees in changing the name of the corporation, the cost of discarding business cards, letterheads, literature, signage for agencies and individual churches would be considerable. With the uncertainty of the economy and the need to make evangelism, church planting and missions a priority, is cost of a name change worthy of consideration at the present time?

● Fifth, does a new name not mean that you have a new brand?

Maurillo Amorim, CEO of The A Group, a media, technology and branding firm in Brentwood, Tenn., says, "New packaging without changing the product or experience only goes so far. Churches that changed their names in the mid 90's to appear more community friendly but failed to change the experience learned that such strategy often backfired.

Amorim continued, "People came expecting some-

thing different than what they got. It's the classic 'bait and switch' approach. A brand is made when the name, packaging and product deliver on the brand promise. And does so consistently over time."

So, if we change our name do we create a new brand promise or has the Convention so changed that the present name no longer fits who we are?

● Sixth, does a name change really change anything?

Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, recently tweeted, "Any organization that is in decline and tries to fix it with Band-aids when it needs heart surgery is missing God."

For those who feel that "Southern" is too regional a name and too closely attached to the issue of slavery and racism there may be some interest in going back to the actual name of the convention prior to 1845.

Although historians point back to the Triennial Convention as the SBC's predecessor, the actual name of the convention according to the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists was "The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States of America for Foreign Missions and other Important Objects relating to the Redeemer's Kingdom."

I know that is a rather cumbersome name, but you could always reduce the name to the acronym and call it "The GMCBDUSAFMIORK."

The Southern Baptist Convention continues to be a stalwart and formidable force in the United States and globally. The impact God is making upon the lives of people around the world through Southern Baptists continues to provide thrilling stories, which those of us in Baptist journalism are privileged to tell.

I believe that Southern Baptists are for multitudes the salt and light so desperately needed today, but we certainly do stand in need of a spiritual awakening.

So, if we were to change our name to the Praying (Southern) Baptist Convention and reprogram our lives to fit the name, we just might have something I could wholeheartedly support.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Gerald Harris is editor/publisher of The Christian Index, Georgia Baptist's news journal, where this editorial first appeared.) **BR**



**GERALD HARRIS**  
Editor, *The Christian Index*





# Making Christmas meaningful

**W**hat do you remember most about past Christmas celebrations? In American culture, no holiday is more loaded with tradition and emotion than Christmas. All of us have treasured stories of Christmas memories. And, we'll be glad to share them with anyone who will listen.

Our traditions typically include decorations, food, trees, lights, cards, food, gifts, parties ('fellowships' if you're a Baptist), music, and did I mention food?

Some of our rich traditions developed accidentally from unplanned circumstances.

Some were handed down by parents and grandparents. Others were birthed out of intentional planning. Recent generations seem to be more deliberate about the latter.

Early in my marriage I looked at our family Christmas traditions. Like all young couples, we faced the challenges of pleasing both sides of the family at Christmas. But we wanted to build traditions of our own.

Furthermore, we experienced the same seasonal challenges still heard today: "Christmas has become so commercialized," "We're too busy to enjoy Christmas," "The focus of Christmas should not be on us."

I'm sure you can add a dozen more complaints to this list. We

hear it every year, but we tend to do nothing about it.

In 1979 I received a gift from an IMB missionary serving in Germany. It was a very decorative advent calendar. I had heard of Advent but always brushed it aside as something liturgical churches did. I learned it is a very popular tradition in Germany, the homeland of my family name.

I decided to do some research on the significance of the Advent season. The internet was not available in those days, so your basic, old-fashioned footwork was the only method of study available. The more I studied, the more I wondered why evangelicals were missing out on all of the rich meaning and pure joy of advent celebrations.

The word "advent" means "coming." It is a celebration of the first coming of Jesus to this world, focusing on the anticipation for Messiah in the heart of every ancient Jewish worshiper and the fulfillment of the promises of God.

For the Christian, this is a time to keep the focus on Jesus every day. As we relive the unbridled anticipation of the Jews, the value of the Savior's birth comes alive. But we know that His first birth is not the end of the story. Advent reminds us that He is coming again!

Pam and I began

a tradition of celebrating Advent in our home with our son. For each day of the four-week Advent season, we met every evening for about 15 minutes. From literature I found in my research, we developed a short devotional, focusing on the scriptural prophecies leading to the first coming of Christ – His birth in Bethlehem.

This daily family time – at the busiest season of the year – developed into our most treasured aspect of the Christmas season.

We read the scriptures, we sang, we prayed, and we enjoyed a daily family-building experience. Our hearts shifted from the secular to the spiritual.

That shift had an effect on our gifts to international missions. Each day of Advent as we prayed for people in our community, we also prayed for one of our IMB missionaries. Sometimes we wrote them a note.

But we also prayed for ourselves. We asked God to allow us to give more generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO).

Our resources were small, but we thought "Why not ask God to guide the process of redirecting our priorities?" Why could we not give as much to international missions as we were giving to ourselves? The daily Advent devotion slowly refocused our priorities until we were asking God, "Will you provide for us to give \$1,000 to LMCO this year?" That was so far beyond our resources! There was no way on this pastor's small salary.

Would it surprise you to learn that God provided? Our young son was able to see God's provision while the Father was shaping all of our hearts for the unreached of His world. It is impossible to describe how our family Advent celebration shaped every aspect of our lives forever.

We shared this with others in the church, and they took up the practice.

The church began weaving the celebration of Advent into worship services. People came to Sunday School classes every week with exciting reports of how their family was blessed through daily Advent celebrations in their homes.

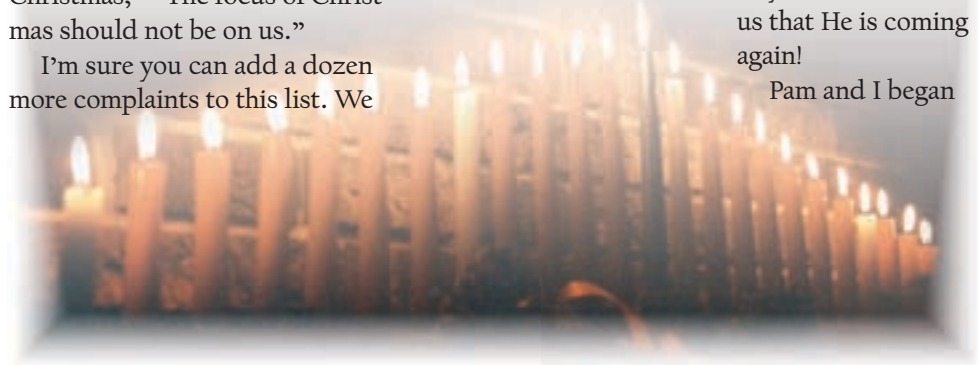
Year-by-year, the movement grew. The church's MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers) ministry published a daily Advent family devotional guide. Our Lottie Moon offerings grew. Our attention was drawn to the birth of Jesus Christ.

In every church I have served in the last 30 years, hundreds of families have personalized Advent celebrations in their homes. The impact has been unbelievable. Our discovery of this very old Christmas tradition was remarkable. And maybe some believers have helped our children see the difference in the way the secular world celebrates Christmas and the way believers celebrate Christmas. Merry Christmas!

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Please share your Advent experiences with us. To learn more on how to make the most of the true meaning of Christmas, visit [Brnow.org](http://Brnow.org), and click on the "Resources" tab.) **BR**



**K. ALLAN BLUME**  
Editor



## **BR** BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention  
of North Carolina

Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

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**Publication**  
Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 232 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21–23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

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

**Volume 177 No. 25**  
**(919) 847-2127**  
**Fax (919) 847-6939**  
**Brnow.org**

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## Please support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**I**n 1873, Charlotte Digges Moon (we know her as Lottie) was appointed a missionary to China. She devoted the next 39 years of her life to serving in China and to sharing the gospel. Lottie Moon grew to care deeply for the Chinese people. She often deprived herself so that she had more to give others. Lottie died on Christmas Eve in 1912, on a ship headed back to the United States.

The Christmas offering that Southern Baptists support each year is named after Lottie Moon. Her life of love and sacrifice paved the way for so many other missionaries. The offering theme this

year is: "His heart, His hands, His voice – I am Southern Baptist missions." The

offering goal this year is \$175 million. I pray that you will give sacrificially to this offering, and by doing so give a gift that will make a difference for all eternity.

The International Mission Board has available on its website, [imb.org](http://imb.org), many helpful promotional resources for your church. On this website you will find videos, photos, and prayer resources. I also hope you will take some time to read the stories of all the many



**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**  
BSC executive  
director-treasurer



December 18

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

December 25

## Respond to God's Gift

**Focal Passage: Matthew 2:1-15**

Several years ago a lady visited our church. She attended about a half dozen services, and then I didn't hear from her again until about two months ago. She called me, explaining she was moving to the mountains and needed help moving furniture and boxes from her mobile home into a U-Haul. We undertook the job as a mission project for our youth ministry, and upon completing the task, Charlotte offered to give something to the church. I told her "please, no," this was a project we wanted to do and were glad to help her. One of the lessons we try to teach our young people is that we are to be "givers, not takers." Today's lesson is about two different responses to the birth of Jesus. Will we be like the magi or will we be like Herod? Will we be givers or takers? Will we be selfless or selfish?

The wise men or magi represented the selfless givers. They had traveled for many days over a long distance to see the new king.

Fittingly, they brought gifts appropriate for royalty. Although they were

masters of astronomy and astrology, they were unsure where this king might be found.

They assumed that he would be in the capital city of Jerusalem, and that King Herod would know his whereabouts.

They were wrong on both accounts. Yet, they continued to follow the star God had provided and found Mary and the child Jesus in a house in Bethlehem, just as Micah the prophet had foretold.

Herod the king represented the selfish takers. He was a vindictive and ruthless man. He lived in paranoia, afraid that someone else might take away his throne and power. History tells us he killed many of his own family members, including his "favorite" wife. Therefore, it is not surprising that Herod madly sought to kill the Christ Child.

You see, Herod was a taker. The most important person in his world was himself. He had no room for Jesus, and he would die a miserable, pitiful, pathetic man.



**WAYNE PROCTOR**  
Pastor, Eure  
Baptist Church

**Focal Passage: Luke 2:8-20**

Recently the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series. While everyone recognized they were a good team, it seemed improbable they would become a great team. Nevertheless, this wild card team vaulted teams with better records to win the supreme prize. There was great rejoicing in St. Louis when they won game seven to end the series, a wild and wonderful celebration. But the next day their manager resigned. Surprised? Not really. Tony LaRussa had achieved great success over his 33 years of being a Major League manager. He had won three World Series titles, and he believed it was time to "move on" with his life. There is another chapter to be written.

Some might say that the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem was improbable. Few people other than the prophets had predicted it would happen. It was a miracle, and it was a time of great rejoic-

ing. Furthermore, God had ordained that it be ordinary folk, represented by the shepherds, who would be the first outsiders to see and celebrate the new-born Messiah. God's angel told them to not be afraid.

Fear of the unknown was to be replaced with joy; the "good news of great joy" was for everyone (v. 10). To accentuate the message, God sent a whole army of angels to proclaim the wonderful message of inner and eternal peace for those who accept His holy gift. The shepherds heard the angelic celebration, and they witnessed the glorious scene of Mary and Joseph with their new-born son, lying in the simplest of beds, a manger.

They heard, they rejoiced, but then it was time to go and proclaim the message of all they had experienced. In a few hours they would be back with their sheep, but their lives would never be the same. They, too, had a new chapter to write in their lives as they had been uniquely privileged to witness, and share Christ. Like the shepherds we need to make a personal response to Jesus Christ. He is the greatest treasure. Nothing, not even a World Series ring, compares.

December 18

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

December 25

## Stay Fearless in Your Obedience

**Focal Passage: Numbers 13:26-28, 31; 14:6-9, 17-23**

There he stood on the end of the diving board. His toes were white as they tried to grip the fiberglass platform beneath him. In front of him was his destination: the deep end of the pool. He knew the joys that awaited, unhindered enjoyment of the full expanse of the pool – no more confinement just to the shallow end.

There would be the exhilaration of springing from the diving board and splashing into the water below. But, there was a large enemy standing in the way – fear. What would he do?

My son knew what I had told him. "I will be with you. I will not let anything happen to you. I will be in the water before you even jump. Just trust me. It will be everything I have told you it will be." He could also consider my track record. All the previous times I had promised to be with him, take care of him, or protect him, I had done so.

He was faced with a decision. Would he trust his dad's character, promises and track record?

Or, would he let fear override what

I had asked him to do, causing him to disobey and miss out on all that I wanted him to enjoy?

We think about this situation and see the folly of it.

Why would the child not trust his father – his character, his promises and his track-record – and simply jump into the joy and freedom of the deep end.

However, before we respond too harshly, we should think about the Israelites ... and ourselves. They stood on the brink of the Promised Land, virtually seeing the fulfillment of God's promises in front of them, with memories of God's previous deliverance and provision fresh in their minds. And yet, they cowered away from obedience in fear.

What about you? What has God put before you to do that you are avoiding because of fear, satisfied to walk in defeat and disobedience?

Will you trust His character, His promises and His track record and experience the joy and freedom of obedience today?



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

## The Messiah Has Come

**Focal Passages: Numbers 24:17; Matthew 1:16-21; 2:1, 7-11**

On Christmas Day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us. During this time our family often reads the New Testament accounts of Jesus' birth in Matthew and Luke. In Matthew's account, as we see in today's lesson, Jesus' birth was not a new idea, but rather a fulfillment of what God had promised long before. The Holy Spirit inspired Matthew not only to consider Jesus' family lineage, but also to trace it out for us as evidence of God's fulfillment of His covenant promises.

The lesson's reference to Numbers 24:17 highlights just one of many Old Testament prophecies pointing to the coming Messiah. Immediately after man's fall in the Garden, God promised to send One who would crush the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15). He promised the Messiah would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). He promised the Messiah would be born in

Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Matthew notes on several occasions that the events surrounding Jesus' birth were in fulfillment of what God had spoken "through the prophets." Scripture is clear. God is faithful. He keeps His promises.

There will continue to be much "Christmas talk" over the next couple of weeks.

The questions will come: "What did you do for Christmas?" "What did you eat for Christmas dinner?" "What gifts did you get for Christmas?" The question for us as followers of Jesus Christ will be: "Will we be faithful to make the most of these opportunities and share with others about the Messiah who has come – the Christ of Christmas?"

In Jesus Christ, God has given us the greatest of gifts – Himself. And, God's gift of salvation to us in Christ is not just about what we get, but also about what we get to do. In Christ, God saved us for Himself, so that we might live our lives for Him and for His glory.

We have the great opportunity and responsibility of sharing with others about our glorious, faithful God who has given us salvation through His Son. We must go and tell – the Messiah has come!



# Ezell: 55,901 SBC congregations by 2020

PHILADELPHIA (BP) – A goal of 55,901 Southern Baptist congregations by the end of 2020 has been set by North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Kevin Ezell as part of the Send North America strategy that NAMB is implementing in evangelistic church planting. The goal would mean a net gain of 5,112 SBC congregations in less than a decade – more gained than in any decade since 1900.

“This should be the golden age of church planting in the Southern Baptist Convention,” Ezell said during the Oct. 17-19 meeting of NAMB’s trustees in Philadelphia.

The growth is based on projections of new church plants, new affiliations and church deaths between 2011 and 2020. Reaching the goal would require nearly a doubling of the SBC church birth rate by the end of the 10-year period. The 55,901 “congregation” target in-

cludes new self-supporting churches as well as church-type missions which will become new churches at some point. NAMB’s trustees also approved a \$115 million budget for 2012, toured new ethnic church plants and – with state convention and local association leaders and church planters – celebrated groundbreaking church-planting efforts now under way in the historic “City of Brotherly Love.” **BR**

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

St. Pauls Community Church of St. Pauls, NC, a Bible based, Christ centered Southern Baptist church, is seeking a **bi-vocational mission minded pastor**. Must have completed or currently working toward seminary degree. Please submit a letter of interest and a resume with a statement of faith to St. Pauls Community Church, P.O. Box 781, St. Pauls, NC 28384 or via email at [SPCCNC2011@aol.com](mailto:SPCCNC2011@aol.com). For other information contact Noel Brown at (910) 865-4868.

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

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

### Denominational

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

### Church Staff

Elizabethtown Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, NC, is looking for an energetic and innovative **Music/Worship Leader**. Responsibilities include planning, organizing, conducting and evaluating a comprehensive music ministry for all worship services and assisting the senior minister in leading and planning services of worship and ministry. Submit all resumes to EBC Music Search Team, PO Box 1712, Elizabethtown, NC 28337, or [sbridgers@ec.rr.com](mailto:sbridgers@ec.rr.com).

Calvary Road Baptist Church, a conservative Southern Baptist church with a membership of 615 is seeking a **fulltime Youth Minister/Associate Pastor**. CRBC is located in Waynesville, NC. If led by God to pursue, please send resume to 149 Red Swanger Road, Waynesville, NC 28786. Additional information concerning CRBC and its ministries can be found on our website [www.crbcnc.org](http://www.crbcnc.org). Resumes/references will be accepted until February 1, 2012.

Marshall Baptist Church is seeking a full time **Minister of Youth & Music**. Send resume to [youth\\_music@marshallchurch.org](mailto:youth_music@marshallchurch.org) or Marshall Baptist Church, 436 Marshall Church Road NE, Thomson, GA 30824, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**Pianist/Worship Leader:** Enon Baptist Church in Salisbury, NC, has a part-time position available for a ministry-minded person who wants to serve the Lord in a bi-vocational music ministry opportunity. We are looking for a musically experienced person to play the piano for the choir and lead our congregation in worship. The candidate must be an energetic and enthusiastic team player with a passion for helping people of all ages worship the Lord, Jesus Christ, through music. Contact us by e-mail [enon@carolina.rr.com](mailto:enon@carolina.rr.com) or phone 704-633-3404.

Lakeview Baptist Church, Monroe, NC, is seeking a **full time Minister to Students** (children through college). Ordination and experience required. E-mail resume to [resumes@lakeviewfamily.org](mailto:resumes@lakeviewfamily.org).

Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, NC, seeks Christian **administrative assistant/financial secretary** 30-35 hours/week. Primary duties: answering phone; scheduling appointments; staff/event calendars; mail processing; tithes and contribution records; Payroll processing; A/P; prepare tax forms, and required reports. Responsible for all financial records. Three to five years' experience with associate's degree in secretarial science, office administration, or equivalent preferred. Proficient in MS Office Suite and QuickBooks. Must be self-starter, ability to multitask with pleasant phone voice. Send resume with references to [personnel@oakridgecbc.org](mailto:personnel@oakridgecbc.org).

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

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

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

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

### Miscellaneous

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

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

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

**DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST?** Try our piano CDs for churches to sing by! Hymns, Christmas, Praise & more - FREE DEMO! Special Pricing! Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800. [www.wsrpianocds.com](http://www.wsrpianocds.com).

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## Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

### Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: [alison@BRnow.org](mailto:alison@BRnow.org)
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org)
- Send a Fax to (919) 847-6939

For more information, call the office at (919) 847-2127.

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





## Please support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Continued from page 13

different ways your offering dollars are making a difference.

North Carolina Baptists, God has called each of us to be about His purposes, and our God wants people to hear the gospel and to come to faith in Jesus Christ. Scripture commands all who know Jesus as Lord and Savior to tell others about Him – and to do so locally as well as globally.

Yet, I want to remind us that serving God and sharing our faith is also a tremendous privilege. God has chosen His people, His church, to take His message to the nations of the world.

In cooperation with the SBC International Mission Board, our Convention Board of Directors recently approved a recommendation that calls for this state convention to serve as a catalyst for the engagement of 250 unengaged,

unreached people groups over the next 10 years by North Carolina Baptist churches. We are praying for God to do great and mighty things among the unreached people of the world.

**“[Lottie Moon] often deprived herself so that she had more to give others.”**

**– Milton A. Hollifield Jr.**

Please pray about how you can support this special missions offering – both with your giving and with your prayers. Pray that God will burden our hearts like never before for

a world that desperately needs the hope of Jesus Christ. As Southern Baptists our churches have been challenged to give more money to help reach the 1.7 billion people in this world who have little or no access to the gospel. If this is your desire, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering provides an excellent opportunity for your church to give more to help reach the nations with the gospel.

*“... The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2 BR*

## TAR HEEL VOICES

### Thank you for giving to Lottie Moon

When we were fresh faced and new to the mission field, our then 8-month-old son was hospitalized and required surgery. It was our first week of language school. With all the challenges that came our way during those days, financial concerns were not one of them ... thanks to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO). Years later, it was the LMCO that made sure our baby daughter got great care when she was born and later diagnosed with epilepsy while in Lima, Peru.

From putting food on the table to covering major medical procedures, those who give to the LMCO helped us get on the field and stay on the field.

The LMCO has been a blessing to my family, but has also blessed our ministry to the indigenous peoples of the Americas. We have studied language in Costa Rica, ministered to indigenous people in Peru and now in Southern Mexico. It is because of gifts given to the LMCO that we have been able to come, live and serve in Latin America.

LMCO gifts were at work when Nelsi trusted Christ and was baptized in a high Andean river. Because of the LMCO, lives

were changed and small churches were formed in Lima, Peru. And the LMCO is currently making it possible for us to learn an indigenous language in Southern Mexico so that we can share Christ among an unreached people group.

We are so thankful to God for our home church, Union Grove [Baptist Church] in Salemburg, and the thousands of other churches that sacrificially give to the LMCO so we can continue making disciples among the indigenous peoples of the Americas. May these gifts be for the glory of our good God!

**John and Jenny McLamb**  
Serving in southern Mexico



# EMPOWERED

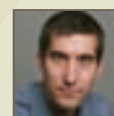
JANUARY 10-11

NORTH CAROLINA  
PASTOR/STAFF  
PRAYER  
RETREAT

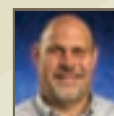
AFTER THEY PRAYED  
THE PLACE WAS  
SHAKEN

ACTS 4:31

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