

NEWS JOURNAL OF NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS VOL. 175, NO. 20 SEPTEMBER 26, 2009 WWW.BIBLICALRECORDER.ORG

Living a Dream

10 Asheville churches build family a home

By Dianna L. Cagle BR Assistant Managing Editor

ecause North Carolina Baptists care, a Moldovan family is living in a dream house in Asheville.

A coalition of Buncombe Baptist Association churches participated in the "Building on the Dream" house project through Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity.

"Baptist churches have been extremely supportive" in both volunteers and contributions, said Betsy Warren, house sponsor coordinator for Asheville

The "Building on the Dream" project was inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist pastor and race relations martyr, and started in January, the month of King's birth.

"It made sense to us to pull together some Baptist churches in the area," Warren said.

Two big events exemplified the project's ability to unify: a wall raising in January and a key presentation in

Warren said 10 churches — Arden First Baptist, Beverly Hills Baptist in Asheville, Biltmore Baptist in Arden, Ecclesia Baptist in Fairview, First Baptist of Asheville, First Baptist of Weaverville, Hominy Baptist in Candler, Inanda Baptist in Asheville, North Point Baptist in Weaverville, and Starnes Cove Baptist in Asheville — raised \$25,000 to build the four bedroom home for Nicolae and Luiba Buzulan and their four children.

Nicolae works with Carolina Transportation with mostly local routes. Luiba takes care of the children. She has worked in the past but the cost of child care was too high.

His father is a pastor at a local (See Living Page 5)



CONSTRUCTION — Nicolae Buzulan, right, works with Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity volunteers for a wall-raising in January. Buzulan, his wife, and four children closed on the house in July after 10 Baptist churches provided the other volunteer labor on the home.

Rankin shares plans for retirement in 2010

By Michael Logan

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board (IMB) the past 17 years, announced Sept. 16 that he will retire July 31,

"Everything I have done has been driven by an unequivocal sense of a call to missions, to make my life count and to make the greatest impact possible on reaching a lost world for Jesus Christ," Rankin said during a regular meeting of IMB trustees in Jacksonville, Fla.

Three North Carolinians were named to the 15member search committee charged with finding Rankin's successor. They are Robert Jackson, pastor of Peninsula Baptist Church in Mooresville; Mike Penry, pastor of The Revolution in Raleigh; and Tim Locher, member of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. Both Peninsula and First Baptist Hendersonville are historically among the top five Cooperative Program giving churches in North Carolina.

Rankin told trustees that his presidency should not be judged for the accomplishments of the organization



LEAVING — *An emotional Jerry and Bobbye Rankin* receive a standing ovation from International Mission Board trustees Sept. 16 after Rankin's announcement.

under his leadership but for how the organization is poised for the future.

"For the second time in my tenure we are implementing a radical paradigm shift in organization and strategy," he said. "This is not because of past failure and ineffectiveness but a vision of the changes needed to ensure relevance and effectiveness in the future."

Such sentiments are consistent to Rankin's approach in leading the 163-year-old organization. Early in his administration Rankin began placing a greater emphasis on the work remaining in world evangelization rather than on what had been accomplished.

"It's not ... our size or annual statistical report that should drive us," he said. "We need to be driven by a vision to bring all peoples to a saving faith in Christ and what it takes to get there."

Yet there has always been a need to track progress. When Rankin took over leadership of the IMB in 1993, the Southern Baptist mission organization saw nearly 4,000 missionaries help start more than 2,000 churches in 142 countries. Last year more than 5,500 IMB missionaries helped plant nearly 27,000 churches and engage 101 new people groups for a total of 1,190 engaged people groups.

The move from tracking countries to focusing on people groups reveals another area where Rankin worked to change the IMB. Country counts faded during the past 10 years as the organization shifted to finding the best ways to engage new people groups and population centers.

Surry woman brings, teaches Bible to Kenya

By Carole Dowell First-Person Account

hat does owning a Bible mean to a woman who has never had one? A great number of Kenyan women have experienced this joy, thanks to many churches and people in Surry County, N.C. and neighboring southwest Virginia.

Pastor Leo Watenya of Bungoma Baptist Church in western Kenya had a burning desire to evangelize his country. When he realized there were not enough willing men to help him he came to the culture-shaking decision to use women.

Even though 70 percent of Kenyan church members are women, they have traditionally been silent. Church work was done by men, period. The more Pastor Leo prayed the more convinced he became that women were "the sleeping giant" in the Kenyan church.

He requested through the International Mission Board a volunteer to teach Bible study and discipleship to the ladies in western Kenya. His request and my prayers to be involved internationally intersected and the result was that I was approved to teach Pastor Leo's ladies and those in surrounding areas in March 2003.

When I learned the ladies did not have Bibles I approached Surry Baptist Association and churches and individuals responded generously to purchase 600 Swahili Bibles.

In Kenya ladies were thrilled to have Bible studies taught just for them by a woman, and they were absolutely overwhelmed when they received Bibles of their own. Some made the high-pitched praise sound Kenyan ladies make; some shouted; some danced or jumped up and down for joy. They hugged the Bibles to their hearts while tears filled the eyes of many.

Not only had they never owned a Bible before, many had never touched one. The experience opened my eyes to what the gift of God's word should mean to people. It is the very heart of God held in one's hands.

Wrote materials

There were no teaching materials available so I taught from the book of John. The ladies loved it and filled the churches to overflowing. When there was no more room inside, they sat outside under the open windows to catch every word.

Too soon the conferences were over. We had registered 632 ladies, of which the first 600 received Bibles. We were blessed to have 65 professions of faith. God blessed us so richly that Baptist Mission of Kenya sought to initiate an on-going teaching partnership. They wanted the ladies in every province to have opportunity to participate in similar studies.

I needed to develop materials and God led me to show the ladies how in the Bible God uses women. I wrote "Woman, Kenya Ladies' Bible Study" which I've used in six subsequent teaching missions. The women learn God used women in miraculous ways and that God still uses women today. Most importantly, they learn that He wants to use them.

In 2004, after the Mount Airy News ran an article about our on-going mission partnership, and a deejay plugged it on the radio, donations made it possible to purchase Swahili Bibles for all seven teaching missions thus far.



GIVING - Carole Dowell passes out Bibles to a line of women in Kenya. Dowell has been going to Kenya to teach the women from the Bible. She has also helped recruit donations of eyeglasses so women can see to read the scripture.

Surry Baptist Association, 364

Note Kenya Bible Fund.

Welch Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030.

Eyes to see

In 2003, one precious lady came to me with tears in her eyes after receiving a Bible. "I thank you for my Bible," she said. "Now, if I just had glasses so I could see to read it.'

I had thought it strange that I was the only one in western Kenya who needed

I found out that was not the case at all; they were not financially able to buy glasses.

To help

And God opened my eyes to another great need: How could we get glasses for that lady and others? Two Lions Clubs in our area have provided used

eyeglasses and I presented the need at Surry Baptist Association and Mount Airy Ministerial Association meetings. Used eyeglasses poured in. Even one restaurant had a box for donations.

The Kenyan ladies and pastors with bad eyes try them on and are so appreciative and delighted when they find a pair that enables them to see the words in their new Bibles.

To get to the conferences, many women walk for hours, some of them carrying babies. They sit jam-packed in overflowing churches on crude, backless benches and on the floor, listening intently for hours.

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They drink in every word, taking the message to heart. And God performs

Because it is too far to walk home each day, they spend the two, or three, nights sleeping on the dirt, or concrete, floor of the church.

We have registered 13,357 ladies in attendance, and have given Bibles to 12,500 ladies. With an average of 10 people per household, that means around 125,000 more people now have daily access to a Bible.

Five thousand, one hundred sixty (5,160) ladies have been saved during the conferences, and most of the rest have rededicated

their lives to Christ.

One lady, in March 2007, said, "Thank you for my Bible. I have always prayed that God would one day provide one for me so my children can read it to me." Like many adults she cannot read, but her children go to school, and for her, having her children read a family Bible in their home would be the most blessed thing.

We teach from around 9 a.m. until 4 or 5 p.m., sometimes later, with periodic breaks and a lunch hour. Kenyans

cook over open fires, either outside or in a cook hut. On the first mission trip, a number of ladies had to miss class to prepare the meal. Usually only one pot is cooked at a time, so meal preparation is a lengthy process, and is usually not finished until 2, or later, in the after-

On the second mission trip, I was astonished to see a man at one of the churches helping with the cooking so his wife could attend the conference. On the third trip, all the cooking was done by men, a marvelous, miraculous thing. On the last four missions, men have done virtually all the cooking, with a little guidance from women.

Cooking the meal includes cleaning up and washing the dishes afterwards, just like it does for women.

This is a totally new role for men, and they are so proud of themselves when they manage it, and the food is actually good.

Not only are men cooking, they also ask me frequently, "When are you going to come teach us?" That too is a cultural change — to ask a woman to teach men in Africa. God changes cultures through love, not conflict.

A good test is not so much what happens during a conference but what happens after it is over. Immediately after our conferences ladies began to work for Christ at home and in their communities, and to teach what they had learned. They have already led hundreds to Christ, many of them husbands. They have inspired ladies in other churches to begin work. They have begun social work that was desperately needed; in particular, with widows and with orphans whose parents have died from Aids.

One church uses the ladies with Bibles to teach others to read. They are actually teaching literacy classes and Bible study at the same time.

To reach the ladies in every region of Kenya, we lack only two more provinces and the next mission is planned for January 2010. Both of the last two projects will be large, with a number of teaching locations in each province and a great number of ladies participating.

 $(EDITOR'S\ NOTE-Dowell,\ 71,\ is$ a retired teacher and member of Mountain View Baptist Church in Lowgap.)



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Page has low expectations for White House role

By Adelle M. Banks Religion News Service

MINNEAPOLIS — Former Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page said he doesn't expect much to result from the work of advisers to the White House's office dealing with faith-based and community groups.

"I believe that the policy recommendations that will come forth will be relatively innocuous, good, helpful," said Page, a member of the panel, on Sept. 10 at the annual meeting of the Religion Newswriters Association. He expects results to be not much more than "low-hanging fruit."

"There will be good things, but nothing of great substance."

While Page has publicly disagreed with Obama on some issues, notably abortion, he nonetheless praised the president for his "responsible fatherhood" and poverty initiatives, as well as his commitment not to fund abortion under his proposed health care reforms.

The South Carolina pastor called himself the "resident fundamentalist" on the 25-member advisory panel that includes Christians, Jews, Muslims and a Hindu as well as representatives of secular organizations. Despite "some serious disagreements" with Obama, Page said he prays for the president daily and is honored to be a member of the advisory council.

"I am shocked that I am a part of such an esteemed group," Page told the newswriters. "I ... consider myself to be a Baptist Forrest Gump. And if you remember that old movie ... this poor fella showed up in places that he never imagined he would be and found himself in the midst of world-changing events. Well, that's the way I feel about me."

The White House did not immediately comment on

Page's remarks; the director of the faith-based office, Joshua DuBois, had earlier canceled his scheduled appearance at the Minneapolis conference.

Peg Chemberlin, president-elect of the National Council of Churches and also a member of the advisory panel, said she thinks the work of the council is more than political expediency for the White House.

"I don't think that this is primarily about political cover, but I think this is about affirming that the faith community's got something to offer," she said. "The nonprofit community is a huge and important sector in building the common good."

Asked if they saw any potential common ground being reached on abortion, both Page and Chemberlin expressed hopes that the White House might succeed in its work to reduce the need for abortion.

"That's probably the only common ground that I can see coming forth on that issue," Page said.

BR managing editor **Steve DeVane resigns**

BR Staff

Steve DeVane, managing editor of the Biblical Recorder since January 1997, has resigned to pursue other interests.

DeVane, who collaborated with Eddie Hammett and Randy Pierce on the book *Making* Shifts without Making Waves to be released in October, is a journalist of long standing, certified personal coach and active churchman. He is a graduate of Campbell University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Steve's experience, wit, diligence and insight have been an asset to the *Recorder* and for North Carolina Baptists for almost 13 years," said Norman Jameson, Biblical Recorder editor. "Steve served faithfully, speaking his mind in private and presenting the facts for the public."

DeVane, hired at the *Recorder* by editor Gene Puckett, served also with Puckett's successor Tony Cartledge before Cartledge retired to teach at Campbell University.

DeVane reported for several eastern North Carolina newspapers before joining the *Recorder*, most recently for the Fayetteville Observer. He started his Baptist reporting career during an era of

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denominational turmoil.

"When I came to the Biblical Recorder I had been covering the military for the Fayetteville Observer," DeVane said. "Some of my colleagues jokingly told me then that it wouldn't be much

> different since Baptists were always fighting. While there have been plenty of controversies, there have also been many joyful events and I did my best to help the *Recorder* report on both with integrity and insight.

> "I am blessed and honored to have had the opportunity to be the Recorder's managing editor. During my tenure I always sought to live up to the Baptist journalist's adage to 'tell the

truth and trust the people."

DeVane, who kept living in the Dunn area throughout his time at the Re*corder*, had nearly a one-hour commute each way. He figures he spent more than seven months behind the wheel, driving to and from work. While he didn't always enjoy the drive, he said, "I almost always enjoyed the work."

"I continue to hold the *Recorder* staff in high regard and pray that God will continue to bless them and their ministry," DeVane said.

"I pray the *Recorder* will continue to uphold the high ideals of a free press for Baptists in North Carolina and around the world."

In addition to helping promote the new book Making Shifts Without Making Waves, DeVane will concentrate on his coaching practice, a nutrition and wellness business and other writing interests.

"Steve will be an asset wherever he applies himself in the future," said



DeVane



Training events this fall Statewide missions blitz expected to break record

By Steve DeVane BR Managing Editor

In April 2008, more than 1,000 churches participated in what was called the largest one-day missions mobilization in N.C. Baptist history. Next year, organizers hope to top it.

"We're looking for something even bigger," said David Crocker, who created and leads the national Operation Inasmuch organization.

Operation Inasmuch is a one-day mission action blitz during which churches minister through hands-on, practical efforts in their community. Efforts usually include things like construction projects, block parties, landscaping, painting, car washes, etc.

Crocker's organization is again partnering with N.C. Baptist Men for next year's statewide effort, which is being expanded to two days — April 24 and May 1. He said about 40,000 people from 1,031 churches served about 300,000 people in 2008.

To help churches be ready for the blitz next year, a training event will be held in each of North Carolina's ten geographic regions. Training is free



but organizers need to know how many people will attend.

Register at www.ncbaptist.org/ministries/cpmd/ncbm/oiam/.

Dates and locations

- Sept. 26 at Corinth Baptist Church in Elizabeth City and Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston Salem.
- Oct. 3 at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville; Elizabeth Baptist Church in Gastonia; and Holly Springs Baptist Church in Franklin.
- Oct. 10 at Oakmont Baptist Church in Greenville and Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Asheville.
- Oct. 17 at Aversboro Baptist Church in Raleigh and Wilkesboro Baptist Church in Wilkesboro.
- Oct. 24 at First Baptist Church in Wadesboro.

For more information, call Mary Mountz at (919) 459-5606.

Clarkton stretches to start new class

When First Baptist Church Clarkton decided to offer something to members who were not attending Sunday School, the church did not just say, "You ought

They designed a class that looked different from the classes those members already had decided not to attend.

They named the class "Follow Me" from John 10:27 where Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me.'

Each member receives a bracelet that has this scripture and the footprints of

"These bracelets are a great conver-

sation starter," said pastor Larry Pitt-

Each class begins with a continental breakfast and includes praise and worship time with contemporary Christian music videos. Video teaching from persons like Andy Stanley, Ken Hemphill and Henry Blackaby is followed by

The class is co-ed and intergenerational. It started with three people and averages 15 nine months later.

"We have fellowship times outside of class and recently began to do local missions in our community," Pittman



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Obituary

JULIA MAY WAUGH, 95, died Aug. 27 in Dunn.

Waugh and her late husband Julius "Jay" H. Waugh Jr. worked with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina special ministries department. They had served in special ministries through the Home Mission Board as well. They worked with The Baptist Chapel in Montpelier, Vt., a mission church affiliated

with the Southern Baptist Convention.

She is survived by four children, David Waugh, Jesse Waugh, Phil Waugh and Anitabeth Jaite; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Donations to: Special Ministries Department, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107; Hospice of Harnett County, Inc., 111-A North Ellis Ave., Dunn, NC 28344; or a church mission project of your choice.



Staff changes

RICHARD CHILDRESS has been called as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Raleigh. Childress was second vice president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and pastor of Franklin Baptist Church, Franklin, Va.

Bear Creek Baptist Church, Hubert, has called JIMMY DALE as pastor. He was pastor at Zion's Tabernacle Baptist Church, Lumberton.

MARK REECE JR. has been called as pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church, Mount Airy.

Second Baptist Church, Fayetteville, has called SHERRILL BOYKIN as pastor. He had served as interim pastor at Second and Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

JASON PARIS has been called as minister to youth and students at Anderson Grove Baptist Church, Albemarle. He was student pastor at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church, Lincolnton.

New Hope Baptist Church, Whiteville, has called JOHN KENNY BIRD as pastor.

TIM SWARINGEN has been called as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Richfield. He was pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church, Fair Bluff.

First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, has called KYLE FISHBAUGH as youth pastor. He is a Campbell Divinity School student and member of Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

ARTIE HUBBARD has been called as youth and children minister at Crestview Baptist Church, Shelby. He has worked with the YMCA in Shelby and Raleigh for 13 years.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Kings Mountain has called STEVE TAYLOR as pastor. He had been interim pastor.

BILL FRYAR has been called as pastor of Double Springs Baptist Church, Shelby. He was pastor at Southport Baptist Church, Southport.

West Point Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, has called LANCE SCAR-**LETT** as pastor.

SCOTT HARDIN has been called as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Grover.

Westview Baptist Church, Shelby, has called **RICK BOWLING** as pas-

tor. He was pastoral counseling pastor at Christ Covenant Church, Shelby.

RICH PEO-Around the state PLES recently started Grace

Community Church, Sylva. He was pastor at Scott's Creek Baptist Church, Sylva.

West Edgecombe Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, has called **TERRY BROOKS** as pastor. He was leading Green Hill Baptist Church, Rutherford-

TIM ELMORE has been called as minister of children and youth at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Forest City.

Sandy Plains Baptist Church, Shelby, has called **GARIN HILL** as pastor. He was associate pastor of education and youth at First Baptist Church, Burling-

GREG HUNTLEY has been called as pastor of Rock Springs Baptist Church, Rutherfordton.



Retirement

JIM McGRAW has retired from Bethany Baptist Church, Richlands. Call (910) 347-2049.

SANDY BAIN has retired as director of missions for New River Baptist Association. He plans to do supply work as well as be available for nursing home ministry and interim pastor work. Call (910) 389-9154.



Anniversaries

STONY POINT BAPTIST **CHURCH**, Stony Point, celebrates 100

years Oct. 3-4. A reception is planned Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. in Lindsey Hall; Oct. 4 includes worship at 10:30 a.m. followed by covered dish meal. Contact (704) 585-6521.

WRIGHTSBORO BAPTIST

CHURCH, Wilmington, continued its 100th anniversary celebration Sept. 26 with a homecoming sing and Sept. 27 with special guest Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, followed by a catered dinner.



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WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH BAP-TIST CHURCH, Wrightsville Beach, just started a new Biblical Recorder readership club with five initial subscribers.

They receive a special logo item and a discounted club plan rate. To find out how you can start a BR Club at your church or among your friends, call Amie at (919) 847-2127 or write her at amie@biblicalrecorder.org.





➤ First Baptist Church, Kernersville, celebrated Founder's Day Sept. 20, 125 years after it started on the heels of a revival preached by E.F. Baldwin. Above, Anna Ruppert looks at aged drawings of the first two buildings. The 10 founding members persevered even after a tornado destroyed their first building in 1893. The church currently has about 700 members. The church has helped start Union Grove Baptist in 1911; Colfax Baptist in 1955-56; and The Summit Community Church in 1999. Stephen Martin is pastor.



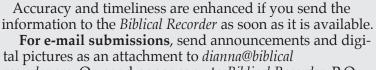
➤ Morningside Baptist Church, Asheville, honored retiring organist Hilda D. Gasperson on Sept. 13. She had served more than 50 years as church organist, the only person to serve in that place in the church's history. She has also been a Sunday School teacher, WMU leader, and Keenagers Senior Adult Ministry leader and was on many committees and is a trustee. She was presented with a rose corsage and a basket of cards and letters expressing gratitude for her ministry as well as a keepsake book to store them.



➤ Debbie Coulter, left, takes a stab at Pastor Steve LeaShomb of Midway Baptist Church, West Jefferson, during At Home in Rome Vacation Bible School in July. The two were portraying characters for daily skits about Paul and the underground church. Children visited Paul in prison as well as the marketplace. The daily average was 107 people.

Send news about your church

The Biblical Recorder is pleased to print significant news from the churches.



tal pictures as an attachment to dianna@biblical recorder.org. Or, send paper copy to Biblical Recorder, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Eckman

Statesville retiree helps others plan for 'Life After Work'

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

o one is ever fully ready to retire.
"I was thinking that after I retired things would be a piece of cake," said John Eckman, a member of Fairview Baptist Church in Statesville.

Eckman, originally from Detroit, Mich., was a community relations officer and police officer for the Statesville Police Department for 30 years before he retired 13 years ago.

"Before I retired I was a little naïve," he said. "If you want it to be a piece of cake you have to make the cake. In other words you have to prepare."

Many companies have retirement seminars for their employees, but Eckman said those mostly prepare you financially.

He is not discounting financial preparation because he knows how important it is. He took part-time jobs after retirement because he didn't think of the financial hit his family would take.

Another aspect he didn't think about was boredom.

"I just assumed living day to day was going to take care of itself," Eckman said. "Career becomes a big part of their life."

Filling that time and finding fulfillment with his time proved to be a challenge. Eckman prefers to call retirement "entering your new life."

Three years ago, Eckman's wife, Jane, retired. Her company held a seminar for employees who were about to retire and their spouses. While he thought the company did a great job of talking about the financial issues, he was most impressed with a video they showed about what retirees did after they left their job.

But Eckman said they still didn't go far enough with dealing with the emotions that come when you no longer have something to fill your days. After all, many people could have 20 or 30 more years yet to live, Eckman said.

Creates own workshop

So Eckman created and leads workshops called Life After Work where he encourages people to plan better. He encourages people to examine the aspects of the job they like and look for ways to use those strengths to help others.

"A person has to look at what was important to them," Eckman said. "Volunteer work is ideal for that."

He said energetic people who worked to advance within their company can transfer that ambition to a civic organizations or other nonprofit or even start another career. Some go back to school. Retirees can take on projects and develop friendships to fill their newfound time, or tutor or mentor others.

"There are just a lot of things that people don't think about," he said.

Contact Eckman at newlife.course@yahoo.

Some opportunities to consider:

 Your local church — Most churches have ongoing projects to help maintain the

building, build up leaders within the church or to reach out to those less fortunate. A need always exists for teachers, office volunteers and nursery workers.

- Your local association Throughout North Carolina, 80 Baptist associations minister with local churches in the community at large. Some operate clothing ministries or do big projects like state fair ministry or Christmas toy collections to help families.
- Baptist State Convention "Our job is to help them plug in through their local church," said Eddie Thompson, senior consultant with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). The BSC helps churches reach this demographic with retreats and discipleship events.

The Fall Senior Adult Conferences Oct. 19-21 and Oct. 26-28 are based on the book of Daniel to encour-

age faithful living in tough times. Call Patti Cardwell at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5635.

- N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry NCBAM provides resources to seniors and their families to help with practical needs. It offers churches resources to meet senior adults' needs and challenge them to serve. Visit www.ncbam.org.
- North Carolina Baptist Men N.C. Baptist Men offer volunteer projects in N.C., in the U.S. and around the world with partnership opportunities as well as one-time mission trips. Volunteers can be trained in disaster relief or plan a sports camp in your local park. Visit www.ncmissions.org.
- Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina WMU-NC is all about missions. There are many opportunities at local churches, associations and at the state level to serve your community and all around the world. Visit www.wmunc.org.
- North American Mission Board The Bridge is a site that connects volunteers with missions projects. Visit www.thebridge.namb.net. There are self-funded Mission Service Corps (MSC) opportunities for four months or more for those who want to volunteer. Visit www.namb.net for more information.
- International Mission Board The Masters Program is designed for those 50 or older who are available to make a two or three-year commitment to serve overseas utilizing the maturity, skills, and experience they have gained over their lifetime. Visit www.imb.org.

BSC resolutions due Sept. 30

Scott Setzer, chair of the Resolutions Committee, has requested that all resolutions for consideration during the North Carolina Baptist Annual Session in Greensboro, Nov. 9-11, be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by Sept. 30, if possible. No resolutions will be accepted after Oct. 10. Send resolutions to: Resolutions Committee, Attention: Betsy Roland, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107; fax: (919) 319-7205; or e-mail broland@ncbaptist.org.



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Opportunity Corner

Church Youth Day at Mars Hill College

Church Youth Day at Mars Hill College Oct. 3 will feature Nick Hall, founder of Pulse Ministries in Fargo, N.D. After a morning service, participants will enjoy lunch and a home conference football game between the Lions of Mars Hill College and the Eagles of Carson-Newman University.

Tickets are \$12 per person, which includes meal and game ticket, if registered by Sept. 25; afterwards the price is \$15.

To register online go to www.mhc.edu and click on the Church/Youth Day link, or you may contact Gordon N. Benton at gbenton@mhc.edu.

Literacy conference scheduled

LITERACY MISSIONS

To God Be the Glory!

"Years

To God Be The Glory! Literacy Missions Conference is set Oct. 9-11 at Cara-

way Conference Center. It is the 50th anniversary of literacy missions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Speakers include: George Braswell, professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Campbell University; Kendale Moore; Gayle Leininger; Glenda Reece; Ann Knowles;

Ivanna Thrower; and Preston Reece.

Register by Oct. 1. Make checks payable to the Baptist State Convention, c/o Donnie

Wiltshire, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107. For a double room for two nights and

six meals, include \$135.

For one night and three meals include \$80. If taking a 16-hour workshop track, include \$20 for basic workshop.

Contact Donnie Wiltshire at (800) 395-5102, ext 5630, or (919) 459-5630 or e-mail dwiltshire@ncbaptist.org; or Maria Luoni at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5629, or

(919) 459-5629 or e-mail mluoni@ncbaptist.org.

Pastors expect Surge for conference

The annual Pastors' Conference 2009 is set for Nov. 8-9 before the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual session

Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro is hosting again this year.

This event is free & registration is not required. The event starts Sunday night and concludes Monday afternoon.

Guest speakers include: Alistair Begg,

Jonathan Falwell, Stephen Newby, Bryan Loritts, Ed Litton, Alex McFarland, Phil Ortego, pastor, Scotts Hill Baptist Church, Wilmington; Mark Walker & The Lawndale Praise Band. Contact Fairview Baptist Church at (919) 779-1791.

Donations to: Dale Robertson, Treasurer of NC Baptist Pastor's Conference, North Main Baptist Church, 1501 North Main St., Salisbury, NC 28144-2925.

Rick Hughes works to help people be more missional

Articles and photographs by Norman Jameson \square *BR Editor*

ick Hughes brings extensive experience from several arenas into his work for the Baptist State Convention trying to nurture a discipleship culture in North Carolina Baptist churches. Before being recognized as small church

pastor of the year in 1994 by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board), Hughes worked four years as a paramedic and eight as a police officer. He then went into business with an entrepreneurial friend before heeding God's call to vocational ministry.

"I saw a lot of brokenness in law enforcement," said Hughes, 54. Dealing daily with domestic violence, drugs and alcohol abuse showed him "what sin does."

"Being a paramedic God taught me compassion for hurting people," said the burley Hughes, who often shaves his head, then hides it beneath a cowboy hat. "In law enforcement God taught me there were times you could not compromise, when you had to speak the truth with compassion."

He also saw that appropriate reaction to a crisis often provides a fix, but seldom a solution. When he realized that, he was open to the solutions he could offer through ministry.

Hughes performs not on stages before thousands, but steadily and constantly through a humming cell phone, personal visits and social networking tools like Twitter and Face Book to connect with individuals and create networks in which they can learn from each other.

Hughes never claims to be the hub of any network wheel. Indi-

viduals learn best from peers, he says. He connects and organizes one person at a time, kind of like the discipleship model of Jesus. And under the command of Matt. 28:19, to "make disciples of all nations."

"We're working hard right now on the heart of the leader to help him understand the process of discipleship," said Hughes, following a meeting of the Triad Leadership Network that met quietly in a basement classroom at Wake Forest University to learn about coaching from Bill Copper, director of Hollifield Learning Center and the author of Faith Coaching.

"We're building a capacity to help people love God and others," he said. "We're also very intentional about helping people become missional – connecting people to unchurched people."

He wants to help church leaders move small groups beyond

simply meeting to becoming missional by intentionally seeking connections to unchurched others. As with good coaching style, such teaching often takes the form of appropriate questions: Are you a disciple? Who are you being discipled by? How are you discipling your family, your friends and your church?

1 Cor. 12:12

Individually and in small groups and with tele-classes and webinars, Hughes nurtures a discipleship culture.

Time with convention

Hughes' honor as small church pastor of the year in 1994 came while he led Cartledge Baptist Church and led to several assignments with the Baptist State Convention, including mentoring church planters for the evangelism department, directed then by current executive director-treasurer Milton Hollifield, and helping in Sunday

Stewart. He is a practitioner, not just a theorist, keeping his hand in pastoral ministry as the unpaid pastor of King Cowboy Church. He attended Wingate College (now Wingate University) and is just a class away from a master's degree from Gordon-

He has been married to Kathy for 35 years and they have two children: Andy, a church planter in Boone; and Stacey, a nurse in Winston-Salem, the area where Hughes grew up.

Conwell Theological Seminary.

Hughes makes connections with people in everyday life. He neither looks nor acts like a preacher, rather like a man who simply is interested in people.

"We must become more gospel centered," in our daily witness, Hughes said. "We are not offering fire insurance. I want to help people understand how the whole gospel is relevant to their lives today."

He has an answer for those who question his lunches or Starbucks meetings with unsaved people: "If sinners offend you, you're in the wrong place in your life," he says. "If sin does not offend you, you're in the wrong place in your life."

His goal is to "lead people to become self-feeders," to own

Makinc disciple TEACHING — Rick Hughes uses life experience and the word of God to help church leaders live out Matthew 28:19 to "make disciples of all nations." School for now retired Robert

First century meets 21st in 1.21 church

ick Hughes knows that if you train, equip and help a church planter, with God's grace the man will produce a healthy church. Stephen Wagoner is a young beneficiary of

Hughes' direct investment.

"Single handedly God has used Rick to make Stephen Wagoner a more sanctified version of Stephen Wagoner," says the 25-year-old pastor of a church named 1.21. "He's loving and caring so much that when he recognizes where we need help he lovingly steps in as a father

figure and says 'I want to help you." 1.21 is a church plant that meets in downtown Winston-Salem after an earlier start in the suburbs. Wagoner is one of three pastor/elders. Two members are going through "eldership" training.

The name 1.21 means "first century truth in a 21st century culture," according to Wagoner, who wants to bring "orthodox Christianity and unfiltered Bible truth" into the 21st century, using 21st century methods.

He says 1.21 exists "to spread the gospel so that lives can be changed by that gospel."

The church has outgrown its current meeting space in the Foothills Brewing Company and is renovating a showroom and warehouse on Cherry Street formerly occupied by a lawnmower company.

1.21 has church planting at its heart and Wagoner intends the church to continue to call out elders and

"Pastors can't change individuals. Encouraging people to do better and try harder doesn't work. But the gospel is different. It is news showing people that this has already happened and you get to live like it happened." - Stephen Wagoner

train them for pastoral ministry and to plant churches, "eventually working our way through the Triad, trying to saturate the whole Triad with the gospel," he said.

The church launched in January of this year with a "missional, incarnational approach to evangelism and social justice," Wagoner said.

"If we really believe that Jesus has done this, then that pushes us out to a grass roots kind of evangelism to where we love and serve everyone like Christ has loved and served us.," he says. "Pastors can't change individuals. Encouraging people to do better and try harder doesn't work. But the gospel is different. It is news showing people that this has already happened and you get to live like it happened."

He admits 1.21 is "not very attractional." People don't flock to the church to see a show. Worship is very intentional, communion is celebrated weekly and sermons are long.

"We put high priority on expounding the scripture and we send them out every week to be on mission with the gospel," Wagoner said.

The new facility which they hope to be in by Christmas, will be a place from which to "bless the city" as a neighborhood resource.

1.21 will host art shows, local bands, a soup kitchen, food pantry and clothes closet.

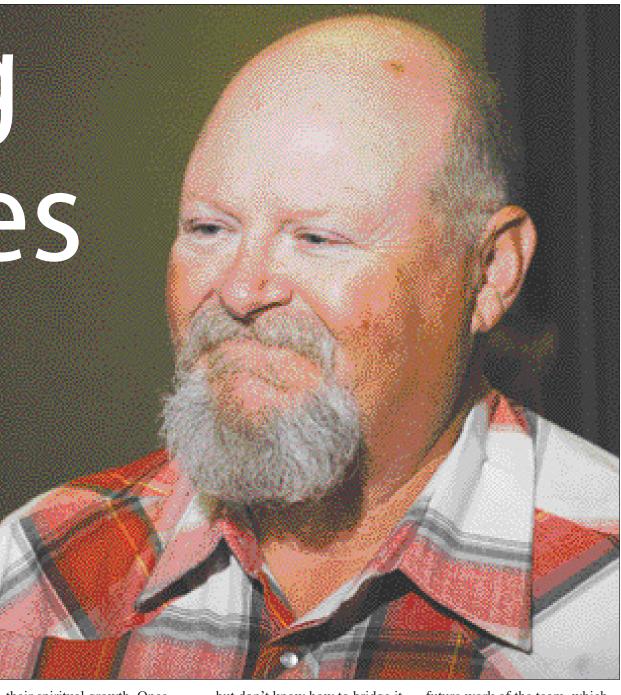
"It is working by God's grace," said Wagoner, son of a church planter in Dunn. His father is pastor of Central Baptist in Dunn, which he started when Wagoner was just nine months old. Today Wagner has four children of

Wagoner appreciates Hughes, who is working to nurture a discipleship culture in North Carolina Baptist churches, like a father.

"He coaches me with his life," Wagoner said. "The way he displays the gospel in his life helps me in my

"He is a good example for what I want to be when I'm a grown man. When I'm a little more seasoned I wouldn't mind having the demeanor and the character

Find out more about 1.21 online at www.121church. org.



their spiritual growth. Once people love God with all their heart, soul and mind, he said, "they can love people" and can do missional things that will "connect them to unchurched people."

Churches that embrace the discipleship making process of learning, loving God and being missional "are going someplace" Hughes said. They make measurable progress such as members who take the next step, discernible signs of transformation or seeing a discipleship culture rise.

Many pastors realize the gap between awareness and change, but don't know how to bridge it.

"You have to start with the people who really have a hunger for spiritual growth," Hughes said. "Who has the passion? Every pastor knows who those people are in the church. Be very intentional in discipling them.

"You start with leaders who get it."

Great evangelism

Hughes' work is a part of the church health team in Congregational Services at the BSC, led by team leader Neal Eller and executive group leader Lynn Sasser. Hughes said he is excited about the current and

future work of the team, which is coming out soon "with things relating to the health of the pastor and health of the church."

To connect with the team and receive its e-zines and correspondence, write Sheryl Shankles at *sshankles@ncbaptist.org*.

While church planting and evangelism garners the bulk of attention and verbiage in national and state Baptist life, Hughes said the "greatest evangelization strategy a church could ever have is to make real disciples, because real disciples engage unchurched people in their lives with the gospel of Jesus Christ."



Did you know you have a large church staff? Your



1 Cor 12:12

gifts through the Cooperative Program support a staff resource at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that exists to serve your church.

With this issue, the *Biblical Recorder* continues a series — Body Parts — featuring one of your Convention staff members, and churches which have grown through that staff member's ministry. Body Parts is inspired by 1 Cor. 12:12. The parts of the Baptist State Convention exist to serve you.

Visit www.biblicalrecorder.org/ resources/bodyparts.aspx for more stories.

Next up: Bob and Phyllis Foy



LEARNING — Quaker Gap Baptist Church is in the Sauratown Mountain Range in central Stokes County. Pastor Jack Darida thanks Rick Hughes, a Baptist State Convention of North Carolina senior consultant, for helping him grow a discipleship culture.

Pastor moves away from programs to process of growth

ack Darida was a stranger in a strange land when he moved to North Carolina four years ago as pastor of Quaker Gap Baptist Church.

He grew up in New Jersey and was a pastor there for eight years, but North Carolina beckoned, since his wife's parents live in Hendersonville, 200 miles west of Quaker Gap where he has been pastor four years.

Rick Hughes found Darida and brought him under wing. Hughes is working to nurture a discipleship culture in North Carolina Baptist churches.

"Rick has put an exclamation point on discipleship for me as a pastor," Darida said after a Triangle Leadership Network meeting held in a classroom building at Wake Forest University.

"I've been challenged to think more deeply about it and that has come out in the way I've pastored this church and in some of the things we're about.

"I've definitely tried to move away from programs and more into

a process. Our purpose is to glorify God by growing Christlike people. We've tried across the board to question everything we do as a church to ask how it is helping us to grow Christ-like people.

"Much of what we're doing has come from my exposure to Rick and making discipleship the heart of ministry."

It was easy for Hughes to persuade Darida to become

involved with the Triangle area pastors network he is building. "It's just Rick's personality," said Darida, who is on the vision

"It's just Rick's personality," said Darida, who is on the vision team for Pilot Mountain Baptist Association.

"He's just such a joyful guy, such a caring, genuine individual that I felt whatever he's involved in and is promoting is something I should check out."

Darida's growth in discipleship prompts Hughes to invite him to share in various forums. Hughes is Darida's field mentor for his doctor of ministries program through Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Darida is in what Golden Gate calls the first doctor of ministry class in "ministry coaching" in the country.

"Some of the approaches we've used in discipleship have become antiquated because of cultural changes," Darida said. "Coaching seems to connect a little better with our current culture. Coaching is non-threatening to people and it helps them to learn at their pace. It doesn't force them to learn at your pace. I see a lot of good in using

coaching for discipleship."

"Our purpose is to glorify

God by growing Christ-like

people. We've tried across

the board to question ev-

erything we do as a church

to ask how it is helping us

to grow Christ-like people."

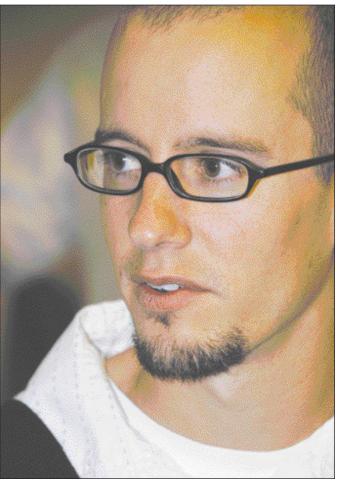
— Jack Darida

Darida was introduced to coaching through a Pursuing Vital Ministry seminar, a former offering of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

"The thing about Rick is him as a person," Darida said. "He's a growing disciple and is dead honest about where he is with his walk with the Lord. That's refreshing. He doesn't come on as a super pastor; he comes alongside you as a friend."

Visit church's web site at www.quakergap.info/QGBC/home.HTML.

LEADING — Jack Darida pastors-Quaker Gap Baptist Church in King.



Stephen Wagoner

Grateful for Children's Homes

I was saddened and disturbed by information in the Aug. 15 issue regarding the low number of children being placed in our Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) by the Department of Social Services. They must not have visited our BCH facilities to observe and learn what this wonderful, faith based ministry offers to children in crisis.

BCH provides the highest quality care, not only to children, but to their families. Children live in family style cottages and are led by well trained, loving and caring Christian staff who provide every opportunity for them.

Something has to be terribly wrong in a system that places children in Baptist Children's Homes as a "last resort" when it should be the top priority!

I am an advocate for BCH and I visit the campuses and understand what this ministry provides. Many volunteers in our county do work projects on campus, but, we also visit the children and staff. We witness the progress children are making and see the smiles return to their faces as they begin to adjust and reach their goals. We appreciate the qualified, loving and caring staff who work under the leadership of President Michael Blackwell, and our board of trustees, N.C. Baptists and others who believe in and support this fantastic ministry.

We, as N.C. Baptists, can be proud that BCH has produced doctors and others in the medical field, a college president and professors, school principals, teachers, members of our military, executives of Ford Motor Co., owners of private businesses and many others in successful careers for 124 years.

I am a retired, happy mother and Nana and I believe I speak for hundreds (perhaps even thousands) of other alumni in sharing that we have absolutely no "stigma" about having lived in one of our Baptist Children's Homes!

Carolyn Tharrington BCH Class of 1956 Smithfield

J.D. Greear on track defining parachurch ministries

I applaud J.D. Greear's statement (Aug. 29) that good parachurch ministries facilitate the church's ministry while bad parachurch organizations take ministry from the church.

This is vital to understanding why the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force has such an important mandate

The difference between "good" and "bad" ministries can be difficult to discern, because organizations, by their very nature, accumulate their own baggage. They perpetuate what worked in the past. The need to fund these traditions eventually consumes the ministry and worse, such ministry "organizations" can lose their focus as a facilitator of the church's mission.

The result is that some ministries (unintentionally) can actually foster a sense that if the church will only give them money, they'll do the work. People in our pews come to believe the best way to minister is to send money to the "professionals" who know what they are doing.

Younger pastors are not going to be satisfied with this ministry model.

Greear is right that they will not support an organization (or denomination) that does not empower them to minister more effectively.

College ministry could be an example of how this

Church People by Franko WORLDVIEW HISPANIC MINISTRY **Now Serving** Hola, Gauchol English As The Got Jesus? First and Only Get Legal! Language No Passport .. Win A Free Trip No Paycheck! HOME! . But We Love You BORDER Made in PATROL USA

Maybe the message is off a little ...

works. Praise the Lord for groups like our own Baptist Campus Ministries and InterVarsity and Campus Crusade. My question is: Where is the church on these campuses?

North Carolina Baptists ought to know that Jonathan Yarborough, with the Baptist Campus Ministry at Appalachian State University, has developed a ministry model that emphasizes the church's role in connecting with students. That is a great way our Cooperative Program funds are at work!

We should pray for the members of the Great Commission Task Force. Their work will ultimately help Southern Baptists regain ministry focus and empower the church (and church members) to reclaim the initiative in ministry.

George Wright Banner Elk

Thanks for Nehemiah teams

Thank you North Carolina Baptists for sending students to be involved this summer through Nehemiah Teams. God used them to do some amazing things!! More than 120 students from 21 states worked among the unreached and hard to reach of eight countries. Students representing North Carolina were: Alex Lippold, Courtney Bell, Tina Register and Rachel Chiasson.

The gospel was shared face-to-face with thousands of people. Teams were involved in a variety of ministries including agriculture and construction, orphanages, media-related and direct evangelism.

On our blog, www.nehemiahteams.blogspot.com, you can read stories and see pictures of the ministries of the various teams. You can access more information about the goals of Nehemiah Teams and see requests for summer 2010 teams on our site, www.nehemiahteams.com.

We are not just interested in students having an experience for the summer and then going on with his or her life. We feel called to lead this generation to help finish the Great Commission in this generation. For eight weeks, through Nehemiah Teams, students can be strategically involved in church planting. While on the field, they are involved in discipleship materials which confront the student with God's will for the nations.

Jess and Wendy Jennings www.nehemiahteams.com

(EDITOR'S NOTE — A story about N.C. participants is on page 12.)

Halting haters

Thanks for the powerfully on target editorial on respecting the presidency. (Spoke'n in this issue, published earlier online). Far too many people feel compelled to vilify President Obama any time he says or does anything.

These "haters" cannot bring themselves to check facts, or in the case you mention, read or hear the facts before raining condemnation on President Obama. There were those who had the same attitude toward President George W. Bush.

Terrorists who would assassinate any president of the United States do not have to plan to carry out their desires; those of our own people bent on destroying the leadership of our president, regardless of who he is, will do the job for them without firing a shot.

While declaring their motives to be "righteous," these destroyers neglect the clear command of God's word to pray for our leaders, not destroy them.

Thanks for your courage in saying what desperately needed to be said by many, but who have not have the courage.

Lynn Clayton Alexandria, La.



REACT: Tar Heel Voices is your forum

- Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for style, length and clarity; Name may be withheld only for sufficient reason; Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number; Only one letter from a writer will be published in a 90-day period.
- **E-mail to** *editor@biblicalrecorder.org*, or **mail to:** Editor, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Love Your Neighbor

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

ave you ever noticed how Jesus always cut to the heart of a matter?

Whether saying to Nicodemus, "You must be born again" or to Simon Peter, "Who do men say that I am?" Jesus always cut straight to the heart of the issue. So it was when He responded to the question, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus replied, "Thou



September 26, 2009

shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself'" (Matt. 22:37-39).

North Carolina Baptists know what it means to love God with all we have. The question we struggle with is, "What does it mean to love our neighbor?" With an 11 percent unemployment rate in North Carolina, the highest rate ever recorded, and a staggering foreclosure rate resulting in thousands of North Carolinians losing their homes, we must ask, what does it mean to love your neighbor?"

Here's an answer to that question. Even during these tough economic times North Carolina Baptists can sacrificially support the 2009 North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO). It is through this offering that we fund ministries directly addressing the economic suffering of our neighbors. N.C. Baptist Men depend on the income from this state missions offering to fund our medical/ dental buses providing health care across the state. This offering will help fund our disaster relief ministries that respond nationwide to victims of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other natural disasters. The NCMO also funds N.C. Baptist Men's new Missions Camp at Red Springs in Robeson County where North Carolina Baptists are providing safe living environments for families. As we give to this missions offering we will, with our actions, obey the command of Jesus to "love your neighbor."

When so many of our neighbors are plagued with hopelessness we must boldly share the hope found only in Jesus Christ. In North Carolina 180 different languages are spoken and more than 4.5 million residents of our state are lost without Christ. Monies from this offering are used to plant intentional churches in order that many of these lost people will be able to hear the gospel in their own language. Whether we are planting a Hispanic church in Greensboro, an Asian church in Winston-Salem or an African-American church in Charlotte, each church plant is funded through your gifts to the North Carolina Missions Offering. Each new language church plant is a visible expression of hope and love — hope found only in Jesus and the love of North Carolina Baptists for their neighbors.

Jesus gave His orders. Our course has been set: North Carolina Baptists must love their neighbor. Be obedient to Jesus! Love more of your North Carolina neighbors by sacrificially giving to the 2009 North Carolina Missions Offering.

(Adapted from the NCMO theme interpretation found in the NCMO Coordinators Guide. To download the coordinators guide, or for more information about the offering visit www.ncmissionsoffering.org. Find more stories online at www.biblicalrecorder.org; search "NCMO.")

Spoke n

Respecting the presidency

hen I was young parents and teachers encouraged us to dream big by saying that with enough work and focus, "You could grow up

To be president was the highest possible office for which to aim. Its occupant was accorded instant and universal respect. We students knew that from our ranks would one day rise the person to take his place.

Each of us was encouraged to believe, "It could be me." I don't normally address secular politics in this space for several reasons, including the conviction that they simply are not as important as the everyday labors of Christians who are loving their

neighbors toward faith in Christ.

But I've been so discouraged at the awful, divisive, hateful rhetoric in the public forum that I cannot in good conscience ignore it: because

much of the vilification

comes from those who justify their mean rhetoric from a "Christian" platform.

Even Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said in response to the furor prior to President Obama's speech to students, "Conservatives must avoid jumping on every conspiracy theory and labeling every action by the Obama administration as sinister or

The president encouraged students to stay in school, set personal goals and make a difference in society. Conspiracy theorists took the simple — and not unique — fact that the president was going to speak directly to students to incite fears of something sinister.

There is nothing sinister about helping the president reach the goals he outlined in his address, because his goal was that students work hard to achieve success in their lives. A student helping the president reach his goal is helping himself.

I've never seen such an anxious, uneasy populace during my lifetime. And it seems those most frightened are those who claim the name that "casts out all fear."

There is a sect that believes Christians must use whatever means necessary to gain control of the "seven mountains" that control any culture. Some claim the president is the antichrist. A recent book purports to give details of a "family" of behind the scenes influencers in Washington that manipulates the money, the agenda and yes, your opinion, believing that any means justifies the end of a "Christian society."

Whose name do we bear? What does Christ ask of us? The culture into which Jesus was born was diametrically opposed to what He taught His followers. Yet he emphasized how their spirit and love would change people, not how they were to focus on changing the culture through political efforts.

I'm reminded of the wizard in the Land of Oz when Dorothy and her traveling companions finally pushed their way into the chamber from which the balloon-headed Oz ruled Emerald City with much bluster, hissing air and smoke. They discovered that image was a caricature manipulated by a frustrated old man in a closet, pulling levers and making big noises through a microphone. When that man saw his charade was exposed, he said into the microphone, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain."

If we as Christians operate in the public forum with the bluster of Oz on one hand masking his weak, fearful frustration on the other, those in the life arena where we seek eternal influence will have every right to say about us, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain." - NWJ

A child dies while you read the headline for this editorial

EDITORIAL

t will move you little, if at all, to tell you six million people will die this year from hunger. Who can comprehend six million?

And besides, few people die in this country from hunger ... do

I could break it down further to say almost 16,000 children will die today from hunger. That's a number equal to the population of any of the towns of Roanoke Rapids, Clayton, Laurinburg, Albemarle or Henderson. Every day.

More than 650 die every hour. That's 11 a minute or a child every five seconds ... about what it took you to read the headline above.

I'm just trying to help you grasp the scope of the problem. You don't need to feel guilty about it. Cleaning

your plate really doesn't help the hungry children in China.

Many Christians, however, consider the problems of the world and of the family next door as partly their own. We don't feel guilty that there are problems, but we feel compelled to address the problems of human suffering because we love Jesus and He loves those who suffer.

Jesus demonstrates throughout the Bible that those who suffer, who make their way to Him to tug at His cloak, to lower a friend through the roof, to travel for days just for a word, to beseech His mercy on their leprosy or blindness or madness elicit a loving response from Him.

But if you need a proof text, you can go with Matthew 25 where Jesus says that in the future the King will gather the nations, separating them on His right hand and His left, as a shepherd divides sheep from goats. He will call those on His right hand "blessed" because when He was hungry and thirsty, they gave Him meat and drink. When He was a stranger, they took Him in and gave Him clothes when He was naked.

Of course the righteous ask when they ever saw the King in such a circumstance.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it

unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40)

October is typically the month in which Baptists receive a special offering used to alleviate hunger. Receipts from North Carolina Baptist churches are divided 60 percent to the International Mission Board; 15 percent to the North American Mission Board; 20 percent to the North Carolina Hunger Fund and five percent to the disaster/food fund.

Just this year money from the disaster/food fund, which is a partnership with N.C. Baptist Men, has helped buy a well drilling rig for Transformation India Movement and food for distribution among poor gypsies in the Ukraine.

No matter the breakdown of funds distribution, 100 percent is utilized directly for hunger projects because gifts through the Cooperative Program

already support the infrastructure necessary to get the funds to work directly with the people they are meant to serve.

Some of the money buys food and puts it into the hands of the hungry. Some money establishes agricultural and fishing demonstration farms to teach methods the hungry can use to feed themselves into the future. Some is used to teach trade skills so men and women will have a job through which they can buy their own food.

In 2009 about \$150,000 that North Carolina Baptists give through the World Hunger Fund will be distrib-

uted within this state, to help churches stock food pantries and to feed hungry people in other ways. North Carolina Baptists gave almost \$600,000 toward the hunger fund in 2008. That's a lot of money, but it averages just under \$170 per church, less than a dollar a member.

What do people and churches do with the money? A great example is Wavey Williams, recently recognized by General Mills as a community champion for his work through Greater Gaston Baptist Association in multi-housing ministry utilizing after school snacks and food in his work. A church plant has grown out of his work and he tears up recounting a letter from a young person saying Wavey's example saved his life.

Abbott's Creek Baptist Church in rural High Point converted a picnic shelter into a food distribution point and utilized \$2,500 from the hunger fund to stock it. Calvary Baptist Church in Beaufort, and other churches, use hunger funds to stock food pantries that meet emergencies for desperate families.

World Hunger Day in Baptist churches is observed Oct. 11. Free promotional materials are available through Kay Bissette at the BSC, phone (919) 459-5540 or by writing kbissette@ncbaptist.org. Designate your gift for world hunger and

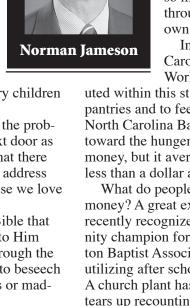
simply give it through your local church.

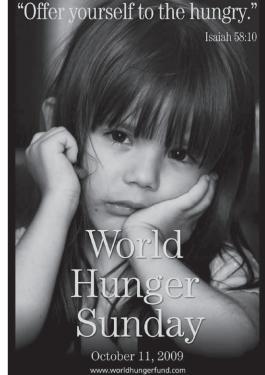
It will be distributed through the Baptist State Convention and will be utilized 100 percent for the

work you intend.

In Baptist life three organizations are primarily responsible for utilizing these hunger funds to do good in the lives of those Jesus loves: your Baptist State Convention; the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board. Visit the websites of any of these to learn more about what they do specifi-

These are days more than any other in a long time, in which our actions will give validity to our words about







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Hammett moves to CBF-NC

Eddie Hammett, who was laid off in August from the staff of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) in a cost cutting move, will begin a part-time role with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina (CBF-NC) Nov. 1

Hammett, a popular speaker, seminar leader, coach trainer and author, was elected as CBF-NC church and clergy coach during a Coordinating Council meeting Sept. 17.

Hammett served 19 years with the BSC, most recently as western regional discipleship and leadership consultant.

Hammett will work with CBF-NC staff, churches and elected leadership in the areas of clergy coach training, lay leadership and church staff team development, spiritual formation, transitioning issues for churches, discipleship and deacon ministry.

"Eddie brings to the table a unique awareness of the challenges and needs of congregational life in the 21st century," said Larry Hovis, CBF-NC executive coordinator. "His background as a staff minister in local churches, coupled with his experience and expertise in coaching and consulting, will be an invaluable asset."

Hammett, a founding partner of The Columbia Partnership whose purpose is to help churches "pursue and sustain vital Christ-centered ministry," said he looks forward "with excitement and openness" to serving among "very capable CBF-NC leaders and congregations."

He wrote following his layoff from the BSC that he felt less a victim than "one being launched into new aspects of ministry to churches, leaders, conventions/conferences and judicatories of many denominations."

Hammett, a graduate of North Greenville College, Furman University, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is a professional certified coach and national conference leader and has written six books. His *Reaching People Under 40* while Keeping People Over 60 is a part of the TCP Leadership Series and is the best selling book published by Chalice Press.

His newest book, Making Shifts Without Making Waves: A Coach Approach to Soulful-Leadership written with Randy Pierce and Steve DeVane, comes out in November.



News Briefs

Sammons resigns at Haywood

Jack Sammons, associational missionary for Haywood Baptist Association for 13 years, resigned Sept. 15.

Sammons, 67, said he is in good health, is not retiring and is available for fulltime ministry elsewhere. While there is "no sour grapes" in his resignation, he indicated changes in associational leadership contributed to his decision.

"I still feel called to ministry of some sort," said the Georgia native who has been in ministry in North Carolina since he entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, from where he graduated in 1977. He earned a doctorate from Southeastern in 1982. Sammons served Hickory Rock and Franklinton Baptist churches in the Tar River Association before leading First Baptist Church in Canton 1984-1996. While Haywood Association has been "in the same boat as a lot of other organizations" financially, Sammons said, "We're beginning to recover." Several ministries operating under the association's umbrella are being established as separate entities.

Sammons is available at (828) 648-4981.

Homeless shelter exempt from discrimination laws

(RNS) Anti-discrimination statutes do not apply to an Idaho homeless shelter run by Christians because it is not a "dwelling," a federal district judge has ruled.

Moreover, the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act protects the Boise Rescue Mission Ministries' right to hold Christian services and encourage participants in its drug and alcohol recovery program to accept Christianity, U.S. District Judge Edward J. Lodge ruled Sept. 10.

The 51-year-old non-profit says it runs three shelters that serve more than 28,000 meals and offers 8,000 beds to homeless persons each month. Lodge ruled that the shelters are not dwellings under the Fair Housing Act, but rather places of "temporary sojourn or transient visit."

At the same time, barring the Boise ministry from "teaching, preaching and proselytizing to individuals on its property, whether they be shelter guests, Discipleship program residents, or other individuals ... would substantially burden the Rescue Mission's ability to freely exercise its religion," Lodge wrote.

Mills elected Kan.-Neb. exec

TOPEKA, Kan. (BP) — The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists' (KNCSB) mission board has elected Bob Mills as the new KNCSB executive director, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Mills, 60, currently the convention's director of missions, will serve as executive director-elect until the current exec, Peck Lindsay, retires Dec. 31 after more than 30 years in the position.

Mills told the board after his election of his desire to see healthy, outward-focused, reproducing churches across Nebraska and Kansas.

Mills came to Kansas-Nebraska convention in 1998 from the North American Mission Board, where he had been director of the Mission Service Corps program since 1986 and coordinator for supervision training and leadership development. He joined the staff of the then-Home Mission Board in 1981.

Mills was pastor of First Baptist Church of Bethel in Kansas City, Kan., from 1978-81; and director of church and community ministries for the Kansas City (Kan.) Baptist Association from 1976-79.

Classified Advertisements

Pastor

Butters Baptist Church is seeking a **pastor**. We are located in the Bladenboro, NC, area. We are a conservative church. We are seeking a candidate who will share our values and beliefs and who will not only serve in the capacity of preacher but also in the role of pastor. Send resumes to Matthew Chadwick at 1135 Richardson Rd., Bladenboro, NC 28320. Any question, contact David Wilkins at (910) 863-3659 or e-mail to dwilkins1111@yahoo.com.

Pastor. Bethel Baptist Church of Dublin, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor for a conservative, evangelical, Southern Baptist church, with an average attendance of 150 in worship. We are seeking the man that God wants for Bethel. View church web site at: www.bethelnc.net. Send resume and DVD if possible to: Bethel Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Dublin, NC 28332, or you can e-mail the resume to broberts@intrstar.com. Deadline to submit resumes is Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009.

Senior Pastor. Baptist Home Baptist Church is a mission-minded SBC church seeking a full time senior pastor. Prefer 5-10 years experience, staff supervisory experience, and accredited seminary degree. Must be effective communicator of the gospel, able to lead church in spiritual development and growth, and lead church in reaching lost and unchurched. Please send resumes to PCS, c/o Ron McGrady, 2367 Sparta Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659.

Pastor. First Baptist Church of Hope Mills, North Carolina, is seeking a full time pastor. We are looking for a strong leader who has passion for children's ministries and missions and will show compassion for our elderly church members. Local residence requested. Please send resumes and references to 4621 Cameron Road, Hope Mills, North Carolina 28348 or e-mail to amclaurin@amerispec.net.

Pastor. Hallsboro Baptist Church, Hallsboro, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a small, rural church with a diverse congregation. We support both CBF and SBC. Applicants should have a masters degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school. Please send resume and references to Search Committee, 3815 Sams Potts Hwy., Hallsboro, NC 28450.



First Baptist Church of Sylvania, Georgia, located midway between Augusta and Savannah and 30 miles north of Georgia Southern University, is seeking a **full time pastor** to lead and love our congregation. We are seeking an energetic and innovative minister who can recognize the untapped potential of influence in our community and restore our church to its vibrant past. The prospective minister should possess strong pulpit and leadership abilities and have a heart for the community. The successful candidate will have graduated from an accredited seminary. Preference will be given to candidates who have obtained a doctorate. Please forward all resumes to Larry Anderson, 1866 Millen Hwy., Sylvania, Georgia 30467 or email to anderla60@gmail.com.

Church Staff

Minister of Youth and Children. Full time position. Experience required. BA degree required. Overseeing approx. 100 students. Strong personal and computer skills. Overseeing a variety of ministries. 2 additional full time staff. Resumes may be sent to: Concord Baptist Church, PO Box 127, Granite Falls, NC 28630. Or e-mail to tomcdonald@charter.net.

Minister of Music/Worship Leader. Part-time position available immediately for a growing, mission-minded Baptist church. Combination music/youth director position a possibility. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Fairview Baptist Church, 2531 Flat Rock Road, Reidsville, NC 27320.

Worship and Discipleship Job Announcement. Polkville Baptist Church, located in the southern foothills of North Carolina, is seeking to fill a full-time position for minister of worship and discipleship. We are a purpose driven church in a rural community averaging 250 during Sunday morning worship. Interested persons should have a degree in music with additional studies in Christian education. For a full job description visit our website at www.polkvillebaptist.com. Please send your resume by October 28, 2009, to: Polkville Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, PO Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.



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Youth Minister Needed. Immediate opening for part-time interim youth minister. Responsibilities include serving youth in a well rounded youth program. Our church is supportive of CBF and SBC. Send resume to personnel@calvarybcmtairy.org or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, Attention Personnel Committee, 314 S. Franklin Rd., Mt. Airy, NC 27030.

Louisburg Baptist Church is seeking a part-time **Director of Youth Ministries**. This position would require 15-20 hours per week. The director of youth ministries will provide leadership in youth Bible studies and other areas of Christian education and also plan and facilitate a variety of social activities. Louisburg Baptist is affiliated with the CBF and the SBC and strongly affirms God's call to men and women of God's kingdom work. Interested candidates should send resumes to Chairmen of Youth Search Committee, Louisburg Baptist Church, PO Box 730, Louisburg, NC 27549. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

Associate Pastor of Families. Are you called to serve families by ministering to children, youth, and parents full-time? If so, there is a fulfilling opportunity to build the kingdom through the ministry of Second Baptist Church of Hamlet. Applicants should be ministerially trained with a desire to work with many volunteers. Send resumes to: 518 4th St. Hamlet, NC 28345 or email: rchrishawks@yahoo.com.



Minister of Youth. Coats Baptist Church, Coats, NC, is seeking an energetic, Christ-centered full-time minister of youth. The candidate must have at least 2 years youth ministry experience in a lay or ministerial capacity. A degree from an accredited seminary is preferred but not required. Resumes can be forwarded to Tom Austin, Associate Pastor, Coats Baptist Church, PO Box 297, Coats, NC 27521 or tom@coatsbaptist.com.

Miscellaneous

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Lesson for October 4

Formations

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tian College,

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Lesson for October 11

Religious Freedom

Focal passages: Matthew 22:15-22; **Romans 13:1; Revelation 13:9-10**

As Americans we often take for granted our religious freedom.

Since December 15, 1791 and the ratification of the Bill of Rights, religious freedom was secured for every American. The first amendment begins "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." These sixteen words are as precious as they are unassuming.

One hundred and fifty-seven years later, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1948). Article 18 affirms:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Each year, member countries celebrate Human Rights Day. However, the reality of many of those member countries conflict with their pledge.

A report published May 2009 by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (www.uscirf. gov) names 13 countries where governments engaged in or tolerated particularly severe — meaning systematic, ongoing, and egregious — violations of religious freedom. Those countries named include China (1.3 billion -19percent of the world), along with Pakistan, Nigeria, Vietnam, Iran, Myanmar, Sudan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, North Korea, Eritrea and Turkmenistan (675 million — 10 percent of the world). Twenty-nine percent of the world's peoples live within countries where there are "severe violations of religious freedom."

What is the relationship between faith and duty to country?

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus is confronted by this issue through a debate over Roman taxation. A silver denarius was levied against each male over 14 and each female over 12. Upon reaching the age of 66 a person was finally exempt from the tax (Frank Stagg, Matthew, The Broadman Bible Commentary, vol. 8, 1969, 206).

The denarius coin had the head of the emperor Tiberius and the Latin inscription TI CAESAR DIVI AUG F AVGVSTVS "Augustus Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus" on one side, and the seated goddess Roma... symbolizing the Pax Romana and the inscription PONTIF MAXIM which identified Tiberius as the high priest of the Roman religion on the other side (David L. Turner. Matthew. Baker, 2008, 528).

The coin's image revealed that it belonged to Caesar, and should, therefore, be rendered to Caesar. In Rom. 13:1 Paul agrees with a legitimate role for the state.

Each person, moreover, is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26), and therefore uniquely belongs to God (David E. Garland, Reading Matthew, Smyth & Helwys, 2001, 227). When the state demands that which rightfully belongs to God, then the Christian must resist the state (Revelation 13).

What Does Discipleship Cost?

Focal Passage: Luke 9:57-62

How would you define a disciple of Jesus?

For many, a good Christian is someone who has been baptized, attends church, and is a good neighbor. Is this all that it means to be a disciple of Jesus

Christ?

Today's focal passage in Luke deals with the true cost of discipleship.

Eduard Schweizer places the focal passage within the context of Jesus' sense of his imminent death (9:51) and the urgency of sending out those who are to proclaim the Kingdom of God (10:9; The Good News According to Luke, John Knox, 1984, 172).

Moreover, this passage comes between the rejection to show hospitality toward Jesus and his disciples by a Samaritan village (9:53) and the acceptance and joy displayed by the seventy

disciples who return from a successful preaching touring where they have gone village-by-village (10:17).

It is within this context of urgency that the call to follow Jesus as a singlefocused disciple is being made.

It is this radical call to discipleship that even convinced the Jesus Seminar, a group of scholars who rejected much of the New Testament, of the authenticity of this passage (Darrell L. Block, Luke 9:51-24:53, Baker, 1996, 975).

Our passage is easily divided into three sections that deal with three po-

tential disciples. All are challenged by Jesus to think outside of the box. The nature of radial obedience is highlighted again and again.

Charles H. Talbert calls the three who each have a dialogue with Jesus "disciples-to-be" (Reading Luke, Smyth & Helwys, 2002, 125). From each dialogue a truth about discipleship is uncovered.

The first dialogue highlights a "spontaneous, enthusiastic offer of unconditioned allegiance" (Joseph A Fitzmyer, The Gospel According to Luke I-IX, Anchor, 1981, 834). "Jesus' sobering answer drives home the gravity of discipleship ... he (Jesus) lives the life of a homeless wanderer ... even the animals are better off" (Fitzmyer, 834).

A proverbial-type phrase is used: Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests..." Is one ready to follow Jesus although these may be conditions in which he is called to live?

The second dialogue is initiated by Jesus who simply says, "Follow me" (7:29).

The request for delay is met with an unusually harsh rebuke by Jesus and a second proverbial-type saying: "Let the dead bury their own dead."

The third dialogue is initiated by an individual who seeks to follow Jesus but asks for leave to say goodbye to his family. With proverb in hand, Jesus again harshly rebukes the would-be disciple.

Talbert states that "these three dialogues...call for an absolute detachment from property and family and for a single-minded devotion to Jesus that perseveres to the end" (Reading Luke,

Lesson for October 4

Bible Studies for Life

Lesson for October 11

The Warrior Hero

Focal Passage: Mark 11:12-25

Jesus' cursing of the barren fig-tree serves as a solemn warning to and powerful metaphor for the radical demand for fruit-bearing of God's people. Underlying this extreme action is a challenge to established religion's obsession with social/economic success and its perpetual survival. Thus the cursing and subsequent withering of the fig-tree serve as a type of prelude/postlude to the cleansing of the temple.

The focus of the religious leaders was the smooth operation of the Jerusalem temple as the city's largest economic institution. According to biblical scholars "the daily operation of the cult was a matter of employment for curtain makers, barbers, incense manufacturers, goldsmiths, trench diggers, and countless others" (Ched Myers).

The true problem for Jesus was not employment, but those barriers erected which prevented the pilgrim access to worship and devotion.

For example, foreign worshipers could not bring into the temple their Roman or Greek money; it had to be changed into Jewish or Tyrian coinage. Furthermore, the animals brought by the poor were not acceptable and had to be exchanged and purchased for a higher price.

Jesus responded to the unfair situation by driving out the buyers and sellers, overturning the moneychangers' tables and the seats of the dove sellers, and preventing anyone from carrying

any vessel into the temple-shutting down the temple's operations altogether!

In Isaiah 56:3ff, the Lord promises the foreigner and socially marginalized that His house of prayer on His holy mountain would be a place of joy and community, accessible to the "outsider." The Jewish leadership had turned this holy, inclusive place of joy and promise into a barren den of thieves and robbers (see also Malachi 3:5, 8, 10).

A fig-tree and the Temple. In the Jewish mind there was a connection between the fruitfulness of the trees and the maintenance of the temple services. Fig-trees as an essential part of everyday life, was the principal first-fruit brought into the temple and symbolized the godly and righteous man.

According to W. Telford, the fig-tree was also "an emblem of peace, security, and prosperity ... prominent when descriptions of the Golden Ages of Israel's history, past, present and future, are given." He further writes, "The blossoming of the fig tree and its giving of its fruit is a descriptive element (of) Yahweh's visiting his people with blessing, while the withering of the fig-tree, the destruction or withholding of its fruit, ... (describes) Yahweh's judgment upon his people ..."

Thus, Jesus' actions becomes a living announcement that the old, barren order of robbing God has ended and the rich reality of faithful living has arrived- the world can be remade (11:23-24).

The Hero Doing Battle

Focal Passage: Mark 12:13-17, 28-31, 38-40

Jesus was a hunted man. Mark writes that a delegation of Pharisees and Herodians came to "entrap (the word means literally to catch by trapping or fish-

ing)" Jesus. They brought to him a question, not for enlightenment, but to test him and to dare him to commit himself on a volatile political issue — the unpopular Roman tax.

This tax was the poll tax (the Greek word kenson is a transliteration of the Latin census) which was required of every men aged 14-65 and women 12-65. It was the equivalent of one day's wage or a denarius. It was a tax for the privilege of existing (William Barclay).

So that we not miss the

danger of this issue, David Rhoads reminds us that Rome bled the populace poor with taxes. He writes, "The tribute exacted by Rome was large in itself. Herod's revenues were huge. used primarily to maintain his court and military troops as well as to support his extensive, luxurious building programs." Taxation was the central issue for many of the rebellions in Judea and the major cause of banditry throughout the countryside (Ched Myers).

Like the rich young ruler (10:17), the delegation used insincere flattery

— "Jesus, we know you tell the truth regardless of the consequences. We dare you to commit yourself in this situation! Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" On the surface, this was a "no-win" situation. But, Jesus replied with another a request and a question — "Whose likeness (icon or image) and whose inscription is this?"

They knew the answer. It was the head of Caesar, extolling him as "August and Divine Son." Jesus' reply was simple and pointed: "Render (or more accurately repay as to a payment of debt or recompense) the one to whom you are indebted." Jesus turned the discussion on its head and challenged them to act according to their allegiances.

The question of loyalties arises again with a scribe asking Jesus which commandment is the first of all. This question was a common topic for rabbinic discussions. Jesus responds with the "Shema" from Deut. 6:4f and then added the statement of Leviticus 19:18 (which no one had ever brought together) about one's obligation to neighbor.

Ched Myers writes that by using the Leviticus text Jesus was speaking judgement against the religious leadership (and its scribes). The verse from Leviticus 19 defines the love of neighbor in terms of non-exploitation. Sadly, this command was regularly violated by them as evidenced by the moneychangers and sellers in the temple court areas.

Mark concludes with words of victory — "And after that no one dared to ask him any question."



John **Pond** Director of Missions, West Chowan Baptist Association

Nehemiah Teams challenge students spiritually

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

ne of the most significant short-term projects of biblical times dates back to

In 52 days he led his people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, restore a nation, and revive a

Four students with North Carolina ties worked with Nehemiah Teams — through the International Mission Board — this summer teaching English, caring for orphans, and more (see letter to editor, p. 8).

"I did not want to leave," said Courtney Bell, a senior in communication disorders at Appalachian State University and member of First Baptist Church in Garner. "Coming back was really difficult."

Bell was one of a team working at a special needs rescue orphanage in Manila, Philippines. She had seen poverty on her trips to Ukraine, Belize and Mexico before but nothing like

what she encountered in Malabon. "What words can clearly describe Malabon?" she wrote. "Constant flooding. No sewage system. Filthy rags. So much garbage. The ground gives like a trampoline. Naked babies. Children with sores. People with TB. Clothes hanging by a thread. Shacks 10'x10' for 10 people. Smoke. Hard to breathe. Low scrap metal overhangs. Crowded. Confused, sad faces. No education. No work. No money. No food. Starvation. Disease. Loss of hope."

She countered what she saw with biblical truth:

"Yet, Christ promised to bring hope to the hopeless; rest to the weary. Christ loves, an everlasting love. He loves these people. He died for these people. Why are they left like this? Why doesn't Jesus do something? He is doing something. He has sent me."

Two children still tug at Bell's heart from thousands of miles away. One three-year-old girl had excess spinal fluid in her brain. Developmentally, she's three months old.

"She can't sit up by herself; no strength in arms, legs," said Bell, who was the one who carried her from her home in Malabon. Her

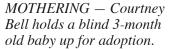
family could not care for her. Another girl had autistic-like symptoms. Bell worked one-on-one with her, utilizing some of her training.

"I miss having the babies around and ... never having a moment to myself," Bell said.

Refugee work

In South Korea, Rachel Chiasson learned the importance of prayer.

"One of the biggest things I learned ... truly believe in what you pray," said Chiasson, a junior kinesiology major at Campbell University in Buies Creek who worked with North Korean refugees.



God showed her how small her faith is

while she was teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and spending time with students.

Chiasson, a Louisiana native, estimated that about half the refugees did not have any family in South Korea. She said she also learned to use her resources more wisely.

Bell and Chiasson said they love to share about their experience. Contact Bell at bellcourtneyg@ gmail.com. Contact Chiasson at rechiasson0327@ email.Campbell.edu.

For more about Nehemiah Teams visit www.nehemiahteams.com. Stories about this summer's work can be found at www.nehemiahteams.blogspot.com.



WITNESSING — Rachel Chiasson, left, worked with Claire, right, all summer before she became a Christian at English Revival Camp.

floors. Garbage sidewalks. Garbage stacks of clothes, Living a dream: 10 Asheville churches build family a home

(Continued from Page 1)

Moldovan congregation where the family is involved. The family was renting a three-bedroom apartment in Asheville that had severe mold problems, flooding issues, leaky windows and other problems. Because of his income and the family's size, the Buzulans did not qualify for a conventional mortgage. The new house is four bedrooms with 1,416-square-feet.

"This was special in the sense that is the dream house, connected with the life and ministry of Martin Luther King Jr.," said Jim McCoy, pastor of First Baptist Church in Weaverville.

"There's a group of our men that go out almost every Tuesday" to work at the site even before the dream project started.

Eddie Morgan estimated that 50 members from First Baptist Church in Asheville, helped with the project.

"When you are building a house No. 1, you really appreciate the Habitat style, in that you're working alongside the family to really build a home," said said the minister of missions, outreach and pastoral care. "In building a home, you're building a sense of pride and

confidence. It is particularly enjoyable to see children in those houses. It almost changes the sense of who they are to have this safe, affordable roof over their head. They can say 'I live here."

FBC Asheville has been involved with Habitat since 1990. Morgan estimates the church has contributed financially to 15 houses and sent volunteers to help build 30 more, even in other states and Bolivia. They currently are working on homes in Perry County Alabama.

"One of my philosophies of mission/ministry is if you can put a face on someone in need, it changes who you are," Morgan said. "If you put a face on poverty it changes you. There are families that want for their children what you want for your children."

At the key presentation McCoy described the new homeowners as gracious and shared that Luiba Buzulan is a wonderful cook who prepared the Eastern European feast participants were about to enjoy.

McCoy said he has deep appreciation for Millard Fuller, Habitat's founder, and Clarence Jordan, who was a farmer and biblical scholar in Georgia.

Their love for the dispossessed is

inspiring, he said.

"We can get very busy within the walls of a congregation," McCoy said. "(Habitat) draws us into the larger adventure of what God has for us.'

McCoy said the volunteer's efforts "is a good leaven within the church." Asheville Area Habitat builds an

average 17 houses a year. Warren works with individuals and groups to raise sponsorships. A full one costs \$55,000.

Participating faith communities usually provide a raise-the-roof sponsorship of \$25,000 and then provide all the volunteers and build a house in about six months.



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