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## NAMB leader Hammond, 3 associates resign

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — North American Mission Board (NAMB) president Geoff Hammond and three of his closest associates resigned their positions with the organization on Aug. 11 after trustees met more than seven hours in closed session at the board's Alpharetta, Ga., headquarters.

The three staff members who also resigned were Dennis Culbreth, senior assistant to the president; Steve Reid, senior associate to the president for strategy development; and Brandon Pickett, communications team leader.

Their resignations came after 54 of the board's 57 trustees met in an all-day closed session.

Four of the 54 trustees participated by conference call.

The trustees named Richard Harris, the organization's senior strategist for missions advancement, as acting interim president the next day.

Harris has nearly 30 years of combined service at NAMB and its predecessor, the Home Mission Board (HMB), including 10 years as NAMB's vice president of church planting and 16 years leading HMB's mass evangelism efforts.

After the resignations, Tim Patterson, chairman of the board of trustees,



BP photo by John Swain

**NEWS** — Tim Patterson, trustee chairman of the North American Mission Board, addresses staff Aug. 12, a day after a special trustee meeting.

issued a statement thanking trustees for carrying out responsibilities in "a way that has been honorable, thorough and fair."

"As you can imagine, these last few days have been very challenging for Dr. Hammond and his family, our trustees and the employees and missionaries of the North American Mission Board," Patterson said.

"We will continue to be in prayer for Dr. Hammond, his family, and for the families of the others who have resigned."

Patterson thanked Southern Baptists for their prayers and asked that they continue praying.

"I still believe that God has great plans for the North American Mission Board and that NAMB will play a key part in the Southern Baptist effort to reach North America for Christ," he wrote.

Citing a need to keep details of the discussion during the meeting "confidential" because of it being a "personnel matter," in spite of "much

media speculation," Patterson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, said that nonetheless more information would be forthcoming "very soon."

On Aug. 12 he met with remaining NAMB staff, expressing his confidence in them and assuring them "NAMB is going nowhere but forward."

(See NAMB Page 4)

## Leadership history reveals pattern of turmoil

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

Combining three Southern Baptist agencies into the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in 1995 was a bad idea, says the last president of one of the agencies.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1987 until his retirement at age 62 in 1996, said in an interview with the *Biblical Recorder* that he had reservations from the beginning about a major restructuring of the denomination, but he didn't oppose it at the time because he didn't want to appear self-serving or not to be a "team player."

Lewis, 74, said Aug. 13 that "time has proven me right."

Much of NAMB's brief history has been marked by turmoil. Its first president, former Virginia pastor Bob Record, resigned in 2006 amid allegations of mismanagement and lavish spending.

(See Leadership Page 11)



Each year North Carolina Baptists are asked to give specifically to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO). This year's goal — \$2.1 million — will divide money among North Carolina Baptist Men (40 percent or \$840,000), church planting and evangelism (26 percent or \$546,000), mission camps (15 percent or \$315,000), associational projects (10 percent or \$210,000), and missions education and promotion (9 percent or \$189,000).

"Love Your Neighbor 2009," based on Matt. 22:39, seeks support for the Baptist State Convention's focus ministries. Stories in the last issue, this issue and the next issue emphasize the ministries receiving NCMO funds. See pages 8-10 and visit [www.biblicalrecorder.org](http://www.biblicalrecorder.org).



BSC photo by Mike Creswell

**COMMITTED TO NCMO** — Baptist State Convention staff pledged \$15,810 to be given through their local churches to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) during a special emphasis Aug. 19. N.C. Baptist Men, which receives 55 percent of the NCMO for its operations and mission camps, fed the staff lunch from disaster relief vehicles. In May Board of Directors members pledged \$12,005 to the NCMO through their churches. Chuck Register, executive leader for church planting and missions development, told the staff their commitment demonstrates both "fellowship," and "leadership." See pages 8-10 and visit [www.biblicalrecorder.org](http://www.biblicalrecorder.org).

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# Snapshots from the seashore

## Caswell memories stick with you

By Melissa Lilley  
BSC Communications

**F**ORT CASWELL — A quick survey of the auditorium after an evening worship session during Youth Weeks 2009 indicates that for some, the evening is far from over.

Youth linger about, some clustered in corners of the room. Heads and arms are draped over pews as prayers and counseling continue.

A line forms to meet with the speaker for prayer and guidance. The precious minutes of free time before bedtime tick away, but for those remaining in Hatch, they don't seem to want to be anywhere else.

Since its dedication in 1968, Hatch Auditorium has been the home of many stories. The building continues to host children, youth and adults at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. This year Caswell celebrates its 60th anniversary of being owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

Youth weeks continue to draw the largest crowd at Caswell. Nearly 7,000 youth in middle school and high school came to Caswell this year for eight youth weeks, 400 students made first time professions of faith, 3,600 students rededicated their life to Jesus Christ, and 71 students surrendered to full-time Christian ministry.

### Taking it home

Jeff Foster and Paul Welborn sat outside Faith Baptist Church's cottage talking with a few youth. Foster, a church member and second-year chaperone, and Welborn, youth pastor, are best friends. Last year Foster experienced Caswell and youth weeks for the first time, and one week is all it took to push him into action.

Foster did not want youth week to be a week soon forgotten once they arrived back in Archdale, so he organized "Feed the Need."

The all-day event held earlier this year included a food drive, clothing drive, blood drive, car wash, concert and message from Welborn. "Instead of just



BSC photo

**CREATIVE** — One of the options during free time is painting. The activities, scenery and spiritual guidance available at Caswell make it memorable for youth, as well as others who visit.

having another event we wanted to focus on what we could do to meet needs in the community," Foster said. "We wanted it to be outreach. It can't be about us." The Faith Baptist youth group and local churches worked together to host the event. Foster described "Feed the Need" as one of the "most impacting" events in his life.

### Painting and chatting

When Sara Caulder sits down with her canvas painting class during free time, technique isn't what is foremost in her mind. Caulder, a third-year BeDo-Tell staff member and recent graduate of Appalachian State University, asks the students about what they learned in worship. Before long they are sharing with Caulder about the challenges of being a teenager in middle school. It seems that with a little care and attention, youth open up.

Caulder said conversations with campers are priceless and she has seen campers "confessing their sins and laying down their pride."

Week after week she watches as students are broken — broken at the thought of their sin and the power of God to transform their life.

"It is an honor to be here," she said. "We are learning and growing just like the students. God's working in my life, too."

### Three generations

During lunch one day, chaperones from Mount Beulah Baptist Church in Wadesboro shared about what it's like to a veteran camper — and counselor. Michele Hinson came to Caswell every year in grades

*"We are learning and growing just like the students. God's working in my life, too."*  
— Sara Caulder

7-12 and at Caswell she prayed to receive Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior.

The first year her oldest son was old enough to come she attended as a chaperone. That was seven years ago, and this year makes seven years in a row for Hinson as a Caswell chaperone and counselor.

She has two sons, a nephew and a niece attending Caswell this year.

"The minute you step on the grounds — I just love the atmosphere," she said. "My boys now know what I felt like."

From pictures as screensavers to old meal tickets, "our home is full of Caswell memories," Hinson said. More than that, Hinson said her family leaves Caswell knowing God more, because at Caswell, youth are taught how to live a Christian life.

### Mercy and grace

"Do you think more about your pain than you do about His resurrection power?" asked Derwin Gray during a Wednesday evening worship service. All week long speaker Gray challenged students to model purity in their lives, and to lay all their hurts, struggles and sins at the cross.

He asked students to consider whether or not their life reflected sexual purity.

At the end of the service student after student came to the front of Hatch to pray with a youth leader and to confess sin.

"What's in the darkness Satan controls," Gray said.

Rising high school junior Jamie Buckley heard those words and was the first youth to stand and walk to the front after the service.

"There were secrets in my life I had to get out," Buckley said. "I'd been wearing this mask for so long."

Later that night the youth from Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem met for church group devotions, males meeting together and females meeting together, and Buckley again confessed his sins to his friends. What happened that night during devotions Buckley described as life-changing.

After that night, "we weren't a youth group — we were a bunch of brothers," he said. "I cried my eyes out." That night Buckley shared sins he struggled with and one by one, other youth group members also shared.

They realized, some for the first time, the importance of accountability.

Buckley knows that what he learned at Caswell and the commitments he made will change the way he lives. He has friends he needs to talk with back home. Yet, he is no longer afraid of rejection. He is no longer afraid of stepping out of darkness and into light, for he knows that by God's grace and mercy, God is changing his heart.



**ACTING OUT** — The drama team crew of Amanda Parmley, Dave Thomas and James Lind take part in a skit at Hatch Auditorium.



# Income drop forces BSC layoffs

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

With income trailing last year's gifts by 3.2 percent or \$647,000 through seven months, the Baptist State Convention (BSC) has laid off three people and eliminated six positions, effective immediately.

Two of the positions will be combined with related work currently being conducted by two persons each carrying dual responsibilities. Those persons will have the option to apply for the redesigned positions, which will be opened for application by others, as well.

The Convention has maintained positive cash flow even during the income decline, but careful husbanding of resources is no longer enough because the restrictions on staff travel and ministry expenses could be pared no further without negatively affecting ministry, according to Brian Davis, executive leader for administration and convention relations.

Three persons whose positions are being eliminated, are:

- Eddie Hammett, senior consultant for discipleship and deacon ministry;
- Wendy Edwards, senior consultant for spiritual formation; and
- Rosanna Strickland, resource center manager.

The Learning Communities coordinator position at Hollifield Leadership

Center is being eliminated, and was currently unoccupied, although Kim Duncan, who had held the position, was laid off in May.

The role of senior consultant for preschool ministries position, held by Cathy Hopkins, is being combined with children's ministries. Before the retirement of Janice Haywood, Hopkins was the pre-school consultant but has been doing both jobs.

The senior consultant for western regional resources, held by Lester Evans, is being combined with the associational partnerships director position. He had been western regional resources consultant before assuming the additional role of associational partnerships.

Job descriptions that will combine the four roles filled by Hopkins and Evans into two will be presented for consideration by the Position Evaluation Committee of the BSC Executive Committee at its September meeting.

Hopkins and Evans will continue to fill their current roles until the newly combined positions have been filled and they may apply for the new positions.

Davis estimated an annual savings of approximately \$500,000 in the staff and position reductions.

A news release from the Baptist State Convention said, "The convention staff worked diligently to keep spending below receipts, but the prospects for 2010 are still uncertain regarding any

significant increase of financial support from the churches."

"Currently, because of the economy, the churches of this convention are not being supported financially by their members at the same levels as previous years," said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer. "The Convention cannot expect to receive support from the churches when the churches do not have the funds to forward to us."

"I am convinced that as the churches see their support return the Convention will see an increase in receipts. However, we are in the difficult situation of making decisions that impact individuals and families. I take this downsizing very seriously and ask North Carolina Baptists to join me in prayer for the men and women impacted by these decisions."

Salary for the position of public relations director, vacant since Aug. 1 when Doug Baker left to become editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, will not be included in the proposed 2010 Cooperative Program budget, which is still not finalized, but the position will remain in the Convention staff structure.

Each employee affected by the downsizing has been provided a severance package, a package "significantly greater than our personnel policies prescribe," according to John Butler,

executive leader for business services.

Funds for those severances are being drawn from reserves, Davis said.

In the BSC news release Butler said the severances are comparable to those of 2003, when 23 positions were eliminated and 15 persons lost their jobs.

Since 2003, any time a position became vacant, the personnel evaluation committee had to approve the position's continuation. Seven such positions have been added in the past six years, such as a writer, Embrace director and scholarship coordinator. If the positions lost when Woman's Missionary Union moved from under the personnel structure of the BSC are considered, there has been no increase in the 180 persons employed as fulltime BSC staff statewide.

During consideration of staff reductions, every position throughout the state was considered, Davis said.

"It is significant that the 2003 downsizing occurred after Cooperative Program receipts had fallen approximately \$2 million below budget," Butler said. "Until this week's action we had been able to avoid staff cuts during this economic recession through tightly managed expenses and reductions in program costs even though projected 2009 Cooperative Program receipts will be more than \$4 million below the approved budget. Unfortunately, the prolonged recession has left us with no other viable option than to reduce staff expenses."

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Additional BSC reporting by Melissa Lilley.)

# Fruitland installs eighth president David Horton

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

David Horton was inaugurated as the eighth president of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute during a service on campus in Hendersonville Aug. 21.

Horton, elected to the role by the Baptist State Convention board of directors May 19, has been serving since June 1. He succeeded Kenneth Ridings, who retired Dec. 31 after 11 years as president and 40 years association with Fruitland in the classroom and administration.

The ceremony was much like a worship service, with messages, song and prayers. Scott Thompson, vice president for academic affairs, said Horton "wanted this to be a day to celebrate God's work."

Greg Mathis, evangelism professor at Fruitland and pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church, brought the charge to Horton, citing characteristics the biblical David exhibited earlier in the day in which he slew Goliath.

From 1 Sam. 17 Mathis said he saw in the young David obedience, readiness, courage in the midst of great conflict, responsibility and peace that could not be taken away by family or foe.

"People will question and doubt you," Mathis told Horton. He said others will try to instruct and challenge

him, but "God has raised you up for this time."

"God can use anything in your hands if you have the right things in your heart," Mathis said.

Horton's son Michael, associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Dublin, led the invocation. Horton's father-in-law David Sechrist, pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Cana, Va., led the benediction.

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer, challenged Horton to cast vision, to challenge faculty in teaching, mentoring and modeling a life of Christian service, to oversee the development of curriculum that is biblically accurate, challenging and relevant and to establish, maintain and protect an effective atmosphere of learning for future ministers and missionaries.

Horton responded from Jeremiah 29 and 33. He told about his nearly three months in office and of his hopes for the future.

He has been pleased, he said, to find Fruitland staff a praying staff and he said they pray together often and regularly, as do students.

"It would please me if God chooses to lead this institution not from the president's office but from the prayer room," Horton said.

He said Fruitland's foundation lives in the words of a plaque in the hallway



TIME OF PRAYER — Baptist State Convention President Rick Speas prays for Horton during his inauguration.

by his office that says, "Keep Fruitland true to God's word and loyal to His purpose."

"The future will be built on that foundation," he said.

He already has initiated some moves to utilize "every means available to tell the story of what God is doing at Fruitland." The Fruitland website has been overhauled and will now contain the sermons and addresses of chapel speakers. Students will be able to register online and the first edition of a new electronic newsletter called *The Fruitland Experience* was sent in August to more than 700 initial subscribers.

He is "exploring the possibility of satellite campuses and offering online courses" and said at least five associations or churches already have expressed interest in hosting classes.

Horton acknowledged Fruitland's unique place in preparing men for ministry. "The primary subject you'll learn at Fruitland is expository preaching of God's holy word," he declared, holding aloft a red, leather bound Bible.

He said because "the world seems to be coming to North Carolina," there are



FIRST COUPLE — Above, Lisa and David Horton Aug. 21 at Horton's inauguration as president of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute.

great opportunities to start churches and impact the international community.

"God is doing something powerful in this place," he said, "and I don't want to miss out on it."

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## Obituaries

**HORACE ALFORD HAMM**, 77, died Aug. 16 (see Spoke'n, page 13).

Since 1955 he had pastored Wakefield Baptist, Fuquay-Varina Baptist, Carolina Pines Baptist, and several churches in Tennessee.

A veteran of the Korean War stationed in Vienna, Austria, Hamm was later commissioned as a chaplain in the U.S. Naval Reserve assigned to the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

After almost 30 years of service, he retired as a Navy Captain and was later appointed as the National Chaplain of the Naval Reserve Association.

He had a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary.

He is survived by the former Eugenia Shull, his wife of 53 years; two daughters, Angela Sanders and Anita Hester; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: Carolina Pines Baptist Church, 2655 South Saunders Street, Raleigh, NC 27603, or Hayes Barton Baptist Church Television Ministry, 1800 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

**CHARLIE JAMES "JIMMY" FANNING JR.**, 55, died July 21 at Transylvania Regional Hospital in Brevard.

Fanning was in the grocery business for 30 years before answering the call to ministry. He was the pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Brevard, since 2000.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Inga Phillips Fanning; daughter; Allyson Fanning Carson; son Clinton McKinley Fanning; three sisters; and two grandchildren. Memorials to: Grace Baptist Church Vision Fund, 10 W. Holden Road, Brevard, NC 28712 or Calvary Baptist Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 88, Neeses, SC 29107.

## Around the state

### Staff changes

**THOMAS R. KINMAN** has been called as pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Gastonia. He previously was interim pastor and has been a pastor and church planter in the Charlotte area.

Providence Baptist Church, Fayetteville, has called **ROBERT WALLACE** as pastor. He previously was outreach ministries assistant at First Baptist Church, Huntersville.

**OLIVER "BUTCH" SKERRETT JR.** has been called as pastor of The Church at Sapphire. He was pastor at Mountain Valley Baptist Church, Zirconia.

**DUANE HERMAN** has been called as minister to youth and children of Enon Baptist Church, Salisbury.

Calvary Baptist Church, Mt. Gilead, has called **REESE ENGLISH** as pastor.

Wilmington Baptist Association has called **DENNIS LONG** as director of missions. He was the senior pastor at Olive Chapel Baptist Church, Apex.



### Anniversaries

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**, Salisbury, celebrates 138 years Sept. 13 with special message by Milton A. Holifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. D.C. and the Chosen Few will provide special music. Contact (704) 633-2567 or visit [www.CalvarySalisbury.org](http://www.CalvarySalisbury.org).

**RACE PATH BAPTIST CHURCH**, Ellenboro, celebrates its 95th anniversary Sept. 11. The Sept. 13 service will be "Old Timey Day"

with a covered dish meal following the service along with homemade ice cream and games. Contact Candy Lovelace at (828) 395-0883 or [clovelace@nctv.com](mailto:clovelace@nctv.com) for more information.

**GREEN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**, Parkton, culminates its 150th anniversary Sept. 13 with a potluck dinner after the special service. For more information, contact (910) 425-8602 or [gsbaptist@aol.com](mailto:gsbaptist@aol.com) or visit [www.greenspringsbaptistchurch.com](http://www.greenspringsbaptistchurch.com).



### Opportunity Corner

#### Deacon training offered

A one-day training event — Deacon Ministry that Works — for deacons and their spouses is set Sept. 26 at University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte. Each participant can attend three workshops as well as the main session.

Register online at [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org) (search for deacon conference) or send your check for \$5 per person to PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107, Attn: Sheryl Shankles. Cost includes breaks and program. Lunch is on your own. Visit [www.universityhills.org](http://www.universityhills.org) for directions or call (704) 564-1404. For more information, contact Sheryl Shankles at [sshankles@ncbaptist.org](mailto:sshankles@ncbaptist.org) or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5651.

## Church News



Contributed photos

► **The Bridge**, a new multi-site satellite church in Havelock, held a special "Hot Dog Giveaway" Aug. 1. Members set up in front of a local business on the main highway. View online photo gallery at [www.biblicalrecorder.org](http://www.biblicalrecorder.org).



Contributed photos

► **Greater Cleveland Baptist Association** gave bookbags to children. The ministry is supported by North American Mission Board and WMU's Christmas in August campaign to help missionaries with supplies. E-mail Charles Reed at [charles@gccba.org](mailto:charles@gccba.org) to find out what the association needs. Visit [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net) for a complete list.

## NAMB leader Hammond, 3 associates resign

(Continued from Page 1)

The meeting on Aug. 11-12 initially was to involve only members of NAMB's executive committee — a smaller group within the board of trustees — but members of the whole board learned about the meeting's agenda and succeeded in calling for a meeting of the full board.

The son and grandson of missionaries, Hammond was elected president by a unanimous vote of the NAMB board in March 2007 following a nine-month search to replace the previous president, Robert E. Reccord, who resigned as president in April 2006, citing "honest philosophical and methodological differences."

Two months before the meeting Aug. 11-12 NAMB trustees unanimously passed a resolution praising the

organization's direction and affirming Hammond for his "exemplary, unique leadership and vision."

All three of the associates who resigned had close working relationships with Hammond before he became NAMB president.

Reid and Pickett were on staff with Hammond at SBCV. Culbreth was a pastor in Chesapeake, Va., a NAMB trustee and member of the search committee that brought Hammond to the mission board.

The resignations come at a time when NAMB is embarking on an ambitious partnership with state conventions and local associations to see every SBC church, by 2020, planting other churches — God's Plan for Sharing (GPS).

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Additional reporting by Florida Baptist Witness and Associated Baptist Press.)

## Trustees describe 'tough situation'

By Steve DeVane  
BR Managing Editor

North Carolina Baptists serving as trustees for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) had little to say about the resignation of NAMB president Geoff Hammond and three of his associates.

Hammond, who had led NAMB since March 2007, and the three staff members resigned Aug. 11 after trustees met all day in closed session.

Todd W. Garren, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Lincolnton, came on the NAMB board in 2006. He said he was appreciative that Hammond "saw the handwriting on the wall" and spared NAMB any further embarrassment.

"It was a tough situation with no good ending," Garren said.

He said Hammond is a missionary at heart with a wonderful spirit. "In

that regard he served NAMB well and served the kingdom well," he said.

James S. (Bud) Parrish, director of missions for Robeson Baptist Association in Lumberton, said the meeting made for a long day.

"We're thankful that it's over and we're ready to go forward," he said.

Bruce L. Franklin, a layman and member of New Sandy Creek Baptist Church in Henderson, is starting his second year as a NAMB trustee. He said he thinks the board's process "worked exactly as it should have."

"It was a long meeting, but ultimately God's will was done," he said.

Franklin said the board is moving forward. "We want to be focused on the real objective that is reaching this continent for Christ," he said. "One of the things we want to do is reassure our Southern Baptist churches that we believe we're on track."



# Baptists studied board mergers since 1880

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

Southern Baptists have been studying potential merger of their two mission boards off and on for nearly 130 years.

But in the first such study in 1880 and in separate committees and commissions in 1915, 1917, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1933, 1956-59, and 1995 the recommendation has been the same: keep the national and international mission boards separate.

Now, thanks to an informal proposal by the current chairman of the North American Mission Board (NAMB); the president of NAMB's Aug. 11 forced resignation; and work of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, such a merger is again bound to be considered: for at least the ninth time.

Archivist Bill Summers of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives uncovered an unattributed document in a 1956 folder while looking for information at the request of the *Biblical Recorder*.

The document appears to be a summation compiled for the Committee to Study the Total Southern Baptist Program initiated in 1956. It brought its report in 1959 and became known as the Branch Committee, after its chairman Doug Branch who was executive director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The document lists various study committees and their reports. Each was considering the efficiencies of SBC operations, which were considerably different in the formative years than today. Various committees considered

the combining or eliminating of certain operations, boards and agencies.

The SBC was founded in 1845 and just 35 years later members wondered if their mission boards should be combined since, "The work among the Indians in the Territory, and the Chinese of California bears as much resemblance to the work of the Foreign as the Home Board."

That committee was instructed to consider it and report in the same meeting. Its report urged state conventions to adopt "some system of co-operation with our Home Mission Board" to decrease the expense of collecting funds, and ultimately said, "We cannot, at present, recommend the consolidation."

Efficiency has been a byword for all the studies. In 1915 the study committee even took the name The Commission on Efficiency. It considered combining the mission boards. "But after canvassing the matter thoroughly, a vast majority of your Commission do not think it would be wise or expedient to consolidate the two Boards, either now or in the future," its report said.

In 1917 a Committee on Consolidation took up the banner again. It decided that "in view of the diversity of opinions" and "the distressing conditions in our country, resulting from the world war," that all boards of the Convention should "remain separate at present."

A 1924 Committee on Correlation recommended the Home and Foreign mission boards "continue as now." It also recommended that the Home Mission Board continue "in charge of the missionary work of the Southern Baptist Convention in Cuba and the Panama

Canal Zone."

1925 Convention action affirmed the 1924 committee report "that the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Inter-Board Commission work in student activities, Sunday School Board, Relief and Annuity Board and the Laymen's Work be continued as at present."

In 1927 messengers assigned the SBC Executive Committee to "make a complete survey of the work of the Convention and its agencies." It was to consider each department of work and its financial condition and whether new work should be started or current work discontinued. Its larger task was to find "a mutually satisfactory basis...for the division of funds between Southwide and state objects in the annual Cooperative Program."

This also took the name Committee on Efficiency when it brought its report in 1928, and recommended that "the Home Mission Board continue as it is at present organized."

Virginia Baptists brought to the Convention in 1933 a "memorial" asking the Executive Committee to "look carefully into the question of consolidating our three theological seminaries and ... our two mission boards."

The memorial introduction said "the financial condition of the missionary and education agencies and institutions is, in our judgment, destined to grow steadily worse, unless a new and better co-operation between the several State Conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention can be arranged, or, failing in this, the elimination of some of the Convention activities."

In response, the Committee on the Virginia Memorial said it would be "unwise to disturb the minds of Southern Baptists by upsetting in any way the machinery of our denominational agencies." In addition, a growing population and the "legal complications" sure to arise from "combining or moving trust funds," prompted the committee to recommend no changes.

The committee did say, however: "We feel that the states that participate in the Cooperative Program, since they make their appeal for all benevolent contributions mainly on the strength of our missionary work, that a more equitable division of funds for State-wide and Southwide causes should be adhered to. We recommend that a fifty-fifty basis be adopted hereafter if possible and that contributions to preferred causes be discontinued wherever possible."

The committee lamented that "churches of the South are not averaging 10 percent of their funds to state and Southwide causes. This is the major weakness in our financial system and will, if not corrected effect the complete ruin of all state and Southwide causes, and that very soon."

The Branch Committee, reporting 26 years later, would make recommendations for increased cooperation between the Home Mission Board and state conventions, but again, recommended that the HMB continue as a separate board.

"Though some have suggested the consolidation of the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board, we are convinced that such a union would compromise two different missiological strategies and confuse our missions vision," said the final report of the 1995 Program and Structure Study Committee chaired by Mark Brister.

## Mississippi Baptist Minister Hosts

# Hawaii

Join Other Southern Baptists and Rev. Billy Williams  
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# GCR Task Force 'talking about big issues'

By James A. Smith Sr.  
Florida Baptist Witness

ATLANTA — The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force held its inaugural meeting Aug. 11-12 in Atlanta, burdened by the “absolutely enormous” and “extremely challenging” responsibility placed upon it by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), chairman Ronnie Floyd said Aug. 12 at a news conference following the event.

Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., said the group is already “talking about big issues and looking at big questions” pertaining to Southern Baptists doing the Great Commission.

“I trust that all of us understand this, but we have a huge job to accomplish and looming deadline before us,” he said.

“This much is already clear. Our great passion is the Great Commission. With that as our passion, we will work long, hard and tirelessly to develop a report that will unleash a passion for the Great Commission that will energize Southern Baptists and prioritize our work together.”

The task force was appointed by SBC President Johnny Hunt in June after the SBC authorized its creation to study how Southern Baptists can work “more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission.”

The task force met privately with only members permitted to attend, although two of Hunt’s staff and his wife, Janet, participated on a limited basis. Other

invited guests participated for portions of the two-day meeting, including Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, and SBC chief parliamentarian and Church of Christ minister Barry McCarty, who was in Atlanta Aug. 11 to assist the North American Mission Board in its trustees’ deliberations concerning President Geoff Hammond (story, page 1).

Floyd said Hammond’s resignation “adds to our urgency and our burden.

“It adds to the challenges we have before us. But we are going to trust the trustee process of the SBC and really, it’s really not our issue to talk about.”

The task force heard presentations by Rainer, and task force members R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., serves on the task force as an ex-officio member, along with Floyd and 21 other Southern Baptists. Only two members — Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, and David Dockery, president of Union University — were not able to participate in any part of the meetings.

Hunt said he was excited about the start of the process.

“I feel like it was a very engaging time, a very challenging time. I feel like the longer we were together, the more open and honest we could be to share how we really felt,” Hunt said. “Not always what we wanted to hear, but what kept the conversation flowing and could lead to change.”

“Change is difficult always, in

our lives personally, in our church and in our denomination,” Hunt added. “So even in our own committee to come together, lead for change that will bring positive change, as pertains to being more effective and more inclusive for the Great Commission, is quite a task but I think it’s a great start.”

Floyd declined to elaborate on the group’s deliberations.

“The nature of the work ... has got to be confidential to a degree, because of the kind of things we have to discuss,” he said. “We do not want to get us off on side streets that take us away from the main street we’re trying to go on right now.”

Floyd said his initial goal was for the members to get to know one another, to pray together, and to try and learn how they each got to be on the task force.

“Then we talked about where we are as a convention and that’s where Dr. Rainer came in,” he said. “Then we started talking about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention, what that needed to look like, and that’s really where we did most of our meeting was in all those areas.”

Floyd said that task force has not yet planned any future meetings, other than the previously announced gathering set for Aug. 26-27 in Rogers, Ark.

Floyd said he received a letter from SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman confirming the Executive Committee will fund its work.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Smith is executive editor of the Florida Baptist Witness. Baptist Press contributed to this report.)



Floyd



Hunt



Rainer

## N.C. pastor blogs about new assignment

By Steve DeVane  
BR Managing Editor

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in many ways operates like a “bad parachurch” organization, a prominent young N.C. Baptist pastor on the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task Force said in his blog, following the first meeting of the GCR Task Force.

“The perception is that local churches should give, send people, and allow the institutions to do the work,” said J.D. Greear, pastor of the Summit Church in Durham.

All three task force members with N.C. ties — Greear; Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest; and Al Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem — deferred questions about the group’s first meeting Aug. 11-12 in Atlanta to Ronnie Floyd, the task force’s chairman.

But Greear posted a blog about the task force the day after the meeting ended and Akin mentioned the meeting on Twitter, a web site that allows him to send short messages to people who “follow” him.

Akin called the meeting “excellent” on his Twitter site after the meeting ended and sent a message during the meeting just before hearing Al Mohler addressed the task force.

“I believe it will be a major moment!” Akin said.

Greear’s post didn’t reveal much about the meeting, but did speak about the group’s role and his take on it. He said it is a “great honor” to serve on the task force.

“The task force is assigned the task of praying and ‘dreaming’ about what a more efficient, more effective SBC would look like,” Greear said. “How can we realign our agencies, refocus our spending, repent of our wrongdoing,

and re-present ourselves to our community?”

Greear says the he believes that one key for a “Great Commission Resurgence” is for the SBC “to restore the initiative in ministry to the local church.”

“The local church is the primary institution of the New Testament,” he said.

Parachurch ministries, denominations and networks exist to facilitate the ministry of the local church, Greear said.

“Denominations are not biblical institutions,” he said. “That is not to say they are unbiblical institutions ... denominational networks are simply functional tools that churches can use to accomplish the mission given to them (as, after all, Christians have historically found they can accomplish more cooperating together than they can acting independently).”

Greear said good parachurch ministries facilitate the church’s ministry, while bad parachurch organizations take ministry from the local church.

“Bad parachurch says, ‘Give us money and people and we’ll do ministry for you,’” he said. “In my opinion, the SBC has, in many places, descended into a ‘bad parachurch’ model.”

Greear said younger pastors “want to use cooperative networks to plant churches, but they don’t want the networks to do the work for them.”

“Furthermore, they question whether or not giving money to the Convention is the best use of their resources,” he

said. “They see what they believe to be a great deal of bureaucracy, inefficiency, and activity in the Convention not related to church planting.”

Most younger pastors will not give to the SBC out of a sense of loyalty, Greear said.

“While some of us are young, arrogant, and naïve, we also have the understanding that we must be more committed to the Great Commission than we are the Convention,” he said. “If the SBC is an efficient tool in fulfilling that commission, we will use it. If it is not, most younger pastors will discard it.”

Greear said many younger pastors will support seminaries and other efforts to train and produce church planters, but they want those institutions to be partners, not take over the work.

“Part of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force’s assignment is to address the issue of how younger pastors can be brought back in,” he said. “How can we align the Convention so that local Baptist churches see the SBC as an effective partner for accomplishing their commission?”

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# Private CP analysis laments 'disparity' in funding

## From staff reports

The Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task Force was expected to look at research showing Southern Baptists spend per capita 33 times more for missions in relatively gospel-saturated North America than they do for the comparatively unreached rest of the world, according to the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

Daniel Palmer, a development office of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary who did the analysis as a personal project, said the primary reason for this "alarming" distortion in missions funding priorities is Baptist state conventions that "skim" approximately two-thirds of all Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program dollars for their own causes, according to the *Witness* report.

The missions funding analysis caught the attention of SBC President Johnny Hunt and was to be among the data considered by the SBC's GCR Task Force when it met for the first time Aug. 11-12 in Atlanta, according to the report, which was published before the meeting.

But the paper reported that one state convention executive director said the analysis is "fatuous" and "meaningless" because "it's not connected to reality."

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and former vice president for Cooperative Program of the SBC Executive Committee, did not think much of Palmer's data.

Palmer does not "give evidence that he understands" the "history and ecclesiology of Southern Baptists," Hankins said, which makes an honest conversation difficult.

"I think, also, he could have a more fraternal spirit and positive response to enter into the conversation if he didn't

use what is at best, unprofessional and intemperate language, and at worst, unchristian language about his fellow Southern Baptists," Hankins said, pointing as an example to Palmer's use of "skim" regarding the state conventions' retention of CP funds.

"It's not true in fact and the word 'skimming' means embezzlement, which is an illegal action," Hankins said.

"I think a better approach is to talk about what's within the realm of possibility for us to do, to have a strategy for what we want to do overseas, tell our people what the real dollar costs are likely to be and challenge them to reach it," Hankins said.

Palmer's analysis said, "The SBC is built more like a government bureaucracy than a conduit for the gospel."

Created in 1925 in the midst of a financial crisis in the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified funding effort for state, national and international missionary enterprises.

Churches forward CP gifts to Baptist state conventions, which retain a portion of the funds for state missions work, as approved by the churches of that state, and forward an approved portion for national and international work.

Palmer wrote in his analysis that Southern Baptists spend 33 times more on North American missions than on international missions.

Using 2008 and 2009 data from various sources, per capita missions spending in the United States and Canada was calculated by adding CP receipts retained by state conventions, SBC CP funds for the North American Mission Board and NAMB Annie Armstrong Offering funds (\$447.24 million) divided by the total population of the U.S. and Canada (340 million).

The result: Southern Baptists spend

## 2008-2009 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

**\$205,716,834**

**1.65%**

**Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries**  
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

**3.40%**

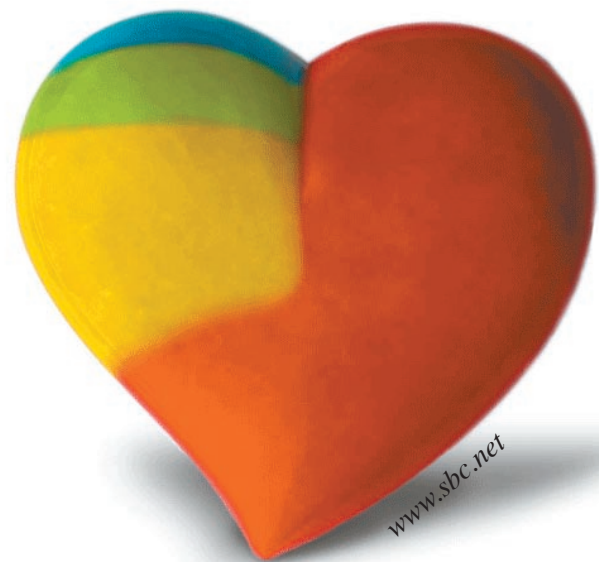
**Facilitating Ministries**  
SBC Operating Budget (Basic)

**22.16%**

**Theological Education Ministries**  
Seminaries (21.92%)  
Library and Archives (.24%)

**72.79%**

**World Missions Ministries**  
International Mission Board (50%)  
North American Mission Board (22.79%)



## CP—The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries

\$1.31 per person for missions in North America.

Internationally, Palmer added the IMB portion of the SBC CP budget with receipts from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (total: \$243.86 million) divided by the world's population (6.4 billion, excepting the U.S. and Canada).

The result: Southern Baptists spend \$0.04 per person for missions to reach the world. Hunt expressed alarm at the data. He had a warning for states that ignore the desire for greater international missions funding.

"If states are not willing to release greater percentages and greater dollars to the nations, they are going to find people like Johnny Hunt designating their dollars where they want it themselves instead of sending it to them when they're not listening to us," Hunt said.

Hankins expressed concern that state conventions may have "their feet cut

out from under them by a continuing disrespect for the cooperative methodology, which tends to continue the lowering of the income."

While Hankins "strongly believes" more money needs to get to the international field, he said it should not be accomplished by the suggestion "we ought to undo valuable, stateside ministries."

Citing the creation of children's homes, colleges, hospitals, benevolence, disaster relief, as well as church planting and other ministries, Hankins said state conventions have created ministries at the request of the churches.

Palmer said he does not "wish to malign the men and women currently serving in state conventions or to impugn their motives."

Rather, he said, "This study is a call for us to assess the status quo and make changes in response to what the study reveals."

# CP floor raised to keep staff eligible for benefits

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

A number of North Carolina Baptist churches will need to increase their Cooperative Program giving in 2010 to qualify their staff members for matching retirement contributions and protection benefits provided by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC).

The Executive Committee Aug. 13 approved an annual increase of \$220 — to \$640 — per qualifying staff member. Actual costs are increasing for the BSC to provide a basic annuity, life and disability benefit and too many churches give just enough to qualify their staff members for the coverage without actually supporting the work of the BSC, according to John Butler, BSC executive leader for business services.

Churches that give \$420 to CP per staff member in effect contribute nothing to the work of North Carolina Baptists because their entire contribution is utilized for benefits to their own staffs.

"A lot of churches know how this works," Butler told Executive Committee members before their vote. "They give the exact minimum in order to qualify their staff for this benefit."

In other words, "the annuity is good enough for them, but nothing else is," said board member Greg Barefoot.

More than 800 churches affiliated with the BSC give nothing to the Cooperative Program. According to Butler, in "a significant number of those the pastor still receives this benefit."

An undetermined number of other churches make CP contributions that simply equal that required for staff coverage.

Recognizing the difficulty of small churches to adequately fund retirement and protection benefits for their pastor, the BSC historically has provided an automatic exemption from the contribution minimum for churches with a \$50,000 budget or smaller.

That automatic exemption is being eliminated, but such a church can still apply for exemption as a "hardship case" and be considered individually, Butler said.

Because church gifts in one year qualify the staff for coverage in the succeeding year, the increased minimum will be

tallied in 2010 to qualify staff for coverage in 2011.

The biggest concern expressed by Executive Committee members during discussion was that small budget churches would lose their automatic exemption. The BSC staff will notify every church by letter of the new requirements, according to Butler.

GuideStone Financial Resources Consultant Johnny Ross will make calls and notify churches as he does every year if their gifts do not meet the minimums for coverage.

Butler said the move is not to eliminate church participation. "We want churches to participate," he said. But if the current pricing structure were to remain, other churches would be subsidizing with their mission gifts the retirement and protection benefit of those churches that would not fund their own.

"It's not about getting money from them, it's about getting them to take responsibility for their staff,"

Butler said. "And it's an opportunity to talk about the value of cooperative giving."

Executive Director-treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr., knows "this will be a major issue because of the practice we've had in our history."

"But it doesn't mean it's not the right thing to do now, simply because we've been doing it another way," he said.

"I also share the concern where I don't want pastors to be left out just because they are in churches with small budgets."

Butler said there are "very few churches of any size that cannot budget \$54 a month to go to the Cooperative Program. That's not asking a whole lot for a church to be able to say, 'I'm a part of the BSC and all its ministries and services.' If you're not willing to do that, then are you really a part of the BSC?"

After hearing a budget report that shows receipts through July 3.2 percent below the same period last year, Hollifield said, "The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is financially healthy." Cash flow remains "in the black" through the first eight months, Butler said.

After that meeting, the Executive Committee went into executive session, where members finalized with staff the final steps leading to the announcement the next day of the elimination of six positions on the BSC staff, resulting in the layoff of three persons.

Although the 2010 budget is not finalized, documents distributed at the meeting show a fifth consecutive one-half percentage point increase to ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

That would make the North Carolina-SBC split of Cooperative Program gifts from churches 65.5/34.5, compared to the 68/32 division of five years ago. Based on a \$36 million budget, the half-point difference is \$180,000.







# Within reach

*N.C. Baptists meet the nations at home*

## For Hmong believers, Jesus is only sacrifice

By Mike Creswell  
BSC

Visiting the Hmong church in Albemarle is like visiting a bit of Asia — the people, their language and their artfully embroidered clothing styles all seem different from most Burke County residents.

But talk a bit and you quickly find these modest, friendly people have much in common with North Carolina Baptists. In fact, they may have a thing or two to teach us about the gospel.

Pastor Neng Hue Yang and his wife, Carine, lead Hmong (pronounced MONG) congregations in Albemarle and Monroe, working to reach the estimated 3,000 Hmong people living in the area for Christ. The Yangs are receiving financial support from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, whose church planting ministry is funded through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

The Yangs came to the United States in 1979 from Laos, a country in Southeast Asia which borders China, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Historically the Hmong people lived in southwest China, but in the 1700s many began migrating to surrounding countries.

In 2008 the Yangs moved to North Carolina, which ranks fifth among U.S. states in Hmong settlement, with the state's total number of Hmong estimated at more than 8,000 by a 2006 report by the U.S. Census Bureau. Some 500 Hmong refugees settled in North Carolina in 2004, joining about 300,000 Hmong already living in the United States, according to a 2004 report by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

"These are hardworking people who have demonstrated an ability to become contributing members of our communities, finding jobs and paying taxes," said Carmen Hooker Odom, then secretary of the department.

Pastor Yang estimates almost half the Hmong people of North Carolina live in the Hickory-Statesville area. One Hmong publication reported that two-thirds of the foreign-born children in Burke County schools are Hmong. Many Hmong people arrive in America after spending years in refugee camps in Thailand or other Asian countries.

In Asia many Hmong people are farmers in back-ground and often face persecution for being a minority group there. They come to America seeking political freedom and economic opportunity.

But Pastor Yang wants his people to have spiritual freedom as well.

"I wanted to be a pastor because I want people to



BSC photos by K Brown

*SINGING — North Carolina ranks fifth among U.S. states in Hmong settlement. The Hmong in Albemarle bring traditional dress to their worship service.*

*"I wanted to be a pastor because  
I want people to have a better life.  
I want them to be saved. I want  
people to have hope."*

*— Neng Hue Yang*

have a better life. I want them to be saved. I want people to have hope. I want people to be in heaven when they die," he said.

The religion most Hmong people follow is animism, which means worshipping spirits which may live in rocks or trees.

When a Hmong person becomes sick, the family often will sacrifice a cow or pig to appease the spirits they believe creating the sickness.

"When we sacrifice animals to atone for a disease or sickness, that does not work," Yang said.

"I guess Satan is also very smart. One day when they sacrifice that person became well, but it's only for a few days and then the same thing (sickness) comes back and they do a sacrifice again. Back in Laos many people sacrifice and so it gets expensive. It gets so

expensive they cannot afford to buy the animals to sacrifice for their family members and sometimes they would sell off their children just to buy a cow or pig, just to sacrifice for their loved one, and it is an on-going routine that will never end," he said.

In fact, one reason many Hmong families settle in North Carolina is so they can buy farm land on which to raise animals which they will sacrifice to the spirits.

But Yang said the gospel delivers people from that kind of bondage, which is very similar to the situation first-century Christians were liberated from after they accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

"We want them to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want them to know that Christ is the Savior of the world and that He has died for our sins and we don't need to be in bondage any more," he said.

"Jesus Christ has made the final sacrifice and we can be free in Him. We don't need to sacrifice any more animals. Christ is the best sacrifice for us and He has done once and for all. If we just believe in Him and just trust Him and just obey Him, then we are free from all that religion."

*(See Hmong Page 10)*

## Church planter Ed Tablazon: Reaching Filipinos in Triad

By Mike Creswell  
BSC

It's no longer surprising to see Asians in North Carolina; people come here from every Asian country in the world.

But church planter/missionary Ed Tablazon is looking mostly for people from his home country of the Philippines as he works to start Filipino churches in Lewisville and Greensboro.

"There are probably 3,000 Filipinos in the Triad area," he said, "but the biggest concentration is in the Winston-Salem area."

"Many of the Filipinos here in the Triad work in the medical field, such as nursing. Many are trained physical therapists. Many of them are not coming here directly from the Philippines,

but come here after settling first in other parts of the United States, such as New York or New Jersey," he said.

Being Baptist is nothing new for Tablazon. He became a Christian at age 10, not surprising because his grandparents and parents were Baptists and his father was a Baptist pastor on the island of Palawan, one of some 4,000 inhabited islands that make up the Philippines.

Tablazon also became a Baptist pastor before he came with his wife, Leah, and their three children to the United States in 1999. They settled first in New Jersey and lived there seven years before they relocated to the Winston-Salem area.

He began to meet people and learn the area and he launched the Triad Journey Church in 2008.

So far about 30 people attend the

Triad Journey Church for Filipinos. Tablazon started with financial help and guidance from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

The Convention's Church Planting Team also provided training on church planting and encouragement and guidance through Ralph Garay, church planting consultant and Filipino native who works to start new Asian churches across North Carolina.

"Ralph is a very encouraging minister to work with," Tablazon said.

Triad Journey Church meets in the fellowship hall of Lewisville Baptist Church in Lewisville, though total attendance at home groups is larger. In

*(See Church Page 10)*



BSC photo by Mike Creswell

*HELLO — A Filipino girl is just one of the people being reached with the North Carolina Missions Offering.*



# Koreans part of N.C. international flavor

By Mike Creswell  
BSC

People from around the world are moving to North Carolina. In Huntersville, just north of Charlotte, many of these new neighbors are Koreans. Because many newcomers are still learning English, they cannot easily attend one of the many churches in the area to hear and understand the gospel.

“A language problem should not be an obstacle (to) getting closer to God,” says Korean-born Dae Yim, pastor of the Korean Fellowship Church here.

Since he naturally speaks Korean, Yim is able to witness to the growing number of Korean newcomers to Huntersville. “We hope to bring people to God, establish a personal relationship with God and become (unified) under

God,” he says, citing Ephesians 4. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina supports Yim’s work through its Church Planting Team. Asian church planting consultant Ralph Garay visits Yim often to offer advice and encouragement, support aimed at getting a strong Korean church started.

And the Convention also provides financial support to Yim as he visits people and works hard to get his church to grow and become self-supporting. That financial help is made possible in part through the North Carolina Missions Offering, to which North Carolina Baptists contribute each fall.

The Korean Fellowship Church has become a real family for Yung Semmler, one of the original members who offered her home for the church as a meeting place in the early days. Semmler says many Koreans are moving into the area, but their church is



REACHING — Young or old, N.C. Baptists find ways to reach Koreans for Christ.



FEEDING — Korean Baptist Fellowship members chow down at Lake Norman State Park on May 19 in Huntersville. The congregation is one of many international churches that the North Carolina Mission Offering supports.

the only church for Huntersville and the northern Charlotte area.

“We really need to reach out to the Korean community of this area,” she says. “It is a joy to see Koreans finding Christ here,” she said. “God is good. That’s all I can say. God is good.”

As North Carolina Baptists invest in church planting through the North Carolina Missions Offering, they will help many find the unique joy avail-

able in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. And as the Korean Fellowship Church grows in coming years, that joy will spread to thousands of others. The return on investing in church planting will be long-term, with eternal returns.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Parentheses in story represent slight changes in wording to correct English, a second language for the Koreans quoted.)

## NCMO

### North Carolina Missions Offering & Week of Prayer

In John 17 Jesus prays toward the fulfillment of His mission to reach lost humanity. He also prays that His followers would join Him in that mission (see John 17:24). The North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) is one way believers can join Jesus in His work of taking the gospel to the world. This offering provides believers and churches the opportunity to both give to missions, and to pray toward missions. Since prayer is foundational to all we are and do as believers, it is an essential component of the NCMO emphasis.

#### Sun., Sept. 13

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.”  
— Romans 10:1

Pray for Pastor Neng Yang and the members of First Hmong Baptist Church, a new church plant in Albemarle. Pastor Yang and his people share the love and message of Jesus among a people group whose religious background includes animism, the worship of nature. This past year the congregation witnessed 43 people give their hearts to Jesus. Thank God for each of these new believers and pray for an even greater harvest in the days to come.

#### Mon., Sept. 14

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”  
— James 2:17

Pray for the disaster relief ministry of North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM). In 2008, NCBM volunteers responded to multiple natural disasters caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms and wildfires. These volunteers provided 13,500 volunteer workdays of service to people in need and witnessed hundreds of people come to faith in Jesus.

#### Tue., Sept. 15

“Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”  
— Acts 13:3  
Pray for Pedro Bueno, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Maranatha in Clinton.

Pastor Bueno has been instrumental in planting four Hispanic churches in North Carolina, all planted to share Jesus with the fastest-growing ethnic group in North Carolina. Pastor Bueno is also assisting Eastern Baptist Association in starting a Bible institute to train the next generation of Hispanic church planters and leaders.

#### Wed., Sept. 16

“Freely you received, freely give.”  
— Matthew 10:8

Pray for the ministry of the Red Springs Mission Camp in Robeson County. Pray for Larry Osborne, Teresa Osborne and Windell Hunt who lead the ministry. Pray for the safety of the NCBM volunteers as they repair homes for low income families. Pray for the spiritual health of the residents whose homes are repaired and pray for Eddie and Martha Williams as they oversee the construction and launch of a second mission camp in Shelby.

#### Thurs., Sept. 17

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”  
— Acts 2:47  
Pray for Pastor Vijay Kumar Allampalli and the congregation of the Winston-Salem Asian Indian Fellowship. Aided by Kumar’s leadership, North Caro-

lina Baptists have established multiple new church plants to reach Asian Indian people. Pray for the relational cultivating events planned by these congregations to reach even more Asian Indians for Jesus.

#### Fri., Sept. 18

“Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’”  
— Matthew 25:45

During these tough economic times, when record levels of unemployment mean a lack of insurance for thousands of North Carolina families, pray for the medical/dental bus ministry of the North Carolina Baptist Men. This ministry, fully staffed with volunteer doctors, dentists and nurses, provides free medical/dental care to thousands of your North Carolina neighbors each year. Every patient receives prayer, spiritual guidance and the gospel of Jesus.

#### Sat., Sept. 19

“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”  
— Jeremiah 33:3

Pray for Jeff Smith, a cowboy evangelist who works with the Cowboy Church Network, and Louis Gibson, pastor of Blue Ridge Cowboy Church in Fletcher. Blue Ridge is one of several dozen cowboy churches evangelizing and ministering to the cowboy community across our state.

In 2008, Blue Ridge witnessed 37 professions of faith in Jesus.

#### Sun., Sept. 20

“Then we shall not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.”  
— Psalm 80:18

Pray for a heaven-sent revival to sweep across North Carolina. Pray for North Carolina Baptists to be bold with the gospel and allow God to use us to push back the spiritual darkness in our state. Pray that North Carolina Baptists will give sacrificially to the 2009 North Carolina Mission Offering, providing the resources needed to reach our state for Jesus through church planting and the evangelistic ministries of North Carolina Baptist Men.



Project files pile up at Red Springs Mission Camp.



# For Hmong believers, Jesus is only sacrifice



BSC photos by K Brown

**PARTICIPATING** — Hmong women worship in North Carolina.

(Continued from page 8)

When he and his wife, Carine, visit Hmong families, Yang said, "The Hmong people are very friendly when you come to their house. They will welcome you and offer you food and water. The lady of the house will start cooking a meal for the visitors."

But the Yangs soon turn the conversation toward spiritual matters. "We were once like you, and we have been delivered from all these sacrificial religions. Christ has delivered us and we have been set free, and Christ can do the same for you," Yang tells people.

Positive response to the gospel is a cause for joy, the Yangs say.

"I love the people here, and it's just a good feeling to know that they are

saved. And it will be wonderful to have more people saved as well. So it is a challenge, but it is also a great reward," Yang said.

"We want to say 'thank you' to the Baptist State Convention for supporting our mission here in Albemarle. Because of your support we can reach out to the Hmong community in this county and tell them about Jesus Christ. So thank you for your support and your prayers," Yang said.

Pastor Yang is among some 170 church-planting missionaries supported by North Carolina Baptists through the Cooperative Program and North Carolina Missions Offering. The convention started 108 new churches in the state during 2008, an average of a new church every three days.

## Church planter Ed Tablazon: Reaching Filipinos in Triad

(Continued from page 8)

January this year Tablazon started a second Filipino church in Greensboro, the Triad Community Church, which has reached four families so far.

Triad Journey Church services are conducted in English, because English is usually the second language spoken by Filipinos after one of their native languages.

Because friendship and relationships are important for Filipinos, Tablazon said small groups usually are more effective for outreach than other approaches.

"Some Filipinos are already Christians when they arrive in the United States, but non-Christians are often responsive to the gospel. They're looking for connections, relationships," Tablazon said.

Jun Farnaso, one of Triad Journey Church's main lay leaders, is typical in some ways of Filipinos. He grew up on the main island of Luzon, south of Manila, the capital city.

Trained as a computer analyst, he moved to Saudi Arabia to work. Many Filipinos leave their homeland to seek



BSC photo by Mike Creswell

**REACHING** — Ed Tablazon preaches to a Filipino congregation. He has started churches in Greensboro and Lewisville.

work in other countries, including other parts of Asia or the Middle East.

Working at a military hospital in Saudi Arabia, he met his future wife, also from the Philippines, who worked as a nurse.

They were married and continued work in Saudi Arabia for five more years.

They found life hard in Saudi Arabia, despite having jobs.

"It's hard if you're a Christian. You have no freedom to worship," Farnaso said.

"The most important thing is your

personal relationship with God," he said of those days.

He and his wife came to the United States in 1991 and once in North Carolina they first joined a large Baptist church in Winston-Salem.

"It's a great church and the fellowship was good, but we were looking for fellow Filipinos. It's different to have your own countrymen," he said.

"We were happy when we found the Triad Journey Church. We really like the pastor and we want to help this church grow," he said.

On a recent Sunday the fellowship hall still had decorations from several high school students who just graduated

from high school.

Farnaso's son was one of them. It was a nice picture: An American dream coming true in a Christian context.

North Carolina Baptists are reaching people in some three dozen language/culture groups across the state as they support the starting of new churches through their giving.

To learn more about how your church can help sponsor a new church plant, go to [www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=churchplanting](http://www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=churchplanting).

To learn more about how NCMO supports church planting, go to [www.ncmissionsoffering.org/index.php?id=1222](http://www.ncmissionsoffering.org/index.php?id=1222).

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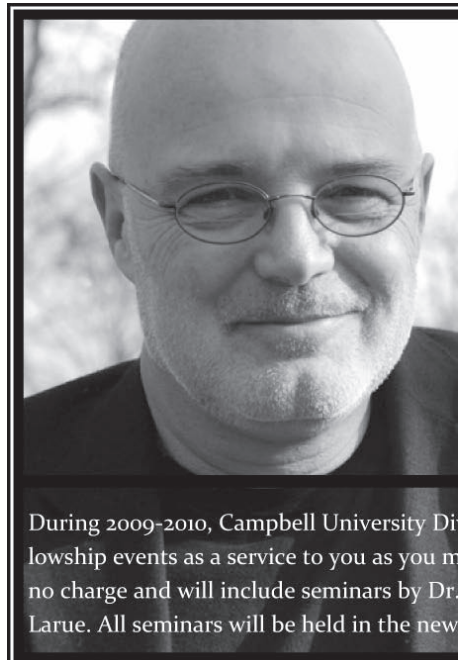
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# Leadership history reveals pattern of turmoil

(Continued from Page 1)

Reccord's successor, Geoff Hammond, and three close associates resigned Aug. 11 after Hammond clashed with leaders of NAMB's Board of Trustees amid accusations of low morale among some of the 279 employees who work at the agency's headquarters in Alpharetta, Ga.

Lewis said the decision to pull the former SBC Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas, and the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., under the same umbrella with home missions "eliminated or marginalized some of our most productive entities."

"It was a step backwards," Lewis said.

Lewis said he has been told that the real reason behind the reorganization was that leaders of the "conservative resurgence" were displeased with him because he wasn't aggressive enough about weeding out what they viewed as vestiges of liberalism at the HMB, but they didn't want to fire him because they had supported his election and he affirmed biblical inerrancy. The solution, the story goes, was to reorganize the agency in a way that didn't leave a place for Lewis.

"I would hate to think that is true," Lewis said, "but it may well be."

Lewis said some people who supported his election as HMB president expected a "wholesale purging" of staff after he took office, but his philosophy was to keep a worker unless the person was "obviously liberal."

"Frankly, we never dismissed anyone because of their theological position," he said, although some who disagreed with his theology left on their own.



Lewis

Lewis, a former church planter and college president, said he tried to be a reconciler and believed that much of the splintering in the SBC could have been avoided if conservatives offered political moderates who were theologically conservative a place at the table.

He said he is proud, for example, that he secured for his board the nomination of Richard Jackson, a self-described inerrantist from Phoenix who lost credibility among the resurgence leaders when he ran — unsuccessfully — for SBC president against Jerry Vines in 1988.

"My love and respect for a brother in Christ is not predicated on his agreeing with me," Lewis said.

"We made every effort possible to depoliticize the process in appointing missionaries and hiring staff," he said.

Two long-time former HMB employees told the *Biblical Recorder*



NAMB photo by John Swain

**SPEAKING** — Before his resignation, Geoff Hammond was encouraging attendees at NAMB's annual Summer State Leadership Meeting to continue to live with urgency.

that leadership problems at the agency predate the formation of NAMB by decades. They and other observers said the agency actually has not enjoyed a steady hand at the leadership helm since Arthur Rutledge, who led the HMB from 1965 until his retirement a few months before his death in 1976.

Don Hammonds, who retired in 1997 as interim vice president and worked during the full terms of both Lewis and his predecessor, Bill Tanner, said there is "no doubt" that Rutledge was "hands

down the strongest executive" ever at the HMB.

Unlike some of his successors, who had a reputation of wanting to do things their own way, Hammonds said Rutledge "got people who knew something about what they were asked to do and he let them do it. He trusted his staff."

Walker Knight, who retired as director of the department of editorial services in 1983, said Rutledge was "soft-spoken but had a backbone of steel."

"All the staff admired him," Knight said.

Concerns about the efficiency of Southern Baptists' home-missions enterprise came under scrutiny several times during the 20th century. The most recent was 1959, when a study committee recommended the HMB should continue as a separate agency of the SBC but restructured its work around cooperative agreements with Baptist state conventions.

The work of NAMB is likely to be placed under the microscope once more in discussions of a Great Commission Task Force appointed by SBC president Johnny Hunt in June.

The current chairman of NAMB's board of trustees, Florida pastor Tim Patterson, has already suggested a merger of NAMB and the International Mission Board.

For more on this story, search Hammond and Lewis at [www.biblical-recorder.org](http://www.biblical-recorder.org).



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Edgewood Baptist Church in Wilkesboro, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. We have an average worship attendance of 75. Candidate should have at least five years pastoral experience. Must be spiritually mature, possess good leadership and be a skilled counselor available to assist others with personal and spiritual problems. Our church provides an excellent opportunity for someone with vision and spiritual leadership skills. Please send resume to Edgewood Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 480 Moore Ridge Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659.

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First Baptist Church, Franklin, NC, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains seeking **senior pastor**. Requirements are pastoral experience, seminary degree, age 30-45, with excellent people skills and a dedication to God's word and His people. Mail resumes with DVD to First Baptist Church, Pastor Search Team, 69 Iotla St., Franklin, NC 28734.

**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](mailto:amclaurin@amerispec.net).

Western Branch Baptist Church, constituted in 1779, is a rural community church located 10 miles from the heart of downtown Suffolk, VA. We are currently seeking a candidate for the position of **Senior Pastor**. Please forward resume to Donnie Jones, 708 N. Broad Street, Suffolk, VA 23434 or e-mail to [dwjones52@verizon.net](mailto:dwjones52@verizon.net) by September 15, 2009.

**Senior Pastor.** Calvary Baptist is now accepting applications for pastor. Calvary is affiliated with PBA, BSCNC and SBC. Worship attendance in 2008 was 300+ in our new facility located in rapidly growing eastern Guilford County. Candidate should have previous senior pastor experience and at least an MDiv. Send resume to Search Committee, 5585 Burlington Road, McLeansville, NC 27301.

First Baptist Church, Maysville, NC, mission-minded, evangelistic, Southern Baptist in growing community seeks full time **pastor**. Attendance-175. Resumes to [maysvillefbc@eastnc.twcbc.com](mailto:maysvillefbc@eastnc.twcbc.com) or mail to Search Committee, PO Box 208, Maysville, NC 28555.

**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.

### Church Staff

Baptist Grove Church in Raleigh, NC, is seeking a **Director, Youth Ministry**. A full time position of 30-35 hours per/wk. Prior exp. working with groups of youths and teens preferred. Send resumes to Ada Maxwell at [adamaxwell@baptistgrovechurch.org](mailto:adamaxwell@baptistgrovechurch.org).

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**Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Family Ministries.** Kenly Missionary Baptist Church. Includes children/youth programming. Send resumes to PO Box 237, Kenly, NC 27542 or [kmcb@bbnp.com](mailto:kmcb@bbnp.com), c/o Associate Pastor Search Comm. Deadline 9/15/2009. Further information, see [kenlybaptist.com](http://kenlybaptist.com).

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.

Mount Olivet Baptist, a growing Northern Piedmont church supporting CBF and SBC, is seeking a full-time **Associate Pastor** with previous experience. This position requires a relevant bachelor's degree with seminary training. Duties include working in several key areas of ministry with a primary focus on children, youth, and young adults. See our website — [www.mtolivetchurch-franklinton.com](http://www.mtolivetchurch-franklinton.com) for additional position requirements. Send resumes to Associate Pastor Search Committee, Mount Olivet Church, 1245 Mount Olivet Church Rd., Franklinton, NC 27525.

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



## Tar Heel Voices

### Two superior staff gone

I was saddened to hear that Eddie Hammett and Wendy Edwards had been terminated (see story, page 3). Two of the finest Baptist staff will no longer be able to continue to bless churches and lay leaders.

Eddie is among the last of Findley Edge's boys, who believed the Church could be something more than it is. Findley called it Church Renewal in the 1960's when many of us were influenced by his writings, especially, "The Greening of the Church."

Eddie's influence in working with churches and their staffs in redirecting their work has continued in his writings which has placed him in a broader national arena of working with churches.

He will continue to minister there as North Carolina Baptists have lost a prophetic voice.

Wendy Edwards was my last doctoral student in Christian Spirituality.

Her sharing with pastors and churches both books and insights about the spiritual growth of individuals and congregations has blessed many.

Her monthly column on spirituality is shared beyond North Carolina Baptists as being one of those places one could look to for help.

Her approach was not a programmatic one, but one of warmth and personal caring. She will be missed as persons scramble to find resources for their own spiritual growth.

**Bill Clemmons**  
Retired professor of Christian spirituality  
Memphis, Tenn.

### Obama writer challenged

In response to the misled writer in the Aug. 1 edition, referring to President Obama as "not anti-American, anti-Christian, pro-gay, pro-abortion, nor does he advocate the murder of innocent babies," etc., I must challenge his viewpoint.

I read my Bible daily and it teaches me that Jesus loved the little children; that He knew you in your mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5); and that David said in Psalms 139:13, "you knit me together in my mother's womb." Ex. 20:13 says "Thou shalt not kill," which is one of the Ten Commandments. I guess instead of being a politically correct American I am just a lowly God-fearing Christian passing through an alien land.

Not judging you or President Obama, perhaps you and your president might sit at the table to discuss over a beer where you are headed? You might even use the Bible for a reference. By the way, most church covenants say to abstain from the use of all types of alcohol. I could go on but I think you get the picture that being Christians we need to listen to Jesus instead of politicians.

**Donald Parris**  
Sylva

### Churches need to enlist members to mentor juvenile's families

We are in bad crime trouble in North Carolina because of neglect. We are trying to deal with crime using the "cheap" approach of easy parole and probation — crime is rising, especially in second tier cities like Rocky Mount where I work (second highest crime rate in North Carolina for towns its size — Gastonia is No. 1).

In 1958 the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) established a ministry called, "Juvenile Rehabilitation." My father, Claude Scarborough, was the first pioneer in this field. He met the judge and probation staff and offered to help them by enlisting local churches of all denominations to provide a mentoring family to befriend the troubled juvenile's family.

It worked. I should know, because I was the "official HMB juvenile delinquent" used in my dad's filmstrip to tell of how a boy and his family overcame their problems.

Volunteer efforts can work more effectively than that which is paid.

I served in the same capacity as chaplain to the Wake County Juvenile Court, 1968-70. My main contribution was to establish a "Ministers Day In Court" program. In it I organized clergy of all denominations to volunteer. Our goal was to have at least one minister present in court on a given day. We provided minimal training from the probation staff. The judge introduced the chaplain each day and encouraged the family to talk with him/her.

As bad as the budget shortfall is, it might be a blessing in disguise if citizens of this great state show more human

caring one for another. Real church ministry is not about how many we can get to a given church dressed nicely and giving much money.

It is a matter of "Who is my brother's keeper?"

**Gene Scarborough**  
Bath

### Please tell whole story

I want to thank the *Biblical Recorder* and Mike Creswell for the article on Wavey Williams in the Aug. 15 issue.

Wavey is one of our 16 church planters and is doing a great job. I was very pleased to see your story on Wavey and his link to the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

However, I was very disappointed to see that the link to the association was never mentioned. Wavey's first contact with Southern Baptists was through our association's seminary extension classes. After getting to know Wavey while teaching, I later recommended Wavey to serve on our staff in a newly created position that was made possible, in part, by support of the Cooperative Program (CP) and North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) dollars that I requested. Wavey has served part-time as our associate for partnership ministries, working with multi-housing ministries and helping me with church plants. Without the NCMO, the CP support and the association's support, this would not have been possible. This all happened before Wavey took on the extra role of serving as church planter at Mission Gaston.

Through my numerous years of both serving on the convention staff and in a number of associations, I have heard many times association leaders in North Carolina say that they often felt alienated from the Convention. I think it's stories like this that have made association leaders feel this way. The association also plays a huge role in our network of doing missions in North Carolina!

Please tell the whole story to let North Carolina Baptists know how we network and partner to do missions, ministry and evangelism. It's a really good story! I believe this message is vital as we move forward working together in kingdom building!

**Larry McElreath, executive director**  
Greater Gaston Baptist Association

### Concerned for direction of SBC

After attending the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in Louisville and reading reports in the *Biblical Recorder*, I have become deeply concerned about the direction our Convention has taken. It appears many of our leaders endorse and even seek to emulate the actions of Mark Driscoll and the Acts 29 church movement.

It is reported (in a publication given to Convention messengers from a Missouri layman) that "Driscoll banners his inerrancy view of Scriptures." Because of this it appears that many have overlooked his unorthodox and unholy approach to missions.

Let me be quick to point out the view of inerrancy of the Scriptures is not the "litmus test." The "litmus test" is obedience to the Scriptures. I ask Mr. Driscoll, Danny Akin, Al Mohler, Ed Stetzer, Al Reid and Johnny Hunt, where in this movement do we see the doctrines of holiness and of repentance? One might as well go to hell from a real bar or tavern as to go to hell from a church that adopts a bar and tavern mentality and discusses theological matters over a glass of beer.

I ask that our seminary presidents and elected SBC officials refrain from endorsing such ministries and to repudiate the distorted view of Scripture and subsequent approach to the ministry. I also would like to challenge Al Mohler, Danny Akin and others of this persuasion, "Are we to preach Calvin or are we to preach Jesus"? It's amazing to see how many more are "elected" when we preach Jesus, because God has chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. The truth is all that are in Christ are chosen, all that continue outside of Christ will not be chosen.

Where is integrity? Ed Stetzer is quoted in the *Recorder* saying he is "not impressed with the Southern Baptist Convention. I'm not getting my identity from it." That being true, Mr. Stetzer should resign from "Lifeway."

I ask that we resign ourselves from the Athenian mentality (Acts 17:21) where they spent time in nothing else but to tell or to hear some new thing. Let us follow the advice of Jude and earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Remembering he said there were certain men crept in unawares turning the grace of God into lasciviousness.

**Roy Kilby**  
Canton

## Motivated by love

**By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.**  
BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

Being a genuine disciple of Jesus is more about who we are than

what we do. The real character of a person is manifested in what he or she mentally dwells on or does when no one else seems to know. God knows all about our character and our level of spiritual maturity.



The wonderful fact is that He is always willing to change us, to make our character more like His, if we come to Him in humility and repentance. Because of His grace and love for us, God wants to bless us abundantly with spiritual blessings and He does when we are in right fellowship with Him (John 15:10-11).

Oswald Chambers once said, "Jesus calls service what we are to Him, not what we do for Him. Discipleship is based on devotion to Jesus Christ, not on adherence to a belief or creed." This truth was illustrated in the attitude of Mary Magdalene when she saw Christ at the tomb soon after His resurrection.

It is possible to know all about doctrine and yet not know Jesus in an intimate love relationship. Mary knew very little doctrine as compared to the pious Pharisees, but when she heard His voice as He called her by name (John 20:16) she could hardly contain her emotion of love. Mary was so expressive Jesus asked her to turn loose of him. She experienced this abundant joy because she loved Jesus with all her heart.

When the disciples left for other activities even after seeing the empty tomb, Mary remained and was first to actually see the risen Savior.

A primary expression of genuine discipleship is one's desire to know regular, uninterrupted fellowship with Christ. The secret of experiencing the wisdom and power of Christ and the ability to reflect Christ in our work with people is bound by our intimate connection with Christ in the place of private and unhurried communion with Him.

More of our devotional time should be spent listening for the Holy Spirit to reveal truths from God's holy word instead of telling God what we want Him to do.

God can make Himself known to us in the place of prayer if we wait to hear what He wants to say. Getting our requests answered is not the primary motive of prayer.

As we practice life-altering communion with Jesus, our perception of people will change because we will be able to see them through the eyes (love) of our Savior. Then, we can do ministry from the righteous motive of love for Jesus.

We will become more concerned about what people think of Christ than what others feel about us.

*That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings ... Philip-  
pians 3:10*



# Hamm delivered death notices with grace

Horace Hamm told me he delivered more death notices than any other military chaplain during the Vietnam War. A man with an endless Rolodex of stories, Horace never missed an opportunity to tell yet another. He was a great encourager who bubbled with enthusiasm and appreciated every day that God gave him in which to rejoice and share Jesus with someone else.

Horace died Aug. 16 (see obituary, page 4). He had come out of retirement to pastor Carolina Pines Baptist Church in Garner. A couple months ago, his legs gave way, then his mind, then his present, but never his past and never his heart.

Horace loved people because he saw each one as a person God loves and for whom Christ died. He loved the Church and poured his last working days into wrapping his arms around a discouraged congregation to help them see a future to win and not just a past for which to long.

Ten years ago when I changed careers to become a bivocational church planter I did most of the steps wrong. Well, all of the steps, actually. But something in me and my efforts struck a chord in Horace. He encouraged me at every step. He called to mentor me, to catch up with how things were going, to offer advice, tips, plans and strategy.

As a Naval Reserve chaplain 29½ years he was in demand all over the country for his riveting, inspiring, patriotic addresses. He never made a point in a speech that he did not illustrate with real stories of courageous men he knew personally.

But it was always his stories of delivering death notices that tore my heart out. He was a pastor in east Tennessee at the time. Boys pour out of those hills and hollers to take up arms whenever the nation calls and it fell to Horace to tell far too many mamas and daddys that their sons would be returning to those hills in a pine box.

Parents with sons at war know a government car without being able to describe it. Horace told me of driving the hollers of east Tennessee, looking for the household doomed to hear the news he bore. Once he pulled into a driveway to ask directions and the woman of the house yelled at him, "Don't you be stopping at this house. You leave here right now." Turns out, of course, she had a son at war, but Horace was just asking for directions. When he pulled into that same driveway several months later, it was not to ask directions.

Horace knew the importance of presence. He did not deliver his news and leave the family alone. He stayed with them as long as they needed to inhale the bitter reality and to exhale a sense comprehension of their next step. War has no regard for status and Horace carried notice to families in all walks of life. The pain of a judge in a courthouse was no less or more than the agony of a mom in a mobile home.

Maybe it was reaction in part to notifying so many people of death that he devoted his years to telling people of the full, rich and free life found in Jesus Christ.

Horace, this is notice of your death to so many who knew and loved you. Because of your example and your words, we know how to be full, rich and free in Jesus. Thank you.

— NWJ



# We say the darndest things

Art Linkletter hosted two of the longest running radio and television shows in American broadcast history. The longest, House Party, ran for 25 years and featured a wildly popular segment called "Kids say the darndest things."

If someone were to follow suit with a segment called "Preachers say the darndest things," they might open with John Piper, pastor for preaching at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minn. Piper surmised in his blog ([http://www.desiringgod.org/Blog/1965\\_the\\_tornado\\_the\\_lutherans\\_and\\_homosexuality/](http://www.desiringgod.org/Blog/1965_the_tornado_the_lutherans_and_homosexuality/)) that a rare tornado in Minneapolis Aug. 19 was a divine, surgically precise warning to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Lutherans to "turn from the approval of sin." They were debating their position on the suitability of hiring non-celibate homosexual clergy.

While North Carolina Baptists would wonder how in the world that issue even rises for discussion, the topic here is that we Christians have a tendency not to want to waste any good tragedy or act of nature without finding deep inside it a larger meaning, perhaps a message from God, or a warning. Maybe God does such things but maybe our own circumstances, timing and current concerns elicit from us a God-awareness that we would miss from any other similar storm.

When God told the prophet Elijah to stand on the mountain "for the Lord is about to pass by," Elijah was looking, but he did not see God in the powerful wind, nor the earthquake, nor the fire, "for the Lord was not in" them. (1 Kings 19) Sometimes it's just the wind.

Three people at Acadia National Park in Maine got a message from nature Aug. 23 when they were washed into the sea as they stood watching the waves whipped up by Hurricane Bill: "Don't stand so close to the water."

## BSC layoffs simply a money issue

Don't make any more of the sad news from the Baptist State Convention (BSC) that six positions are being cut than is there (story, page 3). There is no "shake up" in the staff. The layoffs are about the difference between income and expenses, nothing more. This will mark the fifth year of the past seven in which Cooperative Program gifts from the churches are lower than the preceding year.

There is more at work than the economy in the BSC budget and uncertainty still lingers like the smell of burnt popcorn. The 2010 budget will be the first in almost two decades without an optional giving plan.

As always, BSC income is completely dependent upon the willingness and commitment of North Carolina Baptist churches to support the work they initiated. No one knows how sure that commitment will be come January, when the first gifts are received under the new, single plan.

If BSC administration thought this year's shortfall was just a dip, while the economy struggles to pick itself up off the floor, they could have covered the shortfall from reserves, which are in place for just such an event. A permanent paring of positions indicates enough concern for the long term that such action was necessary.

## Avoid living with scarcity mentality

On a related note, I heard during a recent conference several professional fundraisers say there is

as much money out there as ever. Only twice in the past 40 or so years has Americans' giving to charitable causes been lower than in the previous year. And last year, which was one of those years, the entire drop of \$6 billion out of \$300 billion could be traced to wealthy people making smaller contributions to their own foundations.

Speaker Viken Mikaelian pointed out that a steady stream of bad news breeds a lack of confidence, which causes us to draw in, to hoard and to take no risks. Soon a "scarcity mentality" takes over, he said, and we start operating from a sense of what we no longer have, rather than what is available if we ask, plan, prepare and work.

Every entity, not only in Baptist life, but at every storefront in America, has to prove its worth day after day.

That includes you in your job, your company in the marketplace and your church in the minds of its members. When we do, there are funds to support the work.

## Increase easily justified

The BSC Executive Committee made a dramatic move by approving a 52 percent increase in the Cooperative Program gifts required from churches before church staff will be covered with retirement and protection benefits from the BSC (story page 7). These benefits are not the complete coverage your church should provide its staff members, by the way, but they were put into place to provide minimums.

Too many churches have been giving nothing through the Cooperative Program or have been giving just the \$420 per staff member to qualify for the benefit. Such a gift is not a gift at all, but the church simply buying a benefit. The minimum goes up to \$640 in 2010 to qualify for coverage in 2011.

That is neither an unreasonable, nor a punitive move by the BSC. GuideStone Financial Services has been supplementing the coverage on a decreasing scale, which is at its end. Cooperative Program gifts from other churches are not intended to fund staff benefits for churches that will not fund their own.

## NAMB on ice floe

Read the stories in this issue pertaining to the North American Mission Board and you may wonder how many chances remain for NAMB to erase doubt of its worth. Already the subject of at least nine studies on whether to continue its ministry as a separate missions board, or eliminate it or combine it with the International Mission Board, its trustees put the agency in position for yet another evaluation by forcing the resignation of President Geoff Hammond. Although North Carolina's representatives on that board will not talk about meeting specifics, Alabama trustee Ellie Ficken quit the board in disgust after the meeting. Before the meeting, she'd said, "We should never be afraid of the truth. There should be full disclosure on what is happening."

Full disclosure is not a NAMB trademark. The agency still will not disclose the terms under which it "sold" FamilyNet, the last remnant of the Radio and Television Commission, to InTouch Ministries.


"The first sin that our Holy Father judged in the church was hypocrisy, and He did not judge it lightly," Ficken said. "What I observed would make it impossible for me to serve Alabama effectively as a trustee."

It may be just global warming, but NAMB must feel like a polar bear on the last chunk of sea ice.

## EDITORIAL



Norman Jameson

  
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# 'Feminist Mistake' author leads prayer event

By Melissa Lilley  
BSC Communications

CARY — Mary Kassian author of *The Feminist Mistake* will speak at the Women's Prayer Evangelism Conference Sept. 11-12 at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

In *The Feminist Mistake*, Kassian traces the development of feminist theology and theory, beginning as far back as the 1960s. In 1963, Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* portrayed women as unfulfilled in their roles as wives and mothers; victims of the "trapped housewife syndrome."

Yet, society expected women to be fulfilled as wife and mother and women felt ashamed to express any unhappiness. Thus came "a problem without a name:" women tried to fit the housewife image that hindered them from becoming all they could be. During this first phase, female differences were seen as weaknesses.

In the church, Christian feminists

sought ordination, inclusion into church leadership roles and recognition of women in the church as the oppressed second sex. Women argued that the Bible supported the liberation of women and they began interpreting the Bible according to their own perspective of liberation, according to Kassian.

By the 1970s, feminist theory progressed to its second phase of "naming the world." Women counted their differences as a source of pride and confidence. They sought to look at every area of society — language, literature, philosophy, sociology — through a distinctively feminist lens.

She said that in the church, feminists urged women to view the Bible as a way to understand how God freed the oppressed throughout history. Feminist theologians ignored scriptures not in line with their individual experience or vision of equality for males and females. From the 1980s on, Christian feminists began feminizing God and seeking freedom from patriarchy.



*AUTHOR — Mary Kassian traces feminist theology in her latest book.*

During an interview earlier this year, Kassian talked about the impact of feminism on the church as she identified the very factor that tipped the scales of feminism in the church: "For the church, it really comes down to how we treat Scripture," she said. "We're chang-

ing our Bible to inclusive language and it's changing the meaning.

"The thing that will compel women to live holy, godly lives as women is presenting a biblical model for womanhood that is compelling and beautiful and desirable," Kassian said. For the most part, she believes the church has failed to communicate biblical womanhood to single women, and "a very poor job of really holding up singleness as the opportunity that it is for the furtherance of the gospel, for ministry, for mission to the world and for integration into church family life."

The single adults who thrive are "those who understand that family structure and marriage is important to the kingdom" and the churches that thrive with singles are the churches where members welcome singles into their families and give them opportunity to serve.

To register for the Women's Prayer Evangelism Conference, visit [www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=Refreshed](http://www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=Refreshed).



## News Briefs

### Congregational Health names new leader

WINSTON-SALEM — A Georgia pastor has been elected president of the Center for Congregational Health, a ministry that provides consultants and trained leaders to help churches become "healthier communities of faith."

Bill Wilson, who has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Dalton, Ga., since 2003, will become president of the North Carolina-based organization Sept. 21.

"It feels like God is giving me the opportunity to come home," said Wilson, whose father founded Lawn-dale Baptist Church in Greensboro and served on the Baptist State Convention's (BSC) General Board.

"I look forward to joining my voice with North Carolina Baptists, working together to further help the church to be a place of hope and healing."

The 17-year-old center is based at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem and was formed out of a partnership with the BSC. It serves an average of 20 congregations in North Carolina and across the nation each month and hosts about 600 people each year at its educational events.

During the last five years N.C. Baptists received consultation with 207 congregations, church consultation training for 28 ministers, coaching for 149 ministers, and interim ministry training for 98 ministers.

### Baptist Hospital leader steps down from post

WINSTON-SALEM — William G. Yates, who has served for 14 years as vice president of the Division of Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, will retire from that position Sept. 1.

Donny C. Lambeth, Baptist Hospital's president, said Yates was stepping down for medical reasons. He praised Yates for his long service and many accomplishments.

"Bill Yates has been a major driving force behind our hospital's founding mission 'to bring the healing art more

definitely under the dominion of the Great Healer,'" Lambeth said. "It is not possible to overstate the significance of his leadership here at the Medical Center."

Yates became the first vice president of what was then the Department of Pastoral Care at Baptist Hospital in 1995.

Under Yates' leadership, Pastoral Care was reorganized to include the departments of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education, CareNet of North Carolina, the Center for Congregational Health, and Church and Community Relations. Each department expanded significantly during his tenure to fulfill the division's mission of "providing ministries of growth, hope and healing in the spirit of Christ."

Yates came to Baptist Hospital in 1992 following pastorates at Deep Creek Baptist Church in Yadkinville and Pfafftown Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. He was director of Church and Community Relations until he was selected as vice president of Pastoral Care.



BP photo

*WITNESSING — Hellfighter and Southwestern Seminary alumnus Adam Covington shares the gospel with teenagers in Sturgis, S.D.*

### 800 profess Christ at South Dakota rally

STURGIS, S.D. (BP) — As motorcycle engines roared, more than 4,200 leather-clad motorcyclists and their friends at the 69th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally heard a three-minute testimony of how Christ could radically change their lives. Just for listening, they also were given a chance to win a brand new, black Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

For the fourth year in a row, the Sturgis Motorcycle Giveaway sponsored by the Dakota Baptist Convention and North American Mission Board used volunteers to give personal testimonies Aug. 3-8 about how they met Christ and to invite rally-goers to invite Him into their lives. By the end of the week, 835 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Approximately 500,000 motorcyclists and wannabes come for the rally.

### Texas pastor charged with cyberstalking

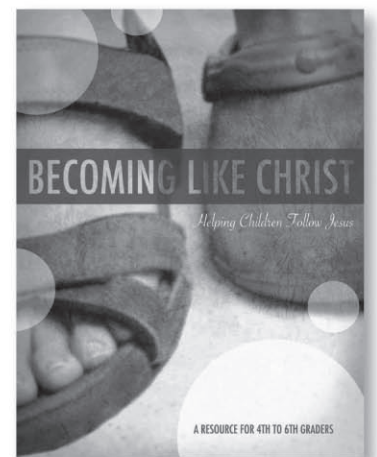
MARSHALL, Texas (ABP) — Shreveport, La., authorities said Matthew Darren Wood, 38, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Marshall, Texas, turned himself in after being issued a misdemeanor summons for cyber-stalking. He is accused of sending several anonymous e-mails of a sexual nature to a Shreveport woman in March.

## FOR MANY, FAITH BEGINS AS A CHILD.



### Becoming Like Christ: Helping Children Follow Jesus

*Becoming Like Christ: Helping Children Follow Jesus* is a resource for children's leaders designed to help older children make a faith decision for Jesus. Six sessions introduce children to Jesus and what it means to follow him. Designed for use in many different contexts (Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, etc.), this resource works well with both church and unchurched children.



### Let us help

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is your resource for the missional journey. Find more resources and order at [www.thefellowship.info/resources](http://www.thefellowship.info/resources).





Lesson for September 6      Formations      Lesson for September 13

The Adulteress?

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 11:2-5, 26-27a

There's often a vast difference between what we try to make the Bible say and what it really says. We want characters we can relate to. We want heroes (or heroines) who can inspire us. The Bible has some of that. But in the end the real hero is God who saves His people. The real character is our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Messiah.

The remarkable thing about Bathsheba is that, though she appears repeatedly, her character is not really developed as it would be in a modern novel or movie. Yes, she's a vital person, listed later as an ancestor of the Lord Jesus Himself (Matthew 1:6.)

Was Bathsheba an adulteress? Some point out that the inspired author does not comment on Bathsheba's complicity. Some conjecture that she was innocently bathing, assuming she had privacy, either behind a wall or in a court-yard or on her own roof. Further, once summoned by the king, how could a lowly woman in that day say "no?" Anyway, she had no idea what his intentions were. Intimidated by royalty, she succumbed. And, besides, she was lonely. A wife of a soldier who today would have a star in her window. Her husband, though scrupulous, doesn't ap-

pear concerned for her needs. Given all of those factors, how can we blame her? All of that may be true. But the Bible doesn't exonerate her either.

Under the Law of Moses, she was equally guilty for her failure to cry out (Deut. 22:22-24). Even when she is listed as an ancestor of the Lord Jesus she is not named, only described as "the wife of Uriah." Even though Solomon, the ancestor through whom Matthew traces Christ's royal line, was conceived after Bathsheba was legally married to David, still she is, in the Apostle's eyes "the wife of Uriah."

There is no doubt, then, that the Bible regards Bathsheba as an adulteress. But the biblical author is not particularly concerned about that.

The question, then, is, "Why?" Why do we have an adulteress the Bible is not slamming for being an adulteress? The answer is that the Bible is not intended to be a collection of inspiring stories about how we can be do-it-yourself righteous people if only we follow the footsteps of a few good examples. It's about how God saved His people through Jesus Christ, David's greater Son, whom we can believe in by the power of the Holy Spirit. The hero is God.



John Carpenter  
Pastor, Covenant Reformed Baptist Church, Yanceyville

The Mourner?

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 12:15b-25

The Prophet Nathan had told David, "You are the man!" (2 Sam. 12:7). He's the rich man who stole his poor neighbor's sole possession.

David was angry and swore to bring justice on him. Ah, but David was the man. So the Lord was angry with him and would bring justice, too.

Is Bathsheba the innocent victim? Collateral damage? Is she caught up in this tragically but unavoidably? Not really. After all, as we saw in the lesson for Sept. 6, she is the adulteress. She had a noble husband whom she should have respected and stayed faithful no matter how great a king tried to seduce her.

There is no excuse for her sin. As much as we may try to understand it, in the end it is incomprehensible. Her husband was a good man whom she betrayed.

So if David was "the man," Bathsheba was the "woman," and Uriah's blood cried out for justice from the grave just as assuredly as did Abel's.

The focus is on David because he is the one to whom God has made a key unconditional promise just a few chapters earlier, in 2 Samuel 7.

There the Lord tells David He will build a house for David, not vice versa — an eternal dynasty; that a descendant of David will always sit on David's throne, bringing the rule of God on earth.

That commitment to David is unconditional, dependent only on the grace of God. "The bond with David is as firm as the Sun and Moon, as reliable as God." (Delbert Hillers, *Covenant: The History of a Biblical Idea*, p. 119.) Our salvation always depends on God, not on ourselves, but is never a license to sin. Both parents taste the bitter truth that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

When King David's and Bathsheba's newborn child was cursed with sickness David prayed and fasted for God's mercy. When the child died, David's servants were too afraid the King would be overwhelmed with grief to tell him the news. But after David discovered his child was dead he let go. The child is in God's hands, he said. "I will go to him; he will not come to me." But having now released the baby boy, he was free to comfort his wife Bathsheba.

That comforting led to the conception of the man who would be, not only the next king, but the one through whose line many generations later would come the King of Kings who would release all believers from the law of sin and death.

Lesson for September 6      Bible Studies for Life      Lesson for September 13

The Jesus People Should Know

Focal passage: Mark 1:1-3, 7, 9-13, 21-28

A child, frightened by a storm, ran to get in bed with his mother.

"Don't worry," she assured him, "God is with you."

"I know," he said, "but right now I need somebody with skin on."

Have you ever longed to know how Jesus looked?

We are familiar with other characteristics of Him — His uniqueness, His power to save, heal, and forgive, along with His claimed authority in heaven and on earth. Let's consider a rarely discussed characteristic — His physical appearance.

Jesus lived before photography was invented. Even had there been portrait painters in His day, wouldn't they have painted royalty rather than some itinerate preacher from Galilee?

Gratefully, we have a pen picture of Jesus from which all artists have worked.

It first appeared in the writings of Saint Anselm of Canterbury in the eleventh century. Tiberius Caesar in Rome requested Publius Lentullus, then president of Judea, to seek Jesus and report back to him what Jesus was like.

Lentullus replied, "There appeared in these days a man of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who still lives among us. Gentiles accept Him as a prophet of

truth, but His disciples call Him the Son of God. He raises the dead and cures all manner of diseases. He is a man of stature, somewhat tall and comely, with very reverend countenance, such as His beholders may love and fear.

"His hair is the colour of a chestnut full ripe, plain to His ears, whence downward it is more orient and curling about His shoulders. In the midst of His head is a partition in His hair, after the manner of the Nazarites.

"His forehead is plain and very delicate; His face is without spot or wrinkle, beautified with a lovely red. His nose and mouth are so formed as nothing can be reprehended. His beard is thickish, in colour like His hair, not very long, but forked.

"His look is innocent and mature; His eyes are grey, clear, and quick. In reproving, He is terrible; in admonishing, courteous and fair-spoken, pleasant in conversation mixed with gravity. It cannot be remembered that any have seen Him laugh, but many have seen Him weep. In proportion of body He is excellent; His hands and arms are most delicate to behold. His speech is temperate, modest, and wise. A man for His singular beauty, He surpasses all children of men."

I agree. Do you?



Catherine Painter  
Author, speaker Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

The People Jesus Knows

Focal passage: Mark 2:3-12, 15-17, 23-28

A young man stood at the corner where my friend and I paused for a traffic light. His sign read, "Homeless. Please help."

He was young, well kempt, and somebody's child. His pleading eyes pierced mine. I handed him a dollar.

"God bless you," he said.

"God bless you, too," I replied.

"You threw your money away," my friend scolded. "He'll probably use it for drugs."

"If so, I'd rather err on the side of grace," I said.

Later, the Holy Spirit convicted me. Why hadn't I handed him, along with the dollar, a tract explaining how to know Christ? Then I

reminded myself that if he didn't know Jesus, Jesus knew him. I would pass that way again the next day, stop at the light, and hand him a tract.

The incident lingered in my mind, proposing questions. How many of my friends were unbelievers? Did I avoid interaction with people different from myself?

At 19, when I became a Christian, someone advised, "Make new friends." In time, I married a minister, lived my

life behind stained-glass windows, rubbing shoulders almost exclusively with Christians.

What about the friends I enjoyed during the B.C. years of my life? Were they lost or found? While drawing my circle to enclose other Christians, had my circle shut out the very people for whom Christ died?

Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He later described three ways people become lost (see Luke 15).

Some are lost through foolishness. Short-sighted like sheep, they wander away, one blade of grass at a time. Preoccupied with things directly in front of them, they stumble into new follies.


But the Shepherd seeks the lost sheep until He finds them and brings them back into the fold.

Others get lost through no fault of their own, but through others' carelessness. Like the lost coin, they retain their value, but, out of circulation, they render no service.

Still others get lost like the prodigal sons, through pride and rebellion. One ran away and wasted his life; the other refused to share his father's concern for his brother.

That day at the traffic light, I showed no spiritual concern for the young man with the pleading eyes. The next day, I approached the light excitedly, my eyes searching for him.

He was not there.



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September 13-20, 2009



# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR 2009

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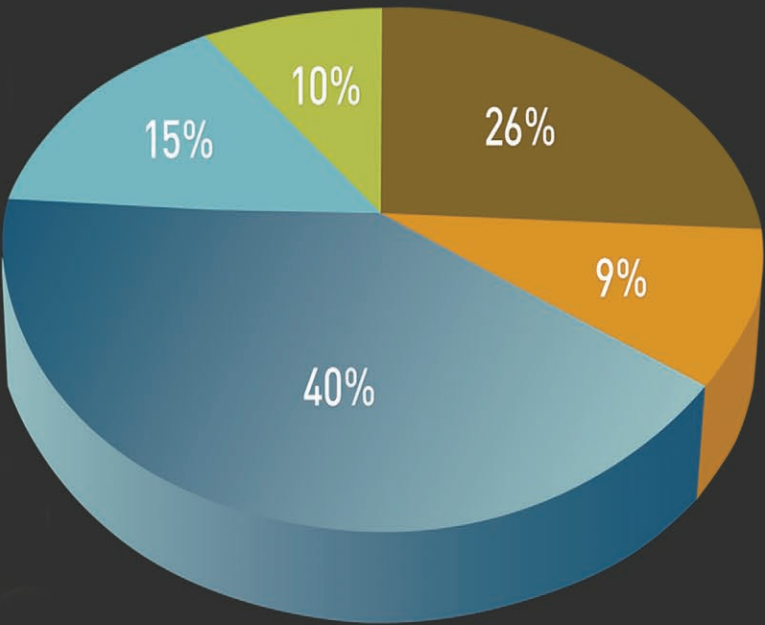
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The **North Carolina Missions Offering** remains a vital outreach on behalf of North Carolina Baptist churches to hold forth the light of the Gospel in ways that show our love for God and one another.

The Lord Jesus reminds us that we should love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:39). In obedience to His command we commit to sacrificially give that others might know the light and love of Christ during these days when many hearts are filled with fear.

May God bless our efforts to faithfully live, love and give so that others might have life in His name.



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