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BP photo by Jon Blair



**LEADING** — Johnny Hunt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and an N.C. native, shares a message during a June 21 morning worship service sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky. Hunt was one of three featured speakers at the event, held prior to the June 23-24 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. See full coverage of the SBC on pages 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12. Look for other stories on our web site, [www.biblicalrecorder.org](http://www.biblicalrecorder.org).

## 3,000+ volunteer for Crossover

**S**outhern Baptists from across the country blanketed Louisville, Ky., with God's love as part of Crossover 2009.

The evangelistic event — held each year prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting — spread more than 3,000 volunteers through about 100 locations in and around the Derby City. Churches coordinated door-to-door visits, block parties, construction projects and ethnic festivals.

Two of the larger events were the Hispanic and International festivals held a short distance apart in Louisville's Iroquois neighborhood.

Ken Weathersby, evangelization strategy leader for the North American Mission Board, reported that 1,012 professions of faith were recorded during the Crossover effort.

Hundreds of Hispanic residents showed up at Iroquois Park for live music, children's games, health screenings and free food — all with a strong gospel message included.

Event coordinator Yurian Santiesteban, pastor of Senda de Luz Iglesia Bautista in Louisville, said he hoped the festival would bring more Hispanics into area churches and make them stronger.

A short drive away at the Iroquois Manor Shopping Center, Hispanics and individuals from six other people groups gathered together for the International Festival.

Event team leader Bill Mazey, an ethnic church consultant, called the Iroquois neighborhood "the most culturally diverse area in Louisville."

Within walking distance of the shopping center are Hispanic, Vietnamese and Nigerian churches, he said.



BP photo by Jon Blair

**CREATIVE** — Tulsa Pakhrel, 7, of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., gets her face painted at the International Festival at the Iroquois Manor Shopping Center.

The festival featured food from several different cultures, as well as entertainment from the people groups represented.

Mazey called the festival's potential global impact "unimaginable."

If "they get saved here and have to go back to their country, they're going in as a Christian; they're going in as a disciple. That's exciting," he said.

Through a partnership between Crossover Louisville and Feed the Children, volunteers at three sites distributed nonperishable food and personal care items to about 1,200 families in need.

Each recipient heard the gospel, was given the

(See 3,000+ Page 6)

## SBC pushes ahead with GCR Task Force

By Bob Terry

The Alabama Baptist

**O**verwhelming approval of a Great Commission Task Force climaxed 25 minutes of discussion during the June 23 evening session of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting.

Messengers authorized SBC President Johnny Hunt to appoint a task force to determine how "Southern Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission." The task force is to report its findings and recommendation to the 2010 Orlando annual meeting.

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, earlier offered the motion to form the task force. He told messengers there was no reason to fear asking if there is a better way for Baptists to work together. He called the present "a turning point in history" and said churches need to be more active in getting the gospel to the ends of the earth.

California messenger Ron Wilson offered a substitute motion calling for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the International Mission Board (IMB) each to study how better to reach their respective assignments with the gospel.

The substitute failed after Mohler countered that the thrust of the Great Commission Task Force motion was not to address how the two boards should do their work but how to get the resources needed by

(See SBC Page 5)

## Group includes three from N.C.

**T**hree North Carolinians are on the "Great Commission Resurgence" task force named by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president Johnny Hunt June 24 during the SBC annual meeting.

Messengers to the annual meeting voted the evening before to authorize Hunt's naming the task force to study how Southern Baptists can work "more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission."

Task force membership is heavily weighted to the east coast, with five members from Florida and only four from west of the Mississippi River.

"I trust you will be encouraged by the balance that will be representing Southern Baptists in their assignment," Hunt said before he read the list of names.

(See Group Page 5)



Greear

Next issue



The Biblical Recorder continues its series Body Parts, based on 1 Corinthians 2:12, featuring Johnny Ross. Visit [www.biblicalrecorder.org/resources/bodyparts.aspx](http://www.biblicalrecorder.org/resources/bodyparts.aspx) to find out more.





# Seminary president calls Chapman to task

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary called comments in a speech by Southern Baptist Executive Committee President Morris Chapman “disingenuous” and “shameful” during a panel discussion hosted by B21 at an Acts 29 church start.

“I wish to apologize to my Calvinist brothers and sisters who are here for the horrible misrepresentation of your position this morning,” said Akin, one of six participants in a panel to discuss with young pastors the viability of continuing involvement with the Southern Baptist Convention.

B21 is a loose network of persons “seeking to be Baptist in the 21st century.” Acts 29 is a network of church planting churches whose foundational documents are clearly Calvinistic.

Many member churches are dually aligned with both Southern Baptists and Acts 29. Sojourn Community Church in Louisville hosted the panel discussion, attended by 400-500 filling the main meeting space and an overflow room. The majority of participants were the young pastors, leaders and students whose participation in SBC life is coveted by SBC leadership.

Earlier in the morning Chapman brought his annual address to the 8,450 messengers registered at the time for the annual Southern Baptist Convention. Although he never uttered the word “Calvinism” he spoke directly both to it and to the “emerging church.”

“Man’s system will be inferior to God’s system now and forever,” he said. “The belief that sovereignty alone is at work in salvation is not what has emboldened our witness and elevated our concern for evangelism and missions through the ages. This is not the doctrine that Southern Baptists have embraced in their desire to reach the world for Christ.

“If there is any doctrine of grace that drives men to argue and debate more than it drives them to pursue lost souls and persuade ALL MEN (his emphasis) to be reconciled to God — then it is no doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“The sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man both are taught in the Bible. Both are necessary elements in the salvation experience.”

He referenced previous controversies over Baptist identity and said, “While the controversy raged and theologians were arguing about Baptist identity, Lottie Moon was boarding a boat to the distant shores of East Asia.”

“The church did not — upon receiving the Spirit of God (at Pentecost) — write a theology text, or form a committee or establish a bureaucracy or construct a building or engage in idle arguments about the extent of the atonement or the nature of election.”

Akin said the next day that he has never heard a Calvinist say that man’s response to the urging of God’s Holy Spirit is not a necessary ingredient for salvation. He said Calvinist theology has always been present in Southern Baptist life, at varying degrees. The difference between the Calvinist view of salvation and the traditional Baptist view is a matter of emphasis, he said. Both agree God’s sovereignty and man’s response are essential elements of salvation, but each emphasizes different elements.

Meeting June 23 in Louisville, home



BP photo

**CONFERRING** — From left, Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research; R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Mark Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.; and David Platt, senior pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., answer questions during a panel discussion June 23 at Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Ky. Participants sent text messages to the event’s facilitator, posing questions about the Southern Baptist Convention for the panel to discuss.

of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, whose president Al Mohler is a Calvinist and has returned Southern to what he says are its founders’ Calvinistic roots, the young crowd at the B21 panel discussion likely had a strong Calvinist bent.

After Akin’s opening apology, frank discussion was more about reasons young pastors should stay within the Southern Baptist framework, and financially support a system they do not fully agree with. Panelists included Akin, Mohler, LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer, Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., host pastor Daniel Montgomery and David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.

Akin, Mohler and Stetzer are trusted figures among young pastors and, with SBC President Johnny Hunt, have done much to invigorate active discussion among them about reasons to stay involved with the SBC.

Mohler told the pastors and students “Don’t look for too much out of the Southern Baptist Convention. Don’t find your identity here.” He encouraged them to minister in their churches, find their identity in Christ and plug into the SBC for connections and resources.

Mohler said the SBC has done good things, but growing up in SBC churches, attending SBC schools and seminaries and moving on to lead SBC churches and entities “produced a tribal identity ... rather than a gospel centered identity.”

While Acts 29 is a “fascinating model” Mohler said, he warned the audience against “developing a tribal identity.”

Mohler said pastors “can find many platforms” and it is “wrong to think ‘either or’” when picking a partner. While he said he hoped pastors could identify with the SBC and other ministry partners, “there were hints this morning that’s going to be hard.”

His comment was understood to be in reference to Chapman’s remarks, and to the steady stream of messengers moving to limit SBC involvement with Mark Driscoll, a plain speaking Seattle pastor whom many young pastors admire.

Several panelists declined to answer the question, “Why should we support

our state Baptist convention?” but eventually Mohler said pastors and churches “forfeit the right to speak into the situation if you don’t support it financially.”

He encouraged them to “make every single contribution you make in terms of mission and ministry support earn that support. Don’t give a dollar you don’t think is well deployed in ministry and then hold us accountable.”

Akin said it was getting easier to

support the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina where Southeastern Seminary resides because “it is moving in the right direction” in terms of “incrementally” providing more Cooperative Program dollars for ministry beyond the state.

Stetzer, who has worked for three national Baptist agencies and has “seen the good, the bad and the ugly,” said he is “not impressed with the Southern Baptist Convention. I’m not getting my identity from it.”

“Now is the time to engage and fix that system,” he said. “But don’t be fooled. The voices of division will become more shrill before we come together.”

Platt, whose church is large and fast growing, reminded the audience that even churches “are not spending money that in every way is accomplishing the Great Commission.”

Montgomery, pastor of the host church, said his church “owed the structure for the existence of our church,” although he said six weeks after it started he was already “taking hits” for doing things differently.

“There is a need for the emerging generation to be schooled in gospel humility,” he said. “There is a need for the generation before us for humility to let us fail.”

He said if Stetzer, who “found” and encouraged him to start a church, had not responded with humility to Montgomery’s early failings, “I would have left the relationship.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE — To comment on this story, search for ‘B21’ on [www.biblicalrecorder.org](http://www.biblicalrecorder.org).)

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# Messengers commend, criticize President Obama

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptists both commended President Barack Obama and expressed opposition to some of his policies in a resolution passed June 24 at their annual meeting in Louisville.

A resolution commending Obama for his “evident love for his family” and expressing “pride in our continuing progress toward racial reconciliation signaled by the election of Barack Hussein Obama” as president was one of five resolutions approved by 8,731 messengers.

The resolutions committee, chaired by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Danny Akin, considered 26 resolutions during three days of deliberations prior to the annual meeting.

Other resolutions called on Southern Baptists to consider adopting some of the 150 million orphans who “now languish without families” around the world; affirmed biblical positions on marriage and sexual purity; commended Southern Baptist Theologi-

cal Seminary in Louisville on its 150th anniversary; and expressed appreciation for Southern Seminary personnel and others who worked on all the details to make the annual meeting run smoothly.

While the Obama resolution commended him for retaining “many foreign policies that continue to keep our nation safe” it also said Southern Baptists “deplore” his decision to expand federal funding for “destructive human embryo research”; “decry” increased funding for pro-abortion groups; “oppose” any stripping of conscience protections for health care workers unwilling to participate in abortions; and “protest” any effort to “eradicate the symbols of our nation’s historic Judeo-Christian faith from public or private venues.”

In a later press conference, Akin said the Obama resolution “strikes a really good balance” for prayer for the president, affirming him and making plain disagreements with some of his policies.

Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission who served as a staff resource, said, “Race has been the serpent in the garden of America from the very beginning,” first with Native

Americans, then with African-Americans. But, he said, since the racial reconciliation resolution passed by the SBC in 1995, the number of black members in Southern Baptist churches has increased 117 percent to almost 800,000.

“It would have been irresponsible not to speak to the election of the first African-American president,” Akin said. “We could affirm his election without affirming his policies where we have strong, strong disagreement.”

Southern Baptists have gone from being virtually an all white denomination “by choice” in 1970 to about 18 percent minority members now, said Land.

The sexual purity resolution supports “the biblical definition of marriage as the exclusive union of a man and a woman,” rejects any attempt to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act; urges the U.S. Senate not to pass any legislation that would criminalize “deeply held religious beliefs and speech about homosexuality and other unbiblical sexual practices;” and supports the “current military code barring homosexuality in the military.”

## SBC turns out lights on Broadway Baptist Church

By Marv Knox  
(Texas) Baptist Standard

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has discontinued its relationship with Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth because of the church’s perceived toleration of homosexual members.

Messengers to the SBC annual meeting dismissed the Fort Worth church in less than 30 seconds, voting overwhelmingly and with no discussion to approve a recommendation by the convention’s Executive Committee June 23.

The recommendation did not specifically mention homosexuality. But that issue has been the backdrop of controversy at the church since late 2007, when a dispute arose regarding whether to include pictures of homosexual couples in the church’s membership directory.

Broadway’s denominational affiliation came under question at last year’s SBC annual meeting. William Sanderson, pastor of Hephzibah Baptist Church in Wendell, asked the SBC to declare the church “not to be in friendly cooperation” with the convention.

The Executive Committee studied the issue this past year and met with

representatives of Broadway in February. Then, on the eve of the SBC meeting in Louisville, the committee voted to recommend “that the cooperative relationship between the convention and the church cease, and that the church’s messengers not be seated, until such time as the church unambiguously demonstrates its friendly cooperation with the convention under (constitution) Article III.”

Kathy Madeja, chair of Broadway’s board of deacons, expressed regret regarding the convention’s action.

“We are disappointed with the decision of the Southern Baptist Convention,” she said. “Broadway Baptist Church has been affiliated with the SBC for over 125 years. Our mission at Broadway is and will continue to be consistent with the SBC’s stated enterprise of reaching the world for Christ.

“Like other SBC churches, membership at Broadway is by acceptance of Jesus as Savior and Lord and the experience of believer’s baptism by immersion.”

Broadway still complies with the SBC constitution, Madeja added.

“We do not believe Broadway has taken any action that would justify being deemed not in ‘friendly cooperation’ with the SBC,” she said. “It is unfortunate that the Southern Baptist Convention decided otherwise and has severed its affiliation with Broadway Baptist.”



Working behind the scenes at the SBC



BR photos by Norman Jameson

It takes a lot of effort at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to help things run smoothly. Some from North Carolina were there working at the Kentucky Exposition Center in the newsroom and as pages. Above, Gardner-Webb University communications students Jared Micah Graf, left, and Cat McDonald helped produce videos in the Convention newsroom. At left, Sarah Beth Bell, a member of West Yadkin Baptist Church where her father, Dennis, is pastor, was a page in the convention newsroom. She will start school in the fall at North Greenville College to major in media ministry, and would love to work for an agency like Samaritan’s Purse, for which she has been a volunteer Christmas box coordinator.

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**GROUNDBREAKING** — Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) held a ceremonial groundbreaking June 13 for Camp Duncan in Aberdeen. Left to right: Brian Davis, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina executive leader, administration and convention relations; Abe Elmore, BCH Board of Trustees chairman; Michael C. Blackwell, BCH president; Wayne Jordan, The Gay T. and Haskell A. Duncan Foundation president; Richard Leader, Green Level Baptist Church Pastor; Paul Daley, BCH Camp Duncan director.

## Church bolsters girls wilderness camp with \$200K donation

### Baptist Children's Homes

ABERDEEN — Green Level Baptist Church in Cary made a major contribution towards the creation of a wilderness camp to help at-risk girls. Church members agreed to donate \$200,000 to Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH), the nonprofit residential child care institution overseeing the forthcoming Camp Duncan in Aberdeen.

"This gift can only be described as a Godsend," said BCH President Michael C. Blackwell.

BCH is in the middle of a campaign to raise the funding for Camp Duncan start-up and operating costs. The Gay T. and Haskell A. Duncan Foundation awarded an initial \$250,000 grant. The foundation has issued a challenge gift that will provide an additional \$250,000 once the nonprofit raises \$500,000. BCH hopes to complete fundraising ef-

forts in time for the first group this fall.

Green Level's funds will go towards renovation and building efforts at the camp's main administrative building.

"Our church has been very blessed by God," said Richard Leader, pastor of Green Level, in regards to the church's donation. "The members of Green Level have always had a heart for children, and we've seen the lifetime impact of the Baptist Children's Homes ministry."

The gift is made in memory of Harold Mills Eatmon of Cary. Eatmon was a longtime church member.

Green Level is a longtime friend of BCH. In addition to its financial support, missions groups from the church are undertaking volunteer work projects at Camp Duncan to help prepare the property. The church will also assist at BCH's Mills Home campus in Thomasville. They plan to refurbish a residential building to provide housing for visiting volunteers



### Opportunity Corner

## Poverty simulation event in works for Raleigh

Plunge2Poverty, an intensive poverty simulation experience and training is slated for Aug. 21-22 in Raleigh.

The cost is \$25 and the number of participants is limited. The event, which is sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, starts

Friday at noon and ends Saturday at 3 p.m. The event is designed for leaders who will take the concept back to their churches.

Contact Margaret Harding at [mharding@wmunc.org](mailto:mharding@wmunc.org) or (919) 882-2344 for registration or other information.

## Conference helps multicultural, kingdom focus

The multicultural conference "Looking at church from a kingdom focused perspective" will be held Aug. 14-15 at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

A time for training, increasing cross-cultural competency, worship and

networking, the event offers plenary sessions on various topics and includes conference leaders from across the United States and within the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

For more information call (800) 395-5102 ext. 5641.

## One N.C. church helps another reach community

Walker Road Baptist Church in Morganton and Halls Grove Baptist Church in Vale are partners in a block party on July 11 at Walker Road. The effort is part of a discipleship program called CARE — Christians Actively Reaching Everyone — that Halls Grove is helping Walker Road implement.

Jeremy Peeler, senior CARE consultant at Halls Grove, said the block party will include a free car wash, horseshoe ministry, a skateboard ministry, a band,

a rock-climbing wall, face painting and balloon animals. Hot dogs and the trimmings will be provided.

Peeler said an outreach day is usually included in the discipleship program, which also includes four, 10-week courses.

Brandon Ware, pastor at Walker Road, said the block party is also the church's attempt to "flesh out the Great Commission and rally our people to the Great Commission Resurgence."

# Church News



Contributed photo

► **Scotts Creek Baptist Church**, Sylva, recognized the church's graduates during the June 7 morning worship service and hosted a luncheon for graduates at the Jarrett House in Dillsboro. Shown with Pastor Rich Peoples, left, are graduates: Renee Peoples (Certificate in Administration from Johns Hopkins University), Jordan Burdick (Smoky Mountain High School), Martha Turpin (Smoky Mountain High School), Breana Stillwell (Fairview Elementary School) Amanda Smith (Smoky Mountain High School), and Matt Rogers (Swain County High School).

► The adult Vacation Bible School at **Florence Baptist Church**, Forest City, took a field trip June 17 during VBS to "go fishing" at a member's lake nearby. The class had been studying Peter and how to become a "Fisher of Men." The group grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and had the VBS lesson in a nearby barn.

► A North Carolina Highway Historical marker was dedicated June 27 to recognize **Burnt Swamp Association's** 132 years of service to the religious needs of the American Indian community in southeastern North Carolina. The marker was placed on N.C. Highway 72 at State Road 1003, also known as Chicken Road, in Pembroke. Burnt Swamp Baptist Church was founded on Oct. 2, 1877, by 20 Lumbee Indians, with encouragement from two local white churches. After four years, two additional churches were formed. On Jan. 22, 1881, elders of the three churches adopted a resolution forming the Burnt Swamp Missionary Baptist Association of Mixed Race. After years of struggling to gain acceptance and several name changes, the Burnt Swamp Missionary Baptist Association was admitted to the Baptist State Convention in 1929.

## Send news about your church

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

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## Durham youth takes home national drill honor

Eesim Oon of Bethedsa Baptist Church in Durham is the 2009 National Youth Bible Drill winner.

Oon was among 30 youth competing in the National Invitational Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament June 19 at First Baptist Church in Covington, La. She competed against drillers from Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Ohio,

Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and Missouri. Oon earned a perfect score in the drill and earned more bonus points than any other driller. Oon, now in 8th grade, began drilling in 4th grade and has been drilling ever since. Winning the N.C. tournament May 16 at First Baptist Church in Greensboro qualified Oon for the national drill.

## Baker to become Oklahoma Messenger editor

Doug Baker, public relations director for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since November 2007, will become executive editor of the Oklahoma Baptist *Messenger* beginning Aug. 1.

Baker, who also is executive director of the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs, said he appreciates the *Messenger's* "historic nature."

"The historic nature of this paper is an opportunity to serve the churches of a great state convention," Baker said.

Baker named historic figures with Oklahoma roots including B.B. McKinney, John Bisangno, Herschel Hobbs and W.A. Criswell.



Baker

Baker's appointment as editor includes responsibility as communications team leader for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Baker, 40, brings experience in key policy and communications roles at several government

levels, including corporate relations for the U.S. Naval Academy.

He also was associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.



# SBC pushes ahead with GCR Task Force

(Continued from Page 1)

the boards. Jerry Nash of Florida called the motion “a waste of time, funding and other resources.” He said Southern Baptists no longer are agreed on the “heart of the gospel.” He pointed out 30 percent of seminary graduates are Calvinists, and Calvinists occupy leadership throughout the SBC.

“If we cannot agree that God loves everyone and that Jesus died that everyone may have the opportunity to hear the gospel, how can we expect evangelical churches to support the Convention?” he asked.

Former SBC president Frank Page of South Carolina responded that the Great Commission Task Force rose above any single contentious issue. He reminded the messengers that more than 20 years ago, messengers asked the SBC president to appoint a Peace Committee to examine a difficult issue.

At a press conference earlier in the day, Hunt said Southern Baptists face a defining moment in history. Anticipating adoption of the Great Commission motion, he told reporters, “Southern Baptists need a Great Commission Resurgence to reemphasize reaching the lost, to inspire us to do more church plants, to penetrate the darkness of lostness.”

While he has led the charge for the Great Commission Resurgence, Hunt said he has never been alone. He noted an influx of e-mails from international missionaries urging him to “stay the course” in his support. Hunt said he had no desire to touch the structure of the SBC. He declared his respect for the responsibility of trustees who are charged with directing the various SBC ministries and said he had communicated that position to state executives.

Hunt said he wanted the Great Commission Task Force to come to its work “at ground zero and begin there.” He added he was encouraged that IMB and NAMB had already started to examine their work to see how more funds could be directed to primary responsibilities. Still, Hunt said he expects to find overlap of programs and services in the denomination. He called some overlap good. Other overlap, he said, was bad because it takes money that could go to “piercing the darkness of lostness.”

Hunt said he expects to find some state convention models to celebrate. He added that the task force will challenge others to do more.

When asked if a 50-50 division of Cooperative Program funds between state and national conventions was a goal, Hunt said that was a good place to start.

“When can a state convention or a church say: ‘Enough is enough? We are big enough. Now we can give to penetrate the darkness.’”

Hunt said the starting point is with the church. They will be asked to examine their priorities, he said. Associations and state conventions will be examined as well as the SBC. In a theme interpretation June 23 in the afternoon session, Danny Akin, author of the Great Commission Resurgence document, urged approval of the task force motion. Akin is president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

“Southern Baptists are compelled to get the gospel to the places where the gospel is not known,” he said. He added that figures provided by the IMB indicated 1.6 billion people never have heard the name of Jesus.

“That is not acceptable,” he said. “We have to loose the passion of Southern Baptists for the lost.”

In the June 23 morning opening session of the annual meeting, Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, raised questions about the Great Commission Resurgence proposal:

“Is a Great Commission Resurgence more about the Great Commission than about the Southern Baptist Convention? Does the Great Commission Resurgence seek to bring together all Southern Baptists — at the national, state and associational level — or does it unnecessarily alienate certain demographics?”

He also questioned whether the proposed task force honored the long-established principles of trustee governance of entities.

Finally, Chapman asked messengers to consider whether the proposal seeks “personal transformation of our hearts or institutional transformation of our structure.”

# SBC re-elects Hunt president, picks Rummage for 2nd VP

Southern Baptists re-elected Johnny Hunt to a second one-year term as president and elected Stephen Rummage, until June 1 pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, as second vice president.

In his nomination speech, Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla., described Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., as “God’s sovereign choice for Southern Baptists for such a time as this.”

Hunt took center stage at this year’s convention with his call for a Great Commission task force aimed in part at helping the convention connect with younger leaders, many who use methodologies that give some traditional Southern Baptists pause.

Several messengers brought motions raising concern about the influence in Southern Baptist life of what has been called the emerging or emergent church, because of its relaxed attitude on issues like using coarse language and social drinking.

Hunt said the convention is aging and needs to reach out to a younger generation of church leaders.

“I have found if we can move beyond our perception — and perception a lot of time is reality to the person that perceives — and begin to listen to the heart of some of these young leaders, I am so encouraged to catch their passion,” Hunt said.

Traditional Southern Baptists need to listen to and get to know young leaders in order to earn the privilege to speak to their church-planting philosophy, Hunt said.

“If we see some areas of concern, at least we’ve earned a right to speak to it,” he said. “But if we stay abreast from them, I’m not sure we have any option other than criticism of each other.”

The convention also elected John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky.,



BP photo by Matt Miller

**LEADERSHIP** — Front to back: Johnny Hunt, president; Stephen Rummage, second vice president; John Yeats, recording secretary; and Jim Wells, registration secretary. Inset: John Mark Toby, first vice president.

as first vice president. He received 1,039 votes, 64 percent of ballots cast, to win over Ken Render, senior pastor of Lakeside Community Church in St. Clair Shores, Mich.

As of June 22 Rummage is pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla. He was nominated to the SBC office by Charlotte First Baptist Church pastor Mark Harris, and was the only person nominated for the office.

# Group includes three from N.C.

(Continued from Page 1)

Hunt said he will serve on the committee.

Also appointed were:

- Al Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem;
- J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham,
- Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest;
- Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., who will chair the committee;
- Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention;
- Frank Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., and immediate past president of the SBC;
- David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.;
- Simon Tsoi, retired pastor, trustee of the International Mission Board, and member of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message Committee;
- Donna Gaines, pastor’s wife at Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn.;
- Tom Biles, executive director of the Tampa Bay Baptist Association;
- Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary;



BR photo by Norman Jameson

Baptist State Convention president Rick Speas had travel problems, but he made it to the Southern Baptist Convention and shares a dinner table with Cindy Bush, widow of L. Russ Bush, former dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She was named to serve on the Committee on Nominations.

- John Drummond, layman at St. Andrew Baptist Church in Panama City, Fla.;
- Harry Lewis, senior strategist for partnership missions and mobilization at the North American Mission Board;
- Michael Orr, pastor of First Baptist Church in Chipley, Fla.;
- Roger Spradlin, pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif., the newly elected chair of the SBC Executive Committee;
- Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention;
- Ken Whitten, pastor of the Tampa-area Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla.;
- Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.;

“We promise to represent you well,” Hunt said, “and you pray for us that God would use us to be an impetus that can help us to even do a better job of what we’ve been doing in the area of the Great Commission.”

Hunt told Baptist Press he would “lead the task force, giving them direction,” but that Floyd would chair the group in its deliberations.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Compiled by Baptist Press assistant editor Mark Kelly and staff writer Erin Roach.)

# Committee on Nominations names its 70-person roster

C.J. Bordeaux, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, and Cindy Bush, widow of former Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary dean L. Russ Bush, and a member of Bayleaf Baptist Church in Raleigh, are North Carolina’s representatives on the 70-member 2009-2010 Committee on Nominations.

They join 68 Southern Baptists from 34 other state Baptist conventions who will nominate people to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention’s boards, commissions and committees. They will present their report to the 2010 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. The committee is made up of two people from each state convention, with at least one layperson. Bush accepted a posthumous award for her late husband during Southeastern’s luncheon June 23.



# 3,000+ volunteer for Crossover in Louisville

(Continued from Page 1)

opportunity to respond and also received an audio CD gospel presentation.

At Bethlehem Baptist Church, five people made professions of faith, and another person made a recommitment to Christ. According to volunteer Bill Plymale of Woodstock, Ga., members of the church will follow up with those people within a week.

Through projects such as Feed the Children, God “turns feeding people into the opportunity for sharing bread for eternal life,” said Claude Thomas, vice president of Feed the Children ministry.

Linda Hare, director of special ministries at Bethlehem Baptist, said Crossover “couldn’t have come at a better time.”

Before the recession she worked with about 800 people every six months, helping them with food, identifying job prospects and providing other assistance.

“In the last three months we’ve served between 2,000 to 3,000 people ... from every walk of life, people who have never asked for help before.”

Christine Beck is such a person. Her husband was laid off from his construction job nine months ago. She has been out of work three months.

“It’s a blessing what they are doing,” Beck said. As a Christian, she said she did not mind waiting in line to pick up her donation as volunteers shared the gospel with other recipients.

“I know there are a lot of people coming through here who don’t have that walk with God,” she said.

Jordan Hanna, a member of Bethlehem Baptist who is home after her first year of college, said providing the food was important, but “I could do that anywhere. ... I really enjoy sharing the word (of God) with people.”

Meanwhile, Westport Road Baptist Church hosted a block party June 20 at a nearby apartment complex as part of more than two-dozen similar events connected with Crossover.

About 75 volunteers from churches across the SBC worked in shifts, greeting residents and assisting children as they played in inflatable moonwalks and slides.

Hosting block parties provides a “great opportunity for churches to reach people where they are,” Pastor Chip Pendleton said, noting several people had prayed to receive Christ. The games, popcorn, drawings and snow cones drew kids to the block parties, giving volunteers an opportunity to canvas the neighborhoods and make contacts for local churches, he explained.

At Little Flock Missionary Baptist Church in downtown Louisville, about 40 Baptist Men volunteers from Alabama, Georgia and Florida — along with members of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville — constructed an after-school learning center at Jackson Wood Apartments. The weeklong project concluded with a block party that featured a martial arts demonstration by The Revolution, a Christian ministry team from Hebron Baptist Church in Decula, Ga.

“With inner-city youth, you have to earn the right to be heard. It is one thing to tell someone, ‘God loves you’; it is much different to show them the love of



BP photo by Matt Miller

**FUN FOR ALL** — Mario Heart jumps out of a bouncy house at the Hispanic Family Festival, which was held June 21 at Iroquois Park in Louisville, Ky. Fifty people made decisions for Christ during the event, which was part of the Crossover '09 events held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

God,” said crew chief Sanford Hill, pastor of Graefenburg Baptist Church. The center, he added, is a tangible way Southern Baptist volunteers could show God’s love to the community’s residents.

Six Jeffersontown churches — Forest Park, Lakeside, Jeffersontown, Poplar Level, Highland Park and Hopewell — combined efforts to host a huge block party in the town’s Veterans Park.

“It’s very inspiring what cooperation can do,” said event coordinator Don James, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church. “We hope what Crossover motivates us to do will become an annual event,” he added, noting Corral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow also had sent 85 volunteers to assist with their block party.

Hurstbourne Baptist Church, however, took an international twist with its block party, organizing a concert of traditional Indian music.

Food distribution is such an important part of attracting people, especially during high unemployment, that SBC President Johnny Hunt said he is praying for 50 truckloads of food to be distributed in Orlando next year. When he mentioned his vision Larry Jones, president of Feed the Children, volunteered 10 and another donor immediately volunteered to provide another 10.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Compiled from reports Todd Deaton, Drew Nichter & Dannah Prather of the Western Recorder.)



BP photo by Matt Miller

**WHOA** — Veronica Acano, 3, watches in amazement at the size of a bubble at a game booth at the Hispanic Festival held June 20 at Iroquois Park in Louisville, Ky. More than 1,000 community members attended the party, which was a part of a series of evangelical outreaches across the city called Crossover '09.

## Convention preacher: great leaders plant churches



BP photo by Jon Blair

**PREACHING** — John Marshall, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., delivers the convention message June 24 at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Kentucky.

By Allen Palmeri  
The Pathway

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — John Marshall, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., pointed to John 9:25, Matthew 9:31 and Luke 18:43 to say the three blind men Jesus healed are all identified as witnesses and should be examples of how Southern Baptists likewise “need to do a better job of witnessing for Christ by starting more churches.”

Marshall, who recently wrote a Missouri Baptist history, said in his research he learned “all of the great men, all of them without exception, were church planters. The Missouri Baptist Convention was started with 150 churches. Fifty of them (were) founded by one man.”

Marshall said he pondered what he called his sin of omission and decided Second Baptist would start three churches next year — two in the area and one in San Francisco — and look at which methodology might accommodate the idea.

“The traditional, institutional model is too expensive,” he said. “When we start that church out in San Francisco, do you think we’re going to go out there and buy some land and

build a building and send 10 staff members out there? You’re nuts! You can’t do that out there. You’ve got to infiltrate.

“We’ve got to ask this younger generation to think differently from us. They’ve got to be uninhibited by building-dependent plans, program-centered things, staff-intensive ministries. We must let them have their way for awhile.”

In defining the urgency of the Great Commission, Marshall pulled out an old red fire bucket and said believers must throw living water on the flames of lostness.

“Southern Baptists, there’s an everlasting fire going on, and you’ve got to get your bucket,” Marshall said. “Every believer is called to go. If your people ever get that — that’s when the missions revival explodes. That was when it blew wide open at Second Baptist.”

God the Father is the best example of One who had an understanding of what is needed for the Great Commission, Marshall said.

“God had only one Son, and He made Him a missionary,” Marshall said.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Palmeri is associate editor of The Pathway, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.)



# WMU hears reports from ripe mission fields

By Charlie Warren, Arkansas Baptist & Dannah Prather, Western Recorder

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Participants at the 2009 Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) missions celebration June 21-22 conducted the mission organization's business and heard challenges to "change a life" and "change the world."

Kaye Miller, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., was unanimously re-elected president. Rosalie Hunt of Guntersville, Ala., president of Alabama WMU, was elected recording secretary. Both are the children of missionaries.

In her presidential address, Miller focused on love.

"Even the Southern Baptist Convention theme has love in it — 'Love Loud!' WMU is in its second year of our emphasis 'Called to Love,' so it seems love is in the air," she said.

Jesus commands his followers to love Him and "When we offer Him our passion, our being and our strength — not with just part of it, but with all of it — he gives us the amazing capacity to see through His eyes, to hear with His ears, to touch with His hands, to think with His mind and to feel with His heart," Miller said.

She urged WMU to train the next generation to have hearts for missions and be urgent about the Great Commission.

"Our singular focus on mission education so that believers will be radically involved in His mission has helped develop countless hearts for missions," she said. "There is a lot of talk about the Great Commission right now, and



BP photo

**TRAVELING** — Kaye Miller, national president of Woman's Missionary Union puts pins on the countries she has visited — one of several activities available at the Passport to Missions.

WMU continues to teach preschoolers, children, students and adults to be love in action through the command of the Great Commission."

WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee said WMU has helped Liberian women re-open a children's camp following years of civil war that put some of their ministries on hold. Through "Pure Water, Pure Love" WMU has provided water purification systems so Liberian WMU once again can provide Christian camp for boys and girls.

Larry Martin, consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions growth team, told the WMU women of ministry opportunities next year in Kentucky when the World Equestrian Games come to Lexington.

"What do you do when God brings the world to your community?" he



BR photo by Norman Jameson

**TALKING** — Clay and Cindy Stevens of Cross Culture Church in Raleigh were among 8,790 at the Southern Baptist Convention June 23-24.

asked, in reference to about 1 million people from 100 countries who will flood into Lexington. "It will be the biggest sporting event in the U.S. in 2010."

WMU accepted a special request to provide gift bags with essentials to the 1,000 grooms during the event.

Bill Barker of Hurricane, W. Va., NAMB volunteer mobilization missionary, praised WMU for partnering with his Appalachian Regional Ministries.

"I don't know what we would do without WMU," he said, noting WMU Missions Fest and Family Fest that have been conducted in the area.



**LEAVING** — Eddie Ferguson, layman from Central Baptist Church in Henderson, finished his term on the SBC Executive Committee during the meeting in Louisville.

Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, a former WMU executive director, paid tribute to former leaders Alma Hunt and Dellanna O'Brien, who died in 2008.

## Greear: Religion replacing the gospel for many

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

Until Baptists demonstrate love for each other, the gospel of love they preach will not attract others according to an N.C. Baptist pastor preaching at the opening session June 21 of the annual Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors' Conference.

Considering the theme "What if?" J.D. Greear imagined a convention of Baptists winsome enough to attract others who currently do not see a loving community worthy of their own life investment. Greear, pastor of the Summit Church in Durham, which has grown from 400 to 3,000 during his pastorate, was transparent in confessing his own shortcomings, including the "lust for the successes of other churches."

Asking why people are not being won to Christ in large numbers as they once were, he said, "What has changed about us? God is the same."

He preached from Matthew 23 to explain the difference in people who are "fervent in religion" to those who are fervent for Christ.

"Over time religion tends to displace the gospel among God's people," he said. "Like a virus, it grows up out of the sinful hearts of men and chokes out the gospel."

Like the Pharisees, we see negative traits in others, but not in ourselves, Greear said. He said "religion makes us horribly ineffective at evangelism" because we tend to win others to church, rather than to Christ.

Jesus said they were willing to go around the world for one convert, and implied they could not find a convert closer to home. "We need to ask, 'Is what happened to the Pharisees and Jews happen(ing) somehow to us?'" Greear said.

He listed six timeless ways to know if religion has misplaced the gospel. He said: Religious people are obsessed with recognition; they substitute religious ritual for a love for God and over love of others; they elevate secondary traditions above knowing God; they are more aware of others' sins than of their own; and "they think we're always talking about somebody else."

Implying throughout that Southern Baptists need seriously to consider if they are just religious people instead of people who hunger for the touch of God, Greear said, "Religion emphasizes conformity to a standard, not passion for God."

He said Baptists villanize and exclude other brothers and sisters because they don't agree in some minor details. "How can you not be ashamed?" he asked.

"You are straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

Saying it was likely that people attending the annual SBC meeting will villanize others is a "tragedy." He said, "We're so consumed by these secondary things we couldn't see a movement of God if it went right past our face."

"The center of Christianity is not what we are to go and do for God but what God has done for us," Greear said.

He said people don't hear the gospel because they are "turned off by the condescending and self-deluding way we talk" about the sins of others. "Gospel people speak with humility," he said.

He urged Baptists to "repent of the self-righteousness that thinks there is something about us that makes us better than others."

"God has brought us back from the deadness of liberalism," he said. "God has brought us too far to trade the deadness of liberalism for the deadness of traditionalism."



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# Revival: how to measure success

By John Baker  
Guest Columnist

West Marion Baptist Church just finished the meetings of a weekend revival. Four services, good attendance, great spirit. Was it successful?

How do you answer that question? If success means did a large number of people get saved, then the answer would be no. If success means did many people come to the altar each service, then the answer is no. But I am quite sure those things are not the measure of a real revival.

Revival means "to be revived, brought back to life." After four services of praising God, listening to His servant preach His word, and rekindling the fire within me, I can say personally "Yes, I experienced revival and it was successful!"

Talking to others within our congregation confirms that God rekindled the fire in quite a few believers. It is an experience that can be felt by those who attended. We have a unity, a fervent spirit, and a joy that can only come from God. Therefore, I believe we can conclude that our revival was successful!

God has been moving in a strong way in our county recently. A local church just had a series of meetings that went weeks longer than scheduled, and many souls were saved. A local tent meeting saw several dozen come to Christ. God has been moving in churches of several different denominations and churches of different styles. Contemporary churches are experiencing God, as are fundamentalist churches, and everything in between.

So who wins? Who had the best meetings? Who did it more "godly?" The fundamentalists or the contemporary? The "legalists" or the "liberals?" The independent or the associated?

Men love to compete, and unfortunately that slips into

church as well. Legalists might say if it is not "old fashioned," it's not real. The contemporary might say "no guitars and drums, then not relevant for today!" And of course some love to keep score. "70 salvations always wins over 60! So our meetings were more God-centered!"

I do love sports, and I like to keep score. Winning is important to me, and I don't like to come in second! But that mindset is not right in the service of our King.

God loves people, not masses of people groups. He is happy to save each soul one at a time, revive each believer one at a time, and does not keep score. He saved thousands on the day of Pentecost, but He saved all of them one at a time! In Acts, He saved some in the legalistic settings of the Pharisees in the synagogues. Others He saved in the new, "contemporary" settings of house churches among Gentiles.

Rejoice over God's moving, wherever it happens. Celebrate His word, His indwelling, the burning fire He gives to the heart who desires it! West Marion, enjoy God's revival in our midst, and thank God that He did not just do it here.

But do not think our revival was inferior to others, because our numbers were not as good. God measures success by individual hearts, not by mass numbers!

Are you a true believer? Are you saved? If so, you are a member of God's universal church. God's church, in all of its different locations, is experiencing revival. Pray for each other, and let's rejoice that God is moving in McDowell County, and throughout North Carolina.

And as for the scorekeepers, go play a game like baseball, golf or tennis. Keeping score there is fine. But God is not lifted up when His children compete with each other.

"To God be the glory, great things He has done!"

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Baker is pastor at West Marion Baptist Church, Marion, and describes his church as a blended congregation just beginning to get on its feet. Baker is on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina board of directors.)

## Fulfilling Great Commission task

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

The 2009 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has come and gone.

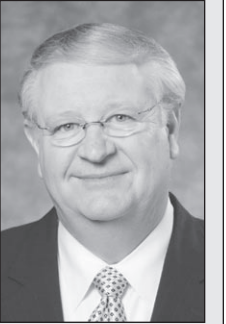
Many think that with it comes a new-found hope for unity around the gospel in ways which could renew hope and direction of this convention for future generations. The strong majority of messengers attending this event seemed to reflect their confidence that the Great Commission Resurgence task force promises a thorough and fair look at our present practices with a prayerful hope that our future will be better shaped by the vast resources of our Convention to strategically impact many generations for Jesus Christ.

Each sermon at the SBC revealed a passionate plea to God for help. Messengers seemed to agree there was an excitement not seen in a long time at this year's annual meeting. It was encouraging to see the increased number of young pastors in attendance. There was both celebration and conviction present as we listened to reports from SBC entities that included moving presentations from the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board. It was all a stark reminder that we exist as a convention for the purpose of doing evangelism and missions wherever the lost are found.

We now embark on a new course of discovery where we pray the Lord might lead us toward greater usefulness in His service. It is my prayer that every church might seek the face of God and long for a movement of revival in our land. This must start in the heart of individual Christians through private prayer, repentance of sin, self-abandonment and a renewed commitment to live in radical life changing fellowship with God and obedience to Him. Spiritual renewal can then advance into the corporate worship and fellowship of local churches. People in communities will begin to recognize that something new and different is taking place in the attitude and lifestyle of those revitalized church fellowships. Don't you long to be a part of something exciting like this? God is ready to do His work when we become responsive to his invitation.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina joins with other state conventions and our national entities in a desire to see the resources of this Convention brought to their maximum usefulness as an extension of local congregations in getting the gospel to every person. All of us must evaluate our individual ministries and work to bring about change where change is needed and foster unity among our brothers and sisters. May God help us to accomplish the work He has given us to do.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" Eph. 2:10.



## Tar Heel Voices

### Neal Eller makes good point

I wanted to write to comment on the article "No More Programs" (BR, June 20). I agree with Neal Eller with his statement, "What we find is that many churches are so stuck and have so much ungodly behavior in them that they're not willing to be like Christ."

We can appoint committees to study why churches are not growing and the Great Commission is not being done, but the bottom line is that the gospel is not being shared because the church has members that have unconfessed sin in their lives, and refuse to repent and get right with God. I want to thank Neal for what he said in the article. I would suggest every pastor put this article in his files.

Tim Andrews,  
Gaston

### What are we doing?

I was shocked to read in "News Briefs" (BR, June 20) that a resolution is being submitted to recognize President Obama as the first African-American president. What is wrong with us?

This man stands for abortion, homosexual rights, and a multitude of other unbiblical principles. Are we compromising all our standards to honor this man? Are we afraid to stand against him or anyone of color, and possibly be called racists? What happened to standing on the "firm foundation of Jesus Christ?"

June Hatfield  
Shelby

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Messengers considered Obama's election a great step in racial reconciliation. Story, page 3.)

### Baptist 'jewel' being overlooked

Camp Caraway for Boy's has been a "jewel" in the crown of North Carolina Baptists for the past 46 summers. Close to 7,000 boys have made decisions to follow Christ after spending a week at Caraway. Unfortunately it is increasingly being overlooked by N.C. Baptist churches and families as a destination for their young boys, sons and grandsons.

Attendance has dropped almost 50 percent since the late 1980's. The camp is no longer just for boys in a Royal Ambassador program, but for any boy ages 9 to 15. N.C. Baptist Men who operate the summer camp keep the cost low so most families can afford to send their son. A limited number of scholarships are available as well. According to the American Camping Association the average cost of

a week of camp is \$346. A week at Caraway is \$200 this summer.

With strong leadership from N.C. Baptist Men the program is excellent, the facilities are first rate, and the staff as always is comprised of some of the finest young men N.C. Baptists have to offer. I want to encourage N.C. Baptists to take another look at this great opportunity for boys in North Carolina. For registration information contact NCBM at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5613, or visit [www.campcaraway.org](http://www.campcaraway.org).

Jimmy Huffman, director  
Caraway Conference Center and Camp

### Appreciates issue

Thanks for the great missions stories, the Burgins' work in India and the tutoring program of Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, and so much more (in the June 20th issue). Your articles are a challenge to all of us to pray and give more than we ever have before.

Clara Brincefield Huff  
Wilmington

### Glad for editorial

Where has this article been for so long? (June 6 editorial on Great Commission Resurgence/Bold Mission Thrust) For many years I have contended that Satan launched an attack on Southern Baptists when we adopted Bold Mission Thrust goals in 1976.

Satan knew that Southern Baptists working together could reach these goals. They were "kingdom sized" but not beyond reach of Jesus loving Baptists who believed in the Great Commission.

I recall challenging the church that I pastored and how we reached several of those goals to God's glory. But it didn't take long for Bold Mission Thrust to take a back seat for those who thought we needed to argue and be divided over the Bible.

God's word has not changed, regardless of how much we argue about it. The gospel is still the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes it. It is sad to see how Satan moved our attention away from making the main thing the main thing, reaching people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

It is my prayer that God will hasten the day when we as Southern Baptists can celebrate what God is doing through us to carry out the Great Commission.

D. Harold Bennett Jr.  
Boone

## Tar Heel Voices

E-mail to [editor@biblicalrecorder.org](mailto:editor@biblicalrecorder.org) or mail to Editor, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.



# Undercurrents indicate change in SBC

Even though the Great Commission Resurgence grabbed the headlines, undercurrents of young pastors, John Calvin and Mark Driscoll pulled like riptides through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Louisville June 23-24.

"Young pastors" for years have been the blossoms tended in the Baptist nursery, youth group, college and seminary vineyard.

It seemed just as they ripened into edible, reproducible fruit, they would fall from the vine and become detached from their Southern Baptist identity.

Their big question in several venues was "Why should I be a Southern Baptist?"

During a panel discussion not a part of the SBC, but which all the high profile principals endorsed and attended at Sojourn Community Church, the microphone flew back and forth like a hot potato when the moderator asked, "Why should I support my Baptist State Convention?" Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler finally grabbed it and said pastors and churches "forfeit the right to speak into the situation if you don't support it financially" (see story, page 2).

Note that when given a chance to enumerate a long list of Southern Baptist initiatives and achievements that merit support, including funding the seminaries most of the young pastors were attending, the rationale to support the Convention was to earn the right to "speak into the situation."

This is something every denominational leader who nods to the notion that we want young pastors to be on board with Convention ministries needs to understand. These guys don't necessarily want to join the parade in progress.

They are committed, passionate and eager and would like to march in front with the 76 trombones, not bring up the back with the bucket until they have achieved some mythical level of age and experience.

Young pastors sense that for the first time they have real advocates at the highest levels of denominational life and it showed in what the SBC registration secretary said was the youngest convention crowd in a long, long time. Three of the four sermons interpreting the theme "Love Loud" were from preachers in their 30s.

SBC President Johnny Hunt is a strong mentor personally and through events at his church. He bought lunch for every one of the 400-500 who attended the panel discussion at Sojourn.

Southeastern Seminary President Danny Akin, 52, is suddenly on every program of substance to which the young pastors flock while more traditional offerings go wanting for attendance.

Akin leads an institution whose purpose is to educate young pastors and other church staff, and he provides opportunities for them to hear, meet and network with non-traditional speakers.

This student generation rejects the notion that no one outside the traditional SBC speaker circuit has anything to offer.

Al Mohler, 50 in a few months, and already presi-

dent of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary for 17 years, understands in a visceral way young pastors' impatience to incorporate their vision into Southern Baptist life without having to wait for gray hair. In part because Southern was celebrating its 150th anniversary, Mohler seemed ever visible at the convention.

These three rule the Big Top as of June 2009. Are they universally adored? Of course not. But they have the courage, audacity, passion, resources, impatience and the crowd of young pastors behind them to color the SBC in a hue they find more attractive and prepared to meet spiritual, cultural and demographic challenges today — not tomorrow.

**John Calvin, born 500 years ago**, is one of two men prominent in the meeting, although not present. He is the theological hero of many young pastors and the other prominent but not present figure was Mark Driscoll, a pastor in Seattle, who might be their alter ego.

By all accounts Southern Seminary is a Calvinist institution now and Mohler believes that is a return to our oldest seminary's roots. A survey last year said 30 percent of all our seminary graduates consider themselves Calvinist.

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Morris Chapman took them all on in his report. He spoke so strongly against Calvinistic theology that Akin found it necessary to apologize for him to his "Calvinist brothers and sisters" at the Sojourn meeting. Akin does not consider himself a five-point Calvinist but there is room in his friend quiver for those who do.

In discussions of the Great Commission Resurgence motion, one messenger said a task force is unnecessary because Baptists can't even agree on what the gospel says about salvation.

He said Calvinists would eventually split or destroy the Convention.

That kind of comment in another day would likely have killed any proposal. Instead, it was basically ignored and Mohler's motion for Hunt to name a Great Commission Resurgence task force was approved overwhelmingly.

Young pastors find helpful networks or create them. Acts 29 is a church planting network magnetic to those who believe the best way to impact lostness is to plant churches that will plant churches.

For instance, J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit in Durham, wants his church to plant 1,000 others during his lifetime.

And Acts 29 is Calvinistic. If the Convention will be a homing place for this generation, it will be open to non-traditional relationships.

While church planting rises as the *de facto* Baptist evangelism strategy, disagreements rise over methodology. Hunt might put a half million dollars into a church plant in Las Vegas, while a state convention would fund a church planter with \$14,400 a year for two years. There must be room for various methods.

**On the annual meeting's first day**, one motion after another urged the Convention to disassociate from Mark Driscoll, pastor of Mars Hill Church in Seattle and an Acts 29 founder.

They asked that his books be taken from LifeWay book stores; that SBC entities that invite him to speak at their conferences report any costs for those meetings and finally that Akin, Southeastern Seminary evangelism professor Alvin Reid and Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research be "investigated," evidently for association with and defense of

Driscoll. Driscoll is a plain speaking pastor building a large church in what could be America's least church region.

While people in the genteel south might not appreciate his candor, young pastors and their leaders understand he offers insights from his field and they are not willing to separate themselves from that input.

Driscoll is another barometer that says a generational shift has traditional messengers and denominational staff leadership pushing against walls that will not hold.

Ready or not, stamping, snorting, sniffing young bulls are pawing impatiently at the SBC structures.

## Other observations

The Great Commission Resurgence, proposed by SBC President Hunt and written primarily by Akin, was front and center not only of the two-day SBC meeting, but also of ancillary meetings in the two days before that.

Many Baptist state convention executive directors remain cool to the idea, although it captured the imagination of messengers.

Any leader with a wet finger in the air will feel the wind blows toward the Great Commission Resurgence. After decades of unease since the "conservative resurgence" failed to inspire Baptists to greater missions effectiveness there is a clear eagerness for something, anything to jumpstart our cold batteries.

Hunt said "it all starts with the churches" and he is right. Task forces can reveal, report and recommend but with the autonomy of SBC agencies, state conventions, associations and churches, no task force can impose a papist ruling.

One goal is to conduct this review to show church members they can support state, national and international efforts with increased confidence — and hopefully at increased levels.

Three with North Carolina ties are on the 18-member GCR task force: Akin, Greear and Al Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Executive Director-treasurer Milton Hollifield was named to the North American Great Commission task force of the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

NAMB recognized the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for leading all state conventions in gifts to the 2008 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions.

Steve Rummage was elected SBC second vice president. He is now from Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., but just left Charlotte's Hickory Grove Baptist Church in May.

C.J. Bordeaux of Durham and Cindy Bush of Wake Forest were named to the Committee on Nominations.


Business sessions rolled like a freight train on a decline. When the SBC declared Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas as "no longer in friendly cooperation" messengers were referred only to a business item in the daily bulletin without Broadway's name ever being mentioned (see story, page 3). When resolutions passed on the closing morning (see story, page 3), they were not read or discussed, simply referred to by item number in the daily bulletin.

All the music during worship times was praise music. I heard nary a traditional hymn.

## EDITORIAL



Norman Jameson

  
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# SBC motions focus on controversial Seattle pastor

By Marv Knox  
(Texas) Baptist Standard

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Relationships with a controversial pastor who is influential among many young Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) pastors drew the attention of multiple motions presented at the SBC annual meeting.

The motions were among 31 motions proposed June 23. The only motion brought to a vote was one calling for a Great Commission Task Force.

Messengers heard eight motions that directly or indirectly related to a pastor who is not even affiliated with the SBC.

They focused on Mark Driscoll, pastor of 7,000-member Mars Hill Church in Seattle and leader of the Acts 29 church-planting movement.

Less than a week prior to the SBC annual meeting, Driscoll was the subject of an article from Baptist Press, the Convention's news service. The report focused on his graphic interpretations of Song of Solomon concerning sexual relations, use of profanity and apparent approval of drinking wine.

Of the eight Driscoll-related motions, three were referred to boards of SBC agencies and institutions. They included calls for:

- All SBC entities to monitor and report their "expenditure of funds for any activities related to or cooperative efforts with Mark Driscoll and/or the Acts 29 organization." The motion was referred to all SBC boards.

- All SBC organizations to "refrain from inviting speakers ... who are known for publicly exhibiting unregen-

erate behavior, including but not limited to speech such as cursing and sexual vulgarity, or who publicly state their support for the consumption or production of alcohol." This motion also was referred to all SBC boards.

- Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources to investigate one of their employees, Ed Stetzer, and trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to investigate their president, Danny Akin, and evangelism professor, Alvin Reid. Stetzer has worked with Driscoll in church planting, and Driscoll has preached at Southeastern Seminary. Messengers referred the motion to the boards of LifeWay and Southeastern.

Five other Driscoll-related motions were ruled out of order.

In addition, the convention referred six other motions to the Executive Committee. They included proposals to:

- Change distribution of SBC world hunger offering receipts to be consistent with Cooperative Program allocations, providing 66 2/3 percent to the International Mission Board and 33 1/3 percent to the North American Mission Board.

- Form a committee to study how to involve more ethnic churches and ethnic church leaders in "serving the needs of the SBC through cooperative partnership on the national level."

- Consider allowing churches to designate contributions to "particular convention causes" and still consider the money part of the Cooperative Program.

- Revise how funding is allocated to the six SBC seminaries to accommodate enrollment at extension centers away from their main campuses.

- Adopt the U.S. Christian flag "as a tangible symbol to unify the American believers under one flag to fulfill the Great Commission."

- Amend Article VI of the SBC Constitution to change how trustees of SBC entities are allocated and selected.

LifeWay Christian Resources received three additional referrals, including requests that the convention's publishing house: research "more affordable educational alternatives to traditional Christian schools;" mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible in 2011; and produce only American-made Vacation Bible School resources.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission also received three referrals.

They asked the convention's public-policy organization to: join with the

American Family Association in "calling on the Pepsi-Cola Company to remain neutral in the culture war in our country by refraining from promoting the gay/lesbian lifestyle and agenda;" declare a "Sanctity of Life Year" in the near future; and start a petition to "end abortion

in America and the funding of Planned Parenthood, along with all other abortion-providing entities."

The SBC seminaries received a motion calling upon them to publish information regarding the "state conventions or affiliated national conventions from which their ministerial students or master's-level students originate."

All SBC entities received a proposal asking them to "submit any action which acts to interpret the Baptist Faith & Message ... so that the action may be approved by a majority of the messengers" to SBC annual meetings.

The Order of Business Committee received a motion stipulating that the convention post the American flag, accompanied by an honor guard, at the convention's annual meetings.

In addition, seven other motions were declared out of order.



**FUN** — Stephen and Denise Burrow of First Baptist Church Enochville, near Kannapolis, enjoyed Denise's first Southern Baptist Convention. Denise thought it was "fun."



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**DOM Position Available.** Resumes for Director of Missions are currently being received through July 17. The search committee is seeking a "missional strategist" to lead our 69 churches into cooperative evangelism and mission service to our community and ultimately around the world. The association is located in the upstate of South Carolina. The former DOM retired after 15 years of gracious service on May 31st. Candidates may submit their resumes via email to [bba-domsearch@bellsouth.net](mailto:bba-domsearch@bellsouth.net) or to "Search Committee," Beaverdam Baptist Association, 1659 Sandifer Boulevard, Seneca, SC 29678. Prayerfully consider being a part of an association standing ready to become an Acts 1:8 association, making a difference in our Jerusalem, our Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

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**Part-Time Music Minister.** Murfreesboro Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, NC, is seeking a part-time music minister. Degree in music or related field preferred. Send resume to Murfreesboro Baptist Church Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 124, Murfreesboro, NC 27855. Submissions required no later than July 13.

**Organist.** First Baptist Church of Mount Olive is seeking to fill this part-time position. Duties include Wednesday night chancel choir rehearsal, Sunday morning worship service, and other special services. Please send resume to [fbcmapastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:fbcmapastor@bellsouth.net) or First Baptist Church, PO Box 239, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Visit our website at: [www.fbcmountolive.org](http://www.fbcmountolive.org).

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Lesson for July 12

Formations

Lesson for July 19

Ninevah: A City in Need of Grace

Focal Passage: Jonah 3:1-4:11

Individualistic Americans may be surprised that God often deals with people in groups, as nations, cities, or even churches. Corporate guilt passes to the individual members of the group. Nineveh was one of the greatest, largest, most powerful cities in the world. It lay on the eastern banks of the Tigris, across the river from modern day Mosul, Iraq. It was the capital of the Assyrian empire. But Assyria was an atrociously cruel empire. Even the king of Assyria acknowledges, in 3:8, that “violence” was the key sin of that city. And, that violent empire was threatening Jonah’s homeland of Israel. In Jonah’s eyes, Nineveh was a city in need of destruction. Jonah fled, when God called, because he was afraid what happened, would happen. He was afraid they would repent and God would, in His mercy, spare them. It would be as if God called someone to go preach the gospel in Berlin during World War II or personally to Osama bin Laden now. What if they repent? Then they won’t be destroyed. And that’s not what we want. To Jonah’s dismay, the people of Nineveh believed God and repented. They even specifically named their characteristic sin of violence. Some today think sins can just be excused, unconfessed.

But that’s wrong. True repentance produces the kind of contrition the people of Nineveh show: they afflict themselves, they fast, they name their sin. Then — not before — there is forgiveness and God turns from judgment. In one church a man seeking to undermine his pastor said, “Some of us are Joshuas and some are Jonahs.” He likened his going around gathering and encouraging complaints to be either like a brave prophet or a reluctant prophet. His pastor responded, “Some are Judases!” Jonah is not a story about easy-believism, forgiveness without repentance. It’s about a God so merciful, he sends a prophet to bring true repentance. In God’s eyes, Nineveh was in need of grace. They repented. God relented of the disaster He had planned for them. Jonah was angry. Their salvation was what he feared his preaching would produce. He had more mercy on the plant that gave him shade than he did on the people of that city. He could only think of himself. Are there people — individuals or groups (like races) — you don’t care about the gospel going out to? Does your church care more for their little comforts (like padded pews, familiar hymns, old fashioned dress and Bible versions) or the salvation of sinners?



John Carpenter  
Pastor, Covenant Reformed Baptist Church, Yanceyville

Nazareth: A City in Need of Correction

Focal Passage: Luke 4:16-30

Some people think they can be saved just because they belong to the right group: they’re Americans, or Israelites, or the right race, or they are members of the Baptist church. In Luke 4, Jesus begins His public ministry. He started in a synagogue. “Synagogue” literally means an assembly, what the Greek word behind “church” also means. And He started with the Bible. He quotes from Isaiah 61:1-2: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” That was His way of saying that He was the “anointed one,” literally the Messiah. At first things began well. The people are amazed that this young man, from a carpenter’s home, is so well-spoken. But then He begins to bring out the implications of what He’s just read. He’s implied He’s a prophet. But prophets aren’t accepted in their hometown. Some churches will see a boy grow from a silly rascal to a serious man of God. But because every time they look at him they only see the kid who used to run around the church in shorts, they can’t take seriously his message from

God. They may be entertained by his speaking. But to them, it’s just entertainment. A church that can’t look past the messenger to the message, that treats preaching as a form of entertainment (not an opportunity to repent) is a church in need of correction. The Lord Jesus then slams their assumption that they are God’s people simply because they are Israelites. Elijah went to a non-Israelite for safety; Elisha healed a non-Israelite leper. His point, in the words of the Apostle Paul: “Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel . . . It is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God” (Romans 9:6, 8). That is, no one is one of God’s people simply by being born into the right family, nation or even church. Salvation is not inherited like a family heirloom. Religious hypocrites — who trust in something other than the work of Christ for their salvation — hate to have their salvation questioned. They hate the suggestion that they may not be one of God’s people. That’s why one of the most dangerous things a modern pastor can do (for his employment) is to suggest to lifeless church members that they may not really be saved. In Luke 4:29, they try to kill the Lord Jesus. Today the hypocrites will try to have the pastor fired. Both are in need of correction.

Lesson for July 12

Bible Studies for Life

Lesson for July 19

Exalting the Son

Focal Passage: Colossians 1:15-23

Wayside witnessing is my favorite way to exalt Christ. It’s fun and risk free since I’ll probably never see the prospect again. Sometimes I plant gospel seeds; at other times I’m blessed to harvest a soul for Christ. Jesus’ last recorded words before ascending into heaven included His command for us to share our faith (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus never commanded the lost to come and hear; He commanded the church to go and tell. Recently, my husband Jack and I were in a restaurant. We asked the waitress if we might include her in our prayer before eating. Wasting no time, she spattered us with her pain. Wherever you and I look, we see people needing Christ. Many await an invitation to express their needs, providing us opportunity to exalt Christ. Although we love our church, Jack and I don’t brag about it, the pastor, the music, or youth programs. Instead, we talk about Christ. Once unbelievers accept Christ, they’ll often choose our church. It’s important to remain positive while discussing the church.

Christ died for it; why should we complain? Suppose a business advertised this way: “The number of our customers is dropping, and many who do come are dissatisfied with what we offer, but please take your chances and drop in. It might not do you any good, but it will please us.” How many businesses would grow with such advertising? Throughout Colossians 1, Paul bragged about Christ. Count the ways he exalted Jesus and the Church in verses 15-20 and know that Jesus is equally committed to you and the church where you worship. While problems plagued the early Church, its members spread their faith, not their faults, and stormed the world for Christ. Has Jesus changed your life? Then say so. Review your past.



Catherine Painter  
Author, speaker, Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

Living in the Spirit

Focal Passages: Gen. 1:2; John 7:37-39; Acts 4:29-31; 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:4-7

In her book, *The Hat on the Hall Tree*, a minister’s wife discussed her dealing with church members. She wrote, “I keep a hat on the hall tree. When the doorbell rings, I put on my hat before opening the door. If I like the person, I say, ‘You’ve caught me at a good time; I was just coming in.’ If I don’t want to be bothered, I say, ‘You’ve caught me at a bad time; I was just going out.’” One thing is clear: the Holy Spirit did not control her life. Who is the Holy Spirit? He is God, the third person of the Trinity. Genesis 1 says that He was active in creation. He is neither an “it” nor an impersonal being. He is God with all the attributes of Jesus. Before He died, Jesus promised, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16-17). “When He comes, He will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment” (John 16:7-8). I experienced His attributes while

driving out West. Entering Arizona, I noted a “Welcome to Arizona” sign. Soon a patrolman stopped me. “Lady,” he said, “you were traveling ten miles over the speed limit” (Conviction). “Before you crossed the line, there was a sign noting the correct speed” (Righteousness). “I didn’t see it,” I said. “I was admiring your welcome sign.” Unimpressed, he replied, “Here’s your ticket” (Judgment). Imagine with me that an unrepentant sinner dies. God charges, “You broke my laws” (Sin), but “I provided a sign, the Cross, whereby you might be saved” (Righteousness). The sinner might plead, “I didn’t see the cross. My eyes were on the world.” Jesus will answer (John 14:6), “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Judgment). Years ago, a startling news headline read: Princess Diana and companion dead. Her intoxicated driver was traveling ninety miles an hour through a Paris tunnel, and Diana was not wearing a seatbelt. I cried, “Lord, I pray that Diana was not traveling so fast that she missed seeing the cross.” Let’s survey the cross — while we have time. Eternity depends on it.

Salvation is not inherited like a family heirloom.

Imagine with me that an unrepentant sinner dies. God charges, “You broke my laws” (Sin), but “I provided a sign, the Cross ...



# Southern Baptists face potentially huge decline

By Rob Phillips  
LifeWay

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist membership will fall nearly 50 percent by 2050 unless the aging and predominantly white denomination reverses a 50-year trend and does more to strengthen evangelism, reach immigrants, and develop a broader ethnic base, according to data just released by LifeWay Research.

Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research, told editors of the Association of State Baptist Papers on June 22 that while Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) membership has risen most years — by as much as 4 percent in 1951 — the rate of increase has been declining by 0.06 percent per year, and the membership change trend line has now passed into negative territory.

“If the 50-year trend continues, projected membership of SBC churches would be 8.7 million in 2050, down from 16.2 million last year,” said Stetzer. “Using U.S. Census projected population figures, SBC membership could fall from a peak of 6 percent of the American population in the late 1980s to 2 percent in 2050.”

Stetzer quoted Cliff Tharp, formerly with LifeWay and an SBC statistician for 35 years, who said, “We have been slowing in our growth and have now passed into decline. We are right at the top of the arc and beginning to go down. But changes we make now can change that trend significantly. These stats are not new but it has never caught anyone’s attention until now.”

Stetzer said many factors can con-

tribute to such decline. One factor is that the mean age of the denomination’s members is increasingly older than the general population, especially in the South, and Southern Baptists are reaching and baptizing fewer young adults. Second, the SBC has failed to keep pace with the rising number of non-white and non-black citizens in the United States.

“The difference in the mean age of Southern Baptists versus the U.S. population shows SBC members older, especially since 1993,” said Stetzer. “Prior to 2000, the difference in ages was not statistically significant, but we started to see a statistically significant divide in the age distribution of SBC members versus the general U.S. population after the turn of the century.”

Meanwhile, the percentage of the non-white and non-black population is very different in the U.S. versus the

SBC, said Stetzer, drawing from widely respected General Social Service (GSS) data. Last year, for example “other” races made up 10 percent of the U.S. population but only 2 percent of SBC membership responding to the GSS.

At the same time, the portion of the U.S. population that is foreign-born is outpacing the segment of foreign-born Southern Baptists. In 2008, 14 percent of the U.S. population was foreign born while only 3 percent of SBC members hailed from other countries.

The gap is particularly evident in the South, where immigrants make up a growing portion of the population, especially since 2000. “The South is becoming increasingly multi-ethnic but the SBC is not keeping pace,” Stetzer said. “Although Southern Baptists have done great work among immigrant and ethnic groups, they are still underrepresented

in our denomination. Great opportunity exists for us to share the gospel and minister to people. Ironically, the world is coming to us more quickly than we are going to the world.”

Stetzer also addressed the recent decline in baptisms in Southern Baptist churches, pointing out that while baptisms have fallen every year but one since 1999, the trend line since 1950 shows no discernable pattern.

“Baptisms often have risen several years in a row, only to fall for several years following,” he said. “The annual percentage change of total baptisms in the SBC since 1950 is essentially flat. That means total baptisms between now and 2050 are projected to remain roughly unchanged as well. We hope that the last few years of decline are not a trend but just a blip, but there is no way to tell.”

## WMU world hunger bread loaf bank debuts

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A bread loaf bank for missions made its debut during the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) report at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville, Ky., June 23.

The bank, a new resource for the World Hunger Offering, will replace the plastic, disposable rice bowls previously used by churches to collect funds, Wanda S. Lee, WMU’s national executive director, told messengers.

“Southern Baptists have demonstrated concern for the hungry throughout our history, and food banks and hunger projects are vibrant ministries in many of our churches,” Lee said.

WMU, an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, introduced the bank as a resource to encourage giving to the World Hunger Fund, established by Southern Baptists in 1974. WMU is working on the project in partnership

with the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, LifeWay Christian Resources and Baptist Press.

Kaye Miller, WMU’s president, said the banks, manufactured by a Southern Baptist family, are reusable and affordable and “serve as a visual reminder to help those who do not have enough food to eat.” They can be ordered directly from WMU at <http://www.wmustore.com/product.asp?sku=W094103>.



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