



BIBLICAL RECORDER

February 8, 2020 • VOLUME 186 NO. 3 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • BRnow.org



Christians have gospel to offer in pro-life cause

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

Evangelical Christians primarily have the gospel to offer within a pro-life movement that should transcend politics in what will be a battle far into the future, Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore said Jan. 23 on the eve of the March for Life.

Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), told those gathered for the fifth annual Evangelicals for Life (EFL) event the great resource they have as pro-lifers “is not a stack of polling data. What you have is not the crowd. What you have is the cross. And we’re the people who can say, ‘Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.’”

The principal message people of the gospel have “is not just that these are our fellow human beings who are imperiled, and we will stand with them,” he said, “but also to say to the woman who has the abortion, also to say to the man who has paid for the abortion, also to say to the doctor who has performed the abortions who comes in repentance and faith to Jesus Christ, ‘You are not somehow held at the peripheries and the margins of the kingdom of God; you are not some second-order sort of Christian; you’re the only kind of Christian there is – which is someone who has sinned greatly, who has been forgiven greatly and who stands with nothing to offer but blood.’”

The March for Life should include all kinds of people “who can agree that human life is sacred and human life ought to be protected,” Moore said. “But we as the people of the gospel of Jesus ought to be the people who are speaking even in

See Cause page 5

Clayton church A.B.L.E. to reach people with special needs



Tim Minton, right, discusses how sharing a task makes it easier to balance with help from his friends (Richard Soto, left, and Stephen Carpenter, center) at the first A.B.L.E. service at Hocutt Baptist Church in Clayton. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Editor

Despite the best intentions, church services fail to engage every person.

“Many people with differences continue to have exceptional needs even as they grow up,” said Susan Minton, a member of Hocutt Baptist Church in Clayton, who, along with her husband Tim and a crew of ambassadors, greeted several special needs families Jan. 25 for the church’s first A.B.L.E. special needs worship service for families.

“The term able is a very big term in the special needs world,” she said.

“The idea of being differently-abled versus disabled is a big idea. We realized able could actually be an acronym for exactly what we are talking about – accepted, blessed, loved and edified.”

The ministry uses Ephesians 3:20 as its inspiration: “Now all glory to God, who is able, through

See Needs page 7

Pastors nominate Durbin, Keck as SBC, Pastors’ Conf. officers

Baptist Press

An Alabama and a Florida pastor have announced nominations for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) second vice president and vice president of the SBC Pastors’ Conference (SBCPC).

Jonathan Jenkins will nominate Dusty Durbin for the SBC second vice president role at the SBC 2020 annual meeting June 9-10 in Orlando, Fla.,

Jenkins told Baptist Press (BP) Jan. 23. Durbin leads Big Level Baptist Church in Wiggins, Miss.

Jimmy Scroggins, pastor of Family Church in West Palm Beach, Fla., has announced his intention to nominate Chad Keck, pastor of First Baptist Church Kettering (FBK) in Dayton, Ohio, for vice president of the 2021 SBCPC. The 2021 SBCPC will be held in Nashville, Tenn., in conjunction with the

See Officers page 4

WHAT’S INSIDE

Milton Hollifield: ‘Abuse of Faith’: One year later	2
Board approves conduct policy for convention officials	3
CP giving ‘flat,’ but special offerings up in 2019	3
Sunday School lessons	10
Classifieds	11

‘Abuse of Faith’: One year later

Southern Baptists were shocked and dismayed one year ago this month after the *Houston Chronicle* printed a series of articles titled “Abuse of Faith.”

These articles reported that numerous sexual abuse cases with teens and children had occurred in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches. In some instances, these heinous acts were repeated over the course of several years.

Sometimes, abusers moved to different ministry contexts, often unchecked, allowing their patterns of sexual abuse to continue.

Even though some people may question the reality or even doubt the extent of this reported abuse, I am convinced that we need to ask, how must we address and respond to this issue?

• **It is a reality.**

If we have learned anything this past year, it should be that thinking this kind of sexual abuse could never

happen in your church is just not true. Sexual abuse can happen during numerous church-related activities at any sized church when you least expect it to occur. It can happen by individuals you would never expect to behave like that.

Those who think otherwise are uninformed or not taking this issue seriously.

• **It must be exposed.**

We should take every allegation of abuse seriously. Pastors and church leaders should not be the ones determining whether or not allegations of abuse are

credible, nor should they be the ones conducting investigations into those claims.

Those matters should be left to the local authorities.

• **It can be prevented.**

We should also do everything in our power to prevent abuse from happening in the first place.

This includes having documented policies and procedures in place

regarding children and volunteers that fit your ministry context. At the very least, all volunteers should be screened with a background check.

As a state convention, we have responded to the abuse crisis over the past year by providing resources and training events for pastors, church leaders and laity, and we will continue to so. The issue of abuse may be out of the headlines, but it should never be out of our consciousness.

Our churches should be safe places from abuse and safe places for those who have been abused.

As part of our ongoing efforts to assist and equip the local church, we are providing a new series of trainings that will take place across our state beginning later this month.

These events, titled “Safety and Security in Your Ministry Context,” are scheduled for 11 locations throughout the state from Feb. 27 to Dec. 11.

Several state convention ministries have come together to offer this training, and it will address topics like


IN FOCUS

A WORD FROM OUR LEADER

preventing sexual abuse, recognizing the grooming process, creating and enforcing policies, and much more.

Each location will offer two training times to accommodate as many people as possible. Registration is just \$10 per person and includes lunch or dinner, depending on the training time you choose. You can learn more and register at ncbaptist.org/safetyandsecurity.

I hope you will make plans to attend the training nearest you. Creating safe and secure ministry environments for our children and the vulnerable is a responsibility we all share.

“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea” – Matthew 18:6 (NASB). 

Truth in social media-filled culture takes effort

By MARGARET COLSON | *The Alabama Baptist*

Americans are increasingly skeptical about the trustworthiness of what they read or view online or in print publications, and most are uncertain about their ability to tell the difference between truth and “made-up” news.

According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, just 29% of Americans are “very confident” in their abilities to check the accuracy of a news story, 46% are somewhat confident and 24% have little to no confidence in doing so.

Americans also believe the creation and spread of “made-up news and information” is damaging to the country

and must be curtailed. In fact, Pew Research Center reported, “more Americans view made-up news as a very big problem for the country (50%) than say the same about terrorism (34%), illegal immigration (38%), racism (40%) and sexism (26%).”

Clay Carey, assistant professor of journalism and mass communication at Samford University, told *The Alabama Baptist* (TAB) News host Jennifer Davis Rash and co-host Debbie Campbell that the central purpose of trustworthy journalism is to inform people in order to facilitate a better public conversation.

“All of us are part of at least one community and sometimes many different types of communities,” Carey

said. “In those communities when we can be active participants, when we can put our ideas, our beliefs and our thoughts into the ebb-and-flow of discussion in those places, then we become active participants, and the community becomes better for our participation.”

Journalists, he believes, can “enable” or “restrict” such public conversations.

Rocking the boat

Sometimes even well-meaning journalists, in an effort of “not wanting to make people upset, not wanting to rock the boat,” avoid certain topics or ideologies. This approach, he said, “works to the detriment of life in a

community or life in a nation.” Sometimes, good journalism “requires making people uncomfortable.”

He teaches the importance of “fairness” to his journalism students, but he also recognizes that it is “so easy for people who wish to deceive or ... push an agenda or idea, regardless of whether the facts support that – it’s become so easy for them to create something that looks authentic. It is quite concerning in terms of what people can produce to try to mislead an audience,” he said.

Fairness needed

“Fairness and making an active effort to be fair is one of the central

See Effort page 8



BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

Volume 186 No. 3

(919) 847-2127; Fax (919) 467-6180

BRnow.org

Seth Brown, Executive Editor
editor@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Assistant Editor
(919) 459-5698; dianna@brnow.org

Liz Tablazon, Assistant Editor
(919) 459-5697; liz@brnow.org

Alison McKinney, Business and Advertising Manager
(919) 459-5691; alison@brnow.org

Carly Conley, Freelance Graphic Designer

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

Dee Dee Vogt

Editorial Aide
Grace Beacham
Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors: Nate Jones, chair; Chris Hefner, vice chair; Cindy D. Jennings, secretary; Tony Honeycutt, treasurer; Kevin Atchley; Kelly Bullard; Joan T. Calhoun; Marty K. Childers; Ron Davis; Lesley Hildreth; Amy T. Luncford; Dan Meyer; Frank Norwood; Jim Pennington Jr.; Donna A. Robinson; Donnie Seagle; Meredith Snoddy; Sonny W. Sweatman Jr.; Larry Whichard; and Bartley Wooten

Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$19.99 (one year) or \$2 per month
 - Group (5+) \$14.99
 - Bulk (10+) \$12.99
 - Digital rates: \$7.99 (one year).
- Payable in advance. N.C. sales tax will be added.

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays with the exception of no issue at the end of December, by the Biblical Recorder, 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to Biblical Recorder Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

Board approves conduct policy for convention officials

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) board of directors voted unanimously to adopt a policy that establishes a process by which certain officials could be removed from their places of service for cases of "serious misconduct" and other criteria in accordance with the state convention's bylaws.

The vote came during a regularly scheduled board meeting held Jan. 27-28 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro.

The policy applies to members of the BSC board of directors, elected state convention officers, members of convention committees, non-board members who serve on special committees of the board, and members of Fruitland Baptist Bible College's board of directors.

Fruitland is owned and operated by the BSC. The policy does not apply to state convention employees because their conduct is governed by the BSC's employee handbook.

The policy allows for the removal of individuals for "serious misconduct damaging to the people, mission or ministry of the Convention, whether such conduct is related or unrelated to the individual's duties in the Convention Position, in order to provide an environment that protects and promotes the Christian witness of the cooperating churches and their members."

The policy outlines criteria for filing complaints, investigating allegations, hearings and appeals.

In addition to matters related to conduct, the policy also outlines other objective criteria as grounds for removal, including meeting attendance requirements, residency and church membership.

"We have tried to think of everything we possibly could think of in order to make sure things are done right and in order," said Don Goforth, chairman of the Articles and Bylaws Committee, which drafted the proposed policy as well as related amendments to the state convention's bylaws.

During the 2019 BSC annual meeting last November, messengers approved two amendments to the state convention's bylaws that paved the way for the conduct policy to be adopted by the board.

The bylaw changes adopted by messengers described the criteria for which an individual may be removed and defined the positions it applies to. The bylaw amendments also directed the board to adopt "appropriate policies" related to the changes.

The adoption of the conduct policy marked the completion of a year's worth of work by the state convention.

At the January 2019 board meeting, a motion was approved that directed the state convention's executive committee to establish a policy for removing a board member in an instance of "moral failure."

The executive committee referred the matter to the Articles and Bylaws Committee, which determined that bylaw changes were needed before a policy could be developed.

Last July, the executive committee endorsed the bylaw changes before they were approved by the

full board of directors last September and by messengers last November.

Financial report

John Butler, the BSC's executive leader for Business Services, reported to the board that Cooperative Program giving totaled slightly more than \$29 million in 2019, which was a 5.2% increase over 2018, but still about 6.2% below last year's budget amount of \$31 million.

At the same time, giving to special offerings for state, North American and international missions all increased in 2019. When special offerings and Cooperative Program gifts are considered together, North Carolina ranks third in total support to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Butler said.

"I'm proud of how N.C. Baptist churches support SBC causes through the special SBC offerings," Butler said. "But the most effective way for us to do missions together is through churches supporting the Cooperative Program."

Other business

In other business, the board elected four at-large members of the executive committee, elected a new board secretary and approved 12 individuals to serve on the Committee on Nominations. Board President Melanie Wallace also announced several appointments to various committees.

Executive committee at-large members

Individuals elected by acclamation to serve as at-large members of the executive committee were: Noah Crow of Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church in Murphy; Troy Grant of Lake View Baptist Church in Hickory; James Harrington of Fellowship Baptist Church in Moyock; and Travis Suits of Laurel Springs Baptist Church in Deep Gap.

Board secretary

Angela Kilby of First Baptist Church of Cary was elected board secretary.

Committee on Nominations

Individuals approved to serve on the Committee on Nominations were: Betsy Bolick of Perkinsville

Baptist Church in Boone; Joey Canady of Hampstead Baptist Church; Brian Chilton of Westfield Baptist Church; Rusty Davis of Cherry Grove Baptist Church in Cerro Gordo; William Hardin of Fruitland Baptist Church in Hendersonville; Quintell Hill of Multiply Community Church in Monroe; Heath Lloyd of Fairview Baptist Church in Reidsville; Mark Meeseree of Lahu Baptist Church in Newton; Matt Miles of Powellsville Baptist Church; Heather Morris of Freedom Biker Church in Monroe; Richard Sherrieff of Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church in Murphy; and Patrick Warutere of North Raleigh International Baptist Church.

Robin Fisher of Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in Rocky Mount will serve as the committee chair.

Articles and Bylaws Special Committee appointees

Wallace appointed the following individuals to serve on the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee: Jody Yopp of Kellum Baptist Church in Jacksonville; and Kim Jones of Cape Carteret Baptist Church.

Don Goforth of Great Marsh Baptist Church in St. Pauls will serve as the committee chair.

Budget Special Committee appointees

Wallace appointed the following individuals to serve on the Budget Special Committee: Katherine Batchelor of Hephzibah Baptist Church in Wendell; and Jennifer Hinnant of Central Baptist Church in Wendell.

Rick Speas of Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem will serve as the committee chair.

Business Services Special Committee appointees

Wallace appointed the following individuals to serve on the Business Services Special Committee: Brandon Powell of Wakefield Central Baptist Church in Zebulon; and Charles Havens of First Baptist Church of Asheboro.

Next meeting

The board's next meeting is scheduled for May 18-19 at Caraway Conference Center. 

CP giving 'flat,' but special offerings up in 2019

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

Cooperative Program (CP) giving from North Carolina Baptist churches totaled slightly more than \$29 million in 2019, which was a 5.2% increase from 2018, but still about 6.2% below last year's budget amount of \$31 million.

Despite the approximate \$1.9 million short-

fall, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) still finished 2019 in the black by approximately \$29,000, convention officials reported to the BSC board of directors at a regularly scheduled meeting held Jan. 27-28 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro.

However, giving to special offerings for state, North American and international

See Giving page 12

SBC child care registration open

By TESS SCHOONHOVEN | Baptist Press

Southern Baptists looking to bring the whole family to Orlando for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 9-10 are able to pre-register for child care.


Due to the popularity of this year's meeting location, volunteers and coordinators anticipate more families attending and thus a greater need for child care. Youth on Mission will hold activities for teenagers, Giant Cow Ministries will head up the elementary age group and volunteers from Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Temporary Childcare will manage preschool care for children from birth through age 5.

For the preschool child care and the Youth on Mission experience there is a one-time, non-refundable \$10 registration fee for each child.

Preschool care (birth to 5 years) costs \$25 per child per session and will be offered during each session of the SBC Pastors' Conference June 7-8 and annual meeting June 9-10. Drop off will begin 30 minutes before each session. If children are not picked up for lunch, a \$6 per child per day (Monday-Wednesday) fee is required, even if the child does not eat the lunch provided.

Giant Cow Ministries events will be open during all pastors' conference and annual meeting sessions. Pricing for pre-registrants is \$30 per child for one day, \$50 for two days, \$60 for Monday-Wednesday and \$70 for Sunday-Wednesday. Registering at the door raises each price by \$5. Families with a teenager (14 or older) who volunteers to help in childcare are eligible for one free ticket.

Visit TheGiantCow.com/tickets.

Youth on Mission (YOM) will host a missions experience for teenagers. YOM registration will be \$55 per student. Activities will be June 9-10, beginning at 8 a.m. with a planned return of 4 p.m. each day. Visit sbcannualmeeting.net/sbc20/. 

Officers

Continued from page 1

2021 SBC annual meeting. The vice presidential election will take place at the 2020 Pastors' Conference in June in Orlando, Fla.

"Dusty, at 34 years old, has displayed a wise and cooperative spirit in the churches he's led and the local and state cooperative works he has participated in," said Jenkins, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Kinston, Ala.

"He not only participates, but has led his church to give generously through the Cooperative Program and to the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon missions offerings."

In his 13 years of vocational ministry, at his current church since March, 2018, Durbin has embraced "the successful efforts of those who have gone before him," Jenkins told BP, and has led "with an eye toward innovation and vision for the future of local church and Kingdom ministry."

Jenkins described Durbin as a man who "walks faithfully in grace and truth in all that he does," and "strives to be the embodiment of a love that is not self-seeking, but rejoices in truth."

Durbin told BP he was hesitant to be nominated, but consented after weeks of prayer.

"I am doing so for two reasons," Durbin said of his acceptance. "Firstly, I want to be faithful in whatever God should put before me. Secondly, I am extremely thankful for and committed to the work of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Durbin believes he can serve well, he told BP.

"My passion coincides with the reason the Southern Baptist Convention exists, the Great Commission," he said.

"Also, I believe that by serving, if elected, I would be able to represent well the untold number of faithful pastors of normative Southern Baptist churches who lead their churches to champion and generously support the work of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative

Program and our strong missions entities."

Big Level Baptist Church contributed 10.24% of undesignated receipts to the SBC CP in 2019, or \$29,580 of \$288,860, according to the SBC Annual Church Profile (ACP).

The church's Great Commission Giving totaled \$49,907 on the ACP profile.

The church averages 140 in attendance with a total membership of 565, according to the ACP.

Before leading Big Level, Durbin pastored Atlanta Baptist Church in Atlanta, La., for more than seven years, and served three years as a youth and education pastor at Woodhaven Baptist Church in Tickfaw, La., he told BP.

Durbin holds a bachelor of arts in Christian ministry from Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a master of arts in pastoral ministry from Louisiana College, and a doctor of ministry from North Greenville University. He and his wife Crystal have three children – Micah, Wyatt and Hallie.

In a release, Scroggins said Keck is focused on supporting and encouraging other pastors.

"Chad is a proven leader and someone who is passionate about reaching people in Dayton as well as investing in local, state, and national denominational endeavors," Scroggins said.

Keck has spent time serving in his local Baptist association and state convention.

He was the SBC Executive Committee's Cooperative Program catalyst for the Midwest from 2016-2018, during which he worked with pastors and churches to promote the vision and value of the Cooperative Program.

In addition to his pastoral ministry and SBC entity work, Keck teaches courses at Cedarville University in the Master of Ministry program and has worked with LifeWay Christian Resources in event planning.

Keck said he is honored to receive the nomination.

"I have a deep appreciation for the pastors in our denomination," Keck said. "Over the past years, I have spent considerable time praying for pastors, serving alongside pastors, and equipping/training pastors across the Midwest."

Kecks said that as a pastor in Ohio, he understands the challenges of moving a church from revitalization to multiplication, so it is a joy for him to listen to and encourage pastors.

"I am also very excited that the 2021 Pastors Conference is in Nashville," Keck said. "I am a native Nashvillian, and the first churches I served were located there. I hope that I am able to provide some key insights and support to the president of the conference as he plans our time together in that great city."

FBC Kettering's planned giving through the Cooperative Program is more than \$200,000, or more than 9% of undesignated receipts, according to a release.

According to the 2019 Associated Church Profile, the church reported \$164,847 in Cooperative Program giving, or 8%, from designated receipts of \$2,599,791. The church also reported membership of 899 and average worship attendance of 702 in 2019.

Keck and his wife Candace have been married for 18 years and have four children.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – This is a compilation of Baptist Press stories.) 



Fruitland Baptist Bible College
ENROLL NOW FOR NEW QUARTER ON MARCH 31, 2020

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- Earn an Associates Degree in Religion (choose from Christian Ministry, Church Planting, and Christian Worldview tracks)
- Our Associate degree is now fully available online
- Courses offered for Spanish speaking students at several N.C. locations (Call Robert Fernandez at 828-399-0109)

For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write: David Horton, President
Fruitland Baptist Bible College, 1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792
Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

 VA BENEFITS AVAILABLE
POST-9/11 GI BILL

PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS
NEW PEWS CARPETING
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
1-800-289-7397
Church Interiors Inc.
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialists
High Point, North Carolina
www.churchinteriors.com

Prayer changes things.
So can you.
Errand Assistance Needed in
Wake County
Call **877.506.2226** today!
ncbam.org

Cause

Continued from page 1

our solidarity with others who agree with us on this a message of what it means to follow Jesus as people who are claimed by the gospel.”

Moore and other ERLC staff participated in the annual March for Life the next day with tens of thousands of other pro-life advocates. President Donald Trump spoke in person at a rally preceding the march, marking the first time the country’s chief executive has attended the event since it began in 1974, a year after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in its *Roe v. Wade* opinion.

The ERLC, which has co-hosted EFL each year, and Lifeline Children’s Services were the event’s sponsors this year. It was held at the Museum of the Bible.

“If *Roe versus Wade* is overturned – and please God may it be – and if state legislature after state legislature decides that the atrocity of abortion should be ended in their states – and please God let them do that, let us all live long enough to see that – that will not be the end of this,” Moore said. “That will be the beginning of it. It means that we have to have an infrastructure in place to be able to love and to care for people that we don’t even know about right now....”

No matter the pro-life movement’s victories a year or 50 years from now, “this advocacy will never be done, because as long as human beings bear the image of God, then that means that vulnerable human beings signal to the principalities and powers an ongoing reminder of Jesus of Nazareth,” he said. “And they will always be vulnerable then to attack and to assault.”

The pro-life movement needs

“elected officials to be in conversation with the pro-life movement consistently, and we need a pro-life movement that transcends those politicians as well,” Moore told the audience during a question-and-answer session.

The world needs for Christians to be able to say, “We need some elected leaders. We need to support them when we can. We need to pray for them always. We need to show them the appropriate amount of honor. We don’t belong to any of them,” he said.

“[W]e need a mayor. We need a police chief. We need a state senator. We need a president. We need Supreme Court justices. We have a Messiah already.”

Lifeline President Herbie Newell told the audience the pro-life issue “is about defending life outside of the womb, as well as life inside of the womb. Why? Because every life inside and outside of the womb bears the mark of her Creator.

“We are made and crafted in the image of God, and we are called and responsible to show His character to a lost and dying world. And this is why it is so important that we understand that being pro-life can’t ever be just pro-birth, but it must extend to life outside of the womb.”

This means not only working to end abortion, Newell said, but ministering to those with special needs; seeking racial reconciliation; honoring women; encouraging fathers; fighting slavery, human trafficking and pornography; and participating in adoption and foster care.

It was the stories of young women he and his wife met at a crisis pregnancy center that led them to recognize the “spiritual bankruptcy” in the



Participants in the March for Life gather in Washington, D.C. (BR photo by Liz Tablazon)

lives of many vulnerable people.

“It really started to push along the margins of our lives to say ... ‘Isn’t pro-life something much more aggressive – pursuing this young lady with the love of Christ and showing her the gift of the gospel?’ Not just in a presentation but in actively wrapping our lives in some way around this.”

One of the pro-life movement’s great strengths – and one that may not be communicated well – is it is “both pro-baby and pro-woman, and the other side is only for one of those. But we are for both,” Lauren Green McAfee said during a panel discussion.

McAfee is corporate ambassador for Hobby Lobby.

Trillia Newbell, the ERLC’s director of community outreach, suggested

during the panel discussion some practical steps for doing pro-life work.

In addition to connecting with organizations and starting ministries in their churches, Christians can “see the vulnerable” and “move towards them,” she said. “Volunteer. Give your life away.”

“Connect the dots,” Newbell said, to be able to point the vulnerable to the resources they need.

McAfee also suggested ministering to single mothers, organizing support groups for adoptive and foster care families, contributing to or starting an adoption fund and partnering with local government efforts in caring for children.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Tom Strode is Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press. Biblical Recorder staff contributed to this report.) 

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Baptists on Missions invites men, women and students to February regional mission rallies. Supper is free at 5:50 p.m.; the program starts at 6:50 p.m. and concludes at 8:30 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 17

- **Region 1** – Rocky Hock Baptist, 113 Rocky Hock Church Rd., Edenton, NC 27932
- **Region 4** – Woodland Baptist Church, 190

Woodland Church Rd., Wake Forest, NC 27587

- **Region 6** – First Baptist Church, 200 Branchview Dr. SE, Concord, NC 28025
- **Region 9** – Lake Hills Church, 370 Lake Dr., Biltmore Lake, NC 28715

Tues., Feb. 18

- **Region 2** – Forest Hills Baptist Church, 1407 Forest Hills Rd. NW, Wilson, NC 27896
- **Region 8** – First Baptist Church, 409 Old Mount Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164
- **Region 10** – Lighthouse Baptist Church, 2577

Hwy. 441 S, Sylva, NC 28779

Thurs., Feb. 20

- **Region 3** – Stedman Baptist Church, 7750 Clinton Rd., Stedman, NC 28391
- **Region 5** – Oaklawn Baptist Church, 3500 Kernersville Rd., Winston Salem, NC 27107
- **Region 7** – Millers Creek Baptist Church, 5100 Boone Trail, Millers Creek, NC 28651

Register online at baptistsonmission.org/rallies one week before the date; contact (919) 459-5596 or mc Crawford@ncbaptist.org.

ADVERTISE – (919) 459-5691

Jimmy Scroggins on vision, leadership, evangelism and more

BSC Communications

Jimmy Scroggins is lead pastor of Family Church in South Florida. He is dedicated to building families in South Florida through a network of neighborhood churches that help people in their community discover and pursue God's design.

Scroggins will be the keynote speaker at this year's N.C. Baptist Disciple-Making Conference on Tues., Feb. 25 at Green Street Baptist Church in High Point.

Scroggins took some time to answer the following questions related to his ministry, leadership, vision, evangelism, church culture and what he plans to share at the conference.

Tell us about your ministry and the story of Family Church in South Florida.

I became the pastor of Family Church in 2008. It wasn't long before God opened the door for us to launch a second campus and then a third. Now we have 12 churches in nine buildings and have worship in three languages. Our vision is to take the gospel to every resident in every neighborhood in South Florida. We are mission-focused on building families by helping them discover and pursue God's design. God is using us to change South Florida one life, one family and one neighborhood at a time.

Your ministry at Family Church could be described as a revitalization situation. What are some of the challenges you have faced, particularly early in your tenure at what was then First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach?

When I came to be the pastor at Family Church – then First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach – they had been without a pastor for five years. During that time many faithful people served our church and prayed for our church. Without a clear leader and a clear vision, however, attendance had dwindled, and the church was struggling financially.

We had to make some difficult decisions. My initial goal was to revitalize the Sunday morning worship experience. In order to do this, we had to stop doing some ministries and refocus on Sunday. We also made the decision to sell what was known as The Chapel by the Lake. This was

a difficult and contentious decision, but once the church voted to sell the property, we were able to take that money and jump-start our own revitalization.

People may not know that you developed the “3 Circles” tool for engaging in gospel conversations soon after you arrived at Family Church. What's the story behind how the “3 Circles” was developed?

I came to South Florida from Louisville, Ky., where I was a teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church and the dean of Boyce College. Kentucky is the buckle of the Bible Belt, and our church was full of young college and seminary students. My wife, Kristin, and I enjoyed leading a marriage classes and helping young couples prepare for a life together.

When we came to West Palm Beach, we decided that we would plug in by doing the same thing. We advertised our marriage class in the bulletin, and it filled up almost immediately. When we got to the class, however, we experienced culture shock. The class was full of people in their 30s, most of whom were living together and

had his kids, her kids and their kids.

We realized that we weren't in Kentucky anymore, and all of our materials that were made for young Christian kids with very little life experience weren't going to meet these people where they were in life. Many of them weren't even believers in Jesus, and they had a worldview that was radically different from ours. I realized that I needed to come up with a way to talk to them about life and the gospel before we could get to marriage. So that week in my office I started to work on a conversation guide that could explain life according to God's design. It is from there that the “3 Circles” came to be.

Our focus as N.C. Baptists is on



JIMMY SCROGGINS




impacting lostness through disciple-making. How does Family Church perpetuate a culture of disciple-making and multiplication?

I always say that culture is mediated through leadership over time. When it comes to building an evangelistic church culture, it's pastors and church leaders who need to set the culture, speak the culture, model the culture and stay the course. Building a true culture of evangelism takes time – not days, weeks or months but years and even decades.

There are at least 10 ways church leaders can build a more evangelistic church culture: focused prayer, choose a gospeling tool, train people to use the tool, engage with people who are far from God, emphasize rapid obedience, coordinate philoso-

phy and strategy, create a way to have bottleneck conversations with people who attend your church, involve students and kids, collect stories and celebrate stories. I can unpack these more when I am with you.

We're excited that you will be joining us at the 2020 Disciple-Making Conference. What do you hope to share, and what do you hope attendees will take away from the event?

I hope that pastors and church staff will catch a vision for how they can reach their communities with the gospel. There is no “one size fits all” approach. We need to cultivate people who have a passion for a place (and) for a people group and equip them to do the work of the ministry in order to build up the body of Christ. 

JOIN ONE OF NINE EMBRACE ROUNDTABLES MARCH 14, 2020

Network and learn from women's ministry leaders across North Carolina with tips and ideas for evangelism, discipleship, mentoring, Bible study and more for your church's women's ministry at this one day event!

For registration and location information, visit EMBRACENC.ORG/ROUNDTABLES



embrace
ROUNDTABLES

**ADVERTISE
in the Recorder
(919) 459-5691**

Needs

Continued from page 1

his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

The ambassadors, trained by Joni and Friends (joniandfriends.org) instructors earlier in January, make themselves available for a variety of tasks before, during and after the service. The organization, founded by Joni Eareckson Tada in 1979, shares the gospel and provides practical help to those affected by disability.

The service is slated to meet every Saturday at 4 p.m. and is designed for the whole family, Minton said.

Hosted in the church’s annex, ambassadors sing or play an instrument, greet incoming guests, as well as fan out among the special needs families to help where needed.

The service is designed to be 45 minutes and includes a storyboard to keep up with each item as it is happening. Minton publishes information on social media in advance of the service to detail the upcoming service, including song choices, prayer time, etc. The Bible story will be taught by a group of volunteers in a weekly rotation. Each service begins with the song “This is the Day.”

Families are also offered the option of a quiet room where fidget toys are available.

The key is letting the parents be the expert of their own child.

“We can be cognizant, we can be aware and we can be as trained as we can be, but they are the experts on their child,” Minton said.

“It means that even a smaller church can have a very vibrant ministry to people with differences.”

Participants are encouraged to be themselves, to get up, to make noise or dance.

Pastor Steve Roy said God has brought everything together. “Right now, we have the right people, the right place,” he said.

Roy credited the Mintons with their leadership. Tim is a leader and elder in the church, and Susan is a pianist with the praise team.

Together they have experience with special needs.

One of their three adult daughters is diagnosed with autism. She is currently a student at the University of North Carolina Greensboro in the school’s Beyond Academics program. The couple has been married 26 years.



Above, ambassadors in pale blue shirts lead worship for the first A.B.L.E. service at Hocutt Baptist Church in Clayton. At right, volunteers or ambassadors meet before the first service to go over their roles. (BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle)

When their daughter was much younger the Mintons would hold Minton Community Church on mornings it was clear their daughter would make attending a regular church service difficult.

“We have the capability in our family of creating a sort of mini-service, but we didn’t have any fellowship,” she said.

Minton said she searched for references to weekly worship services for people with special needs but really couldn’t find anything.

Some churches had special recognition days where people with special needs would take part for that day. She found a synagogue that held a quarterly service.

One of the statistics that stuck with her was shared by Joni and Friends during the church’s training Jan. 11: less than 20% impacted by disability attend church.

Hocutt dedicated the ambassadors the Sunday before the first A.B.L.E. service with special prayer time. But, Roy said the launch has been



in the works for months. The Mintons brought the idea to him last year. It was announced to the church in November.

“This one has really taken off,” said Roy, but it was “birthed out of their heart and their burden.”

The Mintons have advertised, made calls and talked to people about the service for some time.

Minton was pleased with the first turnout.

“The A.B.L.E. families who attended were extremely enthusiastic about the service,” she said. “They were very kind posting on multiple sites. They loved the service; they appreciated the elements of it.”

Minton credited the church leadership and the ambassadors with being supportive and available to help. “I’m having a blast,” she said.

“This is the most fun ever. I can’t wait to see where it goes.”

Minton is praying for possible future development at the church and beyond.

If the service grows, there may be opportunities to help people with life skills classes or support for families.

Visit hocuttbaptist.com/a-b-l-e-service. On YouTube, search for A.B.L.E. Special Needs Ministry and on Facebook, Hocutt A.B.L.E. Special Needs Ministry. Twitter: @AbleNeeds; and Instagram: @ablespecialneedsministry.

AROUND THE STATE

Staff change

Trinity Baptist Church, Mooresville, has called **MARK HARRIS** as senior pastor. Harris pastored churches in Augusta, Ga., and Charlotte, N.C., before embarking on runs for N.C. Senate and Congress.

In addition to these pursuits, Harris has served as president of the N.C. Pastor’s Conference, Board

of Directors for the *Biblical Recorder*, first vice president of the Baptist State Convention of N.C. (BSC), and two terms as BSC president. He earned his master of divinity and doctor of divinity degree in Christian leadership from Southeastern Seminary. Harris and his wife Elizabeth have three grown children.

Resolution 9: Committee responds to questions, false claims

By **SETH BROWN** | *BR* Executive Editor

Members of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) 2019 resolutions committee plan to release two documents to clarify their views on a pair of social science theories used to examine racial dynamics and discrimination. Critical race theory and intersectionality (often abbreviated as CRT/I) were the focus of a controversial resolution adopted by messengers at last year's SBC annual meeting.

The *Biblical Recorder* obtained drafts of a statement by committee members and an accompanying FAQ document. The committee's response is meant to ease tensions amid ongoing debate about "Resolution 9: On Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality," a document some claim was an effort to endorse or usher in leftist beliefs contrary to Southern Baptist faith and practice.

The committee revealed information about internal deliberations that led to the resolution's proposal and expressed concerns about critical race theory and intersectionality.

Committee members denied allegations that the resolution was a "Trojan horse" for a leftist agenda and defended their position as being in line with the *Baptist Faith & Message*.

Resolution 9 was described as a Trojan horse in a series of online videos created by Sovereign Nations, an

organization that describes itself as a politically conservative think-tank. Founders Ministries included similar claims in a documentary about an alleged leftward shift in the SBC.

The resolutions committee said that while it appreciated "genuine critiques," it denounced slanderous claims about committee members and their motives.

"We did not begin our work with any desire or plan to speak to this issue, but we appreciated the concerns expressed by the pastor who submitted the original resolution, we recognized the influence that CRT/I has had in our society, and we shared concerns within the SBC that these theories could undermine the gospel and the church's mission," the committee said.

"And so, we proposed a resolution that we hoped would reflect how the Christian church for 2000 years has applied the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture with ideas that emerge from outside sources."

The committee denied any endorsement of critical race theory or intersectionality and said the resolution's language reflects that position. Committee members also denied claims that Resolution 9 supported critical race theory and intersectionality as methods for interpreting scripture.

At least two Christian leaders have claimed publicly that Resolution 9 was about Bible interpretation.

Well-known evangelical preacher John MacArthur made such a claim at the Shepherds 360 Conference in October 2019.

"When the Southern Baptists met in June, and they passed Resolution 9, and they said intersectionality and critical theory are useful tools in interpreting the Bible, that was a watershed moment ...," MacArthur said during a panel discussion.

Alabama pastor Jeff Noblit also described the resolution as being about Bible interpretation during a sermon Oct. 20, which included an announcement that the church he leads, Grace Life Church of the Shoals, would no longer participate in the SBC.

"The resolution says nothing either explicitly or implicitly about interpreting Scripture through CRT/I," the committee said.

Committee members acknowledged that Southern Baptists may hold differing opinions about Resolution 9 but said false claims have stoked conflict.

"We are grieved by this, and we believe it grieves the heart of our Lord," the statement said.


"We presented the resolution to provide a biblical basis to engage in ongoing conversations about race in our culture and how it impacts our churches," committee members said in the FAQ document.

"We were guided by the conviction that all truth is God's truth, and

in God's common grace, truth can sometimes be found in theories rooted in unbiblical worldviews."

The 10-member committee was chaired by Curtis Woods, associate executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Other committee members included vice chairman Keith Whitfield, vice president for academic administration at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, N.C.; Tremayne Manson, associate pastor for community development and outreach at The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Adron Robinson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Country Club Hills, Ill.; Walter Strickland, SEBTS associate vice president for diversity; Angela Suh Um, founder and chief consultant at Boston Academic Consulting Group, Cambridge, Mass.; Trevin Wax, Bible and reference publisher at B&H Academic Group, LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn. and teaching pastor at Third Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Jared Wellman, pastor of Tate Springs Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas.; Rick Wheeler, lead missional strategist for the Jacksonville Baptist Association in Jacksonville, Fla.; and Alicia Wong, director of women's program at Gateway Seminary in Ontario, Calif.

(*EDITOR'S NOTE* – Visit BRnow.org to read this story online, which includes the full statement.) 

Effort

Continued from page 2

antidotes for journalists being perceived, and sometimes rightfully so, as being a voice for only one side of an issue."

One challenge, he said, is that, "We live in a world now where anybody theoretically can be a journalist – anybody can pull out their cell phone and record a video and put it on the internet and have an impact.

"It's very easy for people who wish to spread misinformation to do so in a shell that looks completely legitimate."

Professional journalists through the ages have been expected to adhere to the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Code of Ethics, which calls for journalists to seek truth and report

it, minimize harm, act independently and be accountable.

The SPJ Code of Ethics states that the code "is not a set of rules, rather a guide that encourages all who engage in journalism to take responsibility for the information they provide, regardless of medium."

To check the accuracy of a news story, Clay encourages news consumers to avoid the temptation to "only consume news" presented from one ideological position.

"We're better informed when we're catching information from different perspectives," he said.

And if only one media outlet, such as a blogging website, is reporting a story, that's a "cue that what you're

looking at maybe deserves an extra level of skepticism."

News consumers should become more astute at understanding various terms, such as news analysis or commentary, which can tend to be subjective rather than objective.

Clay added that email newsletters help him to be a better news consumer.

Credible sources


Further, Clay encourages news consumers to look for the primary source of the reported information.

"Good journalists, acting in a transparent way, will make it very clear where the information they're getting is coming from," he said.

"Historically, across the long arc of journalism in America, there hasn't been a huge demand for journalists to be transparent ...

"Journalists can't operate like that anymore; journalists have to be more transparent ...

"That lack of transparency, I think, is a key contributor to some of the trust issues that journalism is seeing right now."

(*EDITOR'S NOTE* – Margaret Colson is the special assignments editor for The Alabama Baptist. This article was originally published on thealababaptist.org. Reprinted by permission. To listen to the TAB News podcast in its entirety, go to tabonline.org/credible-news.) 

IMB to commemorate 175 years among the nations throughout 2020

By ANN LOVELL | IMB

For 175 years, Southern Baptists have not failed to have a witness among the nations, International Mission Board (IMB) president Paul Chitwood told home office staff and field personnel this week. This year marks the 175th anniversary of Southern Baptist mission work around the world.

To commemorate this significant milestone, IMB announced a 175th anniversary campaign highlighting those who have followed His call to pray, give and go.

Highlights of the campaign include:

- Short stories, videos and photos on IMB's social media channels, beginning last month;
- An interactive timeline on the IMB website, featuring missionary vignettes and short videos of IMB's work by decade, to be launched in May;
- A photo book containing IMB photographs and stories of God's movement among the nations throughout its history, to be released in May;
- An interactive experience at IMB's booth at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando in June to allow visitors to walk through 175 years of IMB history.

Prayer is also foundational to the campaign. IMB's "175 days of prayer" begins May 11 and will culminate with IMB's week of prayer for international missions Nov. 29-Dec. 6. In preparation, IMB is seeking to enlist at least 1,750 prayer advocates



who will commit to pray for specific requests. Each day will feature one request sent as a push notification from the IMB Pray app, accessed at imb.org/pray or the Pray Daily newsletter, or seen through IMB's social media channels. To register as a prayer advocate, visit: imb.org/175.

In launching the campaign, Chitwood acknowledged the cooperative effort required by Southern Baptists to focus on achieving the vision of Revelation 7:9 of a "vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language."

"Since 1888, Southern Baptists have given approximately \$4.7 billion to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," Chitwood said. "Since the introduction of the Cooperative Program in 1925, Southern Baptists have contributed almost \$3.6 billion to international missions through that initiative."

As a result of this level of cooperative praying, giving, going and sending, Southern Baptists have sent almost 25,000 missionaries to the nations since 1845.

These missionaries have served in 189 countries and represent 228,000 years of service.

Although these stories and statistics are worth celebrating, Chitwood acknowledged that the Southern Baptist Convention and IMB began "in sin and brokenness."

"In 1845, our legacy began in sin and brokenness as Baptists in the South separated from the northern churches over slavery," Chitwood said. "Only God's redeeming love and the reconciling power of the gospel could result not only in repentance, but in a convention of churches today that is among the most diverse in the world and whose membership includes thousands of African-American churches and many other ethnicities. That diversity, from such a regretful beginning, causes this celebration of what God is doing through Southern Baptists to be even more joyous."

Chitwood continued, "Each generation of Southern Baptists has answered the call to cooperative missions and given their prayers and support to their IMB missionaries."

Watch a video retrospective of IMB's 175 years: vimeo.com/385076266.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Ann Lovell is editorial design manager for IMB.) 

East Coast Men's Bible Conference March 13-14, 2020 ENGLEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, ROCKY MOUNT, NC

Clayton Cloer



Michael Cloer



REGISTER NOW!
\$30 per person
before 2/24



Vance Pitman



Bob Pitman



Musical Guest: This Hope

CONTACT US AT WWW.ECMBC.ORG OR CALL (252) 937-8254
SPONSORED BY BOB PITMAN MINISTRIES & ENGLEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you..." JAMES 4:8 NKJV



A W A K E N

A NORTH CAROLINA PRAYER GATHERING



MARCH 13-14, 2020
Pleasant Garden Baptist Church
PLEASANT GARDEN, N.C.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
3:00 - 9 P.M.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
8:45 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

SPEAKERS

MEL BLACKABY

Pastor, First Baptist Church,
Jonesboro, Ga.

GORDON FORT

Vice President for Prayer, IMB,
Richmond, Va.

J. CHRIS SCHOFIELD

Director, Office of Prayer,
BSCNC, Cary, N.C.

PRAYER TESTIMONIES

LAMONT HEMMINGER

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church,
Tarboro, N.C.

DOUG CARVER

Executive Director of Chaplaincy,
NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

SIMON TOUPRONG

Pastor, New Hope Vietnamese
Church, Raleigh, N.C.

*For more information & registration
please call (800) 395-5102 ext. 5513 or visit

ncbaptist.org/awaken

Sponsored by the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening of the Administration and Convention Relations Group of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in partnership with Pleasant Garden Baptist Church and the Piedmont Baptist Association.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Where Does Comfort Come From?

February 16

Focal Passage: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

In the classic book, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the protagonist Edmond Dantes is wrongfully imprisoned by a trio of enemies. During his imprisonment, he meets the Abbé Faria who befriends the broken Dantes. Over the course of time, the aged and dying priest bequeaths to Dantes his knowledge of the prison, his plan to escape, his understanding of culture, science and the humanities, and also the location of his vast wealth on the Island of Monte Cristo.

With this knowledge, Dantes can withstand his imprisonment, complete his escape, collect the treasure and change his identity.

Either you have suffered, you are suffering or you will suffer. In a fallen world, pain is inevitable, but for the Christian, such pain is invaluable.

Whether the trial be natural or

external, God uses suffering to shape us into the image of Christ. Then, as He comforts us in all our troubles, He empowers us to go and comfort others in kind. The story of Dantes is tragic. For all the comfort he received from his friend during his imprisonment, he allowed bitterness to grow.

We have a choice when we face suffering. We can grow bitter and withdraw. Or we can receive the comfort only God can give and use it to display His glory and to pray and to work on behalf of others in need.

Might our prayer always be, “Make me a channel of blessing today, Make me a channel of blessing, I pray; My life possessing, my service blessing, Make me a channel of blessing today.”



CASEY SHORT
Pastor, Pinetops
Baptist Church

How Can I Honor God in My Suffering?

February 23

Focal Passage: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

I grew up watching Bob Ross paint. My grandmother, a painter herself, would turn on the television to admire his technique and, I imagine, to hone her own craft. One of the things that always struck me about his paintings was how ugly they would get. I did not know that it was all part of the process, that the splatter or line that seemed to have ruined the painting would serve to enhance its glory when the masterpiece was done.

Paul told the Corinthian believers that the same God who said “*let there be light*” at creation and “*let there be life*” in their hearts for salvation – the one who said “*let there be life*” and raised Jesus from the dead – displayed

the same glory and power as they persevered through suffering. Despite intense persecution, the gospel continued to advance to the praise of God, and God’s people continued to grow in their knowledge of Him.

Our suffering honors God when we persevere and, per James, when we persevere joyfully, because doing so produces endurance. This does not mean the trial is pleasant. This does not mean we enjoy it.

God is painting a scene in Christ to display His glory in and through His people. Every stroke, the ones that make sense and the ones that do not serve to enhance that glory. There will be days when the splatters and strokes make a lot of sense to you. But even when they do not, take heart. The light and momentary trials you face are achieving something greater in eternity. One day, it will be a masterpiece.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Chosen

February 16

Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 30:1-10, 19-20

My college dorm room was no five-star hotel but one amenity it did have was a landline phone. I had a cell phone, so I hardly ever used the landline, but on the one occasion that I did, I made an unfortunate error. My roommates were gone, and my girlfriend (now wife) was in a night class.

Things were getting pretty serious between us, so I decided to do something romantic. I learned one of her favorite songs on my guitar and put the phone on speaker.

I thought if I played this love song and sang it to her as a surprise message then it may get me some brownie points.

It was a solid plan. I even messed up once but that did not deter me. I hung up, composed myself, and

called right back to finish the song. When I didn’t hear from her, I called her and said, “Hey, did you not get the messages I left you?” She said, “I don’t know what you are talking about.”

I had dialed the wrong number. My intent was good, but my execution was poor. Unlike me, God’s intentions are always good and His execution is always spot on.

In Deuteronomy 27, we see the promise to the Israelites reiterated: they will indeed enter into the land the Lord has promised them.

Moses challenged the people to choose repentance and obedience, knowing that God would be faithful to perfectly execute His plans. God honors those who choose to obey Him.



WILL MATTHEWS
Student Pastor, Immanuel
Baptist Church, Clinton

Promised

February 23

Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:4-7

Victor E. Frankl, a psychologist who survived a Nazi Death

Camp, wrote a book called *Man’s Search for Meaning*. Frankl tells of his observations of fellow prisoners during the atrocity of the Holocaust. Prisoners were given a minimal amount of food and water and ordered by guards to work under often violent and harsh conditions. When workers were not able to labor, they were simply murdered.

Frankl observed that prisoners could get along with little food and water, but they could not go on without hope. When prisoners lost hope that they would be rescued, it was only hours before they died. His

conclusion: life has meaning even in suffering. When there is no hope, death is certain.

Deuteronomy 34 records the death of Moses.

The previous chapter gives us his last words to the assembly of Israel. Moses had been used by God to rescue the people from the oppression of the Egyptians and through the wilderness to the steps of the Promised Land. Verse 39 reminds us that God is the giver and taker of life and that even in death there is mercy.

Moses’ life is a reminder to us about the hope we have in Christ. Just as Moses found hope in God’s promise of deliverance, we can be assured that we have been delivered from the reality of sin. We know that when we face death, we do not face the end. In the cross we have forgiveness and in the resurrection we have eternal life.

AROUND THE STATE

Obituaries

GAYLE DEAN BROWN, 84, died Jan. 19, 2020. A Mars Hill College (now university) graduate, Brown also graduated from Southern Seminary. He was the executive director of the Parkhill Community Planning Council in the inner city of

Louisville, Ky., during the 1960's. He led Osteen Baptist Church, Asheville, and several other churches in Buncombe County before his tenure with the Buncombe Baptist Association as director of Christian social ministries and director of missions. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Stella Brown, of Greensboro, N.C.; son

Morris Brown, of Greensboro; daughter Michele Grush, of Hendersonville, N.C.; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and brother Ron Brown of Asheville. Memorials to Residents' Assistance Fund at Friends Home Guilford of Greensboro, 925 New Garden Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.

See Around page 12

CLASSIFIEDS

Denominational

Part-time Adult Consultant. Do you love missions? Do you want to spread that love of missions to others? Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is seeking a part-time adult consultant to lead NC churches in facilitating missions education, and missions and ministry involvement opportunities for adults. Candidates must be passionate about equipping adults to spread the gospel, skilled in verbal and written communication, innovative in designing and implementing missions programming, and organized in coordinating people and events (such as retreats, conferences, mission projects, etc.). A college degree and five years of relevant experience required. Seminary degree preferred, but not necessary as additional training can be provided. To see a copy of the job description please visit our website at www.wmunc.org/home/employment-opportunities. Please email your résumé and cover letter to Amy Boone at aboone@wmunc.org by February 28, 2020.

Pastor

Pine Level Baptist Church is enthusiastically seeking a **shepherd** who leads by example to fulfill God's vision for our church and community. After completing an 18-month Intentional Interim program, we are very excited for what God has in store for our church. Located in the heart of the Low country, this rural area has immense growth potential. Please mail your résumé to the Pastor Search Committee, 2009 Pine Level Church Rd., Early Branch, SC 29916, or email to plbcsearchcom@gmail.com.

Lewisville Baptist Church, Lewisville, NC, is seeking a **Pastor** who will help develop and implement a new vision for reaching our community. Outreach, recruiting and retaining new members is a priority. We support the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Southern Baptist Convention. We are involved in community and state mission projects and support the Cooperative Program. We subscribe to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. LBC is an older congregation that understands the necessity of attracting and connecting with the young. We have a blended music program and use social media for outreach. We require a pastor who has biblical knowledge and understanding, who will be an inspiring preacher and challenge the congregation. Candidates should have a theological education from an accredited Baptist seminary or divinity school. Experience leading a similar church is a bonus but we also appreciate a man who has high potential to lead and train an established church. Mail résumés: Lewisville Baptist Church, Attn. Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 327, Lewisville, NC 27023, or email to leslie@lewisvillebaptist.com.

Tucked away at the base of the South Mountains in Morganton, NC, Missionary Ridge Baptist Church is currently seeking our next **Senior Pastor** to lead our congregation into the future. Our church currently has 250-300 actively enrolled members on a normal Sunday morning between 2 services. We would like applicants to have a degree or training in theological study and **MUST** agree to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Please send résumés to mscottw@charter.net.

Berea Baptist Church of Pembroke, North Carolina, is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of **Senior Pastor** who is a spiritually mature leader and has a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. Candidates must have demonstrated ability to effectively communicate the Word of God through a solid, biblically based teaching and preaching ministry and a passion to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. If, after considering this position, you believe that you feel called to be considered for the senior pastor, please mail/email your résumé with a cover letter stating why you are interested in this position to: The Pastoral Search Committee @ PO box 387 Pembroke, NC 28372, or to bereachurch@bellsouth.net. All resumes must be received or postmarked by February 21, 2020. Late responses will not be considered. Your résumé will be reviewed by the Committee to determine if they believe you possess the desired qualifications for the Senior Pastor position. If so, the Committee will contact you to discuss next steps. Thank you for taking the time to consider the Senior Pastor position at Berea Baptist Church.

Mature, Bible-based, family oriented, multi-generational church with a blended worship style is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor** to join our team, to help build our church back up to its God-given glory. Searching for someone who can teach the Bible and make lessons applicable to current situations, use of visuals a plus. Duties include Sunday morning service, Wednesday night Bible study, and helping with seasonal special events. Willing to perform weddings and funerals. Staff and deacon meetings, as well as overseeing small committees will be necessary. Please send résumés to Attn: Pastor Search Committee, Griffith Baptist Church, 1987 Old Salisbury Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27127. We will pray over résumés received thru March 1, 2020, and will notify any candidates by March 15th.

Church Staff

Associate Pastor. Rock Spring Baptist Church of Louisburg, NC, is prayerfully seeking a full-time associate pastor to help with the disciple making process in a growing rural church. We are a conservative, SBC affiliated congregation with a worship attendance around 250 between two services. Preferred candidates will have completed their theological education, have some previous ministerial experience and must adhere to the BF&M 2000. Please send résumés to the Associate Pastor Search Committee at Rock Spring Baptist Church, 34 Rock Springs Church Rd., Louisburg, NC 27549, or email them to meltontyson@gmail.com.

Pastor of Senior Adults is needed by FBC-Clayton. This is a part-time position. MDIV degree is strongly preferred. Salary \$27,000-\$30,000. Should be ordained or in process. Require twenty five (25) years experience in a ministerial or people oriented leadership role (with specifications). Use this link for complete description <http://fbcclaytonnc.org/first-baptist-resources/baptist-church-jobs/>.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, in beautiful Kings Mountain, NC, is seeking a **full-time Student Pastor** to lead our children and youth in spiritual growth and biblical discipleship and to connect them and their families with the life and ministries of the church. Duties include displaying a Christ-like approach and lifestyle, praying regularly for young people in the church and community, providing weekly programming for children and youth to develop spiritually, planning and leading mission trips and service projects, building relationships with students and their families by providing spiritual care to foster a vibrant and solid student community, developing our impact in the local community through outreach and communication. Skills include being able to effectively teach and communicate the Bible, to physically engage in activities with students, and to energetically motivate and grow a team of lay volunteers. Qualifications include being in agreement with the church's doctrines as written in the Articles of Faith, exhibiting a love for students, having a minimum of 3 years experience in children/youth ministry, and preferably having a bachelor's degree or higher from college and seminary. Please submit résumés to bbckmnc@aol.com.

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: advertise@BRnow.org.
- Purchase ads at BRnow.org/Advertise.
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

For more information, call the office at (919) 459-5691.

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.25 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.45 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

ADVERTISE in the *Recorder* (919) 459-5691

Giving

Continued from page 3

missions were all up by a combined total of more than \$3.3 million in 2019.

“It is concerning that CP gifts in the state are not significantly increasing as we see increases in other areas,” said John Butler, the BSC’s executive leader for Business Services. “There is good news, but there is certainly a lot of work to do.”

Since 2014, Butler said CP giving by N.C. Baptist churches is relatively flat with the exception of a slight increase in 2017.

The BSC budget for 2020 is \$30.5 million, a \$500,000 reduction from 2019. The 2020 allocation to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) missions and ministries is 42 percent, a 0.5% increase from 2019.

“I do believe North Carolina can do more in supporting our Cooperative Program together,” Butler said.

When combining Cooperative Program receipts with gifts received from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, North Carolina ranks third among all state conventions in total support of SBC causes, Butler said.

“I’m proud of how N.C. Baptist churches support SBC causes through the SBC special offerings,” Butler said. “But the most effective way for us to do missions together is through churches supporting the Cooperative Program.”

In 2019, North Carolina ranked first among all state

conventions in giving to the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon offerings.

North Carolina Baptists gave more than \$14.4 million to Lottie Moon in 2019, which was more than 25%, or more than \$2.9 million, greater than in 2018.


Those figures represented the highest percentage increase to Lottie Moon giving in a one-year span, and the second highest dollar amount contributed by North Carolina Baptists.

N.C. Baptist giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering totaled more than \$6.3 million, which reflected an increase of more than 4%, or \$253,000, year over year.

“All of this tells me that North Carolina Baptists are generous and committed to the Great Commission,” Butler said.

Moreover, giving to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) totaled more than \$2.2 million in 2019, eclipsing the offering goal of \$2.1 million and setting a new record for gifts. NCMO giving was up more than 5.7% in 2019, or more than \$122,000.

NCMO supports a variety of ministries including disaster relief, N.C. Baptist Men, church planting, mission camps, missions mobilization projects and more.

In other business, the board adopted a policy which sets forth criteria and a process by which certain convention officials could be removed from their place of service for instances of “serious misconduct.” 

Around

Continued from page 11

AUTREY EUGENE “GENE” ASBILL, 75, died Jan. 21, 2020.

A South Carolina native, Asbill was a graduate of North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C., Southeastern Seminary and Emmanuel Baptist College in Shelby, N.C. He served six years in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

His former pastorates include Warwick Baptist Church, Hobbsville; Winterville Baptist Church; Potecasi Baptist Church, Woodland; and Gatesville Baptist Church. He had served as moderator of the Chowan Baptist Association for two years and was instrumental in the building and planning of the current office in Hertford.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; his son, Charles Scott Asbill of Benson; and two grandchildren. Also surviving are Joan’s daughters, Kim Leffingwell of Wales and her children, Kelley and Mathew, and Mary Katherine Luton and husband, Gary, of Hornbrook, Calif.; and their children and grandchildren.

Memorials to scholarship program for students from Gatesville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 167, Gatesville, NC 27938.

Where faith and funding converge.



Church Construction | Remodel Projects
Property Purchase | Refinancing

(844) 273-7713