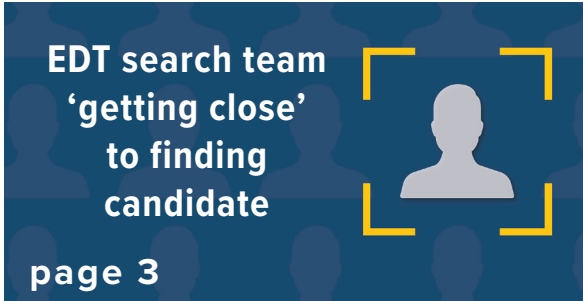




Week of Prayer highlights missionaries around the world  
page 6



EDT search team 'getting close' to finding candidate  
page 3



# BIBLICAL RECORDER

November 28, 2020 • VOLUME 186 NO. 24 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org)   

## N.C. Baptists celebrate 'God's Great Hope,' honor Hollifield

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

North Carolina Baptists celebrated God's faithfulness amid a tumultuous year as they gathered around the theme of "God's Great Hope" for the 190th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) on Nov. 10 at First Baptist Church of Charlotte.

During the meeting, messengers approved a \$27 million Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 2021, elected a new slate of convention officers and celebrated the ministry of retiring Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. Messengers also heard sermons from state convention President Steve Scoggins and longtime International Mission Board (IMB) missionary Sam James, as well as other ministry reports.

The event drew a total of 504 attendees – 489 messengers and 15 guests – with social distancing measures and other health and safety protocols in place. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's meeting was changed to an abbreviated, one-day event by a vote of the state convention's board of directors.

The meeting had originally been scheduled for Nov. 9-10 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. The venue change marked the first time in many years that the annual meeting has been held in a local church rather than a coliseum or convention center.

According to state convention records, the annual meeting schedule had been altered at

See Honor page 8

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Seth Brown: The print edition keeps marching forward .....	2
Milton Hollifield: Lottie Moon support points to 'a great multitude' .....	2
Book-length history of Wake Forest Baptist wins award .....	3
Ridgecrest buyers' commitment to 'evangelical essentials' confirmed .....	4
Southern Baptists celebrate sending 79 new missionaries .....	7

## Medical missions leads to church planting



IMB missionary Doug Derbyshire and a staff member pray for a woman with stomach pains at a mobile medical clinic in Thailand. The woman initially refused to come to the clinic, but her daughter insisted. In addition to medical consultations and medicine, patients also hear the gospel and are prayed for by Thai staff. (IMB photo)

International Mission Board

Doug Derbyshire goes to many places in Thailand with no Christians and no churches, and it troubles him deeply. But the lack of a gospel witness in Baan Po troubled him the most. Derbyshire is a medical doctor with the International Mission

Board (IMB) who serves in Thailand with his wife, Cheryl. He's doing what Jesus did: taking care of the sick and preaching the gospel.

For the past six years, Derbyshire has faithfully and persistently visited Baan Po – trying every method and means for sharing the gospel.

He's brought medical teams from the U.S. to

See Medical page 7

## N.C. Baptist Foundation endowment to support BCH adoption, foster care ministries

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR Assistant Editor

North Carolina Baptists now have another avenue to support foster and adoptive families through a new endowment and a fund management account offered by the North Carolina Baptist Foundation (NCBF).

Through a recent development in the relation-

ship between NCBF and Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH),

"We're enabling people sitting in the pews to give and to be a part of providing Christian homes for vulnerable children," said Brenda Gray, BCH's executive vice president of development and communications.

See Support page 5



# The print edition keeps marching forward

Beginning in January, the *Biblical Recorder's* historic print edition will transition to a monthly magazine. The new format will put additional tools in the hands of our staff to keep you informed and inspired. The move also falls in line with a slate of cost-saving innovations that our staff began implementing last year. All in all, we think it's the right move at the right time to ensure our staff is serving North Carolina Baptists faithfully and efficiently.

As executive editor, I look for solutions that add value to our organization without swelling our expenses. That strategy is important



**SETH BROWN**  
BR Executive Editor

in any era, but it has been especially relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic consequences of the virus on advertising revenue and Cooperative Program giving spurred us to act strategically and decisively.

Through the years, many people have suggested that the *Recorder* consider a magazine format. The higher quality paper and image quality of a magazine will benefit our readers and advertisers. Magazine layout and design also tends to be more dynamic and visually engaging. Our staff is excited about how that will enhance our storytelling

abilities.

"A magazine format allows us to expand our creativity in telling the stories of Southern Baptists," said Liz Tablazon, assistant editor at the *Recorder*. "We'll keep sharing the ways God is working through and in His people – in greater depth and on more visually compelling pages."

The first issue featuring the new magazine style should arrive in mailboxes mid-January. We will debut the new format with an emphasis on a topic close to our hearts: the sanctity of life.

"Over the course of several months, the board at the *Biblical Recorder* has explored how best to serve North Carolina Baptists," said Chris Hefner, incoming board chairman for

2021. "News really doesn't operate in a cycle anymore. It is immediate, almost always breaking. The *Recorder's* website and social media platforms are ideal for addressing news as it happens, but the bi-weekly paper required evaluation.

"We believe a monthly magazine will transition the *Recorder* toward content that inspires readers and engages theologically pressing issues. We are looking forward to continuing our mission to inform N.C. Baptists with trustworthy content."

Are you looking for Christmas gift ideas? Offer friends and family a gift subscription to the all-new *Biblical Recorder* magazine. Sign up online at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org) or email us at [subscribe@brnow.org](mailto:subscribe@brnow.org). 

## Lottie Moon support points to 'a great multitude'

BSC Communications

One of my goals when I became executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was to involve more people in missions and evangelism. By God's grace, I believe that we have been able to see that vision coming to fruition through North Carolina Baptists supporting missions through the Cooperative Program and special offerings and also through increased participation of churches and individuals in practicing evangelism, disciple-making and embracing a variety of mission partnerships and projects both locally and globally.

One of the great ways we can all be a part of helping take the gospel to the ends of the earth is by supporting the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for international missions.

This annual offering was named for Southern Baptist missionary Lottie Moon in 1918, and it remains a valuable part of Southern Baptists' efforts to reach the nations with the gospel.

All of the gifts received through the LMCO –

100% – go directly to support the work of international missionaries.

This year's offering theme is "A Great Multitude + You" based on Revelation 7:9 which depicts the future scene in heaven when throngs of saints from every nation, tribe, people and language will gather around God's throne in worship. The national offering goal is \$175 million.

I want to thank you for the way many of you give to support this offering each year.

Our North Carolina Baptist churches and individuals have been the leading supporters of the LMCO for several years. Will you join me in praying for the work of our Southern Baptist missionaries?

Will you give unto the Lord not until it hurts, but rather until it feels good as you lead and motivate your individual family members to pray for and support this special offering during the Christmas season? Parents and grandparents, teach your children and grandchildren to support missions in this way.

During these challenging times, the world is



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

## IN FOCUS

A WORD FROM OUR LEADER

desperately searching for hope, and we have the answer through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many Southern Baptist missionaries are building relationships and sharing the gospel with people who have never heard the name of Jesus.

You can help them reach more lost people through your giving.

Give to this offering as a special way to celebrate the coming of the Christ child during this joyous season.

The International Mission Board has developed a number of free resources to help you and your

See Lottie page 11



**BIBLICAL  
RECORDER**

(ISSN 0279-8182)

Volume 186 No. 24

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

[BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org)

**Seth Brown**, Executive Editor  
[editor@brnow.org](mailto:editor@brnow.org)

**Dianna L. Cagle**, Assistant Editor  
(919) 459-5698; [dianna@brnow.org](mailto:dianna@brnow.org)

**Liz Tablazon**, Assistant Editor  
(919) 459-5697; [liz@brnow.org](mailto:liz@brnow.org)

**Alison McKinney**, Business and Advertising Manager  
(919) 459-5691; [alison@brnow.org](mailto: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 Stallings**  
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. Callhoun; Marty K. Childers; Ron Davis; Lesley Hildreth; Amy T. Lunceford; 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.

# EDT search team ‘getting closer’ to finding candidate

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

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s nine-member search team is “getting closer” to identifying a candidate to recommend as the next executive director-treasurer.

Committee chairman Noah Crowe told the *Biblical Recorder* in a phone interview that the group is narrowing down the list of potential candidates and “prayerfully” discussing each one. The search team last met Nov. 9 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro, N.C.

“It is very challenging when you have the quality of candidates that have been recommended,” said Crowe, pastor at Peachtree Memorial Baptist


Church in Murphy. He said the team is “committed to making sure we get the leader that’s not just best for the job but the one the Holy Spirit leads us to.”

The *Recorder* asked for feedback on potential topics of discussion with Crowe through its “BR Connect” text messaging service in advance of the call. (Sign up at [BRnow.org/connect](http://BRnow.org/connect).)

Subscriber responses touched on the next leader’s ability to oversee convention operations in a digital age and willingness to make organizational changes, if needed, that ensure Cooperative Program dollars are spent on the state convention’s highest priorities. When asked about those topics, Crowe acknowledged they were important considerations for the committee.

Crowe said the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for a “visionary who understands how to use technology as well as social media and other means to connect with people.”

He also described the next leader as someone who is not only “committed to the vibrancy of the Cooperative Program” but also to its “vitality in the next generation.” The search team’s next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 23 via video conference. Crowe asked North Carolina Baptists to pray the search team has “wisdom for safety precautions” as they plan in-person interviews with top candidates amid the ongoing spread of COVID-19.

Submit feedback to the group at [ncedt@ncbaptist.org](mailto:ncedt@ncbaptist.org). 

## Book-length history of Wake Forest Baptist wins award

By **DIANNA L. CAGLE** | *BR* Executive Editor

As an academic, Shaun Price’s fascination with church history only deepened when he started attending Wake Forest Baptist Church’s historical committee meetings.

“Although this is a church with a rich history dating to 1835, no one had written a book-length history of the church,” Price told the *Biblical Recorder*. “Through God’s providence, it was the right time to write this book.”

*Our Story of Faith: The History of Wake Forest Baptist Church 1835-2015* by Timothy Shaun Price, recently won the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSC) historical writing competition. The award is usually presented at the BSC annual meeting, but a shortened schedule due to COVID-19 and a recipient out of the country did not allow that to take place at the Nov. 10 meeting at First Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Price is currently serving as a church planter/missionary with the International Mission Board in Cardiff, Wales. Their family is part of a church revitalization project at Grangetown Baptist Church. He learned of the convention competition through a post on the *Recorder*’s Facebook page.

While Price said he found himself “going down more rabbit holes of research than I care to recount,” he listed five main resources for his research:

- The Wake Forest church’s archives. “The church has its original

minute book dating to 1835,” Price said. “I began most of my research with the church minutes to see what was happening and who was involved at a given time in the life of the church.”

- The North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University. “Because this church had such a prominent place in Baptist life in the 19th and 20th centuries, I found valuable troves of primary source documents,” he said. “For the first 50 or so years, the pastor of the church was also the president of Wake Forest College,” which was founded in Wake Forest before it moved its campus to Winston-Salem in 1956.

- The *Recorder* archives from 1834-1970 which are digitized and online at the library’s website.

- The three-volume *History of Wake Forest College* by George Paschal.

- The Wake Forest Historical Museum in Wake Forest.

Price credited Doug Smith, a member of Wake Forest Baptist, with “an excellent job of gathering letters, documents and other materials that had been sitting stagnant for decades around the church.”

A member of the church’s historical committee commissioned Price to write the book.

“I recall several times walking around the old Wake Forest Cemetery and seeing the graves of those individuals about whom I had been writing,” Price said. “I often said a prayer

### OUR STORY of FAITH

*The History of Wake Forest Baptist Church 1835-2015*



Rev. Dr. Timothy Shaun Price

of thanks to God for using these men and women. I see it as a stewardship to be able to write their story and keep the history of this wonderful church alive.”

Price was raised in Williamston, N.C., where he was a member of Memorial Baptist Church. At age 16, Price felt God call him into ministry. He applied to and attended the only Baptist school he knew: Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. He continued his education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, where he received a master of arts, master of divinity and master of theology. He also finished a master of arts in English literature from N.C. Central University in Durham.

He met his wife, Joy, while in seminary. They have been married 12 years and have four children: Augustine (11),

Jane (9), Hugh (7) and Edmond (4).

After Southeastern, the family of three at the time, moved to Scotland where they lived for four years while he attended the University of Aberdeen. He received a doctor of philosophy degree in theological ethics.


When the family moved back to N.C. in 2013, he served five years as an adjunct professor at various colleges in the Raleigh-Durham area, as well as serving for a time as an associate pastor.

“Around 2017, we began considering international missions as a career,” he said. “We were commissioned as missionaries to Cardiff, Wales, in November 2018 by the International Mission Board.”

The Prices were members of Wake Forest Baptist Church (2013-16). “I appreciated the liturgical aspect of worship at this church, and was attracted to Pastor Bill Slater’s love of our Lord Jesus,” he said.

“Writing a church history allows one to bring alive the stories of what God has done in and through His church,” he said, quoting Isaiah 46:9, “remember the former things of old; for I am God and there is no other, I am God and there is none like me.”

Price recommends churches should be digitizing all their files. “A single fire can easily wipe away irreplaceable church documents,” he said. “These are often stories that can serve as encouragement and inspiration for us today.”

The book, which is being published this month by Mercer University Press, is available for purchase through [wakeforestbaptist.breezechms.com/form/fb625d](http://wakeforestbaptist.breezechms.com/form/fb625d). 



SHAUN PRICE



# Ridgecrest buyers' commitment to 'evangelical essentials' affirmed

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

**L**ifeWay Christian Resources President Ben Mandrell has affirmed the evangelical commitment of the group intending to purchase the Ridgecrest Conference Center from LifeWay.

LifeWay announced last month it had reached an agreement to sell the 1,300-acre North Carolina property to the Ridgecrest Foundation, a newly formed coalition of buyers. In the ensuing weeks, the foundation has affirmed traditional Christian doctrines and launched an effort to raise nearly \$13 million to fund the purchase.

LifeWay has “engaged in several conversations in order to get a better grasp on the [Ridgecrest Foundation] board members’ doctrinal stances,” Mandrell said in a statement to Baptist Press (BP), “and we’ve been encouraged to receive hearty affirmation of evangelical essentials of faith, such as the full inspiration and full authority of scripture, the Trinity, the deity of Jesus Christ and His redemptive mission, the deity and work of the Holy Spirit, and Christ’s saving work on the cross for sinful humanity through His shed blood and His bodily resurrection.”

The sale price has not been announced. But according to a public filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Ridgecrest Foundation is attempting to raise \$12.5 million through a separate limited liability company called Ridgecrest Funding to finance the purchase. As of Oct. 20, no investment shares had been sold. LifeWay stated previously the sale will close by the end of 2020.

Ridgecrest Foundation representative Jeff Buhler told BP the Foundation has a nondisclosure agreement with LifeWay and declined further comment on the sale.

Public filings with the state of Delaware, where the Ridgecrest Foundation is incorporated, indicate the foundation was formed Aug. 27. LifeWay announced in April its intention to sell Ridgecrest, citing changes in organizational strategy, rising costs and uncertainty due to COVID-19 as reasons for a transfer of the ministries and property.

In LifeWay’s initial announcement of its agreement with the Ridgecrest Foundation, Mandrell said the foundation would “continue to offer a Christian conference center environment.” A “message from the Ridgecrest Foundation,” posted on LifeWay’s Ridgecrest website, called the group “a newly formed non-profit ministry created by a kingdom-minded team committed to honoring the history and legacy of Ridgecrest.”

Questions about the Ridgecrest Foundation’s theology emerged late last month when then-foundation board member Steve Little told BP the foundation likely would invite the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), a moderate Baptist group formed in 1991 in opposition to the SBC’s Conservative Resurgence, to utilize Ridgecrest, along with other groups that advocate female pastors, in an effort at “enlarging the tent” of Ridgecrest users. But Little since has resigned from the foundation board, and Mandrell said he was not speaking for the board.



The Ridgecrest Foundation “hasn’t officially said” it will invite the CBF to utilize the conference center, Little said Oct. 22, “but my opinion is yes we will.” He added that he has “been very active in CBF,” his daughter is a pastor and the foundation would invite female pastors to participate in Ridgecrest’s ministry.

“I really don’t have the authority to speak for the [Ridgecrest Foundation] board,” said Little, a former CBF of North Carolina moderator and former national CBF Governing Board member. “But I do feel very comfortable in what I’m saying.”

Little, an attorney and the mayor of Marion, N.C., confirmed to BP Nov. 3 that he resigned from the Ridgecrest Foundation board in October.

“We were certainly troubled by some of the statements made by Steve Little,” Mandrell said in the statement. “We’ve been assured that Steve was not speaking on behalf of the board, and we know Steve is no longer a board member. We’ve also engaged in several conversations in order to get a better grasp on the board members’ doctrinal stances.”

Mandrell said LifeWay “will continue these discussions in order to ensure doctrinal integrity,” and added that the Ridgecrest Foundation and LifeWay “share the same heart – that Ridgecrest will be cared for by people whose desire is to provide a place for spiritual transformation and discipleship.”

Other Ridgecrest Foundation representatives announced publicly have ties across the theological spectrum:

- Buhler has been a member of Winter Park (Fla.) Presbyterian Church, a congregation affiliated


with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

- Nathan Headrick, listed by the Securities and Exchange Commission as Ridgecrest Funding’s executive officer, holds a master’s degree in theology from Harvard University.

- Robin Parish, a North Carolina businesswoman identified by LifeWay as a foundation representative, earned a master’s degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and has worked for the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville, N.C. Corinth Reformed Church in Hickory, N.C., lists her as a small-group leader on its website. The congregation is part of the United Churches of Christ (UCC) denomination, though the church’s website states it does “not fully embrace all the current positions of the UCC.”

LifeWay’s work to ensure the doctrinal fidelity of Ridgecrest’s new owners parallels the steps it took surrounding the sale of Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico nearly a decade ago.

LifeWay rejected one potential Glorieta buyer, Olivet University, because its theology was deemed incompatible with LifeWay’s. The New Mexico conference center eventually was sold to the nonprofit group Glorieta 2.0, whose belief statement affirmed biblical inerrancy, the deity of Christ and His redemptive work, among other doctrines.

Additionally, as a potential Glorieta sale was discussed, LifeWay said the sale contract would include a provision prohibiting future resale of the property without LifeWay’s permission. A similar provision in the Ridgecrest sale has not been announced. 



# Support

Continued from page 1

The endowment is a permanent investment fund that will provide annual support to BCH's foster care and adoption ministry. BCH acquired Christian Adoption Services (CAS) Oct. 1.

NCBF also provides another option of contributing any amount to a fund management account, which makes funds immediately available for BCH to use.

NCBF President Clay Warf said he hopes people who hold a biblical view of the sanctity of life will see the endowment and management account as a way to have "immediate impact."

"I was always concerned about good families who want to adopt but just can't afford the fees ... I just wanted us to do our part in helping them get some funding," Warf said.

"Personally I'm probably not gonna have much influence over the Supreme Court [of the United States] – whatever they decide or do – but I do like the idea of having some impact through gifts that I can give to support the ministry."

Gray said BCH has a long-standing relationship with NCBF, which has been "tremendous in helping to educate our Baptist community about our ministry and helping us to secure additional funding needed to help us operate on a day-to-day basis."

She described the creation of both



Keith Henry, chief operating officer for Baptist Children's Homes, talks to Kevin Qualls, president of Christian Adoption Services, and David Powell, senior pastor of Salem Baptist Church. (Vimeo screenshot)

funds as "a natural progression" in the relationship between BCH and NCBF.

"They have a real commitment to providing Christian homes for vulnerable children," said Gray.

BCH's goal is to have foster families in all 100 North Carolina counties,

ministry engages vulnerable situations that may be unfamiliar to participating families.

"Even as people in the church are compelled to be involved, there are things that they have never thought about before that come up, things that it is beneficial to have someone with the experience and the education to help you navigate and overcome.

"In this journey, we know that scripture tells us, this is pure religion, as James says ... how does that

come together when our hearts are moved yet we also have to go through things such as government regulations, licensing, navigating situations and families that may be very foreign to what we have experienced in our families that are sitting in the church pew?"

BCH launched a campaign called "The Church is the Answer," encouraging families to consider becoming foster parents or adopting through foster care, churches to start their own foster care ministries, and both to give financial support.

BCH's Family Foster Care and Adoption program trains and supports couples to become licensed foster homes, and trains churches to begin foster care ministries.

A virtual breakout session during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting featured BCH leaders and David Powell, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Dobson, N.C.

Salem was one of the first N.C. Baptist churches to work with BCH to establish a foster care and adoption ministry, with several members becoming adoptive parents.

Powell, himself an adoptive parent, spoke of the benefits of a relationship with BCH. Foster care and adoption

come together when our hearts are moved yet we also have to go through things such as government regulations, licensing, navigating situations and families that may be very foreign to what we have experienced in our families that are sitting in the church pew?"

BCH launched a campaign called "The Church is the Answer," encouraging families to consider becoming foster parents or adopting through foster care, churches to start their own foster care ministries, and both to give financial support.

"It's OK if there are some questions that come up along the way. It's OK if churches and families within a church feel a little nervous or apprehensive when they first hear about the need and how great it may seem," Powell said. "That's alright because it's not bigger than God."

**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](http://www.churchinteriors.com)

**Prayer changes things.**  
**So can you.**  
**Lawncare Volunteers**  
**Needed Buncombe County**  
  
Call **877.506.2226** today!  
[ncbam.org](http://ncbam.org)

**FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**  
**ENROLL NOW FOR NEW QUARTER ON JANUARY 5, 2021**

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- Earn an associate 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)

**VA BENEFITS AVAILABLE**  
**POST-9/11 GI BILL**

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

**Interstate Transportation Equipment, Inc.**

**The South's Oldest Bus Company**  
Since 1947

[interstatetransportation.com](http://interstatetransportation.com)

**New and Used Buses**  
**Financing Programs Available**

**HIGH POINT, NC • 800.726.0779**



# A Great *Multitude* + You

Rev. 7:9

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Week of Prayer Nov. 29-Dec. 6



### Day 1 – Naivasha Children's Shelter, Kenya

- PRAY that Frances and other boys like him will find new life in Christ.
- PRAY that as the boys are reconciled with their families, the families will also find hope in Jesus.
- PRAY that God will bless the work of the shelter's staff as they reach out in love to boys who are hurting.



### Day 3 – Thailand

- PRAY none of the new Christians would fall away from the faith.
- PRAY those who have yet to decide will choose to commit their lives to Christ.
- PRAY for the formation of healthy churches in Baan Po.



### Day 5 – Persecution

- THANK GOD for the men and women who, with their children, have traveled to the ends of the earth to share the gospel with those who have never heard.
- THANK GOD for the uninterrupted witness of Southern Baptists among the nations for 175 years.
- ASK GOD to continue to protect missionaries and their families serving in cross-cultural and often difficult areas around the globe.



### Day 7 – Unreached People Group from South Asia

- PRAY local Christians would be bold in sharing the gospel with the Khaleela.
- ASK for discernment for the Adairs and the Serranos as they share the gospel and train local Christians.
- PRAY the Lord would send more Christian workers to partner with the Serranos and Adairs.

### Day 2 – Zagreb, Croatia, radio ministry

- PRAY that more national partners will choose to be a part of sharing the gospel across Croatia.
- PRAY that more church plants will result from the radio broadcast ministry.

### Day 4 – Peru

- PRAY for Joe, Edwin and their teams as they share the gospel with the Akawa.
- PRAY that many members of the Akawa will come to faith in Jesus.
- PRAY that new Akawa believers will gather into groups and start churches.

### Day 6 – Italy

- PRAY that the Worthys will continue to build strong relationships in Italy.
- PRAY that many Italians will come to faith in Christ as a result of the Worthys' witness.
- PRAY that new Italian believers will gather into churches to reach the people of Italy with the gospel.

### Day 8 – Together

- PRAISE GOD for the continued work of Southern Baptists who have remained committed to reaching the lost for more than 175 years.
- ASK GOD to send more individuals and churches who will be committed to the vision of reaching all nations and all peoples with the gospel.
- THANK GOD for sustaining the work of missionaries through all circumstances, including the most recent global pandemic.





# Medical

Continued from page 1

host mobile clinics. He's tried every evangelism technique he knows. He's knocked on doors, asking if people are interested in hearing the gospel. The message is either ignored, rejected or accepted initially and then abandoned.

"Baan Po probably affects me, burdens me, more than the other places, because after all the times I've been there, the time I've invested in them, there's still no church there. No one honors God. No one gives Him glory. No one praises Him. There's no group of believers that gives Him glory," Derbyshire said, closing his eyes and clasping his hands together in a praying position. "I can't let that rest. I just have to see God raise up a church in Baan Po."

Derbyshire decided to host another mobile medical team to take the gospel one more time to Baan Po.

God used that "one more time" to work in mighty ways. In January 2020,

Derbyshire, other IMB missionaries, Thai Christians and doctors from the U.S. traveled to Baan Po to host a mobile medical clinic.

Derbyshire says after he and the other doctors meet with their patients, one of the Thai staff will sit down with the patient and say, "This is medicine for your body. Now let's talk about what you need for your soul."

He said the transition from taking care of physical needs to meeting spiritual needs is natural – and it's well-received.

Until this mobile clinic, Thais in Baan Po never achieved or maintained spiritual health. However, on the first day of the mobile clinic, three people committed their lives to Christ. Others indicated they wanted to hear more. It was a glorious day, Derbyshire says – there are now people praising the Lord in Baan Po.

Derbyshire shares the gospel every



IMB missionary Doug Derbyshire and a team of volunteers from the U.S. examine patients at a mobile clinic, held at a local community center. Staff from Dr. Derbyshire's clinic assist by translating, delivering prescriptions and sharing the gospel with each person who visits. (IMB photo)

day and is usually able to share with seven to eight people a day. He has to talk to 100, sometimes 200, people before finding someone who is interested. When teams come from the U.S., they see between 200 and 300 patients each day.

"Volunteers, for us, are indispens-

able to what we do. I can't do what I do without God's people coming from America and helping me," Derbyshire said.

Derbyshire and Thai Christians make return trips to disciple the Christians in Baan Po and follow up with those interested. 

## Southern Baptists celebrate sending 79 new missionaries

By CAROLINE ANDERSON | International Mission Board

The International Mission Board (IMB) celebrated the appointment of 79 new missionaries in a virtual Sending Celebration streamed on Facebook and through the IMB: Advance the Kingdom app Nov. 18. The missionaries, who were previously approved by IMB trustees, come from 21 states and will serve in eight of IMB's nine affinities.

The Sending Celebration was scheduled to be held in Alabama at the annual Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions meeting. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the celebration was held virtually.

The Alabama Singing Men and Women and the choir from Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., provided the pre-service music through a pre-recorded conference call. The Alabama Singing Men and Women performed "No More Night," and Shades Mountain Baptist Church performed "Total Praise."

IMB President Paul Chitwood expressed his thankfulness for Southern Baptists' support for the IMB.

"We are excited that 79 new missionaries are being sent tonight," Chitwood said. "Thanks to your generosity through praying and giving, we are able to send and sustain these missionaries."

Rick Lance, executive director for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, prayed for the missionaries.

"The Great Commission is not on pause and is certainly not in quarantine," Lance said.

"Our prayer is they will be encouraged by your Holy Spirit's presence empowering them in their lives."

**"We are called by the Father, compelled by the gospel, commissioned by the Son and empowered by the Spirit."**

– Josh Storey

Due to time constraints, 30 missionary testimonies were included in the Sending Celebration. Videos of all 79 missionaries, grouped by affinity of service, are available for viewing at [imb.org/send](http://imb.org/send).

As the missionaries move to their respective countries, they will join teams working to provide people the opportunity to hear the Good News. Every day, 154,937 people die without knowing Christ.

Josh and Rebekah Storey will also be using healthcare to reach the nations.

The Storeys are moving to Sub-Saharan Africa with their children to serve on a team that utilizes healthcare strategies. They are being sent by Emmaus Bible Church in Omaha, Neb.

"Moving to Africa with five boys – you have to be crazy or called," Josh said.

"Or both," Rebekah said, smiling. "We can't wait to get started."

"For our whole lives, He has been preparing us to respond to His calling. We are called by the Father, compelled by the gospel, commissioned by the Son and empowered by the Spirit," Josh said.

Jessica Baniewicz knew she was called to serve but struggled with contentment and wanted to be married.

"God has shown me the community of the church and that He is enough. God's call in my life is more important than being married or having a family," Baniewicz said. "I thought that going to the

mission field would look a certain way; that I would be married or have some grand instance that would tell me to go. I know I am supposed to go, but I was just waiting for it on my terms."

Baniewicz first served as a journeyman with the IMB in London. When she went through the interview process for career service with the IMB, she wasn't sure where the Lord was leading her to serve next. She prayed, "God, I don't know where You want me to go but I am open."


After talking with an IMB team serving in Barcelona, Spain, she was blown away by how the Lord responded, how God confirmed where He wanted her to serve and how He gave her a team that affirmed her calling to serve as a single.

"I had prayed for specific things in a team and job, and they touched on every single one of them," Baniewicz said.

"I prayed for a team I could work with that would go out and share the gospel with me, that would encourage me and help me, for a team that would be looking for a single female, a team that had the same theology as me when it comes to church planting, and builds relationships with the locals around them."

Barcelona's evangelical population is less than 2%, and Baniewicz said the number of committed Christians is even lower.

Baniewicz is being sent by Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Chitwood encouraged those watching to visit [imb.org/send](http://imb.org/send) to learn more about opportunities to serve overseas. As a celebration of the IMB's 175-year history this year, the 2020 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$175 million. 



# Honor

Continued from page 1

least one other time in history. The 1918 meeting was rescheduled from Dec. 5-7, 1918, to Jan. 14, 1919, “on the account of the influenza epidemic.” The Spanish flu pandemic spread worldwide from 1918-19 and was first identified in the United States in the spring of 1918.

## Budget approved

Messengers approved a recommendation from the board of directors to adopt a \$27 million CP budget for 2021, which reflected an 11.5% decrease of \$3.5 million from the 2020 budget. The approved budget also left the percentage of undesignated CP receipts that will be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) at 42%, marking the first time in 14 years that the SBC percentage has not been increased.

In a separate measure, messengers approved a recommendation to evenly split any undesignated CP receipts in excess of the 2021 budget amount by allocating 50% to the SBC and 50% to the ministry groups of the state convention.

Messengers also set the 2021 goal for the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) at \$2.1 million, which is unchanged from 2020.

## Officers elected

Messengers also elected a new slate of convention officers. Michael Pardue, pastor of First Baptist Church of Icard in Connelly Springs, was elected president. Quintell Hill, lead pastor of Multiply Community Church in Monroe, was elected first vice president. Jason Miller, pastor of Dutch Cove Missionary Baptist Church in Canton, was elected second vice president.

Pardue ran against Ronnie Parrott, lead pastor of Christ Community Church in Huntersville. Pardue received 280 votes (57%) to Parrott’s 207 (43%). Pardue, who served the past two years as the state convention’s first vice president, was nominated by Ed Yount, recently retired senior pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church in Conover.

Hill ran unopposed and was nominated by David Mills, lead pastor of Journey Church in Havelock.

Miller ran against Allan Murray, pastor of Centerville Baptist Church in Kelly. Miller received 311 votes (65%) to Murray’s 162 (35%). Miller was nominated by Perry Brindley,



Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) voted on candidates, along with the budget. (BSC photo)

associational mission strategist of the Buncombe Baptist Association in western North Carolina.

## Hollifield honored

During a special recognition ceremony, messengers honored Milton A. Hollifield Jr., who is retiring as the BSC’s 14th executive director-treasurer on Feb. 28, 2021. Hollifield has served as N.C. Baptists’ top executive for more than 14 years and has served on the state convention staff for more than 27 years overall.

Hollifield was lauded as a man of prayer, conviction, character and integrity through a series of in-person and video testimonials from family, friends, colleagues and leaders from across North Carolina and Southern Baptist life. Under Hollifield’s leadership, North Carolina has become a leading supporter of missions through the CP and special offerings.

In his final address to messengers, Hollifield encouraged N.C. Baptists to devote themselves to the Lord and continue to work together to share the gospel, make disciples and advance God’s kingdom.

“We give God glory for all the wonderful things He has done, is doing and will do,” Hollifield said.

## Convention sermon

Longtime IMB missionary Sam James delivered the annual convention sermon. James preached on living and witnessing for Christ from Colossians 1:24-27, and he shared examples of how he saw God work during his time serving in Vietnam.

James said believers are called to surrender, submit and serve Christ.

“We don’t just have a message,” James said. “We are the message. This world needs to see Christ in you.”

James was introduced by SBC President J.D. Greear, who now pastors the church that James planted prior to being commissioned to serve in Vietnam. In 1961, James planted Homestead Heights Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., which was relaunched as The Summit Church after Greear became pastor in December 2001.

## President’s address

State convention President Steve Scoggins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, N.C., opened the meeting with a message from Romans 15:13 on the theme of “God’s Great Hope.”

Scoggins said biblical hope is based on the certainty of God’s character, the power of the gospel and what the Bible reveals about the future.

“We have a God that enables us to abound in hope,” Scoggins said.

## COVID-19 response

Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptist Men, also known as Baptists on Mission, shared how God has opened new doors of ministry amid COVID-19. Brunson said his team has been coordinating networks of churches and volunteers across the state to deliver and distribute fresh food and produce to families impacted by the coronavirus.

Brunson said Baptists on Mission was the only faith-based organization to receive a USDA grant to help provide food to these families through the “Famers to Families” food box program.

Baptists on Mission has undertaken food distribution while continuing to engage in its other ministries. Brunson said disaster relief rebuild efforts are ongoing in eastern North Carolina more than two years after Hurricane Florence struck the state as one of the costliest storms in history.

## Revitalization update


Sandy Marks and Terry Long of the BSC’s Church Health and Revitalization team shared a report on the state convention’s church revitalization efforts, which focus on developing the man, the ministry and the mission in local churches. At the 2019 annual meeting, Hollifield announced the expansion of the state convention’s church revitalization efforts through the formation of the new team that is headed by Marks.

Marks and Long said an estimated 82% of the approximately 4,300 N.C. Baptist churches are in need of revitalization, and many pastors are receiving individual coaching or are part of revitalization cohorts. They encouraged N.C. Baptists to pray for churches that are involved in the revitalization process, for new churches to start the process and for humility to depend upon God during the process.

## Other business

No resolutions were presented to messengers for consideration this year. Additionally, no items were brought before the convention during the miscellaneous business session.

Messengers did affirm a slate of individuals to serve on the state convention’s board of directors, convention committees, and on the boards and committees of the state convention’s related entities, which include the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, the *Biblical Recorder*, the N.C. Baptist Foundation and N.C. Baptist Hospital.

Messengers also voted to hold next year’s annual meeting on Nov. 15-16, 2021, in Greensboro. They also approved a motion for H.B. Charles Jr., pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., to deliver the 2021 convention sermon. 



# Hollifield exhorts N.C. Baptists to prioritize God, gospel & disciple-making

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

In his final address to messengers as executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), Milton A. Hollifield Jr. challenged N.C. Baptists to devote themselves to the Lord and continue working together to fulfill the Great Commission.

Hollifield's remarks came at the conclusion of the BSC's 190th annual meeting, held Nov. 10 at First Baptist Church of Charlotte, during which Hollifield shared five biblical admonitions with attendees. A recording of the entire address is available at [vimeo.com/478539525](https://vimeo.com/478539525).

First, Hollifield encouraged N.C. Baptists to “develop and strengthen your personal prayer life and fellowship with God.”

Hollifield challenged attendees to pray for revival and spiritual awakening in America, but noted that such a move of God must first begin with individual believers and the church.

“God will show up to be with you, if you will take time to show up and be with Him,” Hollifield said.

“We’re not going to have the impact on the world that we want to have until we see the work of the Spirit of God within the church.”

Second, Hollifield challenged N.C. Baptists to “integrate the Word of God into your life and in your ministry.”

Regular Bible reading, study and application is what results in spiritual growth and maturity, Hollifield said.

Third, Hollifield called on N.C. Baptists to “grow in your love for God so He can love others through you.”

A deep love of the Lord will affect how we love others, especially those who are different from us, Hollifield said.

Recalling a portion of his address made at the 2018 BSC annual meeting, Hollifield reminded attendees that “we cannot reserve our compassion and love for only those who deserve it because the God we serve loves every person.”

Fourth, Hollifield challenged N.C. Baptists to “magnify the gospel and make disciples.”

Hollifield said the Great Commission doesn't stop with leading someone to Christ, but it also involves ongoing discipleship.

“I challenge you to reinvest your life in someone else and teach them to become spiritually mature believers,” Hollifield said.

He also pleaded with parents and grandparents to take responsibility for the spiritual development of their children and grandchildren.

Finally, Hollifield encouraged N.C. Baptists to “cooperate together for advancing God's kingdom.”

Hollifield praised the work of local churches, associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention, adding that cooperating with other believers in missions is “second nature” for Southern Baptists.

“I ask that you continue to cooperate together,” Hollifield said.

Prior to his address, Hollifield was lauded as a



In his final address to messengers as executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Milton A. Hollifield Jr. challenged N.C. Baptists to devote themselves to the Lord and continue working together to fulfill the Great Commission. (BSC photo)

man of prayer, conviction, character and integrity as part of a special recognition ceremony of his life and ministry.

Hollifield is retiring as the BSC's 14th executive director-treasurer on Feb. 28, 2021.

He has served as N.C. Baptists' top executive for more than 14 years and has served on the state convention staff for more than 27 years overall. Hollifield's ministry also includes stints as a church staff member, pastor and director of missions of the Gaston Baptist Association in Gastonia, N.C.

The service included a series of in-person and video testimonials from family, friends, colleagues and leaders from across North Carolina and Southern Baptist life.

A framed letter presented to Hollifield on behalf of International Mission Board President Paul Chitwood summarized the many expressions of appreciation that were shared.

“Your service to Christ and His bride is worthy of double honor,” Chitwood wrote.

Hollifield and his wife, Gloria, were joined at the event by their son, Judd, daughter-in-law, Jamie, and grandsons, Stewart and Avery.

In remarks to messengers, Judd Hollifield called his dad a “man after God's own heart” whose life is a “blueprint for what a godly life looks like.”

“That's why my dad is my hero,” Judd Hollifield said.

Milton Hollifield called it an “honor” to serve the pastors, churches and associations of the BSC and thanked N.C. Baptists for their prayers for him and

the convention.


“The good things that are happening in this convention is because people are praying” Hollifield said.

Hollifield also called Gloria his “colleague” in ministry, who loved to visit churches and minister alongside him.

Recalling remarks made when he was installed as executive director-treasurer in April 2006, Hollifield said he has sought to involve more people in missions and evangelism while working to unify others around the gospel throughout his tenure. Hollifield thanked N.C. Baptists for their prayers and support of his God-given vision that “By God's grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Under his leadership, Hollifield led the state convention to increase its support of missions through the Cooperative Program and special missions offerings, which have risen to the highest levels in BSC history in recent years.

North Carolina has also become one of the leading supporters of North American and international missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, respectively.

Additionally, Hollifield led the convention to implement an ongoing statewide strategy focused on “impacting lostness through disciple-making.” The strategy was adopted in 2013, implemented in 2014 and reaffirmed in 2019. “We give God glory for all the wonderful things He has done, is doing and will do,” Hollifield said. 



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Walking in Grief

December 6

**Focal Passage: Psalm 116:1-9, 15-17**

This time of year, we begin to see rooftops and windows and trees light up, reminding us of the coming Christmas holiday. We wonder at the creativity (and electricity bills) of our neighbors, and we applaud nativity displays. Yet, these bright and whimsical themes can sometimes be a complete contrast from what's actually going on in our hearts.

For some, the Christmas season brings about memories of loved one who aren't around to witness the lights of the season. This year especially, many will gather around tables that bear the empty seat of loved ones who were casualties of a global pandemic. Sometimes, everything on the outside beckons us to joy, while everything on the inside reminds us of the joy we once had.

The psalmist could surely relate.

In the third verse they likened their grieving to the pains of hell – so close to death it seems. If you've ever deeply experienced grief, you know the feeling of a metaphorical, yet perpetual darkness with no end in sight. Grief is a common, expected part of the human experience. Even Jesus experienced grief (Isaiah 53:3).

When we feel the weight of darkness we can call to God. Sometimes admitting our vulnerability is difficult, but God already knows our thoughts and our feelings. He is not distant or uncaring or unloving. If we are not careful, grief can cause us to despair.

We were never promised a life free from pain. We can grieve faithfully – with hope – knowing that we are not alone.



**ANTENESHIA SANDERS**  
staff member, The Summit Church, Durham

## Shaking Off Fear

December 13

**Focal Passage: Psalm 91:1-6, 9-16**

If you haven't been tempted to fear something this year, you haven't been paying attention. There have always been scary things in the world, but this year tops most years for the majority of us. There are some fears that are healthy and keep us from making dangerous decisions or approaching dangerous scenarios. But there is some fear that can cripple us and keep us from moving forward at all. There is a right fear of God, however, that eclipses every other fear. Walking in the fear of the Lord means that we don't walk in fear of anything else.

Psalm 91 teaches us how to respond when we are afraid. When we are afraid, we can trust in God's

power. His power transcends any force that seeks to harm us. He is stronger than any threat of death, disease or doom. While we should be wise, we should not bend to the type of fear that cripples us into apathy or hiding. When we face real dangers, we can trust that we have a real God whose strength is unmatched.

When we encounter fear, we can trust God's protection. He is able to keep us safe from harm. We know that this truth does not give us license to practice destructive behavior. But we do find the courage to approach our lives with wisdom and courage. God gives us wisdom to be cautious and make healthy decisions. But crippling fear is not from God. In His perfect love and care, God comforts and assists us when we are threatened with peril. Tell God your fears and walk with Him in is protection and power.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Planned

December 6

**Focal passage: Luke 1:13-25**

Skepticism is a virtue in our modern age. Sometimes it can be disguised as discernment or critical thinking. However, beneath the surface, skepticism can be motivated by a cynical or jaded heart. Have you ever seen a homeless person on the street? What was your first thought? How did you feel about them?

Skepticism can reduce our compassion for others and dampen our trust in God's faithfulness. When the angel appeared to Zechariah and spoke of Elizabeth's conception and the role their son would play in preparing the way for the Messiah, he was skeptical to say the least. "How can I know this?" Zechariah asked the angel. "For I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years" (Luke 1:18).

In one sense, Zechariah's bewil-

derment was understandable. His wife was beyond childbearing age. How could she conceive and give birth? But his question revealed more than he intended. It revealed the quality of his faith. The angel, Gabriel, saw this and responded by both demonstrating the authority of his message and by disciplining Zechariah.

We can trust that even when God seems distant, He is still working. Jesus said to the Jewish leaders, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working" (John 5:17). He never stops working, though His work isn't always obvious. Don't let skepticism be a coverup for a lack of faith. Take God at His word, because He will always come through.



**GRAYSON FURLOUGH**  
assistant pastor, Point Church, Cary

## Conceived

December 13

**Focal passage: Luke 1:26-38**

J.R.R. Tolkien was a master storyteller with an incredible imagination. He wrote many wonderful books, including one called, *The Hobbit*. The story revolves around a hobbit (a small human-like creature) named Bilbo Baggins. Much like his neighbors, Bilbo enjoys good food, peace and quiet.

His life is suddenly turned upside-down when a stranger comes along and invites him on a fantastical journey, full of adventure, danger and treasure.

Mary, much like Bilbo, didn't expect her life to change so dramatically. She was a young girl, from a small town, in a tiny portion of a very large world. Nevertheless, when the

angel, Gabriel, appeared to her, he said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28). To God, Mary wasn't insignificant. He had chosen her to play an important role in His grand plan of redemption.

The angel went on to say, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:30). Gabriel used the word "favor" twice. Had Mary done something to deserve this special assignment? Absolutely not. The favor Gabriel expressed was a one-way street.

Regardless of who you are or where you come from, God has a purpose for you. The important thing to remember is that God is the One who initiates our journey and prepares our steps.

God isn't looking for "qualified" Christians. God will prepare you for whatever He has called you to. What He does ask for, is obedience.




# Lottie

Continued from page 2

church promote this offering and encourage others to give. These resources, as well as daily prayer points, are available at [imb.org/lmco](http://imb.org/lmco). Nov. 29 to Dec. 6 has been designated as a special week of prayer for the offering.

It's been estimated that if just 25% of Southern Baptists gave \$100 each, we could raise more than \$400 million for international missions. Please join me in praying that Southern Baptists will give bountifully this year and pray that many more lost people will understand their need to ask Christ to forgive their sin so they too can receive Him as Savior and Lord.

*"After these things I looked and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"* – Revelation 7:9-10 (NKJV). 

## WMU approves reduced budget, 12 accept voluntary retirement offer

By MARGARET COLSON | The Alabama Baptist

Twelve national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) staff members opted to accept the voluntary retirement offer announced by the organization in early August, and WMU board members approved a 2020-21 budget that is down approximately \$1 million from the 2019-20 budget, which was \$5.8 million.


Both of these developments came as a result of a decline in sales due to COVID-19.

The 12 who accepted the retirement offer are "valued friends and colleagues (who) made countless contributions to our work over the years and will be greatly missed,"

said Julie Walters, corporate communication manager for national WMU.

Current personnel at national WMU stands at approximately 40 staff members.

Walters explained that the 2020-21 budget was "adjusted based on anticipated expenses and projected revenue." Even with a decrease in staff members and budget, WMU leaders remain focused on the organization's "mission of making disciples of Jesus who live on mission," Walters said.

National WMU is not a part of the Cooperative Program allocation budget and receives no funds from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering or Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. 

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Pastor

Woodlawn Baptist Church of Conover is receiving résumés for the office of senior pastor following the retirement of our pastor of twenty-seven years. We are a conservative church, looking for a pastor who believes the Bible to be the inerrant, infallible and inspired Word of God. We adhere to the doctrinal guidelines as stated in the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. SBC seminary degree required. Like-minded candidates may send a résumé to Woodlawn Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 609, Conover, NC 28613. Résumés will be accepted through December 2020.

Society Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Society is a Southern Baptist church, located in piedmont NC. Applicants should have senior pastoral experience, degree from an accredited school, ordained and spiritually-based as defined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9. All applicants are subject to a criminal/credit background check and a drug test. A CD of a recent sermon, along with a résumé should be sent to Chairman John Nantz at [jandmnantz@roadrunner.com](mailto:jandmnantz@roadrunner.com) or 112 St. Andrews Road, Statesville, NC 28625.

### Church staff

Hopewell Baptist Church, Monroe, NC, seeks a **full-time minister of college students and single adults**. Seminary degree or experience preferred. Send résumé to [Kim@whatasavior.com](mailto:Kim@whatasavior.com).

The Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Oakboro, NC, is presently searching for a **"part-time" Youth Worker**. If interested please contact the Pastor, Dr. Kinney Wallace, at 704-806-1179 or send résumé to P.O. Box 478 Oakboro, NC 28129.

Cherry Grove Baptist Church of Cerro Gordo, NC, is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music**. We are a mission-minded Southern Baptist church in rural Columbus County. Music is a vital component of worship in our church. We are prayerfully seeking the person God has set apart for us to lead our music. If interested, please send résumé to Pastor Rusty at [rsdavis826@gmail.com](mailto:rsdavis826@gmail.com).

Euto Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **part-time Student Leader**. If interested, please contact the church office at 704-385-8117 or email résumé to: [kara.ivey@eutobaptist.com](mailto:kara.ivey@eutobaptist.com).

Fishing Creek Arbor Baptist Church, Wilkesboro, NC, is currently seeking a **Worship Minister**. FCABC is a church of many talents and God-loving individuals. The Worship Minister will be a significant presence in the FCABC family. He or she will provide a specific focus on worship in the lives of the FCABC family through leading worship, assisting in the planning and execution of worship services, and cultivating a sense of unity within the music programs. For more information regarding the position, please visit our website at [www.fishingcreekarbor.org](http://www.fishingcreekarbor.org). Send résumés to [secretary@fishingcreekarbor.org](mailto:secretary@fishingcreekarbor.org).

Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church in Sanford, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor of Youth, Children & Families**. This Christian candidate will be responsible for the development and leadership of a Bible-based intergenerational family ministry with emphasis on youth and children. A bachelor's degree may be considered but a seminary/masters of divinity degree is preferred. Experience with youth program development and growth is a plus. Candidate must be a team player with excellent communications skills, be technologically competent, organized, with a desire to collaborate with the ministerial staff. Must be enthusiastic, innovative and passionate leader of children, students and their families. Compensation will be commensurate with experience. Email résumés with cover letter to [jhbc.search.2020@gmail.com](mailto:jhbc.search.2020@gmail.com).

Fishing Creek Arbor Baptist Church, Wilkesboro, NC, is currently seeking a **Student/Youth Minister**, who will come with passion and vision for how to impact the lives of students and grow the ministry. Areas of focus include group building, worship, discipleship, mission and outreach. The Student/Youth Minister will serve FCABC children and youth as an engaging spiritual leader and role model with a strong biblical background. Send résumé to [secretary@fishingcreekarbor.org](mailto:secretary@fishingcreekarbor.org).

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

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: [advertise@BRnow.org](mailto:advertise@BRnow.org).
- Purchase ads at [BRnow.org/Advertise](http://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.

# Your message. Our readers.

Advertise in our print & digital products

[advertise@brnow.org](mailto:advertise@brnow.org) • (919) 847-2127

Ask about  
sponsored content



# Southeastern Seminary honors those pastoring in a pandemic

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS Communications

There is much to reflect on as 2020 comes to a close.

More specifically, pastors have been challenged in a unique way to tackle fears concerning a pandemic, racial injustice and a contentious election. As 2020 comes to a close, these issues are still hitting close to home and pastors are still faced with the overwhelming task of leading their people to love and know God through these challenging days – some of them still having to do so from a distance.

As pastors continue to care for their congregations, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) has sought to find ways to honor and care for pastors throughout the year. One way was by providing pastors with a studio space to record weekly sermons.

Between March 19 and July 24, the SEBTS media services team provided recording, editing and overall production services for 51 sermons from nine preachers. In order to serve most efficiently, the team provided basic editing for each of their sermon recordings. Edits included color correction, church graphics at the beginning of the video and fading the video at the end. The team also provided services to churches by uploading their sermons to online platforms, including social media pages and YouTube.

According to a study done by LifeWay Research last year, 41% of pastors don't normally put their sermons online. In fact, most Protestant pastors are shepherding congregations of 100 people or less. This demographic is the least likely of all to have any online version of the sermon. For small congregations, sometimes it's simply a matter of money and manpower.

Colin Crawford, for example, pastors a congregation of 35 mostly elderly people. Virtual resources weren't necessary until COVID-19. Likewise, the church didn't have the equipment necessary to address the need in a moment of crisis.


That's when Crawford, pastor of Harvest Glen Baptist Church in Durham, decided to record his sermons in SEBTS's media services studio each week from the middle of March through the end of July, after finding out SEBTS provided the service. On Friday mornings, Crawford recorded

his sermons on the Sermon on the Mount, Proverbs and Esther while also preaching them on Sunday mornings to those in his congregation who were comfortable meeting in person. Because he was able to provide these sermons online, his church was able to reach approximately 60 more people than normal.

As pastors continue to weather preaching in a pandemic, the Lord is using digital platforms to reach those in and outside of the church. While the pandemic may halt meeting in person, it cannot stop the proclamation of the gospel.

SEBTS remains committed to serving the local church, especially during these unprecedented times. In a collective effort to honor pastors, the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership celebrated October's Pastor Appreciation Month by spurring on encouragement for pastors. For the month of October, church members had the opportunity to nominate their pastors for a chance to win a massive giveaway that was announced on Nov. 2. The giveaway served as a catalyst to honor and celebrate the God-ordained role of those pastoring congregations across the country and is just one of many ways SEBTS seeks to serve the church.

"The pastoral role and the ones who fill those roles have been uniquely gifted by God and are unique in themselves gifts by God to the church to see that the church becomes more like Jesus," said Ronjour Locke in the Nov. 2 episode of the Pastor Matters podcast in discussing the purpose of honoring pastors. Locke serves as director of the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership.

Southeastern's Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership exists to equip and encourage pastors to lead healthy, disciple-making churches for the glory of God around the world. The Pastors Center represents an intentional bridge between the seminary and the local church and offers assistance, resources and training to SEBTS students, as well as to pastors and churches to further equip them to serve well in the crucible of real-life ministry. The Pastors Center also hosts a podcast called Pastor Matters, where they discuss issues ranging from ministry burnout to how pastors can equip and mobilize women in the local church. Visit [pastorscenter.org](http://pastorscenter.org). 

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

**Some highlights since the last print edition:**

**Liberty trustees approve new leadership model (Baptist Press)** – In meetings Oct. 29-30 on the school's campus, Liberty University's Board of Trustees unanimously voted to recreate its leadership model by hiring both a president as well as a chancellor to be the university's spiritual leader and to ensure it is faithful to its Christian mission. Previously, both roles were filled by one person, most recently Jerry Falwell Jr. who resigned in August amid scandal. The board named 10 trustees to a search committee tasked with filling both positions. The search committee will also assemble an advisory committee that will consist of representation from students, faculty and alumni. The process for filling the positions is expected to take more than a year and will not begin in earnest until the board approves processes and job descriptions in a future meeting. The trustees also endorsed all remaining speakers scheduled for the university's convocation program for the fall semester. At the request of interim university President Jerry Prevo, the board agreed that its spiritual mission committee would partner with David Nasser, senior vice president of the office of spiritual development, to give advice and approval regarding all convocation speakers for the spring semester.

**Richards announces plans to step down in 2021 (TEXAN)** – Jim Richards, the executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC), has announced his intention to transition from leadership, effective Dec. 31, 2021. Richards, who informed the SBTC executive board of his intention during its meeting Nov. 11, is the founding executive director of the 22-year-old state convention, which has grown from 120 affiliated churches when he was elected in November 1998, to nearly 2,700 churches today. Richards, who turns 68 in December, came to the convention after serving as a director of associational missions in northwest Arkansas. During its meeting in August, the board approved a succession plan and established a transition/search team. The board's executive committee – made up of the vice chairman, secretary, committee chairmen and convention president – plus two at-large appointees will comprise the team.

**Mississippi voters adopt 'In God We Trust' flag free of Confederate emblem (Baptist Press)** – Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) leader Shawn Parker is applauding the recent adoption of a new state flag that honors God and notably lacks the Confederate battle emblem. Nearly 72% of Mississippi voters approved the new flag design, according to unofficial results with 93% of precincts reporting. Voters approved a red, white, blue and gold design featuring a white magnolia, the state flower, and the words "In God We Trust." "We believe that the new flag design is an accurate reflection of Mississippi's focus on faith and family, and we also think that it is a better representation of the entire state," said Parker, MBCB executive director and treasurer. Mississippi was the final state to include the Confederate emblem on its flag, the lone holdout since Georgia redesigned its flag in 2003.

**South Carolina Baptists elect first Black president (Baptist Courier)** – Messengers to the 200th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) elected a Simpsonville pastor as president, approved a \$26.5 million Cooperative Program budget, and adopted a resolution affirming churches that also identify as Great Commission Baptists. In an abbreviated, one-day session Nov. 10 at the historic First Baptist Church of Columbia, messengers passed the gavel to Alex Sands, the state convention's first Black president. Sands has been pastor of Kingdom Life Church in Simpsonville for 17 years. He will lead the 2021 meeting, which will convene at First Baptist in Columbia to officially observe the convention's 200th anniversary. In his address to messengers, SCBC Executive Director-Treasurer Gary Hollingsworth urged South Carolina Baptists to seek the Lord in the current time of chaos and disruption, like Isaiah saw in the year of King Uzziah's death. "Because we are choosing to see the Lord," Hollingsworth said, "our eyes are going to be fixed upward and outward over the coming years." Wayne Bray, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Simpsonville, was elected by acclamation as president-elect. He will lead the SCBC in 2022.

See full stories at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).