

# 2016 BOOK OF REPORTS

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

COMPELLING THE LOST

# IMPACT

TO COME TO LIFE

GO OUT INTO THE HIGHWAYS & HEDGES, & COMPEL THEM  
TO COME IN, THAT MY HOUSE MAY BE FILLED.

LUKE 14:23

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REPORT



**BRIAN KINLAW**

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** (board) has the responsibility of acting on behalf of the convention when the convention is not in session. Matters that affect the direction and enhance the mission causes and ministry endeavors of North Carolina Baptists are the responsibility of the board. The board meets three times annually and is comprised of North Carolina Baptists representing cooperating churches from 10 regions across the state. The Executive Committee of the board has the responsibility of acting on behalf of the board and the convention between sessions.

The Executive Committee is responsible for the administrative, personnel and business actions of the convention and reports to the board and the convention its actions and recommendations.

The Executive Committee met seven times since September 2015 and is comprised of the president and vice-president of the board (who serve as the chairperson and vice chairperson of the Executive Committee), the officers of the convention, the chairpersons of the committees and special committees of the board, four at-large members from the board, the president of North Carolina Baptist Men, the president of the North Carolina Baptist Associational Missions Conference and the chairpersons of the Budget Special Committee and the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee.

This report includes actions taken by the board and its Executive Committee since the conclusion of the September 2015 board meeting.

**The Board of Directors elected the following officers:**

President: *Brian Kinlaw*

Vice-President: *Marc Francis*

Board Secretary: *Ginger Brown*

**The Board of Directors elected the following at-large members of the Executive Committee:**

*Ken Jones, Michael Owens, Debbie Smith and David Spray*

**The Board of Directors committees and special committees elected their chairpersons as follows:**

Business Services Special Committee:

*LeRoy Burke*

Christian Higher Education Special Committee:

*Gordon Benton*

Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee:

*Bob Garbett*

Christian Social Services Special Committee:

*Boyce Porter*

Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee:

*Kelly Bullard*

Communications Committee:

*David Duarte*

Evangelism and Discipleship Committee:

*John Mark Harrison*

**The Board president made the following committee appointments:**

## **Articles and Bylaws Special Committee**

### **Includes both Board and Non-Board members as noted:**

Board: *George Hunnicutt* (2019 term), Mill Creek Baptist Church, Monroe

Non-Board: *Jeff Broadwell* (2019 term), Green Springs Baptist Church, Parkton

*John Compton* was appointed as chairperson.

## **Budget Special Committee**

### **Includes both board and non-board members as noted:**

Board: *Tony Honeycutt* (2019 term), Big Rock Creek Baptist Church, Bakersville

*Jeff Isenhour* (2018 term), Arran Lake Baptist Church, Fayetteville

Non-board: *Randy Moore* (2019 term), First Baptist Church, Spring Lake

*Tony Honeycutt* was appointed as chairperson.

## **Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee**

Three members of the Executive Committee: *Ken Jones*, chairperson; *Bob Garbett*,

*David Spray*

### **The Board of Directors elected the following committee members:**

#### **Business Services Special Committee at-large:**

*Bill Fryar* (2019 term), Double Springs Baptist Church, Shelby

*Robert Simons* (2019 term), Roxboro Baptist Church, Roxboro

*Stanley Spence* (2019 term), First Baptist Church, Lincolnton

#### **Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee at-large:**

*Seth Norris* (2017 term), Perkinsville Baptist Church, Boone

*Joe Thigpen* (2018 term), Imago Dei Church, Raleigh

## **Committee on Nominations**

Six new members of the Committee on Nominations were nominated by convention officers *Timmy D. Blair Sr.*, president; *Cameron McGill*, first vice-president; and *Joel Stephens*, second vice-president. During the January 2016 meeting, the board elected these individuals to serve:

*Charles Brust* (2018 term), minister, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Lumberton

*Kenn Hucks* (2018 term), minister, Sardis Baptist Church, Indian Trail

*David Jones* (2018 term), minister, Baptist Home Baptist Church, North

Wilkesboro

*Jonas Perez* (2018 term), minister, Faith Baptist Church, Faith

*Joseph Phan* (2018 term), minister, Vietnamese Baptist Church, Greensboro

*Beth Wooten* (2018 term), lay person, Beulaville Baptist Church, Beulaville

*Noah Crowe* was elected to serve as chairman of the committee.

### **The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved the following interim term recommendation from the Committee on Nominations:**

Note: (O) indicates the church's membership is over 400 and (U) indicates the church's membership is under 400.

*Biblical Recorder:*

*Nathan Jones*, lay person from Cross Culture Church, Raleigh (U), N.C. Miscellaneous Association, to fill the 2016 unexpired term of Rob Pocheck.



**The Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee to fill the 2020 terms on the Fruitland Board representing the:**

Convention Board of Directors: *Jim Kilby*, pastor, Lawndale Baptist Church, Lawndale  
Alumnus: *Joseph Dockery*, lay person, Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro  
At-large: *Brian Briggs*, lay person, Encouraging Word Baptist Church, Waynesville

**Impacting Lostness through Disciple-Making Update:**

Milton A. Hollifield Jr. has served as the executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) for the past 10 years. His vision for North Carolina Baptists is: "By God's grace, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina 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." This vision has become the foundation for all ministry endeavors, including the current operating strategy of the convention.

**Strategy Statement**

In keeping with its stated mission, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will assist the churches in evangelizing all people groups in every ethnic and/or cultural context by developing and applying disciple-making ministry models with an Acts 1:8 focus. North Carolina Baptists commit to accomplish this by strengthening and planting churches through creating a disciple-making culture, utilizing a relationship-driven consulting model incorporating generalists and specialists, starting in the most concentrated areas of lostness located in eight population centers.

The five-year strategy, "Impacting Lostness through Disciple-Making," was approved by the board in May 2013; implementation began in January 2014. A team of strategy coordinators continues to serve in population centers where concentrated pockets of lostness have been identified in North Carolina. They assist the convention specialists and the local churches in implementing the strategy. Currently, the coordinators are located in the Blue Ridge (Asheville), Coastal (Jacksonville and Wilmington), Fayetteville, Greenville, Metro Charlotte, Triad (Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point), Triangle (Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill) and Unifour (Hickory) areas. At the beginning of 2016, a Hispanic coordinator joined the team to increase its statewide presence and capabilities of reaching the lost.

In the past couple of years, the convention leadership and staff recognized the need to evaluate the Board of Directors' (Board) role in the strategy. In 2016, the BSCNC Communications Team created and implemented a Board of Directors newsletter. In addition to board-specific information, this email publication provides resources and tools, including testimonial video clips, to assist and encourage the board members, both personally and in their churches, with the disciple-making process.

In late 2015, board President Perry Brindley appointed a task force to research and evaluate how the board meetings could operate more efficiently and effectively, with the goal of aligning the meetings with the convention strategy. The task force reported to the board

in May 2016, and recommendations were approved during the May and September meetings. Items needing final approval from the messengers are to be presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Additional implementation of suggested changes will follow over the next couple of years. Hollifield indicated he will work closely with the convention staff to accomplish the recommendations of the task force, which will ultimately make board and committee meetings more engaging and valuable for the board members. These meetings will also be structured in a way that will assist the board members to become better advocates for the convention and its mission of assisting churches in their efforts to reach lost souls with the good news of Jesus Christ.

To keep the churches better informed of the ministries and work of the convention, a Ministry Highlights pamphlet has been developed for churches and associations to distribute among their members. It is the hope that those who read it will want to know more of what is offered and how they can become involved. Hollifield repeatedly reminds the board of the value of churches partnering with the BSCNC in order to fulfill the Great Commission. God is bringing the nations to North Carolina, so it is a collective responsibility for us to reach them with the gospel.

To further aid the strategic efforts to impact lostness, a reserve fund of \$500,000 was established in early 2016 to engage and capitalize on the expertise of International Mission Board missionaries who have returned to the United States. Preference will be given to those who have taken the Voluntary Retirement Incentive and are returning to North Carolina. The five ministry areas that are benefiting from this are church planting, strategic focus, Great Commission partnerships, church revitalization and disciple-making.

Hollifield emphasized that not only is it important that we recognize the vast sea of lostness around us, but we must have a plan to engage the lost with the gospel. Effective tools, such as the newly released disciple-making Bible study *Patterned*, are available for church leaders and church members. Committing to this 10-week study will help increase one's understanding of and participation in our worldwide disciple-making efforts.

At the September 2016 Board of Directors meeting, Hollifield emphasized the Impact prayer guide, a resource developed to engage North Carolina Baptists in 30 days of prayer leading up to this Annual Meeting. He offered the following challenge: "Do you think it could make a difference if 100, 200 or 300 North Carolina Baptists really sought God's favor through repentance and renewal and fervently prayed for 30 days, seeking God's face and asking Him to do something great in Greensboro?"

For the first time since 2006, the convention not only met, but exceeded its 2015 Cooperative Program budget, allowing a \$400,000 increase over the 2014 contribution that was sent to the Southern Baptist Convention to support missions. The North Carolina Missions Offering both met and exceeded its goal for 2015, as well. To God be the glory!

### **Additional Actions of the Board of Directors were as follows: Articles and Bylaws Special Committee**

The Articles and Bylaws Committee (Committee) presented to the Board of Directors (Board) proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (Convention) for consideration. The proposed amendments are encapsulated in

four (4) motions. A brief description of each motion is found below. The motions with the proposed amendments can be found in the special edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, made available to the messengers in their messenger packet. Please note that no changes are proposed for the Articles of Incorporation, only for the Bylaws.

**Motion One** – Focuses on the meeting dates for the Board. During its May 2016 meeting, the Board approved a recommendation from the Board of Directors Meetings Evaluation Task Force (Task Force) regarding changes in the meeting dates for the Board. The Committee proposes amendments in order to facilitate the changes proposed by the Task Force and to provide flexibility in meeting dates without the necessity of further bylaw amendments.

**Motion Two** – Eliminates limitations placed upon employees of the affiliated educational institutions as well as limitations for those elected to serve as directors and trustees of the affiliated educational institutions in serving in various Convention positions. Currently, employees of the affiliated educational institutions and those elected to serve as directors and trustees of the affiliated educational institutions are prohibited from serving on the Board of the Convention, Convention committees and the boards of other Convention institutions and agencies and the Hospital. These limitations were in place to prevent potential conflicts of interest in the past. However, the potential conflicts no longer exist as the Convention does not provide any funding for the affiliated educational institutions and no longer elects any directors or trustees for these institutions. Finally, in recent years, some individuals elected by the Convention to serve on the Board and Committees of the Convention have been forced to resign due to accepting employment by one of the affiliated educational institutions. Again, the opportunity for conflicts of interest is no longer an issue; therefore, the Committee proposes the removal of this prohibition.

**Motion Three** – Clarifies the role of the members elected to the Convention's Committee on Convention Meetings. Currently, this committee is directed to assign nine (9) of its members to serve as a credentials sub-committee. The Committee on Convention Meetings has determined that nine (9) members are not necessary for this task. The proposed amendment will give the Committee on Convention Meetings chair flexibility in assigning all committee members to this task.

**Motion Four** – Addresses several miscellaneous matters in the bylaws that deserve attention. The proposed amendments update, correct and bring consistency to these specific sections. The first matter is related to membership on the Board by representatives from the Baptist Campus Ministry of North Carolina student organization. This organization has ceased to exist; therefore, it is no longer necessary to provide Board membership to these representatives. Second, the use of the terms directors and trustees on the boards of Convention's institutions and agencies is inconsistent within the various sections in the bylaws; therefore, amendments are proposed to make the language in these sections consistent. Third, references to the Fruitland Baptist Bible College directors are inconsistent; therefore, amendments are proposed to make these references consistent. The final section merely amends two cross references that became incorrect due to prior amendments.

Should you have questions, comments or concerns about these motions please feel free to contact either John Compton, chairman of the articles and bylaws special committee, at [john.compton316@gmail.com](mailto:john.compton316@gmail.com) or Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer at [bdavis@ncbaptist.org](mailto:bdavis@ncbaptist.org).

**Budget Special Committee**

The Board of Directors

- Adopted the 2017 Cooperative Program Budget of \$30,375,000 as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the 2017 budget for consideration to the convention at its 2016 Annual Meeting.
- Adopted the North Carolina Missions Offering goal of \$2,100,000 as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the following 2017 allocations for consideration to the convention at its 2016 Annual Meeting:

N.C. Baptist Men	\$856,720
Church Planting	\$596,000
Mission Work Camps	\$313,080
Mobilization Ministry Projects (Baptist Men)	\$124,200
Associational Projects	<u>\$210,000</u>
<b>TOTAL NCMO GOAL</b>	<b>\$2,100,000</b>

**Camps, Conference Centers and Fruitland Baptist Bible College**

The Board of Directors

- Approved changing the frequency of Fruitland Baptist Bible College board meetings from four times a year to three times a year. This will take effect starting in 2017.

**Financial Matters**

The Board of Directors

- Approved the transfer of 20 percent of the excess 2015 operating revenue to the Contingency Reserve Fund of the convention. This amount totaled \$65,187.
- Approved the sale of the Appalachian State University campus ministry building for \$500,000 to the Baptist Campus Ministry of the High Country. Proceeds were deposited into the collegiate partnerships reserve account.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

- Approved a request from the Southern Baptist Convention to obtain a list of all convention churches to be used for a Cooperative Program marketing campaign.
- Approved a motion directing the Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee to write a letter of encouragement, not one of endorsement, to our state government leaders.

**Miscellaneous Actions**

The Board of Directors

- Approved a request from the Committee on Convention Meetings for the dates of the 2018 Annual Meeting to be changed from Nov. 12-13, 2018, to Nov. 5-6, 2018.
- Approved the formation of a Board of Directors Meetings Evaluation Task Force to



evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the current board meeting format. In May 2016, the board approved, in the form of motions, three recommendations from the task force:

1. Articles and Bylaws Committee draft proposals to change the meeting dates of the board from Tuesday/Wednesday to Monday/Tuesday. (This recommendation comes to the messengers for a vote at the November 2016 annual meeting.)
  2. Affirm the stated role of board president and executive director-treasurer to set the agenda and shape the presentations to align board meetings with the strategy.
  3. Affirm the efforts of board president and executive director-treasurer to work with committee chairs and staff to shape committee meetings that reflect the desired culture change for the board.
- Elected Jimmy Adams to serve on the Board of the Carolina Christian Study Center. This appointment is in fulfillment of the agreement included in the 2015 sale of the Battle House, the Baptist Campus Ministry property near UNC-Chapel Hill.
  - Approved assigning the BSCNC lease with Cullowhee Baptist Church for the campus ministry building at Western Carolina University to the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc.

## **Personnel Matters**

### **The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors**

- Gave approval for John Butler, executive leader for Business Services, to approve the housing allowances for the convention's ordained staff.
- Approved Antonio Santos as the Hispanic coordinator for the Strategic Focus Team.
- Approved Neal Eller as team leader for the Church Strengthening Team.
- Approved the creation of a Church Health and Revitalization Team. Brian Upshaw will serve as team leader.
- Approved Pamela Bills as human resources director effective June 1, 2016.
- Approved changing the North Carolina Baptist Men assistant onsite coordinator position at the Red Springs Mission Camp from a contract worker to a full-time support staff position. This change was needed in order to satisfy government regulations regarding contract workers. Funding will continue to come from the NCMO, not Cooperative Program dollars.
- Updated the Position Evaluation Committee process as it relates to the convention personnel manual and the responsibilities of the Executive Committee.
- Approved the elimination of COBRA insurance provision for voluntary and involuntary termination of employment of convention staff.
- Approved the removal of the Medicare restriction as it relates to medical insurance eligibility requirements for spouses.
- Presented a proclamation of appreciation to Milton A. Hollifield Jr. in recognition of his 10-year anniversary as executive director-treasurer.

2017

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

MISSIONS BUDGET

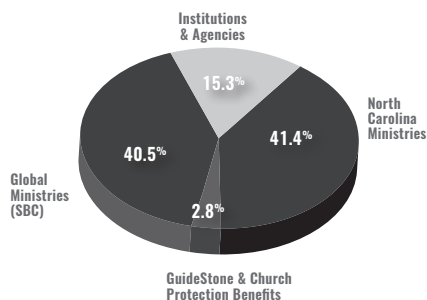
TOTAL \$30,375,000

GLOBAL MINISTRIES (SBC)		\$12,301,875 (40.5%)
		2017
International Mission Board	50.41%	\$6,201,375
North American Mission Board	22.79%	\$2,803,597
SBC Seminaries	22.16%	\$2,726,096
Other Ministries & Administration	4.64%	\$ 570,807
NORTH CAROLINA MINISTRIES		\$12,583,125 (41.4%)
		2017
	2016	
Convention and Board Operations	\$2,441,582	\$2,510,041
Convention Ministry Groups		
Administration & Convention Relations	\$2,980,467	\$3,215,594
Business Services	\$1,473,757	\$1,505,757
Church Planting & Mission Partnerships	\$2,650,184	\$2,673,702
Evangelism & Discipleship	\$2,569,010	\$2,678,031
TOTAL Ministry Groups	\$9,673,418	\$12,073,084

INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES		\$ 4,640,000 (15.3%)
	2016	2017
<b>Christian Social Services</b>		
Baptist Children's Homes of N.C.	\$1,625,000	\$1,675,000
Baptist Children's Homes, DDM Program	\$ 350,000	\$ 360,000
N.C. Baptist Aging Ministries	\$ 740,000	\$ 760,000
N.C. Baptist Hospitals (Faith Health Division)	\$ 600,000	\$ 610,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,315,000</b>	<b>\$3,405,000</b>
<b>Agencies</b>		
The <i>Biblical Recorder</i>	\$ 400,000	\$ 415,000
The <i>Biblical Recorder</i> Special Project	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
North Carolina Baptist Foundation	\$ 90,000	\$ 95,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 515,000</b>	<b>\$ 535,000</b>
<b>Fruitland Baptist Bible College</b>	<b>\$ 680,000</b>	<b>\$ 700,000</b>
<b>N.C. Baptist Scholarship Program*</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	

\* The proposed budget eliminates \$150,000 previously designated for the N.C. Baptist Scholarship Program since oversight of scholarship program was transferred to the N.C. Baptist Foundation in early 2016.

GUIDESTONE & CHURCH PROTECTION BENEFITS		\$850,000 (2.8%)
	2016	2017
<b>Retirement and Protection Benefits For N.C. Baptist Church Staff</b>	<b>\$ 900,000</b>	<b>\$ 825,000</b>
<b>Ministers' Emergency Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>



# IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH DISCIPLE-MAKING

## STRATEGY

### OUR VISION

"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."

### OUR MISSION

"To assist the churches in their divinely appointed mission."

### OUR CORE VALUES

The 7 Pillars for Ministry are biblical concepts that serve as core values to help the Convention stay focused on its mission, which is to assist North Carolina Baptist churches in achieving what God has called them to do.

#### THE 7 PILLARS ARE:

1. Practice Fervent Prayer
2. Promote Evangelism and Disciple-Making
3. Strengthen Existing Churches
4. Plant New Multiplication Churches
5. Reach North Carolina's International Community
6. Embrace Unreached and Unengaged People Groups
7. Engage Young Church Leaders

The following strategy must be undergirded and overarched by Kingdom-focused prayer. Pushing back lostness will only be accomplished through spiritual awakening and revival; therefore, utter dependence on the power of God is indispensable. The Convention must build strong spiritual relationships that inspire and motivate through prayer and the Spirit of God and build on those relationships as the process continues.

## STRATEGY STATEMENT

In keeping with its stated mission, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will assist the churches in evangelizing all people groups in every ethnic and/or cultural context by developing and applying disciple-making ministry models with an Acts 1:8 focus.<sup>1</sup>

North Carolina Baptists commit to accomplish this by strengthening and planting churches through creating a disciple-making culture, utilizing a relationship-driven consulting model incorporating generalists and specialists, starting in the most concentrated areas of lostness located in eight population centers.

### **Explanation**

In keeping with its stated mission, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will assist the churches in evangelizing all people groups in every ethnic and/or cultural context by developing and applying disciple-making ministry models with an Acts 1:8 focus.

There are 5.8 million lost people in North Carolina and that number is growing; North Carolina Baptists are clearly losing ground.<sup>2</sup> This statistic illustrates our collective lack of faithfulness to obedience of the Great Commission. The Great Commission clarifies that we, all North Carolina Baptists, are to make disciples. Every North Carolina Baptist bears the responsibility and shares in the opportunity to reach the lost and make disciples.

Acts 1:8 focuses our disciple-making efforts on our local communities, North Carolina, North America and the ends of the earth. Moreover, the unreached peoples of the world have come to our own communities. In reaching these people, contextual strategies based on ethnic and/or cultural contexts have proven to be the most effective approaches to impacting lostness.

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<sup>1</sup> The mission of the Baptist State Convention is found in the Convention's Articles of Incorporation Article IV. Purposes A.

<sup>2</sup> Statistic provided by Richard Stanley, Center for Missional Research for the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The total population of North Carolina at the end of 2010 was 9.5 million people. The estimated percentage of lostness in North Carolina during that year was 60.8% resulting in the estimate of 5.8 million lost people. Stanley estimates that the percentage of lostness will not increase in the coming decade; however, the number of lost people will grow as the total population grows.



## **NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS COMMIT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY STRENGTHENING AND PLANTING CHURCHES THROUGH CREATING A DISCIPLE-MAKING CULTURE ...**

The matters of church health, survival and sustainability weigh heavily on the minds of many church leaders. Many indicators and statistics are used to identify the strength of a church. However, the most concrete indicator of a strong church is the presence of a disciple-making culture. A disciple-making culture is developed as churches assist believers to order their everyday lives around the Great Commandment's call to love God which results in loving others. When the culture of a church encourages all people to be disciples, who in turn make disciples, the church has the greatest potential for effective fulfillment of the Great Commission and Acts 1:8. The Convention will assist the churches as they prayerfully determine how they will pursue a disciple-making culture.

All churches are called upon to support multiplying efforts in order that all people may be reached with the gospel. Church planting involves the discovery and reaching of unreached people resulting in a disciple-making culture. The Convention will assist churches as they prayerfully determine how they will engage in church planting. Churches should consider partnering with existing church plants, partnering with church planting missionaries who have not yet begun, or possibly sending their own members out as church planting missionaries to establish new congregations.

The Convention will assist Legacy churches as they consider their investment in assisting church plants to target unreached people and in assessing options including church re-starting, church revitalization and church multiplication. Legacy churches are strategic partners in their prayer support, volunteering, worship space and providing financial assistance, all critical components to a church plant effectively impacting lostness.

## **... BY MEANS OF A RELATIONSHIP-DRIVEN CONSULTING MODEL INCORPORATING GENERALISTS AND SPECIALISTS ...**

The Convention will design, resource and implement a relationship-driven consulting model in serving churches across North Carolina. This model incorporates the dual roles of generalist and specialist as opposed to a resource and event driven consulting model. A relationship-driven consulting model enables effective engagement with a church in pursuit of a disciple-making culture and ministry vitality rather than simply resourcing them with products, programs and processes. Collaboration among the Convention, associations, networks and other ministry partners in this model of consultation will serve to efficiently leverage the assets of all parties for the benefit of the churches.

## **... STARTING IN THE MOST CONCENTRATED AREAS OF LOSTNESS LOCATED IN EIGHT POPULATION CENTERS.**

Research conducted by the Intercultural Institute for Contextual Ministry has identified the top 100 areas of lostness in North Carolina. Of these 100, the Convention has found that 97 are located within the top eight population centers of the state. Population centers include the cities and surrounding areas of Charlotte, the Research Triangle

(Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill), the Triad (Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point), Fayetteville, Wilmington, Hickory, Blue Ridge (Asheville) and Greenville. The population in North Carolina increased 18.46% from 2000 to 2010. During this same period, the population in these eight areas increased by 22.33% comprising nearly 75% of the population of the state.<sup>3</sup>

The Convention must collaborate with local leadership to develop a strategy for a population center and seek to foster and instill local ownership of the initiative. All leaders involved in each population center must be heard and valued. In addition, the roles of all partners must be clearly defined. Success will have been achieved when the existing area churches and new church plants partner in the execution of a well-defined, contextually appropriate strategy to make, nurture and grow reproducing followers of Christ pursuing a movement of God within the population centers to glorify Christ through pushing back lostness. Moreover, a shared commitment of all leadership to this definition of success and adoption of a common language for expressing that definition of success is paramount. Intentionality in communication should be a hallmark of these relationships.

While all would agree to the urgency of the task, it is important to also recognize the reality of limited resources that must be efficiently and effectively managed. Accordingly, initiatives in each of the eight population centers cannot begin simultaneously but must be staged in order to appropriately administer the investment of available resources for maximum benefit to all.

## OVERVIEW OF A FRAMEWORK FOR THE EIGHT POPULATION CENTERS

### Pre-Discover

- Establish the Strategy Team for each population center. The team will include but not be limited to a Convention strategist, directors of missions/associational missionaries, pastors, staff, and laypersons from within the population center, and ethnic representation based upon demographic makeup of population center group(s).
- Gather the Strategy Team for prayer, orientation process and strategic planning training.
- Mobilize prayer support for the Strategy Team and its work.
- Assemble initial information for each specific population center and prepare supporting documentation for Strategy Team members.
- Identify and explore all local strategies at a church or associational level already planned or underway for impacting the targeted population center.
- Create a communications plan framework and a plan to connect with and network population center area pastors and churches.
- Construct a discovery question list to guide data collection and analysis.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census, "North Carolina Quick Facts," <http://1.usa.gov/lig9J0>. Internet, Date Accessed: March 7, 2013

## Discover

- Answer discovery questions.
  - Gather, validate and assess data, utilizing tools such as, but not limited to:
    - Intercultural Institute for Contextual Ministry report<sup>4</sup>
    - Annual Church Profile data for existing churches within the focus area
    - “Operation Reach”<sup>5</sup>
    - Field discovery
    - Community perceptions
    - Identify gaps in understanding (using discovery questions) and determine sources of needed information.
- Identify and test assumptions, and adapt the approach as needed.
- Assess current strengths and needs of existing churches and associations within the population center area.
- Engage existing churches in reaching the lost within the population center area through:
  - Prayer for the lost and laborers to reach the lost
  - “Discovery” of the lost
  - Ministry revitalization of evangelism/disciple-making to reach the lost
  - Commitment to intentionally present the gospel in word and deed
  - Commitment to partnership with others in reaching the lost
- Institute regional concerts of prayer.
- Initiate communication plans to all constituencies including:
  - “Discoveries” to date
  - Partners involved
  - Invitation to potential partners
  - Identification of resource needs
  - Request prayer for the population center

## Develop

- Create a comprehensive strategic plan.
  - Build the plan to achieve an outcome based upon the definition of success.
  - Incorporate strengthening of existing churches based upon identified needs utilizing the Strategy Team process model.
  - Incorporate planting of new churches based upon identified needs and priorities.

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<sup>4</sup> The IICM works to encourage congregations and various denominational groups, mission agencies and para-church groups to understand their cultural context and to develop culturally-appropriate messages, methods and missional strategies to reach them with the gospel.

<sup>5</sup> A missional event utilized by North Carolina Baptist leaders to identify unreached people groups in cities, regions and associations. The one-day event is attended by area pastors and leaders who are equipped to identify the unreached, then journey to assigned areas to determine missional priorities

- Identify milestones and success indicators for each distinct strategy adopted to include feedback loops for real-time data gathering.
- Document a schedule for strategy and progress assessment and reporting.
- Ascertain required resources for each strategy and identify potential sources.
- Sequence strategies and assign responsibility for execution.
- Continue prayer initiatives and efforts toward networking population center pastors and churches.
- Continue with communication plans to all constituencies:
  - Strategies to be employed
  - Additional “discovery” updates
  - Updates on partners
  - Continued invitation to potential partners
  - Updated list of needed resources
  - Request prayer for the harvest in the population center

## **Deliver**

- Execute the strategic plan.
- Monitor progress relative to established milestones and assess results relative to success indicators.
- Adjust strategies as necessary based upon ongoing assessment of results, capturing learnings for future use.
- Continue prayer initiative and facilitation of networking for population center pastors and churches.
- Complete communication plans to all constituencies:
  - Results realized to date
  - Additional “discovery” updates
  - Updates on partners
  - Continued invitation to potential partners to participate
  - Updated list of needed resources
  - Request for prayer and the sharing of “celebrations”

We acknowledge that many of the efforts noted in this model already take place, but the effectiveness of these efforts can be increased through a unified approach. We believe that cooperatively approaching these efforts, as outlined above, will maximize the results.

## **Conclusion**

The mission of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is to “assist the churches in their divinely appointed mission.” Utilizing this strategy, it is the prayerful

expectation that, “By God’s grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

## GLOSSARY

This glossary pertains only to this report and does not necessarily reflect common understanding of the terms throughout the Convention.

**Consultant:** A Convention staff person assigned the primary responsibility of working directly with churches to provide assistance as needed and appropriate in pursuit of the church’s mission.

**Consultation:** An assignment in which a Convention consultant works directly with a church for a defined period of time to provide assistance as needed and appropriate in the pursuit of the church’s mission.

**Context:** The environment, conditions or circumstances that define or surround a church and its ministry such as: average age or educational level of church members, local economy, financial condition of the church, demographics of the community, age and condition of the facilities, etc.

**Contextual:** Relating to or dependent upon a particular context as defined above.

**Contextualize:** To adapt a process, model or framework in order to fit or accommodate a particular context as defined above.

**Decline:** A church that has passed the plateaued life cycle stage and exhibits a clearly discernible regression in baptisms or other additions, attendance, giving and ministry involvement, and general appearance of ministry health has entered a stage of decline.

**Disciple-making culture:** The values and ministry focus of a church result in a lifestyle of disciple-making behaviors on the part of church members.

**Generalist:** A consultant serving as a diagnostician who works with church leadership to effectively engage and apply contextually appropriate resources. A generalist serves in much the same way as a family practitioner in the medical profession whereby the generalist is responsible for the ongoing relationship and engages specialists as appropriate and necessary for the benefit of the church. However, this does not mean that a generalist does not have an area or areas of specific expertise, but only refers to the role with regard to a particular church.

**Learning environment:** “...the continuous testing of experience, and the transformation of that experience into knowledge – accessible to the whole organization, and relevant to its core purpose.” Peter M. Senge, Art Kleiner, Charlotte Roberts, Rick Ross and Bryan Smith, *The Fifth Discipline Field Book*, (New York, NY: Doubleday, 1994), 49.



**Legacy church:** A long established church still exhibiting signs of health and vitality but nearing the plateaued life cycle stage as its sense of calling and purpose begins to diminish, as does its congregants' age, and it also fails to reach and assimilate younger members.

**Model:** A framework, outline or process to be followed or utilized in conducting a consultation.

**Multiplication church:** A multiplication church is a reproducing church that engages in church planting through one or more ways. The church may play the role of "mentor" in the church planting process, intentionally cultivating disciples who are selected, developed and supported in order to be sent as church planting missionaries to start new faith communities. This may include "praying" for the unreached people group and church planting missionaries who are sent, "participating" by involving members personally assisting the church planter, and/or "providing" for the financial needs of the church planter and new church plant. Church multiplication may also include visionary churches that value multiplication, establishing a Church Planting Center equipping those from inside their congregation and from other congregations, and providing intern, student missionary and apprentice opportunities, sending them out to reach unreached people groups resulting in new faith communities.

**Network:** A collection of churches or individuals with similar interests or concerns and like values who intentionally connect and maintain formal, as well as informal, communication for mutual assistance or support in pursuit of a common goal or objective.

**Organizational culture:** The shared set of values and assumptions that guide how the members of an organization think, feel, behave, and work. George Babbes and Michael Zigarelli, *The Minister's MBA – Essential Ministry Tools for Maximum Ministry Success*. (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2006), 30.

**People group:** The largest group through which the gospel can flow without encountering a significant barrier of understanding or acceptance. "People Groups" <http://peoplegroups.org/> Internet.

Date Accessed: March 7, 2013. This understanding guides the work of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, please read, Orville Jenkins, "What is a People Group - Gospel Strategy" <http://public.imb.org/globalresearch/Pages/PeopleGroup.aspx> Internet. Date Accessed: March 8, 2013.

**Population center:** An area within which a significant concentration of people live and work.

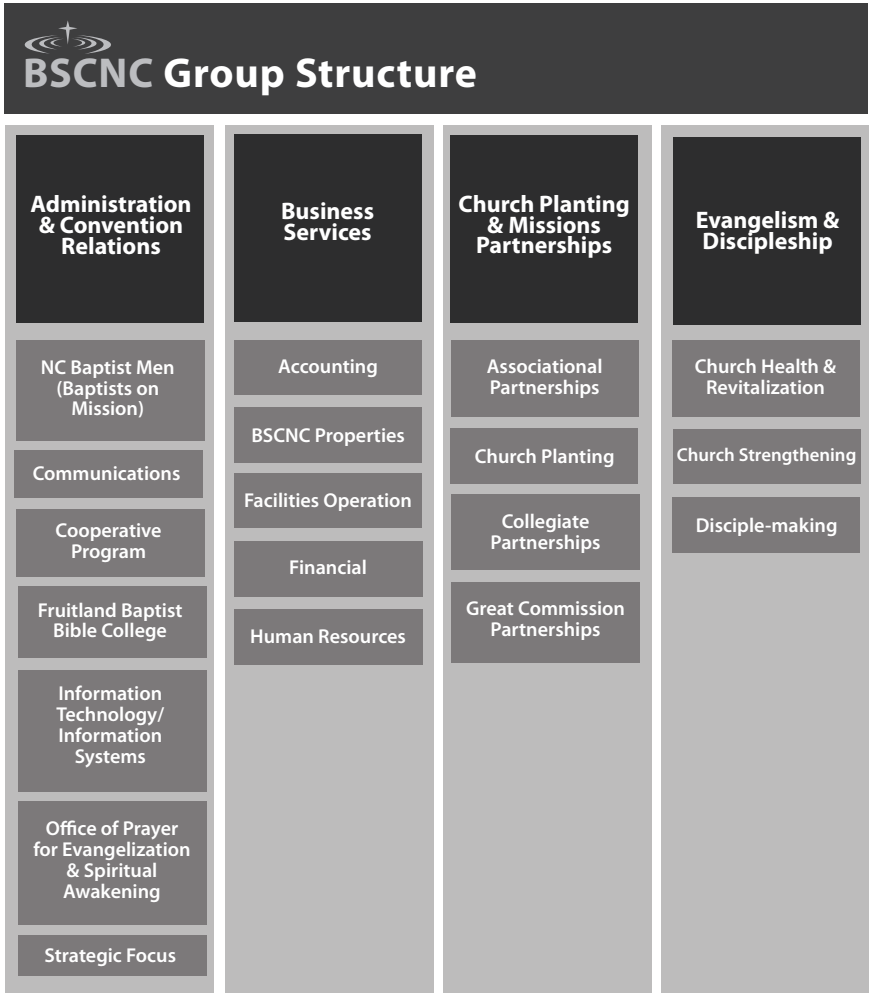
**Relationship-driven consultation:** A model of consulting whereby primary emphasis is placed upon building rapport and understanding, enabling the consultant to more accurately discern and meet the needs and requirements of the church served.

**Relationship-driven:** An approach whereby primary emphasis is placed upon building rapport and understanding.

**Resource driven:** A model of consulting whereby primary emphasis is placed upon the application of products, programs or services offered, rather than looking for creative solutions to the issues at hand, based upon discernment through relationship.

**Revitalization:** The process whereby a church that was once plateaued, or declining, has rediscovered its calling and is living out that calling in a culture of disciple-making.

**Specialist:** A consultant serving as a subject category expert in a specific ministry area.



# ADMINISTRATION & CONVENTION RELATIONS

REPORT



**BRIAN K. DAVIS**

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR-TREASURER

## ADMINISTRATION AND CONVENTION

**RELATIONS** fulfills a variety of responsibilities on behalf of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BCSNC) in service of the convention's churches. The Executive Director-Treasurer's Office (EDT), led by Milton A. Hollifield Jr., provides leadership and direction for the entire convention staff. It is the responsibility of the EDT to assist the Board of Directors and convention committees in their work. The EDT also works very closely with the officers of the board and officers of the convention as they seek to fulfill their tasks.

Brian K. Davis, associate executive director-treasurer, provides leadership for the Administration and Convention Relations Group. The Administration and Convention Relations Group has the dual role of serving churches of the convention and serving convention staff.

The Administration and Convention Relations Group continues to serve as liaison with the institutions and agencies of the convention. Specifically, the institutions of the convention are the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital. The agencies of the convention are the North Carolina Baptist Foundation and the *Biblical Recorder*. In addition, this office continues to foster the convention's relationship with the five affiliated educational institutions.

This group is responsible for the convention's partnership with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). While the cooperative agreement between NAMB and the convention involves multiple members of the convention's staff across several ministry groups, the coordination of the partnership comes through Administration and Convention Relations. We also work with NAMB in

the placement of Mission Service Corps (MSC) funded missionaries.

The Administration and Convention Relations Group also serves as the liaison with two convention committees - the Committee on Nominations and the Committee on Convention Meetings - and assists Business Services staff with the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials. Our staff provides the administrative support required by each of these committees in order that these committees may complete their assigned tasks.

The Administration and Convention Relations Group consists of five teams and/or offices, North Carolina Baptist Men staff and Fruitland Baptist Bible College staff. These staff members and their assignments are identified within their respective reports.

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Communications Team serves the various ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) by creating clear, effective, creative and professional communications that influence the world for Christ. The team utilizes a variety of communication

channels to accomplish this goal, which include print, online, digital, electronic, video, written and social media resources. The team also handles a variety of duties related to advance promotion and on-site production of the BSCNC's Annual Meeting.

Kathryn Carson serves as the team leader for the Communications Team. In her role, she coordinates the work of graphic designers, videographers, writers and editors, and administrative and production assistants to help tell stories that inform and inspire North Carolina Baptists to impact their world for Christ. All of the team's communications efforts support and align with the convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making" and its mission "to assist the churches in their divinely appointed mission."

The team assists BSCNC staff in developing communication strategies for their respective ministries and various events. The team also provides promotional and communications support for numerous BSCNC events throughout the year, including the annual disciple-making conference, women's retreat, Annual Meeting and more. The team also develops resources to promote and support each year's promotional campaign for the North Carolina Mission's Offering (NCMO).

In an effort to assist churches, pastors and lay leaders with their own communications efforts, the team launched a series of videos in 2016 related to the effective use of various social media tools for ministry. The team also produced testimonial videos from pastors, ministry leaders and church members that provide practical examples of how disciple-making is taking place across our state, nation and world. The

team also worked with the BSCNC's Office of Great Commission Partnerships to produce a video-based Bible study series titled "The Mission of God."

Chad Austin serves as the team's communications coordinator and provides writing and editing assistance for the BSCNC's communications strategies and resources. He also provides news coverage of various BSCNC events and ministry initiatives. Emily Rojas transitioned from a part-time editorial assistant to the team's production assistant in the spring of 2016. She continues to provide valuable editorial assistance in addition to coordinating various other projects in her new role.

Laura Bennett serves as the print and digital communications coordinator. Laura is the team's senior graphics designer and works with graphic designer Tucker King as well as a team of freelance designers to develop a variety of ministry resources. Laura also helps manage content and branding for the convention's online presence through the N.C. Baptist website ([ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org)) and social media accounts (@ncbaptist) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The graphic designers produce numerous print, digital and online resources each year, which include promotional materials, event websites, exhibits and signage for various BSCNC events, and more.

For 30 years, K Brown has served as the Communications Team's video services consultant. He is supported by assistant videographer Eric Stishan and freelancer Kenny Conyers. Over the past year, the team of videographers has greatly expanded the types of videos produced by the convention to include BSCNC ministry spotlights, disciple-making testimonials, a Bible study curriculum and more.



Will Taylor serves as the assistant to the Communications Team leader. In addition to coordinating the promotional efforts of the annual NCMO campaign, Will assists with the convention's social media efforts and provides valuable expertise in the development of various communications plans and strategies.

*Kathryn Carson, Team Leader*  
*Will Taylor, Team Leader Assistant*

## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

If we're going to brag, it should be about Jesus.

But you could perhaps spare some glowing words for what Southern Baptists do together in missions and ministry to make disciples.

Did you know North Carolina Baptists help start a new church somewhere in our state about every 3.8 days?

And did you know that, nationally, we help start an average of two churches a day? Or that, of all the new evangelical churches started each year across the country, Southern Baptists start about one of every five? Church planting is only one of a myriad of missions and ministry endeavors through which Southern Baptists engage in disciple-making.

This book of reports is sprinkled with tidbits of positive results that happen because as Baptists we believe in the Bible and try to be obedient to what it tells us.

We are a fellowship of mostly small churches, yet we get a lot of kingdom work done.

There are two main elements to how we work together as Baptists. First, is the convention approach. Our churches voluntarily work together in disciple-making ministries and missionary efforts. In our annual meetings we celebrate the work we voluntarily do together. We meet so people from autonomous churches can agree on what work and how much of it they want to do together.

The second element is the Cooperative Program because working together happens more effectively when we have a method of funding disciple-making missions and ministry that is fair, effective and responsive to the churches sending the money.

Thousands of churches voluntarily give through the Cooperative Program because they recognize the amazing amount of ministry that can be done as each church contributes its part towards a budget that has been agreed on during the Annual Meeting.

So we have a good system for working together and that system has a proven track record.

Visit [ncbaptist.org/cpresources](http://ncbaptist.org/cpresources) and you'll find videos and other resources to help educate your members about how and what Baptists do together. You'll find some great new videos about Fruitland Baptist Bible College. There's also a special video in Spanish.

One of the best tools for teaching missions and prayer in your church is called "52 Sundays," a set of slides that will enable your church to pray each Sunday for a different missionary who is serving around the world, in North American or in North Carolina.

By using the “52 Sundays” resources, you can guide your church on a year-long missions trip and pray with insight for our missionaries you already support through the Cooperative Program.

You’ll learn how our missionaries continue to serve in troubled parts of the world like the Middle East and in our own cities in the northeastern part of the United States.

You will find much to thank God for as you learn about how He is changing lives with His truths.

For comparison, consider how North Carolina Baptists compare in their giving to that of Baptists in other states.

In Cooperative Program giving, North Carolina Baptists are perennially one of the leading states in the nation. In giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, North Carolina Baptists led all other states in 2015. We also increased our giving to Lottie Moon by more than \$1 million over the 2014 total.

In giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, North Carolina Baptists again led all other states last year. And so far this year, giving has been up by a substantial amount.

So, there is much to be thankful for and much to feel good about, in this business of working together.

As North Carolina Baptists continue to push ahead in disciple-making and begin to develop churches which exhibit a culture of disciple-making, we are learning that all parts of discipleship must be strengthened in order to be truly obedient to Christ.

Weak disciple-making efforts beget weak missions efforts. For example, weak stewardship will produce weak churches without funds needed for ministry.

One of the most troubling aspects of stewardship among Baptists is that our giving to the church averages only about 2 percent of our income. That means most churches would increase their budgets by a factor of five if all the members just tithed.

Generous giving beyond the tithe as taught in the New Testament would empower churches even more.

Our system is a good one. As our discipleship deepens to include more of our resources, we will begin to see our churches impact our world as never before. Through your congregation’s generous giving for missions and ministry, we can impact the world through disciple-making efforts in our state, across our nation and around the world.

For more information about the Cooperative Program, please contact Mike Creswell at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5541 or [mcreswell@ncbaptist.org](mailto:mcreswell@ncbaptist.org).

*Mike Creswell, Senior Consultant,  
Cooperative Program Promotion  
Linda Hudson, Ministry Assistant*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Information Technology/Information Systems (ITIS) Team assists Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) staff and churches by providing essential technological support to a vast array of functions. We manage and maintain databases and networks, both wired and

wireless. We provide equipment to staff for their ministries, such as laptops, cell phones, and desktops. The ITIS Team desires to help impact North Carolina Baptist ministries by supporting our staff in their service to the churches.

### **Annual Church Profile**

Every year we maintain an electronic copy of the statistical records and leadership in churches. We have statistical records dating back 36 years. We track the number of baptisms, membership and involvement in missions organizations such as Woman's Missionary Union, N.C. Baptist Men and others. We also track church leadership information, including but not limited to the pastor or treasurer at any given church.

These records are important for both communication and celebration. The data we manage highlights the church's accomplishments, and, in turn, gives us an idea of how we as an organization are progressing in our efforts to impact lostness through disciple-making.

We also use the information to help inform the other organizations with whom we cooperate, such as LifeWay Christian Resources, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee and others. We work closely with local associational offices as they partner in gathering and entering data into our system. Your church can help us be effective with this process by completing your Annual Church Profile (ACP).

### **Websites**

We work to provide up-to-date and useful information to our churches and associations through a variety of websites and blogs. We also provide training for churches so they can have their very own website managed by a member who feels called to help in that area.

### **Training**

Who among us does not need a little help with learning new software? This year we have upgraded all our computers to Windows 10 and Office 2016. Those upgrades come with the need to help our staff learn how to use the software effectively. If your church staff needs some hands-on training concerning the use of Microsoft products, like PowerPoint and others, feel free to take advantage of our training events.

In a modern world where technology is all around us, we the church need to use that technology to impact our world for Christ and utilize every tool at our disposal in our effort to make disciples.

*John Jones, Team Leader*

*Judy Autry, Team Leader Assistant*

## **OFFICE OF PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

The Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening assists churches, associations and other entities in their efforts to impact the nations by drawing all men, women, boys and girls unto Himself. Several of the strategic efforts utilized in the fulfillment of the larger convention strategy to impact lostness through disciple-making are noted in this report.

### **Statewide Prayer Conference**

The 2016 *Awaken: Watch and Pray* Prayer Conference was held at First Baptist Church Charlotte and featured national and state prayer leaders John Franklin, Mark Harris, Richard Owen Roberts and J. Chris Schofield. The conference provided a ripe environment for spiritual transformation as the Holy Spirit worked

in people's lives. Following the last message by Roberts, God moved in hearts through a season of quietness and stillness that lasted about 15-20 minutes. People did not move and the sound of people weeping softly could be heard across the auditorium. God was at work in people's lives. The 2017 Statewide Prayer Gathering is scheduled for March 10-11 at Osborne Baptist Church in Eden.

### **Regional Prayer Gatherings**

Over the past year, regional prayer conferences, summits and gatherings were held in partnership with associations and churches across North Carolina. Regional prayer gatherings held in the fall of 2015 included: *Suddenly: An Eastern N.C. Prayer Gathering*, FBC Richlands and New River Baptist Association, Sept. 11-12; *Watch and Pray: A Southeast N.C. Prayer Gathering*, Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, Oct. 2-3; and *Then: A Northeast N.C. Prayer Gathering*, Chowan Association, Nov. 12-14. Gatherings held in the spring of 2016 included: *Pray First: A Western N.C. Prayer Gathering*, Carolina Baptist Association and Fruitland Baptist Bible College, March 8-9.

### **Area-Wide Concerts of Prayer and Pastor Prayer Efforts**

Throughout the past year, the Office of Prayer has partnered with associations, churches and various ministries to encourage, develop, facilitate and host concerts of prayer and pastor prayer efforts for revival and spiritual awakening. These were often held in conjunction with many of the regional prayer gatherings and events. Some of these gatherings were associated with existing area-wide emphases and were interdenominational. Some locations included: Greater Gaston Association; Randolph Association; Robeson Association; Buncombe Association; Elkin Association; Sandy Creek Association;

Caldwell Association; Burnt Swamp Association and the Macon Association. The Pastor Prayer Initiative Team, a team comprised of pastors and associational leaders, continues to meet, pray, plan and seek the Lord concerning prayer initiatives and ways to mobilize, assist and support the multiplication of pastor prayer efforts across North Carolina.

### **Kingdom-Focused Prayer Training**

Throughout the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016, the Office of Prayer partnered with associations, churches and Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) ministries to provide kingdom-focused strategy sessions, prayer conferences and resources, prayer weekends and prayerwalking training. These sessions focused on biblical prayer training and the development/implementation of contextually sensitive prayer efforts that mobilize believers to pray more effectively toward the mission and impacting pockets of lostness through the making of disciples.

### **Church Planter Prayer Network**

In partnership with the BSCNC Church Planting Team, a prayer network is being developed to mobilize kingdom prayer for North Carolina church planting efforts. A weekly email is sent to intercessors who have committed to pray daily for one strategic prayer request. The Office of Prayer also partners with the Church Planting Team to provide resources and kingdom prayer training for church planters during the Church Planting Basic Training courses. If you or your church would like to receive the weekly email and join the church planter prayer network, please contact the Office of Prayer at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513 or [lhudson@ncbaptist.org](mailto:lhudson@ncbaptist.org).

### **BSCNC Prayer Room/Efforts**

The on-site prayer room at the Baptist building in Cary is a place where

intercession and personal or group prayer experiences can take place. The prayer room is used by convention leaders, staff, and various association and local church prayer teams and ministries for times of focused prayer. The room is designed so participants may sit, kneel or access kingdom prayer opportunities at *PrayNC.org* through a computer prayer station. The prayer room is focused on kingdom prayer efforts and Jeremiah 33:3 is displayed throughout the room in seven different languages. If your association or local church group is interested in visiting, touring or using the room for a season of prayer, please call the Office of Prayer at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513. The Office of Prayer also facilitates a National Day of Prayer gathering at the Baptist building each year with the staff praying for revival and awakening in America.

### Prayer Resources

Strategic prayer resources such as *Prayerwalking Made Simple* and *Praying Your Friends to Christ* booklets, the *Arise, Awaken, Greater Things*, and *Echo* devotional prayer guides and other materials to assist believers in prayer for revival, spiritual awakening and the mission are available through the Office of Prayer. Additionally, a resource titled *Prayerwalking Prayer Prompts* is available as a free download for use as churches mobilize believers to pray toward revival, spiritual awakening and the mission. These resources along with downloadable PowerPoint presentations, training videos and other prayer resources are available at *PrayNC.org* or by calling (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513.

*J. Chris Schofield, Director,  
Office of Prayer for Evangelization &  
Spiritual Awakening  
Linda Hudson, Ministry Assistant*

## STRATEGIC FOCUS TEAM

The Strategic Focus Team was formed Jan. 1, 2014 and immediately set about the task of understanding and accurately interpreting the context of the top 100 pockets of lostness across eight population centers. In 2015, the focus included building relationships, sharing what had been learned and establishing the beginning stages of momentum toward impacting lostness through disciple-making. The year of 2016 saw a small but growing number of churches committing to engage lost pockets individually and together in networks. Plans are now underway to make 2017 the year of impact through a determined focus on engagement of the top 100 pockets of lostness.

Following are reports from the eight population centers for 2016. You will find information regarding the state of lostness across North Carolina, with stories and examples of how others have already begun to make an “impact” by engaging the lost. You will also discover opportunities where you and your church can participate in the work of impacting lostness through disciple-making in the pockets. It is our prayer that as you read, you will also experience a personal calling to make an impact.

“...Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”  
Luke 14:23

*Russ Conley, Team Leader, Strategic Focus Team  
Daniela Sanchez, Team Leader Assistant*

### Blue Ridge Population Center

During this past year, much progress has been made in reaching pockets of lostness in the Blue Ridge area. We have six



geographic pockets of lostness that are in the top 100 across the state. In each pocket, extensive research has been completed on the demographics of each particular area that is over 70 percent unchurched. The most centrally located pocket, for example, is pocket No. 45 in the downtown area of Asheville. Research revealed that the primary population clusters that are in the greatest need of evangelism and discipleship are: students at UNC-Asheville (UNCA) and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College; a high concentration of millennials; African-Americans; those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT); and young Bohemians and New Agers.

Because of the concerted effort to focus on lostness in these communities, there is now an active witnessing and disciple-making ministry happening in all of these affinity groups in pocket No. 45. There is now an active missional community at UNCA with about 20 students involved on a regular basis. A missional community is a group of followers of Christ who come together around the power of the gospel who see themselves as missionaries to their surrounding community. Chase Gardner has come from the Summit Church in Durham to plant Emmaus Church. The church is now averaging approximately 100 in worship and is reaching many young millennials.

Jazz Cathcart is working toward a full launch of Reach Life Church in the fall of 2016. Reach Life is a multi-ethnic church looking to reach young African-American men between the ages of 18 and 30.

The LGBT community is also being engaged through the outreach of Meleah Allard and New Beginnings Ministries. Allard was deeply involved in the LGBT lifestyle until she was led to Christ by a Southern Baptist pastor. She now leads

this ministry with a support group for men, one for women and one for family members of individuals involved in the LGBT lifestyle. Allard provides up to 15 hours per week for individual counseling.

If you walk around downtown Asheville, you will see many Bohemians. They are hippies of today who are in great need of a Savior. God has raised up a young couple who are part of that community. Robert and Jessie Russo have started a missional community among the neo-Appalachian organic farmers and some of the downtown Bohemians. The Russos know God has called them to start a church for this segment, and they are seeking partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) and the local Buncombe Baptist Association.

This is just an example of what God is doing in one pocket of lostness because of a focused approach of research, mobilization, relationship and ministry.

In the area of strengthening existing churches, there are five 3D Strategy Groups of pastors meeting monthly to develop strategy for revitalization, community outreach and the ultimate goal of building a disciple-making culture within their congregations. A group of students from Fruitland Baptist Bible College are also going through "Looking at Your Church in 3D."

There is a strong church planting cohort that is led by Fred Baker and Bryan Robbins. They meet once a month for encouragement and training. They are seeking to relate to and work with over 40 church planters on a monthly basis.

*Steve Harris, Blue Ridge Strategy Coordinator*

## Coastal Population Center

The coastal population center is located in the southeastern coastal region of North Carolina. It includes New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender, Columbus, Onslow and Craven counties. The coastal region is home to more than 730,000 residents. The area is noted for its sandy beaches and strong economic development, as well as being the home to more than five military bases. Key cities in the region are Wilmington and Jacksonville.

The focus in this area began with directors of missions, pastors and leaders in the coastal population region. The key to N.C. Baptists having the greatest impact in reaching the thousands of people identified as unreached is the power of God. The goal is to gather local strategy teams with the intended purpose to pray, orient, train, collaborate, network and partner together. The objective is to make, nurture and grow reproducing followers of Christ through a well-defined, contextually-appropriate local strategy.

One team that has formed this past year in the population center has been in the Jacksonville area. The team is made up of Director of Missions Joe Cappar and Multicultural Evangelism Director Dimas Castillo, who both represent the New River Baptist Association, as well as various pastors and leaders from within the pocket. They began meeting during the spring of 2016. They worked through the discovery process of pocket No. 69 and quickly recognized several obstacles that impeded the gospel impact in this area. Those obstacles included high crime, poverty, drugs, addictions, low religiosity, low trust and low median age, just to name a few.

Two other factors that contribute to the city's diverse needs and opportunities

are that Jacksonville is home to Camp Lejeune, the second largest Marine base in America. Jacksonville is also one of the youngest cities in America, with a median age of 23. With this great diversity, the team has hosted several bridge-building events this past summer in targeted zones within the pocket. Local church and associational leaders have also worked together to subdivide the pocket into distinctive mosaic sectors with the plan of prayerwalking and engaging every home. This endeavor is ongoing and often tedious but the mission is clear. The mandate is that we are to go. "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled." Luke 14:23

*Chuck Campbell and Michael Boarts,  
Coastal Strategy Coordinators*

## Fayetteville Population Center

To impact lostness, we have to get out and around those who do not know God personally. Our Master calls us to make disciples, who make disciples, who make disciples. Multiplication of disciples is the only way that the nearly 6 million lost people in North Carolina will be reached. God has moved in the greater Fayetteville area through the last year in the development of many local strategy teams. These pastor peer teams have been created with the goal of impacting lostness through disciple-making. It has been a blessing to see pastors and directors of missions (DOMs) come together for encouragement, accountability, strategy and engagement.

The Eastern Baptist Association — beginning with former DOM Paul Langston and continuing with the current DOM Richard Weeks — has adopted local strategy teams as a key tool for their association's efforts to impact lostness through disciple-making. These teams

are focusing on engaging lostness with an Acts 1:8 focus, strengthening existing churches with the goal of facilitating a disciple-making culture, exploring planting churches, coming alongside legacy churches, and communicating with urgency the need to impact lostness through disciple-making.

In the New South River Baptist Association, DOM Randy White is developing a local strategy team around lost pocket No. 41. These pastors are coming together to help each other engage the lostness in this area around their churches. There is also a strategy under development to begin Bible studies in the area that will potentially grow into church plants. Fayetteville State University is located within this pocket, and there is an effort underway to have a greater engagement with the college students.

Local strategy teams are also being developed within the Robeson, Burnt Swamp, and Little River Baptist associations. These teams are comprised of pastors who desire to partner and develop strategies to engage the pockets of lostness around their churches.

As previously mentioned, there are Bible studies being started in pocket of lostness No. 41 that have the potential to develop into church plants. Theron Hawkins is the church planter who is leading this effort along with the guidance of church planting consultant, Mike Pittman. Hawkins has a heart for the lost within this area that is predominately made up of individuals and families with a lower socio-economic status, as well as college students.

With some pocket populations containing close to 70 percent lostness across the greater Fayetteville area, the

opportunity is great. It is exciting to see God's men and women in this region taking a more strategic look at engaging and making disciples of those who do not have a personal relationship with God. With a great opportunity, the impact for God can be even greater!

*Michael Boarts, Fayetteville Strategy Coordinator*

### **Greenville Population Center**

The Greenville population center is located in the north-central, coastal region of eastern North Carolina. This section of the state has developed into a medical, commercial, educational and cultural hub. The area is home to more than 531,000 residents, distributed across parts of five counties. The key cities within these counties are Greenville, Wilson, Rocky Mount and Goldsboro.

This year has been very exciting as momentum continues to build, focusing on the unreached in these concentrated areas. Directors of missions, pastors and leaders from various churches have started to gather and form local strategy teams. The local strategy teams are focusing on how they can collaboratively have the greatest impact on the identified lostness of their region.

A team has formed in the Wilson area to learn more about one of the top 100 pockets located in their city. This mission site has been identified as pocket of lostness No. 99. The Wilson Woods apartment complex is ground zero for the mission site and extends to a 3-mile radius. The desired outcome is to begin networking and collaborating in order to develop strategies to impact lostness and make disciples.

Participants in the Wilson strategy team have learned what constitutes a pocket of

lostness and its varying diversity, which includes racial composition, economic strata, ethnicity, students, families, education, and various other needs including physical and spiritual, etc. There are 41,174 people living within a 3-mile radius of Wilson Woods and 70.15 percent are considered unreached.

After receiving the information about the mission site, the strategy team has begun sharing about outreach work that is currently being conducted in this specific area through their churches. Scott Setzer, associational missionary with the South Roanoke Baptist Association, facilitated the conversation which led to the strategy team identifying its next steps. One of the next steps was to begin a concentrated prayer effort throughout the pocket with the idea of taking ownership in reaching a specific people group or community within the mission site. This was done through prayerwalking and events throughout the region.

The team also explored ways to network and partner with each other. In addition, the group identified church members who live within the mission site. This information is being used to encourage and equip these members to be on mission and reach their neighbors and to potentially start missional communities. Next, they identified resources that will equip churches to effectively impact lostness and make disciples. The group then identified entry points for building relationships. They engaged and partnered with African-American churches for the harvest because of the high racial diversity in the mission site. Finally, team members agreed to continue to communicate, encourage, network, pray and meet together monthly as they seek to impact this area for the advancement of the kingdom and the glory of God.

One thing remains very clear. If N.C. Baptists are going to have their greatest impact in these pockets of lostness, they must go out. "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled." Luke 14:23

*Chuck Campbell, Greenville Strategy Coordinator*

### **Metro Charlotte Population Center**

Metro Charlotte is an incredibly diverse area, filled with many types of people. Some people live in high rises, some in run-down shacks. Some live in the urban core, while others live on farms. Some have forgotten what hunger even feels like, and others cannot remember the last time they had a satisfying meal. Some can read, write and speak fluent English, while others speak languages most of us have never heard. Charlotte has great diversity, but little hope.

Approximately 70 percent of the population, regardless of race, finances, house size or hunger, are on their way to hell because they don't know Jesus. Of the top 50 pockets of lostness in North Carolina, 22 are in metro Charlotte. In fact, 11 of the top 12 pockets are inside the city limits of Charlotte, which has been nicknamed the "City of Churches." In a city that celebrates its native son Billy Graham, at least seven out of 10 residents know nothing of the Jesus he preached.

There is also tremendous diversity among our churches in metro Charlotte: not just big and small, but attractional, missional, traditional, hip-hop, contemporary, college-focused, missions-minded, international, multicultural and more. This diversity can be a sign of fracture or of unity. The choice is ours.

Having been in this role for less than a year, much effort has been directed

toward getting to know metro Charlotte's pockets of lostness and its churches and pastors, as well as the local associations. It is thrilling to see churches in their diversity beginning to see their differences as complimentary in order to impact the tremendous lostness around them. Baptist Christians are waking from their evangelistic slumber to again impact lostness through disciple-making.

Our greatest need is prayer. During 2017, there will be a significant effort to draw pastors and churches in metro Charlotte together for the purpose of deepening relationships, developing strategies and gathering resources so that together we can impact the pockets of lostness with the gospel. Local churches and pastors have the best opportunity for understanding and relationally connecting with the lost in their communities. Associations are best positioned to provide, among other things, links between churches and pastors who share similar vision and passion and could benefit from serving collaboratively. The state convention is able to provide many training opportunities, resource suggestions and relational consultations that churches and associations might not be able to access otherwise. The need and opportunity are so great that we need to effectively leverage the strengths we have in order to advance the kingdom.

It is exciting and humbling to stand with others across the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to come alongside pastors, churches and associations to develop local strategies for "going out into the highways and hedges to compel [the lost] to come in."

*Dan Collison, Metro Charlotte Strategy Coordinator*

### **Triad Population Center**

We were finishing lunch when the question came from a loving pastor on behalf of his congregation; they were thinking of selling their church building. "Where do you need a Southern Baptist congregation so when we sell we can rent a place there?" I looked across the table and said, "We need one where you are now."

The church building sits in the third-highest concentration of lostness in Greensboro and is located within walking distance from the most unreached people groups in our city. The place where we needed a Southern Baptist Church was right where this one was sitting, but we didn't need just one; we needed many to reach the different people groups living in and around the area.

As a result of the great lostness in the area and the current reality of the local church, we assembled a local strategy team comprised of pastors, the director of missions and the Triad strategy coordinator to establish a new direction. Currently under development by this local strategy team is an undertaking to partner local churches, the Piedmont Baptist Association and the state convention together to impact east Greensboro through the new Greensboro Mission Center.

The work in east Greensboro is one example of how the four local strategy teams are now working to implement strategies to reach into the high concentration of lostness in the highest priority mission sites in the Triad. Already we are seeing churches partnering together to plant new Hispanic and Nepali churches. We are seeing churches begin to minister to refugees and the urban poor. We are seeing churches agree to a church revitalization journey

to renew their commitment to the Great Commission. We are so excited to see local churches working together across Greensboro and the Triad to “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that His house will be full.”

*Michael Sowers, Triad Strategy Coordinator*

### **Triangle Population Center**

Many of us believe that we must work harder to attract people to our churches. Our convention theme this year, based on Luke 14:23, brings balance to this belief, commanding us not only to attract people for all the right reasons but also to go. This report provides only a few examples of those who are going to the highways and hedges of the Triangle's 26 concentrated pockets of lostness.

### **Citywide Prayerwalk**

In August of 2015, the Triangle strategy coordinator worked in partnership with the Raleigh Baptist Association to lead a prayerwalk among 10 of Raleigh's most unreached people groups. Four different churches hosted this event: Green Pines, Athens Drive, First Baptist Morrisville and New Hope. While praying in a South Asian neighborhood, one participant was overwhelmed with a burden to pray for God to call a church planter. He shared this burden with his church. Today, working with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, this church has placed a church planter in the midst of one of Raleigh's most unreached people groups.

### **Sustainable Church Planting**

Refugees, immigrants and the urban poor need Jesus. Few of us would argue with that. In fact, these social groups look a lot like the people Jesus commanded us to reach in Luke 14. However, few of us understand that these groups of people simply cannot sustain middle

class approaches to church planting; these approaches are too expensive. In the Triangle, the strategy coordinator is working with a group of church planters, using an approach commonly employed by our missionaries who serve with the International Mission Board (IMB). Training for Trainers (T4T) equips new believers to go praying, sharing, and training others to pray and share. Using this approach, disciple-making has begun in five of the Triangle's 26 geographic pockets of lostness among socioeconomic groups that were out of reach just a year ago.

### **Cary**

Cary continues to rate as one of the most desirable places to live in the United States. Most of us wouldn't think of Cary as one of the state convention's concentrated pockets of lostness. However, within 1.5 miles of Cary's center, one will find businesses belonging to more than a dozen different people groups, including significant populations of Moroccans, Hispanics, African-Americans and lower-income communities. This diversity certainly adds to Cary's beauty, while, at the same time, presents churches with significant disciple-making challenges. In March of 2016, seven Cary churches gathered to hear a presentation on these challenges. Since that time, these churches have been moving toward engaging the diverse population of Cary for a greater disciple-making impact.

### **Knightdale**

Out of the top 100 pockets of lostness in North Carolina, Knightdale contains pocket No. 100. Knightdale might be last, but it's certainly not least. In 2015, Knightdale was the fourth fastest-growing area in the Triangle. In fact, nearby Wendell has approved the addition of 4,000 new homes in a community called Wendell Falls. The

strategy coordinator was able to point a new church planter to the needs in the rapidly growing area. The church planter partnered with local churches, the Raleigh Baptist Association and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. In June, this new church held its first worship service.

*Cris Alley, Triangle Strategy Coordinator*

### **Unifour Population Center**

The Unifour region in northwestern North Carolina is home to more than 365,000 residents. Within these six counties are six of the top 100 pockets of lostness, with more than 67 percent unreached residents, within a 3-mile radius of the center of each pocket. There are three pockets in the Catawba Valley Baptist Association, one pocket in the Caldwell Baptist Association, one pocket in the South Fork Baptist Association, and one pocket in the South Yadkin Baptist Association. Of the 46,793 total households within these six pockets of lostness, 31,966 are unreached households, meaning 68.31 percent are unreached. Of these 31,966 unreached households, 5,354 are Hispanic, 1,685 are Miao/Hmong.

### **Hickory (Lost Pocket No. 60)**

Duane Kuykendall, director of missions with the Catawba Valley Baptist Association, and the Unifour strategy coordinator have facilitated strategy meetings with pastors who serve congregations within the pocket, to focus on reaching these lost areas. In Hickory, a new church plant called Daysprings T4T has begun, which is being led by Glenn Pinckney. Pinckney is also going through the new church planting training led by Lynn Parson, church planting consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Lenoir-Rhyne University is also located within pocket No. 60, and local

pastors are working with consultants from the BSCNC's Collegiate Partnerships Team to focus on reaching international students with the gospel.

### **Mooresville (Lost Pocket No. 65)**

Working with Michael Brown, interim director of missions with the South Yadkin Baptist Association, the Unifour strategy coordinator has completed an initial prayer drive of the 3-mile radius and around each of the churches located within the pocket. Hugh Cooper, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, is interested in receiving help related to reaching apartment dwellers, who live in many apartment complexes near the church. The strategy coordinator has been in contact with Apartment Life and is planning to arrange a meeting with Trinity. Apartment Life is a nonprofit, faith-based organization that equips individuals and churches to share the love of Christ in intentional and practical ways with neighbors living in apartment complexes.

### **Denver (Lost Pocket No. 77)**

Keith Hollar, director of missions with the South Fork Baptist Association, and the Unifour strategy coordinator attended a "Neighbors Next Door" training, led by Zac Lyons from the Office of Great Commission Partnerships with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The coordinator also joined Hollar in attending the "Church and Culture" training in Charlotte and has met with him to discuss ways to reach this area with the gospel.

The strategy coordinator has been engaged in prayer drives in the pocket and has had meetings with three of four pastors who are serving within the focus area. Plans are underway to have a joint meeting with these pastors to discuss strategic ways to reach this pocket.



### **Newton (Lost Pocket No. 82)**

The strategy coordinator has been on two prayer drives in this pocket and has met with some of the key pastors who are serving there. Plans are underway to work with Hollar to have our first meeting with the pastors together to begin to develop a strategy to reach this pocket. Hollar held a meeting recently to consider calling a Hispanic church planter to serve in the association to plant two Spanish-speaking churches. One church plant would be in Newton to help target lost pocket No. 82 and another would be in Maiden.

### **Granite Falls (Lost Pocket No. 84)**

Working with Dale Fisher, director of missions with the Caldwell Baptist Association, the Unifour strategy coordinator participated in a pastors' conference, highlighting the urgency to reach this lost pocket. The coordinator accompanied Fisher on a drive through this area and visited with most of the nine church pastors in this pocket. Lynn Parson, pastor of Day 3, is working with Carlos Rodrigues, pastor of iChurch in Hickory, to plant a Spanish-speaking church in Granite Falls. Most of the pastors who are serving within this pocket have participated in two recent strategy meetings and are planning to saturate the area with strategic and focused prayer.

*John Gordy, Unifour Strategy Coordinator*

### **Hispanic Strategy**

The first semester of the year has been very rewarding as far as developing strategic networks with dozens of Hispanic pastors throughout the state. There have been opportunities to speak in several of their pastoral meetings and invitations to speak in their united regional church fellowships. These opportunities have been utilized to

communicate the urgency to make disciples and partner with organizations such as the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) and local Baptist associations.

It has been a time of renewing close relationships, which are vital within the Hispanic context, which allow for the establishment of trust and fostering of mutual cooperation on the unfinished task of reaching the lost. Currently, there are 10 Hispanic churches in North Carolina without a pastor. Preaching in many of these churches has presented opportunities to promote the necessity of making disciples and the priority that our convention and the Bible places on making disciples.

Conversations with the other strategy coordinators led to better understand the strategic approach they are implementing for their specific geographical areas. This provides a chance be an asset to their efforts as they deal with the international community and with Hispanics in particular.

Meeting with numerous regional key Hispanic leaders has been crucial in addressing their specific needs related to immigration and understanding how to better partner with their congregations to meet those needs. Priority was given to conducting assessments of most of the Hispanic churches in the central and east regions related to sustainability and the need to implement a disciple-making strategy. This is an ongoing process and there is still much work to be done.

Conversation and coordination with the state convention's Hispanic evangelism and discipleship consultants and church planting consultants with the intention of understanding their strategic approaches to helping churches get started and how



they go about helping them develop a disciple-making culture has also been a priority activity. As part of the ongoing conversation, cooperation in approaches to make ministries more effective is essential.

The second component of this assignment is ministering to immigrants. The first semester of the year has been an exciting time on the immigration front and has been a time to connect with potential partners about immigration. We are cultivating relationships with organizations that are focusing on assisting immigrants in addressing their legal status without getting involved in political or advocacy processes. Our approach seeks to avoid those issues associated with current political tensions. An effort is also underway to research, develop and communicate a proper theological understanding of immigration and ministry to immigrants.

In addition, work has been started Larry Phillips, BSCNC immigrant ministries strategist, to explore how North Carolina Baptist churches can get involved in ministering to the international community in culturally relevant and biblical ways. We are being proactive in speaking to both Anglo and Hispanic churches about this new immigrant ministry and encouraging them to be participants in these new opportunities and not merely spectators. These churches are being encouraged to get involved by providing volunteers to assist with immigration clinics or by providing physical space, as needed.

*Antonio Santos, Hispanic Strategy Coordinator*

## FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) is intentionally devoted to teaching others to make the same distinction Jesus did in His parable to the Pharisees in Luke 14. Instead of justifying our pragmatism with Scripture, North Carolina Baptists are making an impact on those in the highways and hedges by inviting them to prioritize a relationship with God. The work of the Baptists of North Carolina is a testimony of the unique power of God to impact the lost world through disciple-making. Disciples who go into the highways and hedges to proclaim the truth have the greatest impact on lost people. Fruitland Baptist Bible College (FBBC) is blessed to have the opportunity to serve hundreds of churches and thousands of people as part of the convention by teaching young men and women to impact the world.

FBBC is an institution seeking to impact the lost. The administration, faculty and staff at FBBC are devoted to making disciples of students by giving them a biblical foundation. This foundation prepares students to distinguish between a pragmatic view of ministry and a practical ministry which prioritizes a relationship with and transcendent God which produces a practical and abundant life. The life of the Christian glorifies God by impacting the lost through disciple-making.

FBBC is owned and operated by the BSCNC and is dedicated to impacting the world by making disciples who direct their lives by a relationship with Jesus Christ instead of by their immediate experiences and desires. Both in the classroom and in the total experience of preparation for ministry, Fruitland seeks the spiritual development of its

students. The main campus is located in Hendersonville, with satellite locations in Wilkesboro, Rocky Mount and Monroe.

FBBC seeks to impart a growing biblical knowledge to equip students for efficient and consistent disciple-making. Biblical studies are foundational in the program at FBBC. Focus on the practical without a biblical foundation is, in reality, impractical. A special effort is made to relate the total biblical preparation to the practical concerns of life and ministry. Fruitland works to fulfill these goals through an atmosphere of devotion and worship on the campus.

Though the assignment may vary from servant to servant, the responsibility of becoming all that the Lord would have you to become has led many of God's servants to enroll at FBBC. Our work in spiritual and Scriptural development is well known throughout God's kingdom. Graduates are Fruitland's greatest asset and testimony. They are faithfully making disciples and teaching others to make disciples in diverse places and positions around the world. They do so with the passionate understanding "that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

As FBBC moves boldly into the 21st century, our president, David Horton, is devoted to impacting the lost world through disciple-making. Horton has a great passion to accomplish the great work of God by teaching others to make disciples. During the last half of the 20th century, God used FBBC to train many Christian leaders and pastors who serve Jesus around the world. In the 21st century, many opportunities for ministry are available to those God is calling to go into the highways and hedges and impact the lost through disciple-making.

In recent years, God has sent many young men and women to FBBC for the purpose of preparing them to lead in ministry areas such as senior pastor, associate pastor, youth ministry, women's ministries, children's ministries, missions, and other ministry positions in many Christian organizations around the country and around the world.

Total enrollment for the 2015-2016 academic year numbered 423 students, which included 240 on-campus students. Enrollment figures also included 110 Hispanic students at the Statesville, Wilmington, Sylva and Charlotte campuses, and 59 students attended extension campuses in Monroe, Wilkesboro and Rocky Mount. This past year, Fruitland bestowed 20 Associate of Religion degrees and 20 Certificates in Christian Leadership. Fourteen of the certificate recipients were Hispanic students.

God is also sending others to FBBC who are police officers, business leaders, nurses, school teachers, as well as other professions and vocations. These students are coming to FBBC because the school has a reputation of teaching the Bible and helping train students to understand the difference between an authentic and genuine practical ministry and a pragmatic ministry.

Many young students are coming to FBBC who desire to make disciples in secular professional and vocational positions as godly servants like Joseph, Esther and Daniel. Joseph, Esther and Daniel lived godly lives in the middle of a pagan society without compromise. God is calling many men and women who have this desire to serve God faithfully. These men and women are seeking a school to provide them with a Christian worldview based on the Scriptures. They want to impact the lost by making disciples

wherever God places them. These students work in vocational ministry as well as various secular vocations and professions. They desire to let their light shine so the world will see their good works and glorify the God who produced the good works. The most effective way to impact the lost world is to train people to teach others. This is the central focus of FBBC.

In the effort to educate Christian leaders for the 21st century who are equipped to make disciples and impact lost people, FBBC offers an associate degree in religion, along with a certificate program for English and Hispanic students. These programs are designed on the foundation of the Bible. These areas of study teach students the importance of sound biblical exposition in the context of making disciples in church ministry or serving God in the secular world in order to impact the lost and present them with an abundant life through a relationship with God which prioritizes Christ over the pragmatic.

Over the last 16 years, FBBC has offered students the Associate of Religion/Christian Ministries degree. This degree is designed to help those who are called of God to make disciples and teach others to make disciples. FBBC is dedicated to serving the needs of students without regard to previous academic preparation. The goal is to provide Christian education at an "entry level" and move the student forward spiritually, intellectually and practically.

Both in the classroom and in the total experience of preparation for ministry, FBBC seeks the spiritual development of its students. We also seek to impart a growing knowledge based on the Bible that will equip the student for ministry and for any further study that may be in God's will. A special effort is made to relate the total preparation to the practical

concerns of life and ministry. The Associate of Religion/Christian Ministries degree prepares students who are interested in missions, children's ministries, youth ministries and pastoral ministries.

In the effort to educate Christian leaders to impact the lost world by making disciples, the degree program at FBBC requires study in three fundamental areas. The first and foundational component in the curriculum at FBBC is biblical studies. The second part of the curriculum at FBBC is language/communication, and the third area is Christian ministry/service. The areas of language/communication and Christian service are placed on the foundation of biblical studies. Biblical studies and biblical exposition are central in the course offerings at FBBC.

Fruitland intentionally prioritizes the Scriptures as the foundation of its communication and ministry classes in order to avoid the pragmatism of the Pharisees. In Matthew 6:33, Scripture teaches us to "...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (NKJV). Those who prioritize the kingdom of God over the pragmatic will have a genuinely practical ministry which goes into the highways and hedges and impacts others with an invitation to "fill the house of God."

With this foundation in the Word of God as well as the communication and Christian service classes, FBBC offers a curriculum designed to produce Christian servants and leaders who demonstrate the character of Jesus Christ in their lives. These students are prepared to share the message of the gospel and impact the lost by making disciples who, in turn, teach others to seek the kingdom of God first instead of the pragmatic.

FBBC is anticipating an exciting future. In addition to the on-campus experience and online classes, we started a satellite campus in Rocky Mount in 2013 which offers a Christian training certificate. This certificate consists of 36 quarter hours in the following areas: New Testament survey, spiritual life and study skills; English grammar and composition; doctrine and revelation; Old Testament survey; homiletics; evangelism and discipleship; church history and world religions; Christian education; apologetics; pastoral ministries and church leadership; church leadership for health and growth; missions, church planting and church growth; and interpersonal relationships and team building.

Bill Mackey is the director of the program at Rocky Mount. Mackey has an impeccable reputation for impacting the lost by teaching people to disciple others as he served as director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention for many years and now is humbly serving in North Carolina. Students are truly blessed by his example.

FBBC also offers a Christian leadership certificate and a diploma of Christian ministries for Hispanic students. Robert Fernandez is the director of the Hispanic program at FBBC. The certificate program consists of 32 quarter hours in the following areas: Old Testament survey; New Testament survey; theology; discipleship; principles of Christian finance; evangelism; Christian ethics; Christian education; and missions. The diploma of Christian ministry requires students to complete 32 additional hours beyond the 32 hours in the Christian leadership certificate. The classes required for the diploma are: Old Testament; New Testament; hermeneutics; preaching and homiletics; church history; pastoral ministries; pastoral counseling; and church planting. The Hispanic program is offered on the main campus in Hendersonville as

well as satellite campuses in Wilmington, Statesville, Charlotte and Sylva.

*David Horton, President*

## CONVENTION AUXILIARY NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST MEN

The goal of North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM), also known as Baptists on Mission, is to help North Carolina Baptist churches involve their members (men, women and students) in missions. This past year has been a very busy and meaningful year as volunteers have used their God-given talents to impact many lives in Jesus' name. For many volunteers, these missions experiences have impacted them as much as those who they have served. Even more important, for many people who were helped by these volunteers, Christ's love for them was the means that led them to the good news of Christ and to new life in Christ! If you want to impact others through missions, there is a place for you in one of the many ministries, projects and partnerships listed below.

### **State/National/International Mission Projects**

God is changing lives through mission trips sponsored by NCBM in North Carolina through Impact N.C. and to places such as Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Vermont, the Rocky Mountains, Appalachian coalfields, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Armenia, Romania, Hungary, Cuba, South Africa and other places. Many hundreds of volunteers serve in these partnerships every year.

Lives are being changed... Dan Deaton, recently retired director of missions for Little River Baptist Association, shares about the Armenia Partnership: "We have recently dedicated our fourth church

building in Vanadzor, Armenia. I cannot mention all the people's names that have worked through the years. People have been trained, encouraged, and thousands of New Testaments and eyeglasses were distributed along with written personal testimonies. Only God knows how many people have come to know Christ as we have shared the love of Jesus."

### **Disaster Relief**

God has blessed us with excellent disaster relief equipment and volunteers. North Carolina Baptists have five large disaster feeding units. The two largest units are capable of preparing and serving 30,000-plus meals per day. We now have more than 250 disaster recovery trailers (owned by local churches and associations) that are used to do cleanup and repair work after a disaster. We also have six large shower units, three laundry units, a childcare unit, several large recovery units, large generator units and other disaster relief equipment.

Lives are being changed... Paul Kenny is a resident of Seaside Heights, New Jersey. In late October 2012, Paul, along with other residents, evacuated as Hurricane Sandy approached. Several days later, Paul returned home to find that 16 inches of water had been in his house. Paul had to throw out all of his belongings and tear out the interior of his home. As he was completing the tear-out process, two disaster relief volunteers knocked on his door and asked if he needed any help. A team with NCBM provided mold remediation. Paul grew up in a Catholic home and attended Mass regularly. However, he "knew nothing about the Bible" and did not have a personal relationship with Christ. Paul says, "These people from North Carolina helped me turn my life around." He has accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized in July 2014.

### **Medical/Dental Missions**

NCBM offers the use of the mobile medical/dental units to Baptist and non-Baptist churches and service organizations within North Carolina who wish to reach out to people in need. Approximately 4,000 people are seen on the two mobile units every year. Patients targeted through this ministry may include the impoverished, Hispanics and other ethnic groups, migrant workers, fair workers, the homeless, the elderly, and more.

### **Health Screening Ministry**

The newest ministry in which we are involved is health screening with a mobile health screening bus. This ministry provides not just basic health screening clinics, but spiritual assessments and counseling, as well. We are seeking to reach a vast population, including the uninsured, minorities, the elderly, migrant workers, rescue missions and homeless shelters. Our hope is that by meeting a physical need, a spiritual door will be opened and the love of Jesus can be shared. Health screening tests offered on the unit include: Hemoglobin A1C for diabetes screening, finger stick glucose, Cholestech LDX for total cholesterol and HDL results, body mass index calculation, depression screening, and vital signs assessment.

Lives are being changed... Tammy Weeks shares about a recent health screening bus visit: "God's hand was truly upon the Eastern Baptist Association and health screening ministry at their first event. When I scheduled the bus I had no clue how it would come together, but I knew God had a plan and wanted us to serve those in need physically and spiritually. Praise God I didn't allow my lack of knowledge of this type of ministry to keep me from having an event. Simply trusting God allowed me to see His power once again, and once again the WMU leadership team stepped

up to the plate and agreed to help however needed. You see, God started putting the puzzle together a long time ago when He allowed the vision for the health screening bus. He knew on April 30, 2016 at the Eastern Baptist Association that six people would need spiritual and physical encouragement and would give their life to Christ, and 33 people would be allowed a free health screening that may put them on a path to better health."

### **Student Missions**

Deep Impact and Transform122 (college missions) help North Carolina Baptist churches develop a comprehensive coed youth missions strategy to produce committed followers of Christ. This strategy includes prepackaged mission weeks, free online mission studies, weekend mission retreats, hands-on mission training and much more. Almost 2,000 students are involved in Deep Impact every summer.

### **Other Ministries**

In addition to the ministries described above, other ministries of NCBM that are designed to equip, motivate and mobilize men and women to be involved in missions are: agriculture missions; aviation ministry; Baptist Builders; Baptist Educators; family foundations; college missions; church renewal; prayer support; sports and recreation; men's ministry; student missions; and children's missions. One of our newest efforts is DI Kids (Deep Impact Kids), a missions weekend/week for children and their leaders.

### **Missions Conference**

The annual missions conference, sponsored by NCBM, includes music, testimonies, speakers, breakout sessions, mission fair exhibits, volunteer suppers and much more. The desired end result is for participants to be inspired to become involved in missions all around the world.

Over 1,500 people attend this conference every year.

### **Regional Missions Rallies**

Each spring and fall, NCBM sponsors regional rallies in all 10 regions of our state. These meetings are designed to challenge North Carolina Baptists across the state to greater missions involvement and to promote the September North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO). The rallies are open for all men, women and youth interested in missions.

### **Camp Caraway**

During the weeks of summer camp for children every activity, whether recreation or a worship service, is used to teach and equip children with biblical truths. The importance of missions is emphasized in a Christ-follower's life. We offer coed children camps, boys camps, father/son camps, father/daughter camps and mother/son camps.

### **Baptists on Mission Magazine**

This publication is mailed twice each year to all church missions leadership on each level, mission volunteers, all NCBM ministry groups, youth directors, ministers of education and pastors. Information is provided through this magazine to promote upcoming mission projects/events and to report on recently completed projects.

### **Mission Camps**

Every year an average of 5,000 volunteers respond to needs through the mission camps in Red Springs and Shelby. These mission camps are a great way to get your church involved in life-changing mission projects at a very affordable price.

### **Staff**

The NCBM staff is committed to helping North Carolina Baptist churches involve their members in missions. Your NCBM

staff are: Richard Brunson, executive director-treasurer; Paul Langston, missions mobilization consultant; Mark Abernathy, consultant for partnerships and men's ministry; Tom Beam, consultant for children and student missions mobilization; Gaylon Moss, consultant for disaster relief and volunteerism; Mark Moore, summer camp director; David and Janet Brown, mission camps coordinators in Shelby; Larry and Teresa Osborne, mission camp coordinators in Red Springs; Kailyn Eskridge, events assistant; Kecia Morgan, financial assistant; Mary Mountz, disaster relief assistant; Fatima Roma, international mission projects assistant; Lynn Tharrington, administrative assistant; Joanne Honeycutt, mobile dental ministry coordinator; Crystal Horton, health screening ministry coordinator; Jim Burchette, special projects coordinator; Teresa Jones, Roma partnership coordinator; and Rick Trexler, college missions contract worker.

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*Richard Brunson, Executive Director, North  
Carolina Baptist Men/Baptists on Mission*  
*Lynn Tharrington, Executive Assistant*

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

For well over a century, North Carolina Baptists have recognized the importance of supporting Christian higher education

for our youth. With the many troubling challenges we face, both nationally and internationally, it is imperative that our future leaders are educated with a Christian worldview. Each of our five affiliated educational institutions — Campbell, Chowan, Gardner-Webb, Mars Hill and Wingate — have employed into their curriculums an approach to education that reflects a Christian lifestyle approach. I am impressed by the numerous interactive and extracurricular activities that are engaged in by each university to spread the love of Christ among others. These have ranged into the hundreds each year from the reports that we receive at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC).

As you may recall, last year the BSCNC transferred the responsibility for providing scholarships to the N.C. Baptist Foundation. This organization is better equipped to provide the means to administer the annual scholarship program than the BSCNC, which is a monumental task each year. From that decision, higher scholarship amounts are able to be awarded, and they are now provided upon a need or academic basis rather than the previous grant status. Plus, removing the scholarships from Cooperative Program funding, as has been the norm for years, allows individuals, churches and other organizations to make donations to helping deserving students achieve an education at one of our five institutions listed above.

Two new presidents have been called to serve at our universities. First, J. Bradley Creed has been called to serve as president at Campbell. Like his predecessor Jerry Wallace, Creed is also a Baptist minister. Wingate recently called alumnus Rhett Brown to serve as its new president. Both of these men are strong



Christians and have already made that characteristic well-known on both of their respective campuses. We welcome them to our BSCNC and to the ministry that they will provide to our state's youth.

There is a new development in the Christian Higher Education Special Committee (CHE). As you may be aware, a task force was employed to find ways to restructure the meetings of the Board of Directors to make them more fluid and in keeping with the state convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." One of the recommendations of the task force involved restructuring several committees that normally meet during the board's meeting schedule. One of these was the CHE. This committee is in the process of meeting to respond to this decision and to decide when best to meet, in future, as all of the institutions are still very interested in continuing to be a vital part of the BSCNC ministry team. Hopefully, further information will be available soon for those of you who may be interested.

The CHE wishes to thank each of you, North Carolina Baptists, for the support that you have given and are giving to Christian higher education, and we appreciate you for making it possible for our institutions to graduate their students with a Christian worldview. This has increasingly become more important as we continue to face the political and secular challenges to our faith, and those of the day in which we live.

*Gordon N. Benton, Chair*

## CHRISTIAN LIFE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Christian Life and Public Affairs (CLPA) Special Committee exists to keep North Carolina Baptists informed about the ethical implications of the Christian gospel with regard to all aspects of daily living including family life, human life, moral issues, economic life, citizenship and public affairs.

One of the issues which remains a primary focus due to the impact on the life of North Carolina Baptists, other Christians, and the culture at large is the issue of sexuality. The news is full of reports regarding homosexuality, same-sex marriage, gender identity, etc., and each redefinition of these matters expresses rejection of the biblical expectations and limitations regarding sexuality. However, the Scriptures remain clear on these matters and the goal of the CLPA is to assist church leaders in their efforts to clearly communicate God's truths.

North Carolina's marriage amendment was struck down, and the issue of how our churches, Christian business owners and believers should respond has been a great part of our committee's deliberations. Specifically, we have been striving to reflect Paul's words to Timothy, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Several print, video and electronic resources have been made available to assist and inform churches of the best practices in the development of their policies in order to reflect a biblical stance and protect their witness regarding these issues. These resources may be accessed and downloaded

by visiting the CLPA webpage at [ncbaptistservices.org/clpa](http://ncbaptistservices.org/clpa).

The committee also continues to examine the issue of immigration. The reinterpretation of current immigration laws presents huge challenges to individuals and churches in our state and nation today. Recent court decisions and legislation have made it increasingly difficult and, at times, even illegal for churches to offer certain forms of assistance when dealing with immigrants. The need to find new ways to minister to immigrants while respecting the law is essential. The necessity to engage all people groups with the gospel compels us to make disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ among every cultural and ethnic group who have a presence in our state.

The Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee continues its work on these and other fronts that may arise in order to prepare, inform, encourage and equip our churches to impact our culture. Christians have been called to be salt and light in our world by demonstrating His love to all, while standing firm on the principles of the Word. As always, as a committee, we covet your prayers as we seek God's will for how best to serve God's kingdom and His people.

*Bob Garbett, Chair*

## CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The goal of the Christian Social Services Special Committee is to encourage North Carolina Baptist churches to involve their members in the ministries of the social service institutions of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. These

institutions are: Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH), which includes the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM); and North Carolina Baptist Hospital through the Division of Faith and Health Ministries. This year the committee had the privilege of assisting these institutions promote their ministries as they make an impact compelling the lost to come to Christ across our state.

This year we were happy to celebrate with BCH the great success of its annual food drive. Our committee members encouraged their associations and churches across the state to contribute to this cause because of the great need. As the ministries of BCH continue to expand, this committee will continue to encourage the state's churches and associations to increase their support for this ministry and their efforts of sharing hope and changing lives.

We were able to assist NCBAM intergenerational focus of "Rampin' Up! 2016," which generated phenomenal energy, not only from new generations of builders, but also from new ramp building partners. NCBAM's many other efforts to reach aging adults are deserving of the support of our churches as these efforts continue to make an impact in the lives of our senior population.

The North Carolina Baptist Hospital Division of Faith and Health Ministries provides many services to North Carolina Baptists and others in our communities. Our committee was blessed to be able to encourage Baptists across our state to contribute to the annual Mother's Day Offering, which provides hope in the name of Jesus Christ to many patients at N.C. Baptist Hospital who simply cannot pay their hospital bills due to financial pressures. This offering was very successful as Baptists responded to this need.

FaithHealthNC is a partnership between churches, hospitals and community organizations focused on improving health and addressing health care disparity. Volunteers from churches are trained to help those with health needs find and locate the most efficient ways to fulfill their treatments. FaithHealthNC is expanding and has begun working with churches and associations in northeastern North Carolina that cooperate with not only our state convention, but the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, as well. This committee continues to pray and support this outreach as it too impacts the lives of many in creating relationships that will compel the lost to come to Christ.

Our ministries are made possible through our Cooperative Program giving from N.C. Baptist churches. In addition, each of these institutions enjoys the support of annual offerings to further expand their efforts to go forward showing love, presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ, and watching the impact that occurs when disciples begin making more disciples. Thank you North Carolina Baptists for caring, sharing and making a difference for Jesus Christ.

*Boyce Porter, Chair*

## CONVENTION INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

# BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA

It is not a coincidence that the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina's (BCH) path has intersected with your own path. Fortune and luck play no role when churches, volunteers, organizations and caring community friends discover the BCH ministry and become intimately

involved. There are greater forces at work that inspire others to help a child in our care, encourage an aging adult we serve, or travel abroad to ensure the orphans we rescue have the sanctuary and refuge they deserve.

No, there is only a single reason we have come together — as one — to accomplish the BCH vision of sharing hope ... changing lives. It is not coincidence — it's providence. It is God. And we are in awe of the compassionate and generous friends He has led into our path.

Please continue to join with us and with one another to extend hands of help and hope. Let us allow God to again bring us together, as one, and let us thank Him now for all that will be accomplished.

*Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO, Baptist Children's Homes*

In 2015, Baptist Children's Homes served 21,876 children, families, special needs adults, and aging adults. Eighty-five of those we served made decisions for Christ. Over the past two years, the number of children living at BCH rose 24 percent. Mothers and children coming into BCH's Family Care residential program increased 314 percent. And the number of children, families and individuals that BCH has served through its outreach ministry is up 118 percent. The need is great. Providing care, support and outreach to so many is only achieved because North Carolina Baptists and Baptist Children's Homes partner in ministry together.

## Serving Children — Megan

Because of your prayers and support, Megan is stepping into an incredible future. The 18-year-old resident at BCH's Kennedy Home in Kinston is preparing for her freshman year at college. Megan is

a talented flutist, and she plans to study music. Just a few years ago, she would not have believed this milestone was even attainable because of a tumultuous past filled with many hurts. Through a poem she wrote in her high school English class, Megan offers a glimpse into her life before and after coming to Baptist Children's Homes:

*"Where I'm From" by Megan*

*I'm from an old rickety home where no one belongs, where mattresses lie on the floor and the front door is never locked.*

*I'm from the deepest darkest family secrets, the nastiest memories that burn like fire in the back of everyone's mind. I'm from the family that told their kids not to be afraid of what would come next, but to swallow the pill that would come next and sit back and enjoy the view.*

*I'm from heavy hands and thick leather belts. Red puffy welts on hind ends and crooked white scars. From dusty broken mirrors with a reflection of hatred and rib cage bones, from the drink glasses and bottles broken on the carpet floor.*

*I'm from a father who was never really a dad, the drunk and abusive man who loved me but was too caught up in the drugs to show me what love is. From the family legacy where everyone had some sort of twisted family member who just didn't know what the word "no" meant.*

*I'm also from a family where everyone cares and where your bad experiences fade away, from a family who feeds me and never reminds me of the twisted mess that I used to be. I'm from a Father who would do anything to see me be successful.*

*I'm from holy hands that touch me with grace and mercy, who forgives me of my*

*sins when others fail to do so, from a Father who will love me no matter what I look or act like.*

*I'm the only survivor in my family so one day my child will be from a family that loves her. She won't be from the rickety old home where no one belongs.*

**Note:** You will learn more of Megan's powerful story during the BCH's 2016 annual offering, also known as the Thanksgiving Offering. The Week of Prayer is Nov. 13-20, 2016. The offering is North Carolina Baptists' greatest opportunity to impact the lives of BCH's residents as 80 percent of those in the ministry's care come unchurched.

**Serving Special Needs Adults — Beth** Lanier Home in Sanford has been Beth's "home" since 2009. The group home for women is a part of Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Developmental Disabilities Ministry.

Beth enjoys laughing and being social. The relationships with her live-in caregivers and her fellow residents are something she holds dear. It is something she never had growing up.

"Barbara (Hertzog) and Janet (Littleton) have gotten me through good times and bad times," Beth says of her caregivers. "Janet makes me laugh."

Beth and the residents attend First Baptist Church in Sanford. The church provides outstanding outreach to adults with special needs through their Sunday School's "Love Class" and the Wednesday evening "SonShine" class.

"I love my church staff," Beth beams. "They're pretty special and go through a lot with us."

Beth has a job and is very involved in the community. She is currently taking classes to receive her GED. Beth knows beyond any doubt that she can count on her community friends and particularly the ladies and staff she lives with at Lanier Home.

"I think of them as my family," she concludes.

Learn more at [hereismyhome.org](http://hereismyhome.org).

### **Baptists Who Serve — Claudia and Kenneth**

From farm fresh eggs to an entire family estate, Rockingham residents Claudia and Kenneth Robinette are using resources both big and small to impact the ministry of the Baptist Children's Homes.

Desiring for their parents' home in Marston to be used for something meaningful, Claudia and her sister Beverly Smith deeded the property to BCH, which has become the ministry's newest Family Care home. The Claude and Lois Smith Family Care Home, a residential home for hard-working single mothers and their children, is named in memory of the sisters' parents. The new home was dedicated on Aug. 30, 2015.

"The home can be a spring board for a better life," Claudia says. "The home offers a stable place. It is a place where moms can be with their children and prepare for their futures. As time rolls by, we look forward to seeing how these families' lives are transformed."

Claudia and Kenneth, who are members of First Baptist Church of Rockingham, also deliver eggs from the chicken yard at their house to the mothers and children. Kenneth is building raised garden beds behind Smith Home. He plans to teach the

mothers to grow vegetables and then can and freeze what they grow.

### **Serving Aging Adults — Emma and Sonny**

Emma Feimster, 80, was unable to come down the steps of her Statesville home and longed to attend church services again. Concerned about her mother's well-being and fearful for her safety, Feimster's daughter Sandra contacted the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM). Sandra was assured her mother would receive a wheelchair ramp. Feimster's ramp was built as part of 2016 "Rampin' Up!" The event is held every two years in conjunction with Operation Inasmuch.

Through the three "Rampin' Up!" events (2012, 2014, 2016), North Carolina Baptists have built hundreds of ramps. Promoting ramp building teams of every age, the NCBAM formed its first team this year and constructed three wheelchair ramps. The team was comprised of NCBAM staff members and their children. Emma Feimster's ramp was the first one the team built.

Through "Rampin' Up!," North Carolina Baptists built more than 200 wheelchair ramps throughout the state.

### **Serving Aging Adults — Red Bag Program**

Sonny Westmoreland, an active deacon at Haymore Memorial Baptist Church in Mount Airy, has become an ambassador for NCBAM's Red Bag program. The 80-year-old Westmoreland pitched the idea of Red Bags to his pastor Robert McCrary and fellow deacons as a church community outreach, and they jumped on board. The church appreciates that each Red Bag given away comes with the plan of salvation.

A Red Bag is designed to store all medicines in one place making it easier to

take medicines to doctor appointments. Storing all medicines, except temperature-sensitive ones, in the bag at all times and keeping the bag in a visible, central place helps emergency personnel locate medicines if a crisis occurs. North Carolina Baptists have distributed more than 16,000 Red Bags since the beginning of the program.

Learn more at [ncbam.org](http://ncbam.org).

### **Serving Orphans — Esmerelda and Santos**

The Good Shepherd Children's Home in Quetzaltenango (also known as Xela), Guatemala welcomed its first child on Oct. 17, 2014. More than a year later, BCH's affiliate orphanage has served more than 25 orphans ranging from only a few weeks old to age 13.

"Looking back on the past year, there is no doubt that God had a plan as he prepared the right people and the right place for the orphanage," says BCH Chief Operating Officer Keith Henry. "The Good Shepherd Children's Home has literally saved the lives of more than two dozen children."

While the majority of those admitted to the home are babies, Good Shepherd also receives older children who have come from dire circumstances. In March, the orphanage brought in seven siblings, ranging in age from 2 to 13, who were living on the streets of San Marcos. They were heavily infected with lice and slept on the ground each night.

The orphanage is more than a safe haven for abandoned children. It is also a place where the gospel is regularly shared. At the end of March during the Easter weekend, Henry and several members of BCH's Board of Trustees journeyed to the orphanage so trustees could experience

the ministry firsthand. While there, trustees met 13-year-old Santos, the oldest boy at the orphanage who asked Jesus into his heart soon after arriving. They also met 13-year-old Esmerelda, one of the siblings who came to the orphanage earlier that month, who made a decision for Christ a short time after the group returned to the United States.

"It's not hard to imagine Santos becoming a Christian leader or even a pastor," said trustee Chairman Jay Westmoreland, a member of First Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Mission teams, coordinated through North Carolina Baptist Men, travel regularly to the orphanage and its nearby medical clinic to assist with work projects. The clinic not only provides medical care to the orphans, but it offers medical assistance to the local villagers while sharing the gospel.

Learn more at [bchfamily.org/guatemala](http://bchfamily.org/guatemala).

*Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina*  
*Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO*  
*P.O. Box 338*  
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*bchfamily.org*

## **BIBLICAL RECORDER**

People need to know! Christians need to know! Baptists need to know! American citizens need to know! Everyone needs to know! That is the reason the *Biblical Recorder* exists.

The *Biblical Recorder* was founded only three years after the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was organized in 1830. The timing of those two events is significant. It did not take long for Baptist leaders in those days to

realize the high value of getting news and information to all of the people in Baptist churches. Pastors needed to know what God was doing in the churches, associations and convention. Lay people needed to know also, especially since they were the ones who gave tithes and offerings each week to support the mission outreach of Baptists.

Twelve years later, the work of the *Recorder* proved to be even more important. In 1845 the Southern Baptist Convention was launched to unite Baptist churches across the nation for the sake of the Great Commission. People wanted to know how this new national convention would work. They depended on the *Biblical Recorder* and the small number of Baptist newspapers that existed in the state conventions.

More than a century-and-a-half later, news travels at much faster speeds, and there are many new ways of getting the news – radio, television, internet, social media and other communication platforms.

Some believe there is no longer a need for news agencies like the *Recorder*. While it is true that Baptist newspapers in the states surrounding North Carolina have cut back or ceased their services, the *Recorder* has not seen the need to reduce the service we provide to North Carolina Baptists. We believe our ministry to the churches is more important than ever.

There is a great need for news and information from a Christian worldview. The clouds of doubt and distrust hang heavily over most secular news sources. The extremely partisan worldview of many news sources is pumping out information that is not accurate, untruthful and severely biased. Do you want the

people in your church feeding on false information throughout the week? Of course not! People need to know the truth.

Would we say we do not need the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina to reach out to troubled children? Would we let the government or some other agency do that work? Of course not, because our children's homes serve from a Christian worldview and offer ministry that no one else provides.

Would we say we do not need North Carolina Baptist Men to do disaster relief work? Should we hand the work over to FEMA and the Red Cross? Absolutely not! The men and women who serve through Baptist Men are ministering from a Christian worldview. They present the gospel, which is something that will not happen if we surrender this work to others.

Do you see the point? Do you want your church family to depend on secular media? Can we grow healthy churches if the pastor feeds the sheep from the Bible on Sunday but sheep feed on a diet of secular news and information the rest of the week?

Your *Biblical Recorder* staff wants to help prepare you to face the issues of life with biblical insights. We support the work of the pastor and church staff as they shepherd the flock of God.

We believe church members and attenders are better equipped to fulfill their life's mission when they have the right information. Where is your church family getting their information from Sunday to Sunday? Are they feeding from unreliable news sources that have an unbiblical agenda, or are they getting the *Biblical Recorder*? Is the secular media their only source? If so, that needs to change.



If Christians are going to impact the culture with the gospel, accurate information is essential. Your *Biblical Recorder* staff is serious about equipping our readers to impact lostness.

I have some good news and some bad news to report.

First, here's the good news. This year the *Biblical Recorder* believes we will end the year financially in the black for the first time in about 10 years. Special gifts from churches and individuals as well as some new church group subscriptions are making a difference.

Also, the website *BRnow.org* continues to be a strong resource for Baptists. We are the second highest-rated Baptist newspaper website in the world. Averaging between 20,000 to 35,000 unique visitors every day, people around the world trust *BRnow.org* for up-to-date news and information.

But here's the bad news. Judging by the number of subscribers to the *Biblical Recorder*, there are not enough Baptists in our state who are depending on us for reliable news and information. Many Baptists don't even know we exist. In four years we will not exist unless North Carolina Baptists allow us to serve you.

Our survival is beneficial to you and your church. In other words, North Carolina Baptists need the *Biblical Recorder* for many reasons. Here are a few:

1. We inform church leaders so they can lead the church and community better. No other news source is doing what we do.
2. We inform church members and attenders so they will be strong Christian citizens in this challenging

culture, and so they will be healthy, active supporters of the local church.

3. We belong to North Carolina Baptists and are accountable to you. The news we report is tailored to the needs of our Baptist audience.
4. We write from the perspective of a Christian worldview with a focus on the Great Commission.
5. We report news about your Southern Baptist mission agencies, seminaries and related entities.

In order to survive, the *Biblical Recorder* needs your help. Please tell your church we are here to serve them.

1. We need pastors and church staff who will tell their church family about the *Recorder's* ministry. We support the ministry of your church 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are your partners.
2. We need lay leaders who will tell their friends about us. If your church does not have a group plan, please subscribe individually.
3. We need church group subscription plans. This has historically been the lifeblood of the *Recorder*. Over the past 20 years, churches have reduced or eliminated group plans for financial reasons or from dissatisfaction with the *Recorder*. We have worked hard to rebuild the *Recorder* into a meaningful, effective source for Baptist news and information. We hope we have eliminated the dissatisfaction factor. The cost of a group subscription plan for your leaders is very affordable. Will you consider expanding your church group plan or begin a new group? Put a *Biblical Recorder* subscription plan in your budget. Send the *Recorder* to every deacon, teacher and other key leaders. The return on your investment will be strong. It will prove to be very valuable to your church and to

kingdom ministry around the world.

4. We need team players who support the Cooperative Program. We are on “the team” with you and more than 40,000 Southern Baptist churches. We are supported by the Cooperative Program, subscriptions, advertising and gifts from donors. Thank you for your support in each of these areas.

People need to know! North Carolina Baptists need to know! There is no reason to live in the dark, unaware of news and information that could make you a stronger follower of Jesus Christ.

We believe God is glorified when His church is strong, healthy and living out both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. So, your *Biblical Recorder* staff works diligently to provide church leaders with articles, stories and information to that end.

Here are the main tools we use to get the news to you:

- The *Biblical Recorder* in print is a great value. Individual members can subscribe or the church can provide for its members at a discounted rate. A copy will be mailed directly to their home. Bulk copies can be mailed to the church for distribution. Visit [BRnow.org/Subscribe](http://BRnow.org/Subscribe).
- Get the *Biblical Recorder* in a digital format. This is the full version of the printed copy, in an easy-to-read digital format. It's free if you have a paid subscription to the print edition. Subscriptions to only the digital edition are very affordable.
- Our website, [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org), is packed with over 15,000 pages of valuable information. It is one of the highest-ranked websites among Baptist newspapers.

- Download the *BR* smartphone app today. It is a free, easy way to get important news items at your fingertips. The new app has become a popular way to stay close to vital information on your iPhone or Android.
- *BRweekly* is a free, email newsletter. If you sign up today, every Wednesday morning you will receive an email summary of the week's important news and brief comments from the editor in your inbox.
- Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and other social media. We'll give you breaking news and important information quickly.

We want to help your members grow stronger in every way – stronger in their personal walk with God, stronger in their support of their church, stronger in their involvement with Baptist missions and ministries in North Carolina, stronger in their work with international missions. This blesses your church and honors God. Regardless of what you have perceived the *Recorder* to be in the past, this is our present focus and commitment.

Please visit [BRnow.org/PromoteBR](http://BRnow.org/PromoteBR) to learn how you can inform your church about the many ways the *Biblical Recorder* will help the people in your congregation stay informed.

The *Biblical Recorder* is proud to be an agency of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 1939. We are equally proud to support the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to join you in standing firm on the truth of scripture.

*Biblical Recorder*  
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*Jerry Stephens, Chair, Board of  
Directors*  
*K. Allan Blume, Editor/President*

## NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

The mission and the aim of the North Carolina Baptist Foundation is to impact the kingdom by "generating an increased awareness of Christian stewardship principles as a means of financially undergirding Baptist churches, institutions and mission endeavors on a permanent basis." In 2015, the foundation was blessed in our efforts to accomplish this mission as:

- Forty-two new accounts were established, most of which will permanently support kingdom work in North Carolina and around the world.
- Gifts to all accounts totaled \$5,376,312.58
- A total of \$7,924,388.53 was distributed (\$6,002,348.18 to mission endeavors and \$1,922,040.35 to individuals through charitable trusts).
- At the end of 2015, North Carolina Baptist Financial Services had 68 church loans outstanding totaling \$37 million.
- A total of 232 presentations were made to N.C. Baptist churches, associations and other denominational entities.

In 2015, the N.C. Baptist Foundation celebrated its 95th anniversary, the oldest of all the 35 state Baptist foundations, and there is much to celebrate. It all started with a \$1,000 gift for supporting the ministry of N.C. Baptist Hospital

in perpetuity. Today the foundation manages 2,264 accounts, 1,387 of which are permanent endowments benefitting 541 different ministries on a permanent basis. In its 95-year history, the N.C. Baptist Foundation has distributed \$122 million to ministry and \$50 million to individuals through charitable trusts for a total distribution of \$172 million.

Also in 2015, the foundation joined with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in a new scholarship program offering awards to N.C. Baptist students attending an N.C. Baptist college or university. Based on need and academic achievement, 88 scholarships were awarded for the 2016-2017 academic year totaling \$275,500.

The foundation staff is always available to assist N.C. Baptist individuals and churches who want to have a lasting impact for the kingdom through faithful Christian stewardship.

*M. Clay Warf, Executive Director*  
*Allen Overton, Chair of the Board of  
Directors*

## NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL/ WAKE FOREST BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

The vision of North Carolina Baptists in the early 1920s to build a hospital to "expand the Christian Mission to include healing, particularly to the needy" continues to be realized to this day. From the original site on "Hawthorne Hill" in Winston-Salem, the hospital has expanded to include hospitals in Lexington, Davie County and soon in Wilkes County. North Carolina Baptist Hospital is also affiliated with 16 other hospitals.

The hospital/medical center is a preeminent, internationally-recognized academic medical center of the highest quality, with balanced excellence in patient and family-centered care, research and education. Dr. John McConnell, CEO, states, "This profound care commitment to patients and their families has deepened Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center's ties to the communities we serve and the overall health of those who live here." The medical center's focus on, "A Mission to Care. A Mission to Cure." reflects the founding principles upon which the hospital was built.

The hospital/medical center continues to partner with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) to extend the healing ministry of Jesus through our Division of FaithHealth Ministries. This partnership of 90-plus years enables us to work together to expand the ministry of faith and health in churches, individuals and communities. We express our profound and deep gratitude for this ongoing partnership.

### **FaithHealthNC — A Partnership of Compassion**

FaithHealthNC helps ease the journey to health and healing for people and the communities in which they live. It does this by connecting the caring strengths of congregations, the clinical expertise of health providers and a network of community resources. Partners are linked in a shared ministry of healing focused on compassionate caring.

FaithHealthNC trains volunteers in: respecting patients' privacy, hospital visitation, care at the end of life, understanding mental health, and other topics. FaithHealthNC is:

- Discovering that a patient keeps returning to the hospital because she cannot read.
- Multiple congregations working together to provide a patient with daily transportation to chemotherapy.
- A church working with community leaders to help start a community garden.
- A group of committed church members helping a church start a free health clinic.
- Advocating to help a homeless person with a chronic condition find housing.
- Finding resources to help individuals get the care they need at home so they will not have to return to the hospital.

"Larry" lost his job and his income due to health issues and moved into his father's basement. His father could not afford to support him, so he had trouble finding food, getting medications and had no means of transportation. He had no way to keep what food he had refrigerated. He applied for disability but was having trouble navigating the system. To Larry, life seemed hopeless.

A FaithHealthNC connector contacted a men's Bible study group in a local church and told them about Larry's needs. The men's group contacted Larry and developed a relationship with him which led to the group purchasing a refrigerator for Larry, providing food, transporting him to doctor's appointments, and working with him to navigate the disability. The men's group stayed in contact with Larry and showed him the love of Jesus Christ by continuing to help meet some of his needs and encouraging him. Today Larry is able to care for himself, has received disability, and can meet his needs. He still stays in contact with the men's Bible study group because they have become friends.

FaithHealthNC is working closely with churches affiliated with the BSCNC and the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to launch FaithHealthNC in northeastern North Carolina. The West Chowan Baptist Association and its churches are key partners in this growing "movement of compassion" in that region. We are also working to expand FaithHealthNC in Robeson County, as well as Fayetteville, and areas near Campbell University. We continue to build our network of churches and associations across North Carolina.

Next to the historic partnership we have with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, our most significant new partnership is with over 1,800 clergy who are registered and receive a clergy badge from the hospital. These clergy receive regular educational opportunities, printed and electronic resources, and regular coaching from chaplains as they face difficult challenges while ministering to patients from their congregations. While many of our patients have no clergy to visit with them, when our chaplains reach out to them our first responsibility is to strengthen our relationship with these clergy who are the primary source of spiritual care for their members who are our patients. The majority of these clergy are Baptist ministers affiliated with churches who are part of the BSCNC.

Please visit [faithhealthnc.org](http://faithhealthnc.org) to learn more about the work of FaithHealthNC.

### **CareNet Inc. — Lifting Spirit. Holding Hope.**

One in five Americans suffer from a mental illness or a substance usage problem. Approximately 45 million Americans suffer from a mental illness each year. More than 50 percent of the population will struggle with a mental illness in their lifetime. Mental illness/

substance usage is one the largest health concerns in North Carolina. The Governor's Task Force for Mental Health and Substance Usage, which included Dr. Steve Scoggin of CareNet, identified access to services and the growing number of uninsured as specific challenges in a recent report

Through their vision and generosity, North Carolina Baptists have been providing mental health and substance abuse care through CareNet to North Carolinians for over 40 years. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is a pioneer and innovator when it comes to the role of faith in mental health care.

CareNet, part of the Division of Faith and Health Ministries and Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, is recognized by the state of North Carolina as an innovator and safety net provider for some of our most vulnerable citizens. CareNet centers provide needed access to mental health and substance usage services to populations where services are scarce to nonexistent. This mission field of quiet desperation, poverty and hopelessness is infused with hope and healing through the generosity of the BSCNC.

CareNet opened its newest site in Marion in January 2016 in response to Baptist churches in the area who felt their community needed this ministry of growth, hope and healing offered in the spirit of Christ. Although all of our 37 CareNet clinics are community-based, close to half of the referrals are Baptists. While CareNet sites are often in churches, three remain in associational offices. Those include the Wilmington Baptist, Raleigh Baptist and New River Baptist (Jacksonville) associations.

Medical health and behavioral health are closely connected, which prompts

CareNet to locate behavioral health services within physician offices, as well. This innovation — coupled with our FaithHealth work focused on the social drivers of health in the community (safety, jobs, food, education etc.) — combine for a unique, one-of-a-kind ministry in the United States where faith is central to the care. We call this a bio/psycho/social/spiritual approach to care.

The support of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina enables us to offer over 50,000 hours of care to people across 85 of 100 counties in North Carolina. One of the areas we have identified to focus on in the coming year in faith communities is suicide awareness. Our vision is to educate congregations about suicide and how they can help with this epidemic that is growing among young adult and middle-aged women. Awareness education is proven to be effective to decrease suicide, which is particularly prevalent in rural areas. Again, we could not do this important work without the generous support of our BSCNC partnership.

On behalf of the almost 90 CareNet employees statewide who combine to provide our ministry of growth, hope and healing, I am deeply grateful and humbled by the vision and support provided to thousands of people every year through your gift of light that illumines the darkness of mental anguish and despair.

### **FaithHealth Chaplaincy and Clinical Ministries**

The Department of FaithHealth Chaplaincy and Clinical Ministries has provided chaplaincy ministry to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center for more than 50 years, and it is the oldest chaplaincy program in the Southeast and one of the largest of its kind anywhere. The chaplaincy ministry program

combines ministry with education. Crisis ministry and routine visits to patients, families and staff are provided by ministers who are learning to become more effective servants of the people. These chaplain interns and residents provide routine visits Monday through Friday during regular business hours, and an on-call chaplain provides coverage for emergency and crisis calls 24/7. Staff chaplains specialize in providing services to the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in the areas of Advance Care Planning, advance directives, support to the hospital staff, and other areas.

The Department of FaithHealth Education provides a wide range of educational resources for chaplain residents, interns, hospital staff, community clergy, congregations and community organizations.

Our chaplains serve in a variety of ministry roles outside the medical center such as:

- Downtown Health Plaza, a full-service, outpatient medical clinic serving uninsured and underinsured.
- Palliative care team/home visits.
- Community based ministries.
- SECU House (housing for families of hospital patients).
- Hispanic/Latino community.
- Homeless.
- First responders (law enforcement, emergency responders, hospital security).

### **The Mother's Day Offering — A Source of Hope**

The theme of the 2016 Mother's Day Offering was "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 (NIV).

North Carolina Baptists gave \$500,000 to the Mother's Day Offering in the

2016 fiscal year, demonstrating their commitment to “carry each other’s burdens.” For over 90 years, individuals and churches have given to this offering in the name of Jesus Christ and His love to make a life-changing difference for hurting patients and their families. Recovering from devastating illness and facing a frightening financial burden, God touches patients and families through gifts to this offering by restoring hope, producing heartfelt thankfulness, and leading them closer to Christ in genuine gratitude. Every dollar contributed to this offering gives hope.

### **“It was totally up to God to save Stella”**

What began as an overnight hospital stay for newborn Stella turned into 22 days of complications. Josh and Gina Grant’s little girl was born with Down syndrome. She was having trouble keeping food down and was not thriving. Exploratory stomach surgery was a last resort, and it worked. “She was brand new,” Josh said, enthusiastically.

But the medical bills started arriving every day until the family was overwhelmed. As the bills skyrocketed, they talked about bankruptcy and refinancing the house for a second mortgage when, one day the phone rang. The Mother’s Day Offering paid their bills.

“It was totally up to God to save Stella,” Josh said. “And, apparently, it was totally up to God to take care of us financially.” Today Stella is a busy 2-year-old, adored by her big brothers and a blessing to her parents because she is a symbol of God’s love in action through North Carolina Baptists. “They helped save Stella’s life,” says Gina.

Visit [mothersdayoffering.org](http://mothersdayoffering.org) to see the Grant’s story and other recipient’s stories. The 2016 Mother’s Day Offering DVD also features the work of a FaithHealthNC

connector and a FaithHealthNC supporter of health as they work with patients after hospitalization.

Thank you North Carolina Baptists, for your gifts that make this life-changing difference in so many lives each year as the financial burden is eased from their hospitalization.

### **Additional WFBMC Highlights**

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center is an integrated system. The divisions of the medical center include: **Wake Forest Baptist Health**, a regional clinical system with close to 175 locations, 900 physicians and 1,000 acute care beds; **Wake Forest School of Medicine**, an established leader in medical education and research; and **Wake Forest Innovations**, which promotes the commercialization of research discoveries and operates **Wake Forest Innovation Quarter**, an urban research and business park specializing in biotechnology, materials science and information technology. Wake Forest Baptist clinical, research and educational programs are annually ranked among the best in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

A total of 325 of our physicians were named as “Best Doctors in America” in the 2015-2016 report by U.S. News & World Report. The physicians represented 37 specialties, and 59 of the physicians are pediatric specialists at **Brenner Children’s Hospital**, a part of **Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center**.

**The Comprehensive Cancer Center** remains ranked No. 1 in North Carolina. **Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center** purchased **Cornerstone Health Care** in 2016 with more than 275 medical providers and 50 medical practices across 12 counties.



The **Wake Forest School of Medicine** will move into its new medical education building in the **Innovation Quarter** in 2016, a state-of-the-art building that will better prepare students for the new models of care now being pioneered as they become the physicians of tomorrow.

Thank you North Carolina Baptists for sharing the sacred privilege and profound responsibility of partnership in fulfilling the health care mission God has given us, beginning with a vision by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina over 90 years ago. We are blessed by you and grateful for your financial support and your prayerful support.

*Gary Gunderson*  
*Vice President, Faith and Health Ministries*  
*Wake Forest Baptist Health*

*Leland A. Kerr*  
*Baptist HealthCare Liaison, FaithHealthNC*  
*Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center*

## **AFFILIATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY**

After 129 years, Campbell University continues to see new and exciting changes, such as welcoming its fifth president, sending out medical school students into the field and preparing for a school of engineering.

Since its earliest days, the school formerly known as Buies Creek Academy has been a loyal partner with Baptist churches of North Carolina and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) teaching students to think and act with Christian values as their guidelines.

Our students are given opportunities to actively engage their communities, as

they learn more about God's purpose for their lives and how they can further His kingdom.

We are honored and blessed to share with you our recent accomplishments.

### **President's Installation**

Campbell University officially inaugurated J. Bradley Creed during a ceremony held Friday, April 8, 2016, at the John W. Pope Jr. Convocation Center.

"Campbell gives us the opportunity to make a living, to make a life — more importantly to make a difference through service to others," Creed said in his inaugural address before about 1,300 Campbell students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and delegates from schools across the nation. "Service is at the heart of our mission as a Christian university. Your major, your profession, your discipline, your life can contribute to the common good of society ... We have the opportunity to change the world — one course, one program, one project, one student at a time."

Since Creed became president, Campbell received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to offer a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSE) and enroll its charter class in August 2016; dedicated the state-of-the-art First Citizens Wealth Management Center in the Campbell Business School; received \$8 million to establish The G. Eugene Boyce Center of Advocacy at Campbell Law; and was awarded host of the 2016 Big South Men's Basketball Championship, held March 3-6.

### **Engineering School Preparations**

When Campbell welcomes its first class of engineering students this fall, it will become the second private university in North Carolina with an engineering

school. Initially, the school will offer general engineering degrees with concentrations in mechanical and chemical engineering.

Founding Dean Jenna Carpenter is a leading national expert on the need for more diversity in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields and aims to distinguish her program with a diverse student body.

The engineering school will be housed initially inside Carrie Rich Hall. This building will include two large classrooms, student study areas, printers, vinyl cutters and space for metal and woodworking.

### **Endowment Establishes Youth Theology Institute**

Campbell University has received its largest humanities-oriented grant in university history — \$593,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. — to establish Fides: Exploring Faith and Vocation, a youth theology institute. Named for the Latin word that means faith or faithfulness, Fides will provide high school students with the opportunity to think theologically about their vocational choices and to combine faith and vocation in social action.

The grant to establish Fides is part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s High School Youth Theology Institutes initiative, which seeks to encourage young people to explore theological traditions, ask questions about the moral dimensions of contemporary issues, and examine how their faith calls them to lives of service.

The cornerstone of Fides will be a two-week residential program held on Campbell's main campus for about 60 high school students. The program will combine theological study and Christian

worship with project-based learning experiences. Fides participants will read case studies, take field trips, complete group presentations, and participate in service projects, among other activities.

### **Medical Student Rotations**

Nearly 160 third-year medical students from the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine began rotations this year at regional health care facilities.

Students are divided among five regional campuses throughout North Carolina: Lumberton Regional Campus (Robeson County), Fayetteville Regional Campus (Cumberland County), Raleigh Regional Campus (Wake and Harnett counties), Charlotte Regional Campus (Rowan and Mecklenburg counties), and the Goldsboro Regional Campus (Sampson and Wayne counties).

The students have spent the past two years studying in the Leon Levine Hall of Medicine in Buies Creek. They will spend the next two years learning hands-on medicine alongside physicians and medical staff at their assigned facilities.

### **Pastoral Health Summit**

More than 1,500 pastors in the United States leave their ministries each month due to burnout, conflict or moral failure. About 80 percent feel they spend insufficient time with their family, and 75 percent report their jobs cause "severe stress."

In an effort to address these statistics and provide pastors with resources and tools that will help them take better care of themselves and their congregations, Campbell University Divinity School hosted its first Pastor's Health Summit on June 2. More than 75 professionals attended what will become an annual summer event. The summit included

breakout sessions dealing with topics such as grief, marriage and family life, nutrition and exercise, mental health and depression, financial health and more.

### **Department of Christian Studies**

Campbell University's Department of Religion & Philosophy is now the Department of Christian Studies.

The new name more accurately communicates and captures the nature of the department's curriculum and scope of the program, said Adam English, chair of the Department of Christian Studies.

"Classes within the department focus primarily on Christian faith and topics relevant to the Christian church — its history, beliefs and spiritual texts," he said. "In addition, departmental courses are taught from a Christian perspective."

The departmental name change also extends to the names of the degree programs the department offers: A Bachelor of Arts in religion is now a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies. The minor in religion is now a minor in Christian studies.

*J. Bradley Creed, President*  
*Ben Thompson, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **CHOWAN UNIVERSITY**

From the Northeastern corner of North Carolina, Chowan University is making an impact in the lives of students. And in return we look forward to how they will impact the lives of others.

### **Campus Improvements**

A priority for Chowan has been to meet the needs of the growing student population. This summer produced four new apartment-style residence halls in

Whites Crossing. In October 2015, the university proudly dedicated the Rose Tennis Complex, hosting eight new courts and a pavilion. We also "made a splash" with the creation of the Bynum Brown Aquatic Center, the new home of Chowan's first women's swimming team. Also, recently completed is the Vincent Athletic Center for soccer and lacrosse.

### **Athletics**

Chowan athletes are making an impact athletically and academically. An estimated 300 student-athletes have participated in 17 sports during the 2015-2016 year. Of those student-athletes attending Chowan, 107 are members of honors societies, 42 are on the dean's list, 19 are on the president's list, 29 are part of the honors college, and nine were chosen to "Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities."

The Hawks put the exclamation point on the spring season with four CIAA championships. The baseball, men's golf, and men's tennis teams claimed their first CIAA championship in their respective program's history, while the women's tennis team claimed its second title in a three-year span. The women's basketball team also made history this season after posting a program-best 20-win season and earning its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance and NCAA Atlantic Regional at-large bid.

### **Exemplary Professor**

For almost half a century, Garth Faile has made an impact teaching chemistry at Chowan. Scientific calculators did not exist when Faile began in 1973. No matter the changes in technology, Faile has invested in students. At his retirement celebration, colleagues praised him for being a model teacher, and having an approachable and generous style with students.

During his 45 years at Chowan, Faile has inspired numerous students to pursue careers in science. This spring, Faile received, for the second time, the Chowan Excellence in Teaching Award. Additionally, he received Chowan's highest honor "The Spirit of Chowan Award." The Chowan Family is sad to see Faile leave the classroom, but we are grateful for his service and wish him a wonderful retirement. Faile and his wife Erin are still actively involved in their community and in their church, Murfreesboro Baptist.

### **Chowan Christian Service Association**

For more than 10 years, the Chowan Christian Service Association (CCSA) has raised over \$1.5 million in scholarships for ministerial students and mission experiences. The scholarships have served 116 students — 79 through academic scholarships and 37 through scholarships for mission trips abroad. Over 400 donors, including individuals, churches and organizations, have established 72 scholarships for the university, 38 of which are endowed. An additional 17 mission funds have also been created.

At the celebration, alumna Jordan Card (class of 2015) summed up the impact CCSA has made on her life. "If it weren't for the CCSA donors, I would not have been able to attend the University that changed my life. Beyond that, I would not have been able to meet all the wonderful people who changed my perspective, and I would not have been able to go on the mission trips that changed my heart."

### **Campus Ministry**

Chowan's Campus Ministry program is led by Minister to the University, the Rev. Mari Wiles and Associate Minister, the Rev. Drew Phillips. Every day of the week students can participate in campus

ministry activities such as Instruments of Praise Gospel Choir, Mimes of God, Daughters of the Most High Praise Dance, E3 Prayer and Worship, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), International Justice Mission and residence hall Bible study groups.

A priority of Chowan's campus ministry is to introduce students to missions. For spring break, Chowan Campus Ministry led a team to Santiago de Cuba to work with the Baptist retirement home constructed by N.C. Baptists on Mission. Chowan students saw firsthand the sacrifice of Christians under communism. The residents at the home are retired pastors who are dependent on the church for help. Because of their vocation, ministers are rejected by the Cuban government and receive no financial assistance.

The team did labor-intensive construction by hand, such as sifting sand to be used for concrete. Additionally, they enjoyed worshipping with the Cuban Baptists. Prior to the trip, the team learned that the community's ox had died, so they raised funds for a much-needed ox with a "penny-a-vote" naming contest. Thankfully, the community now has a new ox with a Chowan name — "Big Blue" or in Spanish, Azul Grande.

Chowan students and leaders came back with empty suitcases leaving behind clothes and supplies for the Cuban Baptists. In exchange, they brought back memories of a life-changing experience. Ammaris Jordan, a junior at Chowan, said the following about the mission trip: "It is astounding how the Cuban Christians were willing to give up the little that they do have and still have joy in their hearts regardless of the hardships that they face every day. When I left Cuba, I was thinking about how much I wanted this

trip to have a lasting effect on me, and now I know that it definitely has. I will forever remember Cuba.”

This summer, Chowan Campus Ministry ventured to North Charleston, S.C., to partner with Metanoia ministries. There, students experienced the multifaceted ministry by assisting in tutoring, gardening and construction projects.

While serving at Metanoia, the team worshipped and received communion at Mother Emmanuel AME Zion Church just one year after the tragic shooting of nine church members. On the Chowan campus ministry blog, Timothy Watts reflected on his experience: “The love I felt when I entered the church was unconditional. It was a love that only God could provide. Despite all that happened on that tragic night, a hate crime was turned into a love feast. This to me was the best part of the trip and I am honored to have been able to be part of it all.” It is evident that this service and pilgrimage opportunity is making a difference for Chowan students.

### **Keep Chowan in your Prayers**

Hebrews 11:1 states it well — “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” We stand in awe of what has been accomplished in recent history. God’s plans for this university have always been greater than our own.

Please keep Chowan in your prayers that we will continue to teach and minister to the students God has given us. Keep up with the latest Chowan happenings at [chowan.edu](http://chowan.edu) or like us on our Facebook page at Chowan University Alumni and Supporters. Come see us in Murfreesboro! We would enjoy showing you our beautiful campus in our lovely town.

*M. Christopher White, President  
W. Frank Rose Jr., Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY**

At Gardner-Webb University (GWU), we believe our love for God is expressed through love for humanity. We believe all persons are created in the image of God, and the best life is lived through selfless service that treats everyone with dignity and respect. Gardner-Webb is committed to demonstrating God’s love for humankind through our words and our actions. This year, students, faculty, staff and alumni showcased the love of Christ in tangible ways locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

### **Local Service: Christ-Centered Partnerships**

In addition to providing world-class healthcare training for its students, the Gardner-Webb University Hunt School of Nursing worked hard this year to connect with the local community to offer medical, educational and ministry resources to improve the overall well-being of residents. Those commitments were on display through a partnership with the N.C. Baptist Men, Crestview Baptist Church and several other local agencies that joined together to provide uninsured men with tests for glucose and cholesterol levels, screenings for depression and other conditions, and information on topics such as nutrition and disease prevention.

Volunteers with N.C. Baptist Men parked the organization’s mobile health screening ministry bus at Crestview Baptist Church between Boiling Springs and Shelby, and GWU nursing faculty and students provided a variety of nursing services, including blood tests

and wellness brochures. The church also provided assistance, including lunch and spiritual care. Screenings helped identify emergency medical needs of at least two men, one with a high blood sugar level and another with an infection and inflammation in his foot. Both men were connected with additional health care resources.

"Those are two people who will hopefully receive care who wouldn't have received it otherwise, and that's what it's all about," explained Sharon Starr, dean of the Hunt School of Nursing at Gardner-Webb. "These men have nowhere else to go, but today they are in a safe place, have learned about their health, and can interact with people who care about them. The whole day is a ministry just for them, and it gives the nursing school a chance to have a link in the community to provide care for people who need it."

With events like the screening day, the array of opportunities nursing provides for helping people attracted GWU senior Jillian Birkenstock, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student, to the profession and to Gardner-Webb's academic program. She helped research and coordinate a nutrition project for a nursing class and presented much of that information to men during the health screening ministry visit. Birkenstock said Gardner-Webb's nursing school has also provided many other connections to improve the community, including a dance class service for Shelby's Life Enrichment Center that developed from a gerontology class project.

"I've really learned what role a nurse plays in a community," Birkenstock shared. "More than just people who give medication, we're supposed to be people who are there to listen and care. I feel like I was called to take care of people."

The nursing program at Gardner-Webb stresses who the nurse is as a person, not just the skills we need to know, and there are so many ways we can serve others."

### **Regional Service: Mission-Minded Leadership**

Venturing a little farther from home with paintbrushes in their hands and a spirit of joy in their hearts, several Gardner-Webb students traveled a few hours from campus last fall to spend several days helping people in an impoverished neighborhood in North Charleston, S.C.

Just a few weeks after devastating South Carolina floods and only a few months after the Charleston church shooting tragedy, Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the university, accompanied nine students to Charleston County, S.C., during fall break. The group worked with Metanoia Community Development Corporation and was privileged to attend church services at Mother Emmanuel AME Church, a predominantly African-American fellowship located in downtown Charleston, where nine people were shot to death during a Wednesday night prayer meeting.

Jessup said the congregants were incredibly kind, and were eager to hear about the efforts of the mission team. "Someone mentioned the well-known adage that the most segregated hour in America is on Sunday morning at 11 a.m.," Jessup offered. "And they connected that concept to the reality that through the tragedy, their congregation had been given an opportunity to embrace and engage people of a variety of ethnicities. They really see that as a blessing that was birthed as a result of the shootings."

Throughout the extended weekend together, the team developed unity

both emotionally and spiritually. Jessup gave team members the opportunity to lead the group's devotional time. He was encouraged by the spiritual growth he witnessed and asked the students to consider ways they could be more intentional with their personal, God-given assignments.

"I hope they are deliberate about asking themselves 'How am I going to be 'on mission' with God when it's not built into my schedule?'" he reflected. "That is something we want all students to be able to do as they transition from their time at Gardner-Webb into what their future holds. We want them to use their time here to develop those skills and then carry that spirit of Christ-minded service with them wherever they go."

### **National Service: Domestic Reinforcements**

By serving the homeless at the longest-operating mission in the country and volunteering with a citywide 10K race to feed the hungry, a group of Gardner-Webb University students experienced service needs and opportunities during a trip to Chicago.

For the second straight year, the university's Community Engagement and Campus Recreation offices teamed up to offer the second annual community engagement service trip, with assistance from Brian Arnold, assistant director of student activities, and Micah Martin, director of student leadership development and community engagement.

"God calls us to serve others," Martin explained. "This trip provided our students with exposure to the world outside of Boiling Springs and outside of the South, and it allows students to wade out into the deep waters of service in a big city with many in need."

The group helped with setup and cleanup for the Run 10 Feed 10 Chicago 10K, a race that traveled through downtown Chicago and helped feed the hungry. Each runner's entry fee paid for meals for 10 families.

"Events like this are just as good to volunteer for as something your church or organization is hosting, and we want our students to see that," Martin offered. "Things like the 10K are communitywide events that have great benefit for others."

GWU's team also visited the Pacific Garden Mission, a rescue agency founded in 1877 that provides shelter, a food pantry and other resources to the needy. During the visit, students served meals and worked to provide other forms of aid to the homeless.

"When you think of mission and service trips you often think of going to places like Honduras or Guatemala," shared David Cole, a GWU sophomore. "Those are places that need our help, too, but there are people all across our own nation who need our help just as much if not more, so we liked the concept of going to Chicago. The service trip is a life-changing experience, both the work and service element."

GWU student Kelsey Carithers agrees. "Gardner-Webb is a school that provides great opportunities to serve," she offered. "Whether it's across the country or right in your own backyard, there are always ways to step outside your comfort zone and help others."

### **Global Service: International Connections**

In addition to local, regional and national service opportunities, Gardner-Webb University has been involved in multiple service-focused foreign mission trips. But one GWU student took advantage of



an opportunity to serve as an intern for World Vision Bangladesh (WVB).

Nathan Buckner may not have realized the impact his family's move to China would have on his own future career goals. In the seventh grade, his mom, dad and sister moved from their home in Clemmons to Hong Kong where his father served as head of an international Christian school. His passion for global studies was kindled during those years, and his decision to attend Gardner-Webb University has offered even more opportunities for him to further develop his international inclinations.

Now a senior at GWU, Buckner is majoring in global studies and recently took advantage of an opportunity to complete an international internship while his parents were living in Bangladesh. Buckner's advisor encouraged him to connect with World Vision Bangladesh, a Christian humanitarian, nongovernmental organization (NGO) dedicated to the well-being of children, families and communities.

Buckner was offered a summer internship position and spent the first couple of weeks in the national office conducting research for the United Nations' "Sustainable Development Goals" for international development. "The new goals focus on resource management, population control, improving health care, maternal health, disease and other efforts," Buckner offered. "One of the main things I saw were the 'Millennium Development Goals,' which were established about 20 years ago by the United Nations to help improve maternal care, reduce diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria, increase primary education for children, reduce hunger, things like that."

After a few weeks in the national office, Buckner embarked on a weeklong trip to Pergande in the northwestern portion of Bangladesh near India. "I was able to work with a great area development program there, which is like tiny offices set up in each region," he explained. "I really got to see the needs of the individual communities. I saw some income generation through sewing training and farming, through getting seeds and planting training. World Vision has helped get into these areas and offer proper training, for instance on hand washing and basic hygiene. The goal is that the development program can begin to focus on other important needs."

Because the economy is mostly agricultural, Buckner said that children have not had as many educational opportunities. "You hear about it all the time, but to see it firsthand? It just breaks your heart to see 12-year-olds who chop wood all day and earn a dollar," he said. "World Vision has helped set up schools in these areas to give basic education to the children. One of the children I met, Muhammad, couldn't read when he was 10 years old. Through help with World Vision, he has school supplies, books, and is reading on a second or third grade level. He is 13 now, so it's not perfect, but it's way better than it was."

Buckner is considering work with another NGO, perhaps in China, since his family is back in Hong Kong now. "It was a really eye-opening experience. I had no idea just how NGOs worked and how they help communities," he offered. "I had never really thought about how people go to these countries and gain trust and develop relationships and really work with the people there. They foster a bond and share the love of Christ. It was really helpful to see and a blessing to know that

Christians all over the world are working together to help those who need it.”

### **World-Class Academics within a Christ-Centered Environment**

While Gardner-Webb consistently emphasizes the importance of serving others, the university remains committed to offering its students stellar academic opportunities. For the fifth consecutive year, Gardner-Webb was named one of just 24 institutions throughout the entire United States to earn an “A” grade for its general education requirements and remained the only school in the Carolinas to earn the “A” distinction.

The 2015-2016 “What Will They Learn?” study, conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), ranks the core curriculum (i.e. general education requirements) of all the major public and private colleges and universities in all 50 states. The ranking places GWU in the top 2 percent in the nation, along with schools such as Pepperdine University (Malibu, California), Baylor University (Waco, Texas), Morehouse College (Atlanta, Georgia), and the United States Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs, Colorado), among others.

GWU blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 60 specialized major and minor programs. Officials say the result is a truly comprehensive academic experience grounded in a Christian environment of service, leadership and intellectual freedom. Ben Leslie is provost and executive vice president for Gardner-Webb and believes the distinction is proof of the university’s commitment to providing an excellent academic backbone for its students.

“More than anything else, it is a tribute to the Gardner-Webb faculty, who along

with their predecessors, have expressed a deep commitment to a broad-based general education in the liberal arts for many years,” Leslie said. “Not only does GWU’s general education curriculum conform to the criteria set forth by ACTA, but we actually exceed their expectations by requiring courses in arts, health and wellness, religion and communications.”

### **Liberal Arts Excellence**

With such a strong liberal arts core curriculum, it’s no surprise Gardner-Webb’s students have thrived in the rich academic environment. In fact, dozens of students were recognized at regional and national levels this year for their in-depth, primary research efforts.

Nearly 60 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the Life of the Scholar (LOTS) Multidisciplinary Conference on Gardner-Webb’s campus, and 22 of those undergraduate scholars were delegates to the Alpha Chi 2016 national convention in Washington, D.C.

The Alpha Chi delegation was GWU’s largest since beginning its honor society chapter in 1972, and several students earned significant prizes for their national presentations:

- Rebekah Rhea, of Knoxville, Tennessee, received one of only 12 national Nolle Scholarships for her essay, “Not Quite Alive: A Discussion of Disability in Terms of Mortality.”
- Madison Swift, of Concord, won a Region III scholarship for “Female Reproductive Health Challenges in Africa and the Middle East,” which she also offered as a poster presentation.
- Kevin Mills, of Kings Mountain, received the Best Presentation Prize for Business Administration for his paper, “Creating an Alternative Meal Plan Using Cost Accounting Principles at Gardner-Webb University.”

- Emily DeVries, of Mooresville, won the Anthropology/Sociology Best Presentation Prize for “Socially Conscious Coffee: An Examination of Fair Trade Programs in the Coffee Industry of Central America.”

Students’ research topics incorporated both personal and professional interests and experiences, and many presentations displayed studies across multiple liberal arts disciplines such as psychology, languages and sciences. Both conferences spotlighted several students whose projects were supported by Summer Undergraduate Research program funding. Taylor Schwartz, one of those scholars, spent five weeks last summer testing brain responses for evidence of social, performance and pain-related anxiety.

“It was an incredible opportunity to do primary research and develop my skills as an academic,” Schwartz said. “This experience provided me with tools to design and conduct an experiment and write about my own attempt to understand the brain. This alone is a great contribution to my graduate school applications and enabled me to stand out from others in my field.”

Summer Undergraduate Research scholars were Elisabeth Moore and Nathan Lile. Undergraduate Research grant winners included Mariana Mellado and Merideth Byl. Gardner-Webb will expand its Undergraduate Research Scholars program to provide opportunities for additional students in the future.

In addition to the Alpha Chi awards, LOTS recognized elite scholarship through undergraduate presentation awards to Jeremiah Hamby, Christian Jessup, Mariana Mellado, Kevin Mills, Elisabeth Moore, Rebekah Rhea, Taylor Schwartz,

Mary Toohey and Susan Ward. Karen Taylor was recognized for top graduate research, and the Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Best Presentation prize was awarded to Wendy Harmon.

June Hobbs, director of undergraduate research, Alpha Chi sponsor and GWU professor of English, asserted, “These students are representative of all that is to be celebrated at Gardner-Webb.”

### **Bulldog Nation: Students Experience Athletic & Academic Performance “Firsts”**

Research scholar and student athlete Nathan Lile was a high-performing member of the Runnin’ Bulldogs swim team throughout his collegiate career. Lile, who was a double major in computer science and philosophy, maintained a 4.00 cumulative GPA over his four years at Gardner-Webb and proved to be a major competitor in the classroom as well as in the pool for the Runnin’ Bulldogs. As a result, he received the George A. Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence during the Big South Conference’s annual Hall of Fame ceremony. The award is given to the male and female student-athletes of the Big South Conference who attain the highest cumulative GPA during their college careers. Since 2009, six Gardner-Webb students have been Christenberry Award winners.

The Waynesville native was also named the 2016 Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association (CCSA) Most Outstanding Male Swimmer, claiming the honors for the second year in a row. At the conference championship, Lile set four conference records, won three individual events and was a pivotal part of two relay victories.

A four-time CCSA Academic All-Conference member, and a two-time CCSA Scholar Athlete of the Year, Lile capped off his senior year by becoming

the first male swimmer in GWU history to ever qualify for the NCAA Championships. While at the championships, Lile was honored with the NCAA Elite 90 award, which is given to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average competing at the finals' site.

Lile continued his swimming pursuits after making Olympic Trial times in the 50 freestyle, 100 backstroke and the 100 butterfly. Lile swam alongside the best swimmers in the nation at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Nebraska, along with rising Gardner-Webb senior Connor Bos (Holland, Michigan), who also qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 100 backstroke. The two joined an elite group of athletes competing for a spot on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team and were the first men's swimmers from Gardner-Webb to qualify for the trials.

### **Education Where Faith & Service Connect**

Gardner-Webb University is a Christ-centered institution founded on the belief that God is the source of all truth. We provide challenging undergraduate and graduate education that is strongly grounded in the liberal arts, while offering students the opportunity to prepare for professional and personal fulfillment. The pursuit of wisdom and understanding in our community of faith and learning is guided by historic Baptist values. Gardner-Webb is dedicated to higher education that engages scholarship with Christian life by fostering intellectual development, critical reflection and spiritual formation. Because we are concerned about the needs of others, we enthusiastically affirm our active participation in influential and impactful service, leadership, and ministry assignments.

*A. Frank Bonner, President  
Frank Stewart, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **MARS HILL UNIVERSITY**

By any measure, Mars Hill University has a dramatic impact on the town of Mars Hill, as well as western North Carolina. And, through its alumni, the university's impact reaches out to the entire state, the southeast region and the corners of the globe.

The most obvious current impact on the local community is the addition of Troy and Pauline Day Hall to the main street of Mars Hill. Named for Troy (class of 1948) and Pauline Day of Kannapolis, the imposing three-story, 39,372-square-foot structure will completely change the look of downtown Mars Hill and will provide space for Mars Hill's growing business program. In addition to a robust undergraduate major in business, the university will be adding a Master of Management (MM) program in the fall of 2016. The MM will be the second graduate degree at Mars Hill University, joining the Master of Education program, which began in 2011.

In addition to the business program, Day Hall will house retail space (including the bookstore and a café) and a blackbox theatre. A dedication service for the new building is planned for Sept. 9.

On the same day, Mars Hill will dedicate Ferguson Health Science Center, named for Jack and Carolyn Ferguson of Candler. This building will house the Judge-McRae School of Nursing at MHU, named for Norman and Linda Judge-McRae of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The School of Nursing includes both a Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for practicing nurses, as well as a traditional four-year undergraduate pre-licensure BSN program. The Judge-McRae School of Nursing will have far-reaching impacts on western North Carolina and the region by providing an education for future nurses

that is grounded in a rigorous study of the liberal arts and by increasing the number of health care providers in a region that is currently deficient in this area.

Mars Hill University is also impacting the state and the region through its relatively new and growing major in criminal justice. This major, expanded from a minor in 2013, gives students a background in criminological theories, corrections, policing, victimology, ethics, the American court and legal systems, and other themes. Graduates will also be steeped in the theory and methods necessary to think critically and problem solve about complex social issues. The training graduates receive will better prepare them to serve in traditional law enforcement roles or to conduct original research related to criminal justice fields.

In all, Mars Hill offers over 33 undergraduate majors, 33 minors and (soon) two graduate degrees, which provide a transformational education to its students. But Mars Hill also seeks to be an institution that educates the whole person. The university is committed to an emphasis on service and Christian ethics through the curriculum, as well as through campus ministries and programs like the Center for Community Engagement (CCE).

The Center for Community Engagement makes an impact by making connections between the campus and the wider community, between learning in and out of the classroom, between faith and academics, and between action and reflection. Through the CCE, MHU offers students ongoing opportunities throughout the academic year to serve people in Madison and Buncombe counties at places like A Hope Day Center, MANNA Food Bank and Three Streams Family Health Center. In addition, CCE offers alternative fall and spring break service trips to places

as close as communities in Appalachia, or as far away as Haiti in cooperation with Esperence et Vie Episcopal School and Mission in Terrier Rouge, Haiti.

Mission trips with a more decidedly religious focus are offered through MHU campus ministries. On a weekly basis, on-campus ministries like Christian Student Movement, Blueprint Christian Ministry and Fellowship of Christian Athletes provide students with fellowship and worship opportunities. Occasionally, there are on-campus ministry opportunities such as the recent Sole Hope Shoe Cutting party, which provided materials for shoes for children in Uganda.

Students have the opportunity to engage in short-term missions during their fall, spring or summer breaks. Recent opportunities have included service at Glory Ridge Retreat Center and My Sister's Place in Marshall; a trip to Guatemala City, El Tejar and Santiago, Guatemala in cooperation with the U.S.-based nonprofit PEG Partners; and ministry in Choluteca, Honduras, in cooperation with New Beginning Baptist Mission. Next year, the chaplain's office is making plans for a trip in cooperation with the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

In these and other ways, Mars Hill University seeks to impact its students, its community and its region. These are also tangible manifestations of the university's religious identity statement, which reads, in part:

*"We want our graduates to value civic engagement, to be the kind of people who live out their faith commitments in every arena and spend their lives making a positive difference in their homes, in their workplaces, in their communities, and in their world."*

*Dan Lunsford, President  
Cheryl Pappas, Chair, Board of Trustees*

# WINGATE UNIVERSITY

Rhett Brown was installed as the 10th president of Wingate on April 7, 2016. Brown has served the university for 26 years prior to his election as president. In that time, he served in the following capacities:

- Director of the Office of Career Services
- Associate Dean of Students
- Dean of Enrollment Management
- Vice President of Student Life and Enrollment Services

Brown has stated three goals for his presidency:

- Focus on strategic planning to develop outstanding programs and facilities.
- Foster a collaborative leadership team.
- Strengthen the university's resource development and community relations.

## South Carolina Flood Relief

Twelve Wingate University students spent Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015 volunteering in Sumter, S.C., about 40 miles east of Columbia. Sumter received 19.98 inches of rain from Oct. 1 through Oct. 5, with floodwater destroying 600 homes in Sumter and damaging hundreds more.

The Wingate University volunteers spent the day unloading trucks filled with donated supplies, packing bags of food, bottled water and cleaning supplies for flood victims, and hauling away flood-damaged furniture from homes. "You see (the flood damage) on TV," said Wingate student Katie Williams. "It's much more devastating in person, to see how much this has impacted peoples lives." The day-long effort was organized by Wingate's Office of Student Ministries in partnership with the University Community Assistance Network (UCAN).

One flood-relief volunteer was Wingate University MBA student and student ministries intern Jen Nelson, whose hometown is Sumter. Nelson coordinated the volunteers from Wingate, working with Alice Drive Baptist Church and Sumter United Ministries. "This effort came full circle for me," Nelson said. "I was able to take fellow students from my university to the place where I grew up. It was very rewarding."

## United Way Day of Caring

Members of the Wingate University community are joining together to form volunteer teams to participate in the 24th annual United Way Day of Caring event on Aug. 27. This morning service initiative sends volunteers teams from local business and community organizations to service sites across Union County to assist aging and disabled homeowners as well as nonprofit organizations with property maintenance. The 2015 Day of Caring event included 382 Wingate University volunteers at 32 service sites.

## Operation Christmas Child

In the spirit of giving and the holiday season, 20 Wingate University student volunteers packaged 300 shoeboxes filled with children's toys and hygiene products to donate to children in need across the world through Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program. Following the donation assembly, 14 students volunteered to assist with sorting and boxing initiatives at the Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center, located in Charlotte.

## Don't Dump, Donate

Giving back to the community can be as simple as repurposing gently used materials by sharing with those in need. Twenty-one Wingate students made this repurposing feasible at the end of the spring semester by collecting gently used donation materials as students moved home after the school year. Donations

ranged from clothing and home goods to school supplies and electronics. Hundreds of campus and local community members were in attendance for Wingate's annual Don't Dump, Donate Donation Center Open House event.

*Dane Jordan, Senior Director of the Center for Vocations, Internships and Career Services (CVICS) and Minister to Students, Internship and Career Services, Student Ministries*

## CONVENTION CO-LABORER

# WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA

*Then the master told his servant, "Go out to the roads and country lands and make them come in, so that my house will be full." Luke 14:23 (NIV)*

**Impact** – What a powerful word! The dictionary states that impact is the effect or impression of one thing upon another. As Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU NC), we pray that through our various ministries and missions we are making an impact on the lost world in which we live. We think of it this way – that the Great Commission has had such an impact on us that we cannot help but share Jesus' love and the gospel across our state and around the world. In our key verse, we see that Jesus planned a meal and those whom He thought should and would come, did not. Therefore, just as we must do, He opened the invitation. In years past we could say, "The doors to our church are open. Please come." In this day and age, we must say, "We will go and seek the lost." It is a new day, full of exciting challenges to make an impact on a lost world.

WMU NC has been making an impact since 1886 as Fannie E. S. Heck laid the foundation for missions involvement and

missions education. We are thankful for the many foremothers who led the way in our state and for our current president, staff and board who continue to serve faithfully.

Under the leadership of new Executive Director-Treasurer Amy Pardue Boone, WMU NC will continue to share the good news that all are welcome at the banquet! WMU NC President Dee Dee Moody writes, "WMU NC is thankful to God for preparing Amy Boone for service as our Executive Director-Treasurer. Amy and husband Mike served 14 years as IMB missionaries in Mozambique and South Africa. Upon their return to the states, they were resident missionaries at Gardner-Webb University. Amy was serving as adult ministry consultant for national WMU in Birmingham, Alabama, when God called her to North Carolina, the state she claims as her 'roots.' She is author of the book *Stones from the Riverbed, Experiencing God's Grace in Mozambique*.

In addition to Boone, current WMU NC staff includes: Sharon Alvarez, receptionist/ministry assistant; Jenn B, communications coordinator; Cheryl Daniel, accountant/human resources; Margaret Harding, WMU NC associate – adults; Julie Keith, WMU NC associate – youth, collegiate and young women; Carrieanna Lohr, Camp Mundo Vista summer program director; Bob Navey, resident camp manager; Ani Simpkins, resource coordinator/ministry assistant; Andi Wilson, WMU NC associate – leadership development.

## IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH MISSION TRIPS . . .

One of the avenues through which WMU NC makes an impact is our local, national and international mission trips and partnerships. We are open to God's calling wherever He sends us and to whatever



the task. Several of our trips have been strongly centered on equipping women in various parts of the world for impacting lostness in their communities. In the past year volunteer teams have traveled to:

- New York, two trips, missionary Winter Archibald, Connection Church.
- Southeast Asia, an IMB missionary with whom WMU NC has a prayer partnership.
- Roanoke Rapids, Union Mission.
- MissionsCAROLINA, Bryson City, Southwest Area Resort Ministries.
- Ocean City, Maryland, NAMB missionary Lynn Davis, Resort Ministries and International Ministries.
- Raleigh, missionaries Marc and Kim Wyatt, Welcome House for Refugees.
- Wales, Pastors Chris Rees and Phylip Rees, women's ministry to Welsh, English and Internationals.
- WMU NC is blessed to partner with N.C. Baptist Men and Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in the ministries conducted through the Guatemalan orphanage. A WMU NC team conducted the first-ever women's retreat at the Good Shepherd Ministry Center in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala. Sixty-five women were present. On another trip, the Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) team ministered at the Good Shepherd Center. BNF President Claudia Hayes says, "Working with Vicki and Roger Grossman was a joy as we ministered to over 250 people. Local pastors and missionaries were able to meet with people to speak more eloquently to their spiritual needs, while we tried to meet some of their physical needs. Both of the areas where we held the medical clinics were areas where the Grossmans wanted to start or increase the work of the church, so our coming had that added benefit."

### Partnership with Armenia

We continue to praise God for the support of Brother Asatur in our work with women of

Armenia since 2012. A team of seven WMU NC women led two retreats based on the theme "Surrender-Sacrifice-Serve." Team leader Dorothy Barham says, "It is thrilling to see how the women have grown in their faith. Many times in their culture, women do not realize that there are ministries they can do in their local churches and communities. After years of leading retreats and working with the women, they are getting involved, even planning prayer retreats and Bible studies themselves. On this trip, the Armenian women planned and led two different children's programs for the neighborhood children – on their own! The worship, fellowship, sharing, crafts and discipleship that we have been doing for years is making an impact and bearing fruit as the women are emerging as leaders." Another team will travel to Armenia in August 2016. We are grateful to see this ongoing partnership thrive. It is our prayer that several women from a neighboring country will maybe be able to come to the women's retreat this time.

In 2016, teams will minister in Lake Tahoe, California (resort ministry); South Africa (Christian Women's Job Corps); Armenia (women's ministry); Atlanta, Georgia (Reach the Nations Ministry); Roanoke Rapids, Virginia (Union Mission); and Vermont (Chris and Becca Autry).

The WMU NC Mission Team members are: John and Joyce Rogers; Rachel Gardner; Tana Hartsell; Jan High; Linda Kreiter; Deborah Taylor; and Amy Washburn.

## IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH GIVING . . .

### Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

WMU NC is responsible for setting the North Carolina goals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter

Offering for Home Missions. Following a time of unrest and uncertainty for missionaries faced with the Volunteer Retirement Incentive, the 2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was the largest offering to date. It is our joy to promote those offerings and assist churches in meeting their goals. Each church WMU director has received a package which includes an envelope request form, promotional DVDs, posters and prayer guides for each of these offerings.

### **The Heck-Jones Offering for the Missions and Ministries of WMU NC**

The Heck-Jones Offering funds the WMU NC missions and ministries included in this report. This year's offering theme was "A Beautiful Thing" based on Mary's anointing of Jesus in Mark 14:9. As Mary performed a beautiful, loving act for Jesus, let each of us be known for beautiful things that flow from our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are deeply grateful for churches that have WMU NC in their unified budgets, for individuals who give regularly, and for those who give during WMU Focus Week and Week of Prayer. WMU NC has challenged, prepared and equipped women, students and children for 130 years. May we remain faithful to continue in this kingdom work.

## **IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH AGE-LEVEL ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES . . .**

### **PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

It is our desire that this ministry be one of our strongest since planting a love for missions in the hearts of children is imperative. We are thankful for the many Mission Friends, Girls in Action (GA), Royal Ambassador, and Children in Action (CA) leaders all across the state who faithfully teach each week. A GA leader in a church

I visited on a Wednesday night said she had only two children who attended faithfully. The teacher is an adult missionary kid, former IMB missionary to Honduras, and wants to share her love for missions. If there are only two children in a class, the effort is worth everything! One of them might be the next Lottie Moon!

In the past year, WMU NC sponsored two Children's Missions Days and a GA Day at Camp Mundo Vista with 270 children, leaders and volunteers attending. The 2016 theme is "Hats Off to Missions." Each event spotlighted "real-live" missionaries who shared their stories and hopefully instilled in the children how they can be a missionary where they live. Featured missionaries were IMB missionary Bonnie Doughtie (South Africa), IMB journeymen Andrew and Leah Snipes (Madagascar), Rachel Gardner Louis (Haiti). Denise Lewis from the Baptist Children's Homes' Odum Home campus also shared with the children. The 2016 mission project included making cards for IMB missionaries who had taken the Voluntary Retirement Initiative. Among the many letters of thanks, missionaries Leroy and Sharon Brewer wrote: "Dear GAs and CAs, Thank you for the encouraging cards you made and sent to us. Please thank all the children and adults that were involved in Children's Missions Day and GA Day at Camp Mundo Vista. We appreciate you thinking of us during our transition. We lived in China for nine years and miss it very much. We will go back to China in August to get the rest of our things and say goodbye. Please pray for us July 24-August 23." Meeting missionaries and hearing their heart messages are vital parts of children's missions education. Camp Mundo Vista continues to be a very special place for summer camp. The 2016 theme is "Run the Race!" We praise God for His mighty acts during mini-camps, full-week camps, and mother-daughter camps for girls

in grades 1-6 and for teens. We are thankful for each camp staffer, many of whom attend our historically Baptist colleges.

## MINISTRY TO STUDENTS AND YOUNG WOMEN (SHINE NC)

Jennifer Lee, Anson Baptist Association WMU Director, along with the WMU Leadership Team planned a special missions event for girls ages 8-18 at New Home Baptist Church in Polkton on Feb. 27, 2016. More than 100 women and girls attended the event "Graceful Reflections," which focused on the importance of Reflecting Christ in daily life. WMU NC SHINE Team members Jenn B, Allison Markwood and Diane McClary focused on topics of self-Image, purpose and forgiveness. Jennifer is committed to sharing the gospel with teen girls in her area and prays this will be an annual event. The theme of the 2016 International Student and Scholars Conference held at Fort Caswell on April 8-10 was "Our Global Story." Fifty-six students from ten North Carolina campuses and representing 30 countries attended, along with 32 adults. Their stories were shared through word, conversation, crafts, activity, play and fellowship as this allowed for opportunities to share about cultures and relationships. One of the young women from Mexico shared that God is leading her to begin a Christian nonprofit organization that will impact women in her country.

Rachel Gardner Louis, who does mission work in a hospital and orphanage in Haiti, participated in GA and Acteens, WMU missions organizations at University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte, and was a camper at Camp Mundo Vista. She testifies to the significant impact these experiences have had on her life. She attended the very first WMU NC SHINE event. Rachel served as the 2016 summer camp missionary for Camp Mundo Vista.

WMU NC has had many Acteen panelists who have a heart for missions because of the leaders and fellow Acteens who have impacted their lives. These panelists help plan events and assist churches in establishing organizations for middle and high school students. In her application, Layne – whose sister Haley also served as a panelist -- shared, "I want to become a NC Acteen panelist because I wish, through my words and actions, to encourage other girls to become involved in Acteens and other ministries. My sister Haley was a state and national panelist and she has inspired me to use my life to show others the love of God in everything that I do." Current NC Acteen panelists are: Erin Blue, Ephesus Baptist, Sanford; Layne Harrison, University Hills, Charlotte; Sierra Lee, Mount Vernon, Hope Mills; and McKenzie Penninger, Jersey Baptist, Lexington.

Great Marsh Church in St. Pauls has strong Acteen and Youth on Mission groups that are very intentional in impacting their community and state. A trip to the Shelby Missions Camp to help pack books for the Fellowship of Baptist Educators impacted Ethan Gentry to encourage his church to donate books and used church literature so that all people would have the necessary materials to grow spiritually.

Carolina Girls is a biennial event for N.C. and S.C. teen girls and their leaders. The next Carolina Girls will be held at First Baptist Church North Myrtle Beach, Oct. 21-23, 2016. The theme is "Real Freedom in Christ" based on 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

## MINISTRY TO ADULTS

### Retreats

WMU NC's desire is for all women to be involved in Women on Mission in their local churches. Several organized retreats this year involved women in praying for

missions, taking part in mission action and witnessing, learning about missions, supporting missions, developing spiritually toward a missions lifestyle and taking part in the work of the church and the denomination. The first Carolina Women event was held at Caswell Baptist Assembly on Oct. 16-17, 2015, with over 400 women from North and South Carolina attending. Phyllis Elvington, Debby Akerman, IMB and NAMB missionaries, CrossWalk and Beth Greer led the powerful sessions. Women attended breakout sessions and did mission projects to benefit the Wilmington CWJC site and the Appalachian Regional Ministry. This retreat will occur every two years.

WMU NC also desires to encourage and help meet the needs of ministers' wives across our state. An upcoming retreat of "new" ministers' wives will be held at Camp Mundo Vista on Oct. 7-8. We also help associations in forming ministers' wives support groups.

### **Missions Extravaganza and 125th WMU NC Annual Meeting**

Ridgecrest Conference Center was the site of the 2016 Missions Extravaganza and 125th WMU NC Annual Meeting. Bud Fray, former IMB missionary to Zimbabwe and author of the theme book *Both Feet In*, was the keynote speaker for all general sessions. We were blessed by the theme interpretations of Caroline Jones and wonderful worship music led by Kenny Lamm, senior consultant for worship and music for the BSCNC, and the worshipASIA band. More than 635 women and men attended the weekend event which offered 55 breakout conferences. Each year we hear testimonies of women who feel personally motivated to serve the Lord more intentionally as a result of speakers, conference leaders and missionaries. One first-time attendee, a school nurse, tells how God called her to return to college to obtain a nurse practitioner degree and

commit her life to medical missions. Other young women tell how they felt the Lord speaking to them about their missions calling as well. Conference attendees brought items for hospice buckets through Baptist Global Response. We were able to complete 50 buckets with many additional items for other buckets. Other highlights included the Parade of Nations featuring flags and missionaries, a Guatemalan music group, many missionary testimonies, and "Great Is Our God" sung in Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese.

WMU NC officers elected during the annual meeting were: Denise "Dee Dee" Moody, president (Faith); Deborah Taylor, vice president (Lumberton); Mary Ellen Bowman, vice president for development (Wilmington); Barbara Hill, recording secretary (Statesville); and Beth McDonald, assistant recording secretary (Rockingham).

### **National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting**

Adult Specialist Margaret Harding and President Dee Dee Moody attended the national WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, June 8 – 11, 2016. Amy Boone was unable to attend as her son Timothy was ordained to the gospel ministry on June 10. Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, was keynote speaker for each general session. A highlight of the event was a reception honoring Wanda Lee who will retire at the end of 2016. Frank Page, Kevin Ezell and Gordon Fort were among the speakers at the reception. President Linda Cooper and Recording Secretary Tana Hartsell were re-elected during the business session. WMU NC is honored that Tana is the first officer of national WMU since Fannie E. S. Heck in 1892.

### **Habitat for Humanity Women Build**

Since 2008, WMU NC has participated in a weeklong Habitat for Humanity Women Build. The 2015 build was in Alexander

County with more than 80 women participating. Encouraging women to serve is paramount in WMU NC.

Church and Association Leadership Training is also important as our purpose is “to challenge, prepare and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.” Three training locations included Waynesville, Oakmont and Camp Mundo Vista. More than 300 women attended, deepening their leadership skills and becoming better equipped to lead WMU organizations in their churches and associations. A resource team of WMU ministry and mission specialists is available to assist churches. An upcoming resource team retreat, “Come to the Table,” will be led by Sylvia Deloach former national WMU consultant/trainer.

### **Restorative Justice Ministries**

Another avenue through which we go into the “highways and byways” is to minister to the incarcerated and their children. In its 39th year, the women’s prison retreat at Camp Mundo Vista continues to be a life-changing event. One participant wrote, “I am incarcerated at ECI. I just got back from a trip at Mundo Vista. It was one of the best experiences of my life. I can’t put it into words. I can’t imagine the time, money, sweat and love that went into putting it together. It had GREAT volunteers. At Mundo Vista, I got to see what God’s love looks like. Just seeing them makes me want to be a better person. These last couple of days has inspired me to not only love God but to serve him. I want to be able to help others as well. But mainly I want to thank you so much for everything WMU did the last few days. I Love You!”

Camp Angel Tree is another way to minister to those affected by incarceration. Eighty children and teens came to Camp Mundo Vista where they were shown the love of

God and His care for them. Each of these children receives free transportation and scholarship for the week. Arranging this life-changing event is a huge act of love.

Another longstanding ministry of WMU NC is Christmas Red Boxes. This year we filled and delivered 2,000 boxes to four women’s prisons and one juvenile prison. One lady wrote this thank you:

“As a member of a church in Reidsville, NC, I have purchased items in the past for the ‘Red Box’ project that our church participated in. Needless to say, I never thought I would ever receive one. Things happen that make individuals do stuff that isn’t always right, but God forgives us and that is what I use every day to get me through this ordeal. I have let our local WMU chairman know how much I enjoyed and appreciated the red box and after seeing other inmates smile, cry and saying, ‘thank you Jesus for hygiene items that are not state issued!’ It gives me joy that I can publicly testify the enjoyment on the receiving end.”

### **Military Missions**

One outcome of a recently formed WMU NC Military Missions Task Force was to provide a retreat for military wives in our state. The first retreat, provided at no cost, was held at Camp Mundo Vista in August 2015. The theme was “Refreshed and Renewed: Taking Care of Your Heart and Soul.” We received many positive comments. One participant said, “This weekend has been a blessing to me. I have connected with God.” Another said, “I have built meaningful relationships with women that love Jesus, love their husbands and serve with the military. I have made friends, finally, who understand what I am going through on this first deployment. I needed these women and this time of encouragement and refreshment and I know now I can make it through this 14-month

deployment. Thank you from the bottom of my heart." The second Military Wives Retreat will be held in August 2016.

#### **ProjectHELP: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

Every two years, national WMU adopts an issue that is relevant to the current world situation. Issues have included human exploitation, AIDS and poverty. Due to the increase in PTSD, this emphasis has been extended for two additional years. Many excellent resources are available through national WMU to help churches face this issue. Though many think of PTSD as related to military trauma, PTSD can affect anyone who has faced trauma and is especially epidemic among abused children. WMU NC has a PTSD Task Force and will provide speakers for churches as requested. The first PTSD Awareness Seminar will be held at Camp Mundo Vista in October 2016.

#### **Deaf Ministries**

It was a joy to partner with the BSCNC in leading the 2016 Together in Christ Retreat for the deaf at Caraway Conference Center. The theme for the women's track, led by the WMU Deaf Advisory Task Force, was "Let's Do This WMU." Conferences were led on prayerwalking and how to do missions education. Special guest speakers were retired missionaries and a missionary to the deaf. WMU deaf interpreters were used.

#### **Christian Women's Job Corps and Christian Men's Job Corps (CWJC/CMJC)**

CWJC and CMJC now have 18 sites in North Carolina and one site in South Africa. Led by state coordinator Cara Lynn Vogel, CWJC/CMJC NC functions because a partnership of Christians across North Carolina continue to provide a hand-up rather than a hand-out to those who live in poverty. National Level I Certification Training was held at the Family Resource Center at the Mills Home in Thomasville in September 2015. Levels I and II Courses will be held at Avila

Retreat Center in Durham in August 2016. Mentoring is a key component of this ministry. Please pray for more mentors to commit to this vital program.

#### **WMU NC Growth**

During the past year, BSCNC churches have reported the following growth in WMU age-level organizations to the WMU NC office:

WMU – 2  
Adults on Mission – 2  
Women on Mission – 4  
Youth on Mission – 4  
Challengers – 1  
Acteens – 2  
Children in Action – 7  
Girls in Action – 3  
Royal Ambassadors – 3  
Mission Friends – 7

Total: 35 new organizations started.

2015 WMU NC Heritage Award Recipient Beatrice "Bea" McRae (Horace), former WMU NC President, 1981-1986

#### **VRI banquet**

On March 8, 2016, WMU NC and the BSCNC joined hands to honor IMB missionaries from North Carolina who had taken the Volunteer Retirement Incentive (VRI). Seventeen units – singles, couples and families -- were present. All introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their area of international service. Following a wonderful meal provided by the BSCNC, WMU NC presented gift baskets to each family. A total of \$14,000 in gifts and gift cards were presented to these missionaries. This amount increased in following weeks to \$21,000. What an outpouring of love shown to our missionaries by North Carolinians!

#### **Camp Mundo Vista – Year-round Use**

Camp Mundo Vista (*campmundovista.com*) continued to be a wonderful venue

for retreats throughout the fall and spring of 2015-2016. Many of these groups come every year receiving a great blessing. In spring 2016, the North Roanoke Associational Mother/Daughter camp celebrated its 20th year coming to CMV. Campers and leaders enjoyed missionaries, activities and fellowship around the theme "Out of the Blue." We also hosted the Missionary Parents Fellowship, the Latina Leadership Institute, and the Raleigh Baptist Association Mother/Daughter retreat with 218 campers!

Another very special retreat held in May 2016 was the Hispanic WMU (Uniao Feminina Missionario- UFM) Annual Retreat with 135 women from all across the state. It was so thrilling to see ladies from 14 Central and South American countries. One of them testified that they would never have had a chance to hear about the Lord Jesus in their home country. They were praising God that they had heard about Him in the United States.

A special Camp Mundo Vista Focus Group has been appointed by President Dee Dee Moody. John Rogers is the leader of this key group as we make plans and work on renovations to our camp. Camp Mundo Vista will be 50 years old in 2019. As we move to the future, we are trying to identify and focus time and money on upgrades that will keep the camp viable and useful for Kingdom work in the coming years.

## Ways WMU NC Can Help your Church

1. Our website *wmunc.org* provides invaluable information concerning WMU. The WMU NC publication *Tarheel Talk* is now online. You may receive up-to-date information by providing email addresses at which to send our e-newsletter. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well.
2. A list of missionaries on furlough is available in our office if you desire a speaker.
3. Our executive director, president, staff and resource team are eager to visit your church or association to share about the missions and ministries of WMU.
4. A large library of women's Bible studies and accompanying DVDs are available for loan from our Raleigh office at no charge. A list may be found on our website.
5. At your request, our office will provide assistance for starting new WMU age-level organizations. Your church may qualify for discounted subscriptions for start-up materials.
6. WMU NC sends out all materials for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the Heck-Jones Offering for the Missions and Ministries of WMU NC. Contact our office if you are not receiving these.
7. Please call our office for information concerning IMB and NAMB missionaries from North Carolina.
8. In addition to new WorldCrafts catalogs, our office has two sample sets of WorldCraft materials which we loan free of charge.

*Amy Pardue Boone, Executive Director-Treasurer, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina*



# BUSINESS SERVICES

REPORT



**JOHN BUTLER**  
EXECUTIVE LEADER

## THE STAFF OF THE BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP

is committed to using our knowledge, expertise and resources to assist in finding ways for churches to impact an increasingly diverse culture in North Carolina with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The reports that follow provide a snapshot of how this was carried out in 2016 through the Business Services Group.

The Business Services Group is responsible for the following Convention services and ministries:

- Baptist building operations
- Property and casualty insurance
- Accounting
- Budgets
- N.C. Hunger ministry grants through Global Hunger Relief
- Legal matters
- Investments
- Printing and mailing
- Human resources
- Benefits
- Annuity
- Camps, assemblies and conference centers
- General business operations

We are guided and supported by the expertise of the Business Services Committee of the Board of Directors and are grateful for the talent and time invested by committee members.

The Business Services Group exists only because of the faithful giving of North Carolina Baptist churches. Without your gifts, we would be without resources to manage as stewards in God's kingdom. Thank you for your support and your sacrifices – together we can do far more than we can on our own. God is using our people, our properties and our resources to impact lives today and for eternity.

## GUIDESTONE

The GuideStone Team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) has remained strong in its efforts to serve North Carolina's more than 4,300 affiliated churches. The many governmental changes and updates that have impacted our churches regarding employee benefits and retirement plans continue to dominate the ministry of the GuideStone Team. Our goal continues to be keeping our North Carolina Baptist associations and churches up-to-date on these changes that impact them. The following information is a summary of those efforts.

### Retirement

The GuideStone Team works with church staff and lay leaders in an effort to assist them in the restructuring of pastor and staff compensation packages to include retirement benefits. Many pastors and staff members do not see the benefits of participating in the Church Retirement Plan, and they will opt out of the plan if given an opportunity. Therefore, a continued effort is being made to challenge churches to assist their pastors and staff by contributing to their retirement plans in addition to their salaries and other benefits. Sadly, nearly half of N.C. Baptist churches make no contributions to the retirement plans of their staff members. We continue to educate and encourage our churches to be responsible employers by providing

for their staff members' retirements in a Christ-honoring manner.

### **Convention Protection and Matching Benefits**

2016 marked the first year in decades that the state convention did not contribute directly to the retirement accounts of church staff participating in the Church Retirement Plan. This decision by the Board of Directors was precipitated by an intentional effort to redirect budget dollars that could increase the impact of North Carolina Cooperative Program gifts on the mission fields in North America and around the world. By eliminating this benefit, the convention was able to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts being forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for missions and ministry by a full 3 percent in 2016.

We were pleased to be able to continue offering life and disability benefits to all staff members of N.C. Baptist churches that participate in the Church Plan through GuideStone. North Carolina continues to lead all state conventions in the number of participants, but we are still far short of the goal of having every church providing for their staff members through a GuideStone Retirement Plan.

### **Health Insurance**

Health Care Reform Law – GuideStone remains a leader in providing detailed information regarding the impact that new tax laws have on our churches and their staff. Timely and thorough updates of changes in the tax law can be found on the GuideStone website. The ripple effects of the Affordable Care Act continue to cause confusion for churches and their benefits programs for staff, and your GuideStone office is committed to being a reliable source of help and

encouragement as churches navigate these changing waters.

### **Church Staff Compensation**

Church staff participation in the 2016 LifeWay bi-annual Church Compensation Survey was completed on May 31, 2016. The results of the 2016 compensation survey will be available online at [compstudy.lifeway.com](http://compstudy.lifeway.com) later in the year. Much of the year has been spent educating churches on the tax implications of the "lump sum pay packages" for pastors and churches. The taxability of such pay packages continues to be a concern.

### **MissionDignity**

GuideStone Financial Resources continues to provide financial assistance to elderly ministers and widows of ministers who live under financial duress and need ongoing and/or one-time assistance through MissionDignity. For assistance, call the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5604 or 5637; visit our website at [ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org), call GuideStone at (888) 984-8433; or visit the GuideStone website at [GuideStone.org](http://GuideStone.org).

*Davis Blount, GuideStone State Representative*

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

After more than a decade of service as director of the Office of Human Resources (HR), Linda Hudson announced she would be stepping down from this position in early 2016. Pamela Bills moved into the director's role June 1, 2016. Bills, formerly an associate in the GuideStone Office, completed a master's degree in human resources management at the end of 2015. Hudson and Bills worked through a successful transition period that has benefitted our staff greatly. We

are indebted for Linda's many years of service and for the Lord's provision of such a capable replacement.

HR is committed to selecting the best possible employees to work with the convention and its churches — men and women that are committed to impacting lostness through disciple-making regardless of their ministry assignment. In recent years, we have hired employees from other ethnic and cultural groups to assist in our efforts to engage every cultural and ethnic group with gospel. HR works with the following areas:

- Recruitment and selection of personnel for staff within the BSCNC and its related facilities.
- Orientation, training and development of employees.
- Records maintenance.
- Evaluation process for employees.
- Termination of employment and exit interviews.
- Maintenance of the BSCNC employee handbook, with updates per federal and N.C. employment law.
- Benefits administration, including:
  1. Medical plan for all active employees.
  2. Medical retirement plan for qualified retirees.
  3. Life insurance plans for both groups.
  4. Background checks of employees and volunteers at BSCNC-related conferences, camps and facilities.
- E-Verify process for all employees hired by the BSCNC.

The HR Office is committed to keeping the BSCNC up to date in improving our workplace and in following federal and state laws regarding employment issues. HR is happy to share with churches ways to care for their employees and to

learn where to find resources regarding employment law.

*Pamela Bills, Director of Human Resources  
Ellen Holder, Assistant*

## **GLOBAL HUNGER RELIEF (Formerly World Hunger Ministry)**

Hunger needs around the world continue to open doors for Southern Baptists to impact communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Global Hunger Relief Offering, we are impacting North Carolina, North America, and nearly every nation on this earth. Each October, hundreds of North Carolina Baptist churches support this special offering, enabling us to put food on the plates of hundreds of thousands of children and adults. What might be accomplished if every North Carolina Baptist church would rise to meet the needs in their backyards?

This year through our joint efforts with more than 100 churches, associations and the North American Mission Board, the Hunger Office distributed more than \$200,000 to feed hungry men, women and children in North Carolina. Ministries include backpack buddies, Kids Café, food pantries, crisis centers and lunch buddies. We have also helped establish community gardens with many North Carolina Baptist churches through our hunger grants.

Each of these ministries is unique, yet they all have one thing in common – feeding people and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. These ministry leaders recognize the impact they can have in meeting the needs of others, and how meeting these needs opens doors for the greatest impact of all – sharing of the life transforming message of Jesus Christ. In 2015, churches focused on sharing the

gospel to more than 114,000 people in their efforts to share not only bread and water, but the Bread of Life and the Living Water. Our statistics indicate that 223 people made a profession of faith as a result of ministry efforts facilitated by the Hunger Offering. We pray that more North Carolina Baptists will be awakened to the presence of the hungry in their communities.

We challenge our churches to impact our communities and our world by supporting the Global Hunger Relief Offering.

*John Butler, Executive Leader, Business Services Group*

*Penny Cozadd, Executive Leader Assistant*

## **CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER AND CAMP**

"To create an environment that when God speaks, His voice can be heard, and His Words will have impact!"

That is the vision of Caraway Conference and Camp. For 54 years Caraway has been having an impact on the lives of children, youth and adults through camps, retreats, meetings and continuing education. Caraway is a ministry tool to be used by North Carolina Baptist churches to enhance, grow and equip their congregations.

Caraway is centrally located in the state and primarily serves as a host site for meetings and retreats. Through our Christian hospitality, we work with leaders to create events that will have maximum impact for the kingdom. However, Caraway also does programming in which N.C. Baptists should be involved.

In the summer months, through a partnership with N.C. Baptist Men,

also known as Baptists on Mission, we offer boys camp and coed children's camp. Caraway also hosts "Grand Camp" for grandparents and their young grandchildren. In October, there is the Fall Festival of Fellowship for senior adults. Each of these opportunities creates an impact on those that come.

Each year, 20,000 lives are touched through the ministry of Caraway Conference Center and Camp. Continue to pray that God uses Caraway to impact lostness through disciple-making in North Carolina and beyond.

*Jimmy Huffman, Director*

## **NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST ASSEMBLY AT FORT CASWELL**

In 2016, we celebrate our 66th year of hosting camps and conferences for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina as well as many other events. What a blessing it is for us to share this facility with our Baptist family across the state. Our staff stands ready to facilitate your event at Caswell. We're available year-round to help make your stay with us an enjoyable and meaningful one.

N.C. Baptists continue to value these 288 acres on the eastern tip of Oak Island and recognize the incredible gift we have been given while continuing to utilize it to the fullest extent possible. We believe that the opportunity to gather as a denominational family for youth camps, senior adult retreats, women's retreats, church staff planning days, and other events vital to training, fellowship, and spiritual renewal is of critical importance for N.C. Baptists.

Our primary responsibility is to maintain and improve our facilities so that they will be ready to serve our guests. This

year, the refurbishing of Fort Caswell Hotel, Driftwood Hotel, Oleander Hotel and Palmetto Hotel were completed. Plans for major repairs to Lantana Lodge are in process. The final plan for the next new youth residence buildings, to be located near the new Sandpiper Cottage, is complete. Upon receipt of the new flood elevation requirements from the N.C. Department of Insurance, we will construct two of these new residences to improve our youth housing options. Wi-Fi service is now available in each building on campus, and sound quality and lighting upgrades were completed in Hatch Auditorium. Long range plans include a new medium-sized multipurpose auditorium for groups of 200 to 350 people.

Volunteer workers continue to make a significant contribution to our work and ministry at Caswell. All volunteer work is deeply appreciated and is vital to the continuation of campus housing and other facilities. Thank you to our committed band of volunteers who come to help our staff maintain and improve this facility. We couldn't do it without you. God richly blesses us and many others through your labor for Him.

Let us know how we can be of service to you, your church, your association or other group needing a location for your next retreat or leadership event.

*Rick Holbrook, Director*

## **TRUETT CAMP**

Truett Camp is one of the best places to come together to expose guests to wonders of our Creator in the beautiful setting in the southwestern tip of North Carolina. This is the 64th year of camps being held. Our campus is adorned in the spring with rhododendrons, azaleas, day

lilies, trees, and we enjoy four seasons of beauty.

The Happiness Retreat is enjoyed by the campers as well as their helpers to show love in action by helping each other. Two weeks of girl's camp teach that we are to live a life that is pleasing to God and to try to make a difference because we have been saved and to try to lead others to a saving experience. One week of music camp is offered and our mountains come alive with singing and music and praising God. We also have a Music & More Camp which consists of music and other activities to introduce campers to Christ.

During the week of boy's camp, campers often meet someone who becomes a lifetime friend. Other church camps provide opportunities for individuals to experience the impact of the gospel, and when they leave, they share that they have learned to trust God in all things.

All of these camps provide opportunities for N.C. Baptists to impact others with the gospel.

Camp facilities include the Roberson Conference Center or Education Building, as well as the barracks and staff lodge. Guests may also enjoy a zip line, a pond for paddle boating or fishing, a gym and a swimming pool.

Remember, a day, weekend or week at Truett Baptist Camp will provide you and your congregation opportunities to impact others with the gospel and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Some of our former campers and counselors have become ministers, local and international missionaries,

and, above all, people who want to make a difference in the uncertain times in which we live.

Please keep us in your prayers as we make improvements to assure each person's stay is even more enjoyable.

*Tim Roberson, Camp Director\**

*\*It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you that Tim Roberson, director of Truett Camp for over a decade, passed away suddenly on Aug. 14, 2016, several weeks after submitting this report. Please continue to be in prayer for the Roberson family and the staff of Truett Camp.*



# CHURCH PLANTING & MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS

REPORT



**CHUCK REGISTER**  
EXECUTIVE LEADER

## THE CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONS

**PARTNERSHIPS** (CPMP) Group, operating under the vision statement, “Under God’s leadership, we will assist North Carolina Baptist churches, associations and networks in developing disciple-makers through the planting of multiplication churches, engaging the collegiate community and partnering with other evangelicals in order to impact unreached and unengaged people groups in North Carolina, North American and the world, with the gospel of Jesus Christ” is comprised of four ministry teams; Associational Partnerships, Church Planting, Collegiate Partnerships, and Great Commission Partnerships. The CPMP Group works faithfully and diligently to awaken North Carolina Baptists to the boundless Great Commission ministry opportunities God has given us.

During 2016, the CPMP Group worked faithfully to assist with the implementation of the statewide strategy “impacting lostness through disciple-making.” As a group, our ministry consultants are focused on assisting North Carolina Baptist churches in engaging the top 100 pockets of lostness in the state, reaching the collegiate community with the gospel for disciple-making, and evangelizing the multitude of internationals now residing in North Carolina.

The CPMP Group remains committed to assisting North Carolina Baptist churches, associations and networks in reaching the 5.8 million lost residents of our state and in reaching the non-English speaking people represented by the 300-plus languages spoken across North Carolina.

Selected ministry highlights for the CPMP Group:

- Assisted North Carolina Baptist churches, associations and approved networks in welcoming 105 new churches during 2015, 83 new church plants and 22 new affiliates.
- Between July 2015 and June 2016, celebrated over 4,000 professions of faith through the ministries of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) funded church plants and received \$110,025.96 in Cooperative Program gifts from these new churches.
- Launched the Hispanic Church Planting Institute, training 155 Hispanic leaders from 16 different countries.
- Launched the School of International Leaders for Church Multiplication, training 77 leaders from eight Asian nations.
- BSCNC church planting consultants

worked with peoples from 69 different language groups.

- In the fall of 2016, N.C. Baptist churches are leading reproducing gospel ministries on 43 college campuses – an increase of 478 percent under our new collegiate ministry strategy.
- The Collegiate Partnerships Team launched international missions opportunities in East Asia and Canada.
- In conjunction with the International Mission Board (IMB), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and other state conventions, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships hosted the “Reaching the Nations in North America Summit” – a national training event for engaging ethnic peoples in North America.
- Completed the N.C. People Group Mapping Project, identifying over 158 different international people groups residing in North Carolina.
- Contracted with 11 retiring International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries to assist N.C. Baptist churches with people group engagement and ethnic church planting.
- Worked with North Carolina Baptist associations to develop strategies for evangelism and church planting.
- Developed and hosted multiple training events for associational leaders.
- Worked in conjunction with our Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Great Commission partners – the IMB, NAMB and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS).

*Chuck Register, Executive Leader,  
Church Planting and Missions  
Partnerships Group*

*Shirley Sells, Executive Leader Assistant*

## ASSOCIATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Associations across North Carolina play a valuable and crucial role in the life of our churches and can be a vital, significant and strategic force in the effort to help plant new churches and assist in the revitalization of existing congregations. For this reason, Associational Partnerships is challenged to offer opportunities, training and resources that will help directors of missions in Baptist associations enter the field with a fresh and deliberate approach.

We are grateful for the vital and strategic ministry partnerships with the associational leaders representing 78 associations across the state. Our staff is thankful for these leaders, for their servant hearts and faithfulness toward impacting lostness through a disciple-making culture in their churches, communities and beyond.

### Conferences

Associational Partnerships and the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference (NCAMC) formed a joint planning team consisting of the NCAMC officers and Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) staff and moved the annual conference to a different date and format. We combined the January retreat and the July summer conference into a four-day training event in April. This allowed us to have a full day devoted to training for potential and new associational missionaries at the beginning of the main conference and to combine training for all other associational staff positions and spouses into the same week.

Church and Community Ministries personnel and spouses of associational missionaries were able to have separate training tracks and times of

fellowship during the same sessions while associational missionaries were in training. The new format offered more opportunities for networking, resourcing, sharing and training, all of which are vital to effective associational ministry.

The conference theme for 2016 was "Renew and Redirect: Foundations for a Missionary Journey." Our guest presenters were Chuck Lawless and John Ewart from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The emphasis was focused on spiritual warfare, strategy and foundations for church revitalization. Lawless spoke to the critical issue of spiritual warfare in the development of strategy and revitalization. Ewart outlined a biblical and theological basis for strategy and church revitalization. Breakout sessions included topics and training in MissionInsite, the Church Renewal Journey, "The Story", G3, building a disciple-making church, the transitional pastor, the church revisioning process, Operation Church Rescue, and options for churches at risk.

A conference for associational missionaries was offered at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Alabama, in January. The theme was "Renew and Redirect" with keynote presenters Hugh Townsend, a retired North American Mission Board staff member who addressed strategy, and Claude King of LifeWay Christian Resources, who spoke on spiritual foundations.

### **Search Committee Training**

Associational Partnerships assists associations with filling vacant associational ministry positions through associational search committee training along with a database of possible candidates.

Associational Partnerships continues to develop and connect potential associational missionaries, new associational missionaries and experienced associational missionaries with training and orientation opportunities offered by the state convention and other entities that resource associational missionaries such as the Southern States Associational Missions Conference, the Network of Baptist Associations and the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders. Premier training is available during these opportunities for sharpening skills and developing competencies for future associational challenges.

### **Strategic Partnership Requests**

The Strategic Partnership Requests (SPRs) allows local associational partners to receive assistance with resourcing outreach opportunities such as church planting, resort ministry, ethnic and language ministry, and various other ministries. The entire SPR process flows through Associational Partnerships. The process involves the association receiving the forms for submission, providing instructions and guidance about the process, delivery to the appropriate BSCNC ministry group, reporting request status, and final approval.

### **North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO)**

Ten percent of the funds that churches in a local association contribute to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) are returned to that local association as missions funding. Associations across the state maximize NCMO funds in a variety of ways to launch new ministries and expand their reach to people who need to know Christ. The following selected reports are not an exhaustive list of how NCMO funds are used by all the associations in North Carolina, but

they give an idea about how the funds are used to address a variety of missions endeavors.

### **Cabarrus Baptist Association**

Cabarrus Baptist Association is using the money both in church planting and in church revitalization.

### **Greater Cleveland Baptist Association**

We have used the NCMO for the past several years to help fund our summer missionary worker. The funds assist our churches with Vacation Bible School and outreach events. They also help with our Friday lunch program that feeds homeless people in our community. The summer worker is also a big help on our summer mission trip each year. We also use the offering to help fund our association's church revitalization team. This group of pastors and lay people meet regularly to pray for revitalization in our churches and have begun to develop a revitalization strategy. The money helps them attend the National Church Revitalization Conference in Orlando, Florida.

### **Little River Baptist Association**

NCMO funds have helped support a truck stop ministry on I-95 for the past 15 years. We have given out over 10,000 New Testaments. We support a part-time chaplain.

### **New River Baptist Association**

The New River Baptist Association used our NCMO funds in the following areas: evangelism; future ministries projects; ministers conference; and associational missions trip.

### **New South River Baptist Association**

New South River used a portion of the funds for first-time mission trips for out of state volunteers.

### **Piedmont Baptist Association**

Church revitalization and church planting support are important. "The Gathering Place" has become an inspiring example of church revitalization. For the past 20 years, the neighborhood around the old Albertson Road Baptist Church (ARBC) in High Point began to change and the church membership began to age out. The remaining members of ARBC gave their 67-year-old church building and property to the Piedmont Baptist Association (PBA). The PBA leadership team saw this as a mission opportunity and PBA and NCMO funds were used to repair parts of the old church building so that it could be used as a ministry outpost. "The Gathering Place" houses four ethnic churches that share the gospel in this multiethnic community through weekly worship services and a myriad of ministries and services.

### **Randolph Baptist Association**

Randolph Baptist Association put our NCMO monies to good use. We used some for items for prison packs for our local prison inmates at Christmas time. We used some for honorariums and expenses for our Pastors Revitalization Summit and some for our Teen Extreme youth evangelistic event.

### **Sandhills Baptist Association**

Here in the Sandhills Baptist Association, our local missions work has focused primarily upon supporting a new Hispanic effort. First Baptist Church Aberdeen is the sponsoring church for Vida Para Todos led by Juan Fernandez. NCMO funds have purchased Spanish tracts and Bibles in addition to underwriting the costs of several outreach events to the Hispanic community. Brother Juan is leading five weekly home Bible studies in the area and has recently begun Sunday afternoon worship services at the sponsoring church.

### **Sandy Run Baptist Association**

We are grateful for the funds! We utilize them for purchasing pastors' resources to encourage them in their ministries, provide tracts and evangelistic tools for outreaches in the two counties we serve and have also placed funds in pastors' wives' fellowships that meet periodically when resources are also provided for them to encourage and under gird their service. In summary, the funds have been used to provide for our primary leadership, to those who give much and often receive little.

### **South Mountain Baptist Association**

The North Carolina Mission Offering funds we receive yearly goes into the South Mountain Baptist Association (SMBA )mission fund and used by our SMBA mission team which is made up of 25 to 35 folks from our 28 churches. The mission team is headed up by our mission team coordinator, Debbie Wortman. Our SMBA mission team embarks on three mission trips a year.

### **South Yadkin Baptist Association**

South Yadkin Baptist Association (SYBA) used NCMO funds to purchase Bibles to give away through various SYBA ministries such as the food pantry and clothes closet, toy store for Jesus, and Iredell county fair.

### **Union Baptist Association**

The NCMO funds for the last year were distributed over a wide variety of ministry areas. A portion of the funds went to our new missions resource center which presently provides space for two church plants (Invitation & LifePoint) and a myriad of associational functions for our member churches.

### **Yancey Baptist Association**

Yancey Baptist Association will use our NCMO funds to help our new Hispanic church plant.

### **Yates Baptist Association**

The money received this year from the North Carolina Missions Offering is being used for a church revitalization conference for our churches. We had a special forum in January on church revitalization and expected about 75 people, but we had over 150 in attendance, which confirmed that this is an area of great need and interest for our churches. Therefore, we are in the process of planning a follow-up and extended conference on church revitalization to be held in September.

### **Impacting Lostness through Disciple-Making**

Associations across the state are engaging in the "impacting lostness through disciple-making" strategy. Though the population may be concentrated more densely in the metropolitan areas, the percentage of lostness in relationship to population numbers is just as high in rural areas. Clusters of associations in the less populated rural areas are working together to develop regional strategies by working together to impact their context.

### **Church and Community Ministry**

Church and Community Ministry (CCM) personnel in the associations continue to provide a valuable ministry by enlisting, organizing and empowering volunteers to be engaged daily with the ministry of feeding, clothing and sharing Jesus with people who have lost jobs, homes and hope. Following are just a few examples but there are many more stories in the field of service:

Norma Melton, church and community minister in the Buncombe Baptist Association, facilitates the joint effort of eight sister associations in ministering to carnival and fair workers at the Mountain State Fair with continued success. Each year they engage in ministries involving



food, clothing, medical care, dental care and haircuts that result in trusting relationships and professions of faith.

Another church community minister, Randolph Wilson in Cullom Baptist Association, continues to lead volunteers and teams throughout their area to address the need of substandard housing and handicap issues.

Charles Reed, church community minister in the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, offers resources to hurting families with food, clothing, medical and financial needs through donations, grants and contributions from corporations, businesses, churches and individuals.

### **Bivocational Ministry**

Bivocational ministry presents its own set of challenges. Reaching out and connecting with bivocational ministers has proven difficult but extremely necessary since these ministers don't have the option to participate in many opportunities offered for their benefit.

Bivocational ministries shifted from a statewide retreat in the central part of the state to regional retreats that bring the opportunities closer to the field of ministry of the bivocational minister. We have also elected to include smaller membership church ministers in any of the events we offer. All ministers who serve churches with 125 or less in average worship attendance are invited to participate. There are differences between the bivocational and fully funded small church minister, but the issues regarding church development are virtually the same.

Our first regional retreat was offered at Caswell in March 2015. Kelton Hinton served as the point person to help plan

and promote the event. The officers of the N.C. Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association also participated in the planning and execution of the retreat. Our theme was "Iron Men: Finding Strength for the Journey." Sessions were offered addressing strengthening your ministry, strengthening your person, strengthening your marriage and strengthening your spirit. Our attendance was much better, and approximately 90 percent of those attending had never before been to any BSCNC events.

The BSCNC has about 1,400 churches with bivocational staff, but the number of churches significantly increases when you add in all churches with 125 or less in average worship attendance. Our focus is on the smaller membership churches and ministers. North Carolina Bivocational Ministries also relates to the national resourcing body known as the Bivocational and Small Church Leadership Network, which hosts yearly meetings at various locations across the United States.

### **Demographic Services**

Many associational missionaries, church planters, BSCNC strategy coordinators, pastors and church staff utilize the demographic services provided by the state convention to map their areas of ministry.

MissionInsite is a vital and valuable tool for locating and identifying unreached people, as well as developing and implementing an intentional outreach strategy. For instance, associational missionaries from all over the state are beginning to learn and use the tool to train pastors to survey ministry and mission needs in their ministry context. Invaluable information is available to understand the people they are targeting or will target with the gospel.



We encourage ministers to begin discovering just how many layers of information this tool has to help them better reach the lost, make disciples, and plant new churches. This resource has not only provided basic demographic information on their target groups, but it also has enabled them to understand these people's likes, dislikes and preference in life and in matters relating to Christ and church. Associational Partnerships continues the search for a person to train as trainers of MissionInsite in your local setting who has a passion for demographic studies and touching the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am indebted to and grateful for Shirley Sells, executive leader assistant in Church Planting and Missions Partnerships, who continues to be a proven, skilled and invaluable asset in providing training to those who are interested in utilizing MissionInsite.

Plotting a church's membership is an effective way to help churches discover clusters of their own people who live in areas they are trying to reach. These people can be used to begin reaching their own communities with the gospel. The additional benefit of being able to compare a congregation's demographics to their community or target area is invaluable in better understanding the best way to prepare the soil of the hearts of the people for the sowing of the precious seed of the gospel. Discovering how alike or how different the community is from the congregation will help churches develop a strategy that best fits how to discover real needs. We have barely scratched the surface in how much this tool will assist our churches in impacting lostness that results in disciples. I, for one, am grateful to the state convention for making such a valuable resource available to every church.

## **On Mission Connections**

Associational Partnerships remains the contact point for associations applying to host an On Mission Connections (OMC) event. We provide connection and contact information regarding available missionaries who serve or have served with the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board or Baptist State Convention of North Carolina staff. OMCs offer an opportunity to raise awareness of and initiate connections with unreached peoples with the intention of a long-term partnership.

Our goal is to work closely with our associations to encourage, resource and produce healthy churches and stronger associations as we seek to become the strongest force in the history of this convention for reaching people with the gospel.

*Lester Evans, Team Leader*

*Lauren McCall, Team Leader Assistant*

## **CHURCH PLANTING TEAM**

Kingdom impact is the ongoing focus of the work of the Church Planting Team. With 5.8 million unreached people in North Carolina, the team is concentrated on assisting churches, associations and networks in "impacting lostness through disciple-making." With over 300 languages spoken in the homes of school children in our state, the need is great. Presently 69 language groups are already engaged. Visionary churches are praying and contemplating how they might most effectively reach their communities with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Church Planting Story – KeWen Dong**

Many Chinese are coming to America, the land of opportunity, with a goal of becoming rich. Unfortunately, many of

them find that's not their reality. The work that they find is often in the Chinese restaurants in which you and I love to eat. Most of these restaurants are open until midnight, the hour that missionary church planter KeWen Dong and his partner planters hold church services.

Heavenly Bread Chinese Baptist Church has five locations in North Carolina that are focused on reaching restaurant workers with the gospel. They bring the workers more than hope in making it rich; they bring them knowledge of Jesus Christ and the eternal riches that are theirs in heaven. Dozens have already come to know the Lord Jesus as personal Savior.

New church plants are very effective at impacting lostness through disciple-making. The new church can fully concentrate on reaching the unreached more effectively, due to their focus on outreach, evangelism and disciple-making in contrast to attention to building programs and budgets. With such focused energy as new disciples are grown, leadership is consistently developed, which leads to effective "impact" as they become faithful fishers of men. Between July 2015 and June 2016, new churches reported over 4,000 professions of faith. Church planters had more than 60,000 evangelistic contacts in an effort to impact the lostness around them. The fields truly are "white for the harvest."

### **Church Planting Story – Quinn Rodgers**

Quinn Rodgers is planting a church in Charlotte, a city where nine of the top 10 pockets of lostness are located in our state. GeneratiOne is beginning a new church in an area known as NoDa, which is short for North Davidson, a popular arts and entertainment area near North Davidson street in uptown Charlotte. As a matter of fact, the NoDa area is the sixth most unreached pocket of lostness in

the state. Due to the faithfulness of this new church, over 73 people have come to Christ. The church is just 1-year-old and compels over 130 people to join in worship each week.

Since North Carolina has a vast diversity of people groups, getting into all "the highways and hedges to compel them to come in" takes a great effort of churches and strategies. Different churches reach different kinds of people. The more fishing lines we get into the water, the more people can be impacted by the gospel.

Last year, North Carolina Baptists celebrated 105 new churches. A total of 83 of these were new church plants receiving coaching and financial assistance through the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) and the Cooperative Program. A total of 22 joined our Baptist family by affiliation and received resources like coaching, partnerships, training and missions.

### **Church Planting Story – Jose Alonso**

Hendersonville is in need of further kingdom impact in the Hispanic community. Jose Alonso, missionary church planter and graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible College, responded to God's call to plant a new church to compel the Hispanics to come and worship the Lord. Though his church just started earlier this year, 13 people have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ already. The fields are white for the harvest.

Partnering in missions provides tremendous impact when Baptists join together in the effort. New churches give to missions just like existing churches. As a matter of fact, new churches with financial assistance from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina "tithe to missions" once their public launch has occurred. From June, 2015 to May 2016,

new churches are reporting \$110,025.96 given to the Cooperative Program and \$56,000 to the associations. Moreover, new churches are providing \$36,966 to other new church plants like themselves. They give \$32,396 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Most of these new churches start small, meeting in the living room of the missionary planter's home as disciples are made. In their book *Viral Churches*, Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird report that after four years, the average church plant in America has an attendance of 84 in worship. Small becomes large when these church plants join together with their resources to support missions. We are better together!

"Compelling them to come in" is a measurable component in determining how we are fishing for men and how we are doing in "impacting lostness through disciple-making." New churches in North Carolina are gathering over 4,211 in attendance each week in worship, with over 2,054 of these involved in small group life. These reports are only from those presently being funded. God is blessing the faithfulness of missionary church planters and the churches who send them.

### **Church Planting Story – Sisay Biftu**

There is a great diverse community of immigrants in Greensboro, of which one community is Ethiopian. We want to welcome them and offer them a place to worship Jesus just like we have many choices of places to go to hear God's word and worship together. One problem — most of them speak Amharic.

Thank God for our new missionary planter, Sisay Biftu, a shy, but loving pastor with a heart to see his people grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. While the church is small, five members

of this language group have already been baptized as disciples of Jesus.

The Church Planting Team continues to serve missionary church planters by equipping them to impact lostness in an effective and contextually appropriate way. Therefore, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina provides different opportunities for learning based upon the geographic areas of focus, language and need.

William Ortega, senior Hispanic church planting consultant, is guiding the Hispanic Church Planting Institute in North Carolina. There are 155 Hispanic leaders enrolled in the Institute, representing 16 Spanish-speaking countries. This is a yearlong equipping process. The first seven months are in a monthly Saturday instructional gathering in eight different regions of the state. The final five months are focused on contextual application and coaching. God is blessing this strategic training initiative.

Ralph Garay, senior Asian church planting consultant, is leading the School of International Leaders for Church Multiplication. The school has 77 leaders who meet monthly, representing 21 churches and eight nations. Language groups involved include leaders from Vietnam, Burma, Nepal, Korea, Philippines, Eritrea, the United States, Laos and Thailand. Topics for the 12 sessions include, empowering, multiplying, preaching, the establishment of cultural engagement, and more.

Church planter training for English speakers is making strategic adjustments, as well. Our new "Multiply Training," a tool of the North American Mission Board, is facilitated in regional cohorts made up of two to five missionary church planters

and a certified leader. Some members of the cohorts are bivocational. The goal of the training is to assist church planters in attaining vital competencies necessary to become an effective church planting missionary. These include such proficiencies as missional engagement, prayer, empowerment and multiplication. The Church Planting Team believes “a call to go is a call to prepare.” Ken Holland, church planting consultant, directs the English training in North Carolina.

### **Church Planting Story – Chase Gardner**

Asheville is one of North Carolina’s most beautiful cities, situated in the mountains in the western part of the state. The city is also a challenging mission field, where many people follow Eastern religions, New Age thought, or the godless religion that is part of a secular culture. We thank the Lord today for the mission work of Emmaus Church, planted by Chase Gardner. Many young couples uprooted from the Raleigh-Durham area and moved to Asheville as missionary team members to form Emmaus Church’s core team. The church first met in the building of Buncombe Baptist Association, and later they found a building near the campus of UNC-Asheville. After just several months, the church is worshipping with over 130 in attendance each week.

With the goal of maximum impact utilizing the resources God provides through churches of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Church Planting Team is committed to equipping and serving missionary church planters, churches, associations and networks. Together through multiplication, we can do much more as we give our very best to “impacting lostness through disciple-making.”

*Mark Gray, Church Planting Team Leader*  
*Savannah Parks, Team Leader Assistant*

## **COLLEGIATE PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Shift in Missiology**

For decades, collegiate ministry in Baptist life flowed from a chaplaincy mindset. Professionally trained ministers focused largely on caring for those who already self-identified not only as Christian, but also as Baptist. Rooted in discipleship, ministry leaders sought to help college students develop their faith, gain a better understanding of the local church, and expose them to various missions experiences.

Ministries celebrated students who surrendered their lives to full-time vocational ministry and the numbers of students they were able to put on the mission field. Growing a collegiate ministry related directly to the ability to gather and keep students who were already Christian. And in a culture – even secular culture – built on the assumed centrality of Christianity, it made sense.

Churches and parachurch ministries that have continued to operate based on that assumption, however, have (at one time slowly and now quickly) fallen behind, shrunk and lost ground. College campuses are no longer built upon a Judeo-Christian worldview. The collegiate environment is now more akin to the cultures of unreached, unengaged people groups than it is to 1950s-era adolescent rebellion or 1960s-era post-adolescent counter-culture.

Churches should no longer focus on keeping what they have; there are very few to keep. Instead, churches should view the college or university campuses in their backyard as a frontier-like mission field. We must move from a defensive posture of protecting our rights and the college students in our fold to an offensive posture of taking new ground, learning to interact with worldviews contrary to our own, and

proclaiming the gospel to those who have never heard.

Churches that are doing this well usually operate covertly on the campus. They have no focus on creating worship gatherings to attract students to them. These churches focus instead on sending missionaries – student or non-student – into smaller segments on the campus that already naturally group themselves together. From there, they make disciples and start multiplying movements.

### **Shift in Focus**

A quick, unofficial poll of virtually any segment of North Carolina's population will reveal that when asked what the largest colleges or universities in the state are, people will point to N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill nearly every single time. And that would be fine, if it were correct.

The fact is that two other colleges in North Carolina individually have student bodies equivalent to the student populations of N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill combined. Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh and Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte both have enrollments just over 70,000 students. In addition, N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill are two of the most reached college campuses in our state, while the two largest colleges remain two of the least reached. As a matter of fact, both of them, until now, have had no gospel presence on them at all.

Thanks to several N.C. Baptist churches, however, that statistic is changing.

- Open Door Church in Raleigh has launched ministry on the north campus of Wake Tech.
- Apex Baptist Church and Piney Grove Chapel Baptist Church in Angier are working together to plant the gospel

among several programs on the main campus of Wake Tech.

- Mercy Church in Charlotte started collegiate ministry specifically targeting the central campus of Central Piedmont Community College.
- First Baptist Church of Matthews has begun work at the Cato Campus of Central Piedmont Community College.

Of the 1.2 million college students in North Carolina, 70 percent of them are enrolled in community colleges. Most of those community colleges are not mega-schools like Wake Tech and Central Piedmont. Most of them are much smaller with 3,000 to 9,000 students. But while for years those community colleges remained untouched by N.C. Baptists, our new strategy has mobilized churches onto those campuses as well. As a matter of fact, of the 43 college and university campuses N.C. Baptists are currently engaging with the gospel, 18 of them are community colleges.

### **Shift in Objective**

In January 2014 when the new strategy and collegiate overhaul were implemented, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) was partnered in ministry on nine college and university campuses. Now in the fall of 2016, N.C. Baptist churches are leading reproducing gospel ministries on 43 campuses. That's a 478 percent increase in 2.5 years!

In order to accelerate the reproduction of ministry to frontier fields in collegiate ministry, the Collegiate Partnerships Team created a list of the 20 Most Strategic Campuses in North Carolina for making the "No Campus Left" vision a reality. This list considered data from research on four fronts: campus density; ripeness for gospel engagement; connectivity to other campuses; and frontier status.

Spotlighting these 20 campuses has proven most helpful in knowing where to start and accelerating the process of making “No Campus Left” a reality. Below is the complete list of campuses that N.C. Baptist churches are engaging with the gospel as of August 2016.

- Appalachian State University, Boone
- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Asheville
- Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock
- Blue Ridge Community College, Brevard
- Brevard College, Brevard
- Caldwell Community College (Watauga Campus), Boone
- Campbell University, Buies Creek
- Central Piedmont Community College (Cato Campus),\* Charlotte
- Central Piedmont Community College (Central Campus),\* Charlotte
- Central Piedmont Community College (Levine Campus),\* Matthews
- Chowan University, Murphreesboro
- Cleveland Community College,^ Shelby
- Duke University, Durham
- Durham Technical Community College,\* Durham
- East Carolina University, Greenville
- Elon University,^ Elon
- High Point University, High Point
- Johnston Community College, Smithfield
- Meredith College, Raleigh
- N.C. A&T University,\*^ Greensboro
- N.C. Central University, Durham
- N.C. State University, Raleigh
- N.C. Research Campus, Kannapolis
- N.C. Wesleyan College,^ Rocky Mount
- Pitt Community College, Greenville
- Randolph Community College, \*^ Asheboro
- Shaw University,^ Raleigh
- Southwestern Community College (Jackson Campus),^ Sylva

- Southwestern Community College (Macon Campus),^ Franklin
- St. Augustine University,^ Raleigh
- Surry Community College,\*^ Dobson
- UNC-Asheville,^ Asheville
- UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill
- UNC-Charlotte,\*^ Charlotte
- UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro
- UNC-Pembroke,^ Pembroke
- UNC School of the Arts,\*^ Winston-Salem
- UNC-Wilmington,^ Wilmington
- Wake Technical Community College (Main Campus),\*^ Raleigh
- Wake Technical Community College (North Campus),\*^ Raleigh
- Western Carolina University, Cullowhee
- Wilkes Community College, Wilkesboro
- Winston-Salem State University,^ Winston-Salem

*\* indicates one of the 20 Most Strategic Campuses in North Carolina*

*^ indicates new engagement for 2016*

To learn how your congregation can strategically engage any of the 150 college campuses across North Carolina, please contact the Collegiate Partnerships Team at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5657.

*Jonathan Yarboro, Team Leader*

## GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERSHIPS

Acts 17:26-27 declares that a sovereign God has determined “allotted times” and “boundaries” for people’s habitation in order “...that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.” We live in a unique time when God is allowing more people than at any previous time in history to migrate. With mass migration comes an unusual opportunity to share the gospel and reach the nations.

Immigrants are people who move across a geographic or political boundary that takes them away from their place of birth. Most people migrate in order to find greater financial or quality of life benefits. Many people, however, are forced to migrate because of natural disasters, political upheaval, persecution or war. Whatever the reason for migration, almost all are looking for a better life for themselves and for their families.

As peoples move around the world, a new challenge has developed in the form of urbanization. Just 100 years ago, less than 8 percent of the world population lived in cities. May 2007 marked the first time in human history that a majority of world population lived in cities and urban centers. Today, there are more than 400 urban areas in the world that have a population of 1 million or more. With urbanization comes the challenges of isolation, secularism, materialism, and the general devaluing of long-standing moral norms.

The United Nations estimates that in 2015 there were 244 million migrants worldwide. That is about 3.3 percent of the total world population and can be represented as more than two of every three people who live in the United States. While migration is happening worldwide, there are especially large numbers of Asian peoples who are migrating, particularly Chinese, Asian-Indian and Filipino peoples. There are 54 million migrants in North America and 47 million of those are in the United States. In North Carolina there are more than 1 million immigrants and, according to the Institute for Southern Studies, the fastest growing ethnic population is Asian.

The Office of Great Commission Partnerships (GCP) views migration as an open door for sharing the gospel in our state, our nation and our world.

## **North Carolina**

Through the Peoples Next Door North Carolina (PNDNC) project, over 158 people groups have been identified as residents of North Carolina. Churches across North Carolina are becoming more aware of the peoples who have moved into their communities and are seeking to engage them through friendship, teaching English as second language classes, meeting physical and other support needs, and sharing the love of Christ in the process.

The city of Morrisville has seen a great influx of Asian-Indian peoples during the last several years. Recently there have been combined efforts by N.C. Baptist churches in Cary, Morrisville and Durham to reach these peoples through friendship ministries, home Bible studies and other opportunities.

In the Triad area, a coalition of Baptists who are concerned about reaching Muslims with the gospel have been meeting for prayer, training and development of ministries that are focused on helping those from Muslim backgrounds become followers of Christ. There are other Baptist churches in the Triad focused on reaching Nepalis.

Across our state, churches are reaching out to Syrians, Yemenis, Ukrainians, Burmese, Vietnamese, Laotians, West Africans, Hispanics and a myriad of other peoples that a sovereign God has moved to North Carolina. Instead of viewing immigration from a secular perspective, these churches are taking an eternal perspective. N.C. Baptists have the good news of the gospel, and God is moving those who have not heard and not believed to us in order that we can share the gospel.

The opportunity of reaching the nations in North Carolina has been enhanced



this year by the Voluntary Retirement Incentive (VRI) that the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board (IMB) offered to our missionaries. While we never rejoice at bringing valuable, experienced missionaries off of the field, we must recognize that God is redeploying several of them to North Carolina. Through the generosity of N.C. Baptists several of these IMB personnel have entered into contracts with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) to help our churches understand the culture of the peoples God has brought to us. These missionaries are helping develop tools and training to assist churches in evangelizing Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and others.

### **Send North America**

An overwhelming majority of the 54 million people who have immigrated to North America have located in the major cities of the United States and Canada. The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has designated 32 of these cities as Send North America cities. Generally, they are the least evangelized cities in North America and have the greatest need for church planting.

North Carolina Baptists work with partners in most, and perhaps all, of these Send North America cities. In particular, the BSCNC emphasizes work in Toronto, Boston, New York (through the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association), and Baltimore. N.C. Baptist churches are working with Middle Eastern peoples, and various Asian people groups in Toronto. God seems to be in the process of calling several N.C. Baptists to church planting in the greater Toronto area and each is looking for church partners from North Carolina.

In Boston, First Baptist Church of Matthews is partnering with Suresh Sammangi at Indian Community Church (ICC). During the past year, ICC has had a strong launch in the Boston area seeking to reach the fast-growing Indian population. As the members of FBC Matthews have worked in Boston and returned to the metro Charlotte area, they have seen the growing international community around them with fresh vision, particularly the Asian population.

In New York City, there are numerous N.C. Baptist churches working with various people groups, which include Hispanics, Pakistanis, Indians and Middle Easterners. Last December, Coats for the City, an annual event sponsored by N.C. Baptists and the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, helped churches reach out to thousands of people in the city by distributing coats. The work of the participating churches from North Carolina and New York allowed many to hear the gospel and some to accept Jesus. Many of those reached were peoples God brought to New York.

In Baltimore, Denver Baptist Church in Denver, N.C., has been a driving force in encouraging N.C. Baptist churches to participate in vision tours that are leading to partnership. Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem is actively working to build a network of churches to evangelize and plant churches in Calgary. God is at work in the great cities of North America, especially among those He has allowed to migrate there so they can hear the gospel and so some will find Him.

### **International**

Recognizing the movement of people, especially to large cities, the IMB has launched its Global Cities Initiative (GCI). With an initial focus on five cities, the IMB is seeking to develop opportunities

for churches and individuals to impact lostness as never before. One of the initial GCI cities is Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur is part of the Southeast Asian partnership of N.C. Baptists. Imagine a city of 6.9 million people (about 70 percent of the population of North Carolina), 350 people groups from around the globe, and hundreds of thousands of college students who have come to study before returning to their homelands. Now imagine in a city that massive there are only 23 Baptist churches and fewer than 100 evangelical churches.

Truly God is presenting N.C. Baptists unprecedented doors for proclaiming the gospel through the movement of peoples around the world. Beginning in our neighborhoods and going to the great cities of North America and the rest of the world, we have the message of salvation the world needs. Let's move forward through the doors of opportunity God has opened.

*Zac Lyons, Consultant*

*Lauren McCall, Ministry Assistant*

# EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

REPORT



**LYNN SASSER**  
EXECUTIVE LEADER

**THE EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUP** is focused on our convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making" as we strengthen churches by helping them create a disciple-making culture.

Disciple-making is an overarching term for the process of evangelism and discipleship. It is the essence of Jesus' words spoken to Peter and Andrew in Matthew 4:19: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." As we come to faith in Christ (evangelism), we are made by Him (discipleship) to become fishers of men (being an evangelist). Jesus makes it clear that a disciple is someone who follows Him and whose heart is being molded by Him through the work of the Holy Spirit to become a disciple who makes more disciples.

A disciple-making culture is one that is never content to stop with conversion alone. This culture provides an environment for the recently converted to grow in their faith to the point that they ultimately share Christ with other people and help them become disciples. This is a culture in which it is natural, normative and expected that disciples are regularly reproduced in obedience to our Lord's Great Commission to "make disciples."

A primary goal for our group is to help churches discover, develop and deliver a disciple-making culture within the congregation. We are ready to provide coaching, encouragement and resources for the journey.

It is a great challenge for churches that are plateaued or declining to create a disciple-making culture. Various studies agree that more than 75 percent of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches fit into one of these categories.

Because of this great need, a new team was formed on Dec. 1, 2015: The Church Health and Revitalization Team. This team will create systems and engage N.C. Baptist churches to help them move toward health and vitality around the central focus on disciple-making.

The Evangelism and Discipleship Group is comprised of three teams, the Disciple-Making Team, the Church Strengthening Team, and the Church Health and Revitalization Team. Their stories follow.

*M. Lynn Sasser, Executive Leader,  
Evangelism and Discipleship Group  
Kathy Markham, Executive Leader Assistant*

## DISCIPLE-MAKING TEAM

The Disciple-Making Team is organized to allow our staff to better align their ministries to assist local churches in impacting lostness through disciple-making. The Disciple-Making Team exists to help create a disciple-making culture in avenues of ministry for people in all ages, stages and ethnicities.

*M. Lynn Sasser, Executive Leader,  
Evangelism and Discipleship Group\*  
Austin Pulliam, Team Leader Assistant*

*\*The disciple-making team leader position was vacant when this report was submitted.*

## EMBRACE AND WOMEN'S EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

During the 2015-2016 ministry year, Embrace launched new initiatives to help fulfill the BSCNC's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." One of these included updating the Embrace Leadership Guide. The guide, originally published in 2010, was rewritten and redesigned to help local church women's ministry leaders design and plan women's ministries focused on disciple-making. Suggestions are provided for connecting mature believers in Christ with those who are not yet in Christ, as well as those who have never been discipled. Printed copies of the material are available from the Embrace office, and a digital version is available from the ministry's website at *embracenc.org*.

Additionally, Embrace relaunched the women's ministry blog, "Worthy of the Calling." The newly redesigned website reflects the new ministry logo and has a concentrated effort to equip women with Scripture in their everyday lives, stories and encouragement to be disciple-makers, and leadership tips. Contributors to the blog include Ashley Allen, Abby Edwards, Sara Henderson, Lora Maidon, Lauren McCall and Erin Stache. The blog has enjoyed readership across North Carolina, in almost all 50 states of the United States, and in several countries around the world.

In 2016, Embrace piloted the Embrace Leadership Network (ELN). ELN is an organization of women's ministry leaders who have gathered together for a time of learning and equipping to serve their churches and associations in the best way possible. Embrace Leadership Network (ELN) centers around four

Saturdays of intentional teaching during one calendar year. During this time of teaching women are able to not only learn, but also have the opportunity to meet other women's ministry leaders and build a network of support while learning from one another. Each ELN Saturday requires reading three books focused on the topics that will be discussed during the gathering. Women's ministry leaders who participate in ELN prepare by reading the books and readying themselves to engage in discussion to determine ways of application of the material to their current ministry setting. Teaching draws from women's ministry leaders and others who are well-versed in the teaching topics. The subjects taught include: foundations of women's ministry and administration; disciple-making and women; how to teach/study the Bible; engaging in gospel conversations; working with a team; reaching the nones (individuals who identify their religious affiliation as "none"); and a variety of other topics for today's women's ministry leader.

Within the 2016 pilot year, ELN worked with eight pre-selected women who are women's and girls' ministry leaders in their local churches and associations. In 2017, ELN will be open statewide for women's ministry leaders to take part for learning and equipping opportunities.

### Missions Involvement

Boston was the destination city for the September 2015 Embrace mission trip. A group of N.C. Baptist women worked with Hope Fellowship in Cambridge and their new church plant, Beacon Community Church, Belmont. Metro Boston has a population of almost five million people, but more than 1,000 communities in the metro-area are without an evangelical witness. The mission team worked in Boston subway stations handing out gum, water and granola bars, along with

information about Hope Fellowship Church. This simple gesture opened doors of opportunity to engage others in gospel conversations.

Additionally, the team traveled to the neighboring community of Belmont to work with Dane Helsing, pastor of Beacon Community Church. Beacon is a church plant of Hope Fellowship Church and was to launch with their first service two weeks after the group returned to North Carolina. The group worked at the local train station with Helsing, handing out coffee and donuts to local residents in order to build relationships.

Kaitlyn King, a member of the mission team and a member at First Baptist Church Creedmoor spoke about what she learned on the mission trip: "During the Embracing Boston mission trip, God showed me just how lost a world we live in. Growing up in church and always being surrounded by the name of Jesus, it is almost unfathomable to me to think of never hearing the name and story of Jesus. During our time in Boston, we came in contact with many people who either had never heard the name of Jesus or didn't believe in Him. Working with the different areas in and around Cambridge, God reminded me of the spark that is in the eyes of new believers. It is easy for the trying times and the struggles to allow our light for Jesus to dim. I came home with a renewed spark in my own eyes, with an urgency to tell others about Jesus. While in Boston I learned that even the smallest step towards Jesus is still a step. We always want the 'big wow' instant conversion, but that doesn't always happen. Allowing others to see Jesus in you by building relationships with people like Hope Fellowship is doing can be done here at home, too. We can have those 'plus-one' conversations with people in our workplace, our home, our

friendships and our communities. If we want to fulfill the Great Commission, we have to pass the light to others so they can help reach the masses. Hope Fellowship, through their work in Boston, has taught their congregation to go out and share the good news. This has resulted in sister church plants in other parts of Boston that are working towards creating more disciples, this can be done in North Carolina, as well."

### **Women's Ministry Events**

In September 2015 Embrace hosted the Embrace Leadership Training at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. The training's theme, "Making Disciples Who Make Disciples" aided in helping equip women's ministry leaders to fulfill the BSCNC's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." Women's ministry leaders and their leadership teams engaged in breakout sessions focused on practical ways to make disciples. This included topics such as how to make disciples among women of other nations and cultures; how to structure women's ministries to focus on disciple-making; how to bridge generation gaps for the purpose of disciple-making; and learning about neighborhoods around their churches, among others.

Embrace hosted the N.C. Baptist Women's Retreat "Obedience by Faith" during the weekend of Oct. 23-24, 2015. The retreat featured plenary session speakers Teresa Brown, a popular Bible teacher and pastor's wife from Northside Baptist Church in Charlotte, and Naghmeh Abedini, the wife of imprisoned Christian pastor, Saeed Abedini. The Abedini's story garnered international attention as Naghmeh advocated for her husband's release. Kimberly Merida, a pastor's wife from Imago Dei Church (IDC) in Raleigh, and Erica Keith, also of IDC, led worship.



Throughout the two-day retreat at Caraway Conference Center and Camp, women were challenged to live lives in obedience to the Lord. Women were provided breakout session times, but also times of prayer and Bible study personally and with other women from their church. At the conclusion of the retreat, women were encouraged to identify where the Lord was asking them to be obedient and step out in faith. Women recorded the acts on small cards and laid them at the foot of one of two crosses on the platform.

As part of the 2016 Disciple-Making Conference, Embrace hosted Lori Frank as the speaker for the women's track. Frank, wife of Bruce Frank, pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, spoke to the women about engaging the millennial generation with the gospel. Frank advocated and encouraged older women to build relationships with younger women in order to disciple them. She challenged the ladies to look beyond surface level differences, and to identify the things the younger and older generations have in common. Additionally, Frank encouraged women to be "bridge builders." As she explained, women can be bridge builders who fill the gap between the older and younger generations. Using examples from her own church, Frank offered practical advice for intentionally reaching younger generations with the gospel.

On March 5, 2016, Embrace hosted "Refresh," a day of encouragement and equipping for ministry wives at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. The day was led by pastors' wives Tabatha Frost of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, and Beth Harris, of First Baptist Church of Charlotte. The worship time was led by Cindy Johnson, worship leader at Old Town Baptist Church.

The ministry wives who attended ranged in age and longevity of marriage and time in ministry. Frost, speaking from the first four chapters of 1 Corinthians, encouraged the women to live as wise women. She said, "Your purpose comes from the Lord, not from the people around you." She aided the women in looking at their identities in Christ and how they can fulfill the call the Lord has placed on their lives as they live as a helpmate to their husbands as a primary role. Harris encouraged her fellow ministry wives to be their husbands' protectors and motivators. She also encouraged the ministry wives to be a quiet influence, noting it is a "powerful tool."

*Ashley Allen, Senior Consultant,  
Embrace and Women's Evangelism &  
Discipleship*

## CHILDHOOD EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12b). In order to impact lostness in North Carolina, the Childhood Evangelism and Discipleship Team recognizes that disciples are effectively reproduced when families and churches become partners in a deliberate, developmental strategy.

One way to implement this integrated discipleship strategy is by training future ministers. Students in the "Next Generation" ministry track at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary spent a week examining the need for a comprehensive, generational approach to ministry. Disciple-making has the greatest impact when the church and the home work together in an intentional, unified effort that equips and supports parents in their role as disciple-makers. Presentations included how biblical concepts are developed from



birth through college graduation and how to develop and implement a vision for family ministry in the local church. Merrie Johnson and Cheryl Markland were two of the keynote speakers for this great week.

In addition to training future ministers, Church and Family Connect held a "Building Faith-Filled Families" conference designed for pastors, church staff and lay leaders. Those in attendance learned how to develop a family ministry philosophy that is infused into existing ministry offerings rather than becoming an isolated entity. Attention was given to programming, marriage enrichment and single parenting.

Several roundtable meetings were also held throughout the state. At these events, ministry leaders were invited to join together as both friends and fellow children's ministers in order to form a long-term plan of partnership and support.

Good safety and security policies protect children and churches. Due to the diversity of churches in our state, we offer various tools for training and equipping leaders throughout the year. At times, this type of training occurs online or via telephone consultations. In other instances, the training takes place at individual churches so that consultants can perform facility evaluations and offer individually tailored solutions for a safe, secure children's ministry environment.

Families that have children with special needs sometimes struggle to find a church that is welcoming to their entire family. Luke 14:13 says, "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind." On March 5, The Banquet conference was held simultaneously at both Peninsula Baptist Church in Mooresville and Quest

Fellowship Church in Garner. The event offered training for leaders of children with special needs. The goals were to build and equip leaders who have loving and willing hearts; to impact this special population with the message of Jesus through individual "buddies" and self-contained classes that meet individual needs in a calm, sensory-friendly setting; and to place special emphasis on meeting the needs of the entire family. In addition to The Banquet, training for leaders of children with special needs ministries was offered at the Happiness Retreat at Caraway Conference Center and Camp.

Summer camp offers unique disciple-making opportunities. "Saddle-Up" is this year's theme for children's summer camps at Caraway. Childhood Ministries trained camp staff by introducing age-appropriate teaching on prayer and various methods for presenting the gospel. Then staff members practiced presenting both devotional materials and gospel presentations to children.

*Cheryl Markland, Senior Consultant,  
Childhood Evangelism and Discipleship*

### **Church Weekday Education**

Training is a vital part of every church weekday education ministry. The North Carolina Baptist Church Weekday Education Association hosts an annual conference that provides classes approved by the N.C. Division of Child Development and sessions that include faith-based components. Church weekday education staff from across the state attend this two-day event each year. On Aug. 7-8, 2015, approximately 250 workers attended the conference titled "Go Fish!" at the Embassy Suites in Cary. Based on Mark 1:17, the training focused on encouraging and training church weekday directors and staff to look for opportunities to make disciples.

Phyllis Foy, keynote speaker, reminded weekday directors that leading is an important responsibility. Using stories and humor, she discussed ways to lead and disciple as individuals carry out their responsibilities, develop relationships, and maintain authority in their center. In an afternoon session, "Batten Down the Hatches," Landon Hare, sergeant with the Wendell Police Department, discussed the importance of emergency preparedness. He instructed directors on what to include in a plan to implement in case of an emergency situation at a weekday center.

Patricia Goodson, employment specialist with the Brooks Pierce law firm in Greensboro, led a session titled, "Fishing License," which addressed laws and regulations that govern early childhood centers and how they pertain to faith-based centers. On Saturday, the training continued for all weekday staff. Ashley Allen, BSCNC consultant for Embrace and Women's Evangelism and Discipleship, opened the day with a time of worship. She shared the story of fishing with her grandfather and made the following parallel and pertinent points about fishing for fish and fishing for men (disciple-making).

- Dropping a line in the water – sometimes the fish are biting and sometimes they are not.
- Fish – like people – are all different.
- Fish – like people – are hungry.
- Fishing for fish and fishing for people takes time and consistency.
- There are different methods for fishing, but the end result is catching fish.
- Fishing is messy.

Throughout the rest of the day, weekday staff attended a variety of breakout sessions. Attendees learned ideas to incorporate in their centers in order to enrich their quality of care, make

relationships, impact families and be fishers of men. Every year, participants comment that they leave the conference encouraged, excited and affirmed in their role to impact the kingdom of God.

*Mary Sweat, Part-time Consultant,  
Church Weekday Education*

## **Bible Drill**

God tells us that His Word will not return void. That is why Bible Drill is so important and vital to our children and youth. This year, the Bible Drill ministry office received reports that more than 710 children in fourth through 12th grades were involved in learning God's Word. These figures do not include statistics for many other children who were involved in Bible Buddies. Our regional drills this year were at: Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Hudson; Flint Hill Baptist Church in Shelby; Green Street Baptist Church in High Point; Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke; and Coats Baptist Church in Coats. Finals were held at Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord.

Many testimonies have been shared this year as to how Bible Drill has affected many lives, even years after a participant graduated from college. The following is a testimony from Isaac Spears, our 2016 state speaker's winner:

"As an eighth-year participant in Bible Drill/Speakers Tournament, looking forward to next year comes with just as much happiness as it does sorrow. Next year will be my last year to compete in Bible Drill. I will be elated to have followed through with the program for its entire length, but I will definitely miss the companionship and competition of my fellow drillers.

"It is not a stretch at all to say that Bible Drill has affected almost every day of my life since I began the drills in the fourth

grade. Through Sunday School, I had a vague idea of the order of the books of the Bible, but there was no way that I could get to that book in under eight or even 10 seconds, much less a minute! And if you were to tell me that one day I would be able to flip to any verse in the Bible in under eight seconds, I would have told you to begin to pray long and hard.

"Through my first couple of years in the children's drill, I quickly learned the books of the Bible, many of the important key passages, and even began to apply the knowledge to my daily life. I began to feel very in tune with the preacher, especially if he quoted material from the Scripture that I had learned through the drill.

"In middle school, I could answer many of my questions through God's Word. How should I treat the school bully? Matthew 5:44 tells us that we should 'pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.' But the problems always came, and they became more and more complex. However, a verse from my sophomore year really stuck with me, and I refer back to it all of the time. First Corinthians 6:9-10 states, 'Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.' When I am tempted with the sins of this world, this verse eliminates any of the gray area. There is a right, and there is a wrong; there is no uncertainty with God. Verses like these are what kept me coming back to practice every Sunday, and the drill was the answer to my thirst for knowledge.

"I thank God for the gift that He has given me. And that is truly what Bible Drill is: it's a gift, a true learning experience

that teaches us the mechanics of the Bible while also arming us to go out into the real world and to be able to defend our beliefs. I would personally like to thank each church that sponsors the drill, each and every drill instructor and assistant, and I would like to encourage every driller to continue on. I would trade nothing in the entire world for the friends, knowledge, and experience that I have gained through participating in Bible Drills."

Bible Drill has an eternal impact on those who are involved. It's never too late to begin a Bible Drill ministry at your church. You do not have to participate in the Bible Drill competition in order to have a Bible Drill ministry in your church.

*Deborah Robson, Bible Drill Contractor*

### **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

LifeWay's 2015 Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme "Journey Off the Map" took 76,147 children and adults to uncharted territory where they learned that obedience to God could lead them beyond the expected. It's a journey "unknown to us but known to Him." The 613 N.C. churches that reported VBS statistics had an average attendance of 100.

Through the diligent teaching of the faculty and the work of the Holy Spirit, 1,615 people made professions of faith and 4,721 prospects were discovered through the outreach to the communities surrounding the VBS locations. An encouraging step is that 242 people joined a Sunday School, continuing the connection with the people at the church where they attended VBS. Follow-up is an area we all need to improve on. The investment of time, resources, and people hours into the discovery and teaching of spiritual orphans deserves more from us. Since we've done all that amazing work

of inviting the neighborhood, teaching, feeding and decorating, we need to focus on spending more time, thought and planning to continue the connection with our newly-discovered prospects by making our churches welcoming places for those totally unfamiliar with church.

Reports tell us that some N.C. churches are using the newer VBS curriculum piece called, "Backyard Kids Club" (BKC). Backyard Kids Club uses the same theme as the main curriculum so that the extra support pieces can be used. It is designed to take the church's VBS into the yards and homes of its members in a smaller environment. Those who have used this curriculum appreciate the ease of inviting people to their yards, versus inviting neighbors to drive all the way to the church. We look forward to reporting testimonials from those trying this new "old" idea.

Many thanks to the great state VBS team and those in each association who led VBS training workshops across North Carolina. This multiplier training model equipped 1,981 teachers and leaders in local churches.

This report has been prepared at the beginning of summer 2016 with VBS children and leaders being "Submerged" in God's Word with this year's theme. The Bible stories focus on Jesus seeing people in a special way — not just seeing the outside, but looking deep inside. The motto is, "Jesus Sees. Jesus Knows. Jesus Saves." There will be submarines and undersea life decorating the walls of our churches, along with the Scripture passage Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, God, and know my heart..."

VBS provides an amazing opportunity for the whole church to be involved in outreach to the community in a concentrated and fun atmosphere.

Go to [lifeway.com/vbs](http://lifeway.com/vbs) for more information and helps.

*Gail Ledbetter, VBS Contractor*

## FAMILY EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

The design and purpose of Family Evangelism and Discipleship is to strengthen the marriages and families of North Carolina Baptists through personal discipleship, workshops, conferences and retreats.

Our primary strategy is utilizing "Celebrating Marriage God's Way" weekend retreats. The purpose of this weekend is to help couples understand and begin experiencing God's original design for marriage, called "oneness" through leaving, cleaving, love and respect. At the time of this report, more than 15 of these weekend retreats have been conducted this past year, and they always seem to make a big impact on the couples who attend.

This past year two marriage retreats for pastors and wives titled "We Still Do" were offered. These were designed to remind pastors and their wives of their commitment to marriage and to ministry.

Knowing pastors often struggle to balance their family and church, as well as their own emotional and spiritual health, we plan this special weekend with them in mind. The following note is from one of our attending pastors:

"I wanted to write and say a word of thanks for the recent retreat. It was an awesome experience for my wife and myself. We have been married for 18 years, but sometimes we wonder why we stay in ministry. While we love the church and the people we serve, ministry has been

a mixed blessing for us. At times, it's hurt our marriage and our children, [and] at times it's been a gift to us. So if anybody needed to attend the We Still Do marriage event, it was us. We now understand more about the commitment God has called us to and why our marriage is a crucial part of keeping it strong."

In addition to the marriage events, church parenting conferences designed to encourage parents to become the primary disciple makers of their children were offered.

*Eddie Thompson, Senior Consultant, Family Evangelism and Discipleship\**

*\*Thompson became senior consultant for Pastoral Ministries effective June 1, 2016.*

## ASIAN MINISTRY

Do you know how second generation Asians are being raised as His disciples in North Carolina? The Asian ministry has been focusing intentionally on their second generation. The focus on the second generation is not only because of the parents' concerns for their children's future, but also because Asian churches realize that if they do not make disciples of them, there is no hope and future of the first generation churches to continue.

Have you heard about the W.O.R.D. conference? The purpose of this conference is to equip young, second-generation Asian leaders to become passionate, unwavering disciples of Christ, which will enable them to step up and serve their generation. The emphasis of the conference focuses on:

**Worship** — Building their connection with God.

**Outreach** — Evangelizing their community for Christ.

**Resource** — Discovering their capacity to serve.

**Discipleship** — Executing God's commission in reality.

*Sei Hun Kim, Asian Disciple-making Contractor*

## HISPANIC EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

With more than 1 million Hispanics in North Carolina according to U.S. census data, it is obvious that the Lord is bringing the world to us and He has done so for the purpose of "impacting lostness through disciple-making" among the Hispanic communities. Hispanics living in North Carolina come from more than 23 Spanish-speaking countries, reflecting their diversity in values, culture, language, generations and lifestyle. We are privileged to collaborate together cross-culturally for the reproduction of gospel lives among the growing Hispanic population. These Hispanic-Americans continue to strengthen their network of relationships among relatives and friends across the United States and around the world. The 2013 U.S. census showed that more than 73 percent of Hispanic-Americans nationwide spoke Spanish at home.

The BSCNC strives to provide consulting and resourcing for congregations and associations in Hispanic evangelism and discipleship in order to assist these congregations in fulfilling their God-given mission to make disciples. There is no question that God is positioning North Carolina for a strategic role of impacting the Hispanic communities toward the edification of His eternal kingdom, and we must seize the moment for His glory by becoming more effective in cross-cultural disciple-making.

## **Penetrating Lostness Among Hispanics: Reaching the Cities**

The challenge of impacting lostness in our cities continues to call for creative methods of partnership and cooperation toward Hispanic disciple-making. Numerous efforts are underway to impact the growing Hispanic population, including, but not limited to, regional worship rallies, soccer tournaments, special family events, free health care clinics, immigration awareness, English as a Second Language classes, international festivals, evangelistic block parties, backyard Bible clubs, home Bible studies, inner-city special ministries, Vacation Bible School, multihousing ministries, special summer missionary projects, and Bible and tract distribution.

Since August 2015, 54 efforts have equipped 2,493 persons to impact our Hispanic communities with a focus on kingdom prayer, spiritual renewal, Sunday School, home cell groups, children ministries, Vacation Bible Schools, church administration, deacon ministries, worship, Christian ethics, marriage renewal and stewardship. Each of these have taken place with a focus on evangelism and discipleship teamwork tailored to the context of their congregations and communities.

As a result of these meetings, families are being reached and encouraged to become disciple-makers as way of life. Also, some churches have started a revitalization process for dying or declining congregations, while others have initiated a conflict resolution process. Such efforts are being done even while several of these congregations are without a pastor. Finally, church and associational ministry relationships continue to be strengthened for more effective partnerships and collaboration for ministry toward the Acts 1:8 challenge in the fulfillment of the

Great Commandment through the Great Commission.

## **National SBC Executive Hispanic Communication Committee Network**

The Hispanic Pastors and Leaders Global Network of the National Hispanic Southern Baptist Convention Executive Communication Committee met for an update during the National LifeWay Partners Summit at Ridgecrest from Dec. 7-9, 2015.

Guillermo Soriano, senior consultant for Hispanic evangelism and discipleship with the BSCNC, continues to serve as network facilitator. The network continues to fulfill the task of developing an effective global network among Hispanic-Americans and the executive office of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the United States and beyond.

Other telephone conference meetings have been held, and updated reports were given during national Hispanic meetings during the SBC Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, in June 2016. This network will provide the opportunity for enlisting, encouraging, equipping and empowering national Hispanic leaders toward a contextualized disciple-making process for reproducing gospel lives in others.

## **Hispanic Evangelism and Discipleship Strategy Development Pastors and Wives Enrichment and Planning Retreats**

Two annual retreats were designed to assist pastors and wives in their kingdom prayer life, pastoral life, marriage and family enrichment, ministry networking, and strategic planning. As a result, participants have expressed a better understanding of, and a greater desire for being involved in, North Carolina Baptist ministries.

Pastors and wives continue to share how meaningful these retreats have become for their spiritual growth, renewal in their marriage relationship, and in their ministerial relationships with other pastors, the BSCNC, and the SBC. Two strategic retreats were held in 2015 with a total of 68 participants from 26 congregations.

The 2015 Caswell retreat was held Oct. 16-17 with 32 participants from 12 congregations. The 2015 Ridgecrest retreat was held Oct. 30-31 with 36 people from 14 congregations. Both retreats included workshops on marriage and spiritual renewal, disciple-making, and leadership multiplication. Patrick Regalado from LifeWay and his wife were part of the faculty team on this retreat. The final session involved strategic ministry evaluation and planning with the pastors for the 2016 Hispanic regional fellowships and statewide events. Meanwhile, the wives enjoyed an interactive heart-to-heart workshop in support of their God-given roles at home, church, the marketplace and the community.

Written testimonies by attendees express the strong desire of participants to return in 2016. Excerpts from these testimonies describe how the retreats have equipped them in their marriage and ministry to multiply disciple-makers for the Lord are included below.

Caswell:

- "To know other pastors, nurture unity, and that the ministry begins with the family."
- "To share how to make disciples with the other church members."
- "Making disciples helps us to equip everyone in the church in order to grow the Kingdom faster."
- "Not to be satisfied only to be a part of

a church but to work together at the service of the Lord."

- "Strengthening personal and family ministry relationships and utilization of new resources of evangelism and discipleship."

Ridgecrest:

- "To make genuine disciples in a country with so many different cultures."
- "To know that we need to renew our lives each day in order to help others in disciple-making."
- "Refocus toward the goal that the Lord has for us in making disciple multipliers."
- "How to be more effective in disciple-making."
- "To invest my time in making disciples."
- "To have a new vision in how to make disciples."

## Hispanic Evangelism and Discipleship Consultations

Relationship-driven consultations continue to be an effective tool to assist pastors, churches, associations and regional fellowships to "impact lostness through disciple-making." Attention is given throughout the state with a special focus in the largest population centers. The BSCNC is striving to build kingdom relationships that will lead to contextualized collaboration in making fully-devoted disciples of Christ. At times, these consultations have been conducted only with the pastor and his wife, leading to effective and meaningful results.

This year, 195 relationship-driven consultations were conducted throughout the state. Some of these meetings included cultivating relationships for potential BSCNC affiliation with three different congregations. Other consultations have related to: pastoral leadership; pastoral family and marriage crisis; church conflicts; church



organization; pastoral retirement; leadership team effectiveness; relational models of Anglo church and Hispanic ministry/congregation; theological formation; pastoral ordinations; premarital counseling; conflict resolutions between Hispanic ministries; resourcing churches without a pastor; church building and grounds; assisting new pastors; and assisting churches seeking potential pastors.

Cross-cultural networks continue to be strengthened among pastors, lay leaders, and associational leadership throughout the state. These networks are being developed for intentionally effective cross-cultural disciple-making. Seven active Hispanic regional networks are actively praying and seeking to respond to the context of their communities. These networks help to discover and assist in the multiplication of cross-cultural disciple-making leaders, encouraging them to operate within their own culture and languages, as well as in other people groups.

These networks also assist pastors and other leaders in planning and implementing culturally relevant workshops and conferences according to their needs, while engaging more into the North Carolina Baptist family. They provide various opportunities to pray for spiritual awakening in order to reproduce gospel lives in others toward the edification of God's kingdom. Last year, the BSCNC engaged with these networks in 28 meetings and disciple-making celebrations.

### **Evangelism and Discipleship Multipliers: Families Reaching Families**

"Families Reaching Families" is the cross-cultural strategy to impact the Hispanic communities. The strategy seeks to engage church families in developing disciple-making relationships

with Hispanic families without a church home. This approach is also effective in engaging other families in the community through culture and language to share Christ's love in fulfillment of the Great Commandment through the Great Commission.

Fourteen workshops were held with 579 participants to equip and empower families to reach and develop families as disciple-makers by focusing on relational enrichment and parenting to help people overcome witnessing barriers and develop skills in initiating gospel conversations among their family members, friends and neighbors. The workshops have helped families learn how to develop an effective disciple-making lifestyle in order to recapture their God-given potential at home. The goal is for families to become kingdom lighthouses for the reproduction of gospel lives in others toward His great kingdom harvest for His glory.

### **Reaching the Younger Generation**

The task of impacting and developing youth and young adults in disciple-making involved 895 youth and young adults from Hispanic congregations through 10 conferences, retreats and regional rallies in 2015. Events were held at Caswell, Hendersonville, Washington, Wilson, Tarboro, Clinton, Lincolnton, Wilson and Lumberton. The Lord blessed with 106 registered decisions for Christ. Some of these decisions included lay persons becoming more involved in spiritual renewals and disciple-making ministries in their local congregations, even in churches that do not have a pastor. Several lay persons have initiated theological studies for vocational ministry while serving in local churches.

### **Hispanic Youth Retreat**

The statewide Hispanic Youth Retreat is designed to reach youth between

the ages of 12 and 18. The 2015 retreat was held at Caswell during Labor Day weekend and was a blessing for all participants. The Lord blessed with 277 in attendance from 29 congregations and a total of 88 registered decisions for Christ, which included 30 professions of faith, 40 rededications, 12 for vocational ministry and six other personal decisions.

The 2015 theme was “Out of Control,” based on 1 Corinthians 6:12: “I have the right to do anything... but not everything is beneficial... I will not be mastered by anything.” The schedule was strategically designed to focus on how to become and live as a disciple multiplier of Christ for the edification of God’s kingdom through the workshops, friends, Christian music, Bible studies, prayer, sports and much more. The workshops addressed issues such as the purpose of being alive in this world, what is God’s plan, biblical examples of disciples, how to begin a disciple-making life, qualities of a disciple-maker, how to relate with friends, how music can be a disciple-making instrument, when do I begin a disciple-making life, and being ready to be a disciple-multiplier. Also, six hours of strategic training was done with 71 counselors on how to develop a youth disciple-making team in their local church.

The 2017 Youth Retreat will be held at Caswell from Sept. 1-4, with the theme “My Identity” based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

### **Hispanic Young Adult Conference**

This statewide conference is designed to reach young adults between ages of 18 and 35, including single and married adults. The 2016 conference was held at Caswell from June 3-5. The Lord blessed with 313 participants, a 21 percent increase from 2015 and the highest total since the event started nine years ago.

Disciple-making workshops were offered for married and single adults, equipping them to engage in disciple-making in daily living. Four engaged couples shared their joyful conference experience in preparation for their wedding. The Lord blessed with eight registered decisions, which included one profession of faith, three reconciled and four other decisions.

The theme “The Race” was based on 1 Timothy 4:7: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” The conference focused on how the participants could understand God’s transforming power and presence in the life of each disciple of Christ to persevere joyfully in “the race” of daily living until the end as Christ’s “disciple multipliers” among our relatives, friends, neighbors and everyone else.

The workshops for married participants challenged them to make disciples by cultivating a godly marriage. Topics covered included: overcoming marriage killers; marriage foundations; financial freedom; and having the essential ingredient in Christ. Meanwhile, the single adults followed an interactive track focused on developing a lifestyle of disciple-making through workshops on topics such as how to follow the Lord, surrendering all or nothing, discovering the true treasure in life, and how to make disciple multipliers as a daily lifestyle. The Lord provided a wonderful environment and collaboration, including participation from churches in Virginia and South Carolina.

Next year’s conference is scheduled for June 2-4 with the theme “#Royalty,” based on 1 Peter 2:9: “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” The written testimonies expressed the

participants' affirmations to return for the 2017 conference and the desire to bring more people.

*Guillermo Soriano, Senior Consultant,  
Hispanic Evangelism and Discipleship*

## ADULT EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

### Disciple-Making Conference

The 2016 Disciple-Making Conference was held on Feb. 29, 2016, at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. The conference theme, "Reveal: Share Your Life, Speak the Gospel," focused on the state convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." The strategy calls for churches to penetrate darkness through disciple-making with an Acts 1:8 focus.

The keynote speakers focused on the conference theme in their messages. Chuck Lawless, professor of evangelism and missions and dean of graduate studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke on spiritual warfare as it applies to sharing the gospel and making disciples. Dharti Lewis, church planter and lead pastor of Blueprint Church in Atlanta, spoke on community transformation through sharing life and making disciples through his family and in his home. Bruce Frank, lead pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, spoke on making disciples from a pastor's perspective and through small leadership groups.

Jerry McCorkle, the founder and president of Spread Truth ministries ([spreadtruth.com](http://spreadtruth.com)) in Bloomington, Illinois, shared a testimony on the excellent evangelism and discipleship tool called "The Story." He led a breakout session that explained the detailed analytics of this tool and the global impact that it can have via the phone and computer apps

that are in multiple languages and the six-minute video that has been adapted to multiple cultures. Learn more at [viewthestory.com](http://viewthestory.com).

Another special feature was a women's track that featured Lori Frank, wife of Bruce Frank and a women's ministry leader at Biltmore Baptist. She led a session titled, "Preceptor: Nurturing Spiritual Development from Generation to Generation."

There was a good variety of excellent breakout sessions designed to equip participants. These sessions were well attended and designed to expound upon the conference theme.

Resources from the Disciple-Making Conference can be found at [disciplenc.org](http://disciplenc.org).

### "The Story" Training Conference

An excellent evangelism and discipleship tool for training pastors and church leaders to equip their church members to know, live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in a culturally-relevant way, "The Story" ([viewthestory.com](http://viewthestory.com)) is a resource of Spread Truth ministries ([spreadtruth.com](http://spreadtruth.com)). "The Story" is now available as an app that can be downloaded on your phone or shared through Facebook or Twitter, allowing the gospel to be spread all over the world. See more information about "The Story" app below.

Several regional training conferences were held across the state that provided attendees with "The Story" Guide Leader Kit and walked attendees through sharing the gospel by telling the story of the Bible from creation, fall, rescue and restoration. For information about this tool, visit [viewthestory.com](http://viewthestory.com).

"The Story" App: Share "The Story," Touch the World!

The new app for “The Story” ([viewthestory.com](http://viewthestory.com)) is amazing. It has a conversation piece for engaging in a spiritual conversation, and it also includes the entire booklet for “The Story,” which includes an overview of the grand narrative of the Bible: creation, fall, rescue and restoration. But most significantly it has a six-minute video that gives an overview of the Bible.

This app is available in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Swahili and Arabic with more languages to come.

### **“The Story” Pastor Learning Communities**

These groups not only encourage relationship development among pastors, but also allow the state convention to assist pastors as they utilize “The Story” in their churches. The groups gather several times during the implementation process to celebrate and discuss any obstacles and learnings. These meetings are held regionally.

### **The 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide**

The “3 Circles” is also a great interactive complementary tool to “The Story” that allows people an easy way to engage people in gospel conversations by drawing out a visual explanation of the gospel. This also has a great phone app that allows you to draw the “3 Circles” and explain the gospel with your smartphone. The app is available for free at [lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide](http://lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide).

### **SHARE: Engaging in Gospel Conversations to Make Disciples**

SHARE is a resource that helps people to move from simply sharing a gospel presentation to having a gospel conversation. The resource compares Acts 2 and Acts 17 strategies for sharing the gospel.

### **Lifestyle Evangelism Discipleship: Being an “On Mission” Christian in Your Daily Life**

Churches and associations use this popular “conversational evangelism style” tool to train, inspire, educate and encourage people to share their faith in a practical, creative and natural way toward making disciples. In 2015, 26 Lifestyle Evangelism Discipleship days, rallies and conferences were held, and 26 more have been planned or conducted in 2016.

The focus of this training seminar is to make disciples by reaching the lost through prayer and lifestyle evangelism. The typical day consist of teaching lifestyle evangelism during Sunday School and preaching a message on impacting lostness. The afternoon session is interactive and discussion-oriented, allowing for questions and answers as well as teaching some simple tools like “3 Circles” and examples of how to disciple someone.

### **Local Church Evangelism and Discipleship Training**

We work to help churches and associations make disciples who make disciples and train people to plan, develop strategies, and plan events to reach their communities with the gospel. A basic Prayer, Care and Share evangelism planning packet and other resources are available by calling (800) 395-5102, ext. 5565. “Relational Disciple-Making” is an excellent piece to help start the disciple-making process in your church.

### **Vocational Evangelism Ministry**

The 2016 N.C. Vocational Evangelists Retreat theme was “Oneness in the Kingdom Work,” based on John 17. The event was held Jan. 14-15, 2016 at Caraway Conference Center and featured speakers Danny Akin, Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Chris Schofield, Jonathan Lotz, Marty Dupree and Craig Church.

North Carolina Vocational Evangelists officers are Dale Elwell, president; Jonathan Lotz, vice president; Cindy Johnson Huffman, secretary-treasurer; and Randall Floyd, webmaster. Call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5565 for information and a list of North Carolina vocational evangelists. Some North Carolina evangelists list their ministry at [ncevangelists.org](http://ncevangelists.org). The Southern Baptist Convention vocational evangelists directory is available at [sbcevangelist.org](http://sbcevangelist.org) or by calling (770) 410-6247.

### **Apologetics, Worldview and Interfaith Regional Evangelism Conferences**

We partner with churches and associations in North Carolina to hold or help promote conferences addressing these issues. An excellent website for information on apologetics and worldview issues is [4truth.net](http://4truth.net).

### **Campers on Mission**

North Carolina Campers on Mission (NCCOM) consists of many mission aspects, from evangelism, personal witnessing and discipleship, to construction. There are 221 members and over 55 percent are actively involved in the ministry. NCCOM construction groups ministered in Georgia, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Florida. A total of 20,853 volunteer hours and 44 professions of faith were recorded in 2016.

NCCOM continues to play an important role in evangelism at the N.C. State Fair. More than 54 volunteers gave 4,761 hours of their time in 2015. Through these efforts, 38 people gave their lives to Jesus during the two-week fair.

To learn more about North Carolina Campers on Mission, contact the organization's director, Lee Wolfe, at (336) 906 9248 or visit [campersonmission.net](http://campersonmission.net).

*Marty Dupree, Senior Consultant,  
Adult Evangelism and Discipleship*

### **Sunday School and Small Groups**

There have been four associational trainings, representing 39 different churches with over 130 individuals in attendance. There have been two church level trainings with 35 individuals in attendance. There are three more associational events being planned for the fall of 2016.

An updated website for Sunday School and Small Groups that focuses on teachers is coming soon. The site will include articles and resources and will be available in 2017.

*Rick Hughes, Senior Consultant,  
Sunday School and Small Groups*

### **Carolina Faith Riders**

This has been another great year for the Carolina Faith Riders. Two chapters came on board over the past year, and both of them are already active in their communities. In our local outreaches and at the statewide rallies, we are starting to see the fruits of our labor. Relationships are being formed at every level and people are starting to open up to us so we can present the gospel. For more information, visit [carolinafaithriders.com](http://carolinafaithriders.com) or contact Phillip Morris by phone at (919) 215-5731 or by email at [info@carolinafaithriders.com](mailto:info@carolinafaithriders.com).

*Phillip Morris, Carolina Faith Riders State  
Coordinator*

## **YOUTH EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP**

### **Summer Youth Weeks**

Summer Youth Weeks 2015 consisted of seven weeks of camp at Fort Caswell. These weeks combined worship, small and large group studies, special interest tracks, church group devotions, and

many other fun activities. The theme for the summer was “More,” which explored that following Christ is so much more exciting than anything we could ever experience here on this earth. We have been tagged for so much more, a mission bigger than ourselves, a part of God’s story. We looked at how to study the Bible, to discern right from wrong, and to use God’s Word to choose truth over society’s deceptions. The theme verse was Ephesians 3:20, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (NKJV).

Speakers for the summer were: Wes Hamilton; Allen Jackson; Mike Satterfield; Adrian Despres; Eddie Briery; Chad Poe; and Ed Newton. After celebrating a total of 1 million meals packaged by campers over the previous four summers, we continued this mission effort for Haiti through the offering and meal packaging in 2015. It was another God-sized task requiring offerings to exceed \$62,500 for 250,000 meals to be packaged and shipped. The offering goal was met and exceeded — \$74,562.22 was received. Go God! Attendance for the 2015 camps was 6,501, representing 278 churches. Total decisions reflected the impact God has on students at camp, which included 363 professions of faith, more than 1,400 commitments and 324 called to full-time Christian ministry.

The chaperones that attend Youth Weeks camp are invited to attend four days of youth minister training. Chaperones play a huge part in how students are ministered to while at camp and back at home as many serve as volunteers in their church’s youth ministry. Subjects included: characteristics of millennials; adolescent brain development; issues of purity in heart, soul, mind and strength; homosexuality; and Christian worldview.

During the summer of 2016, we sponsored seven weeks of youth camp for teenagers at Fort Caswell. The theme for our 2016 camps was, “Every... One, Thing, Day, Where: Living on Mission,” based on 1 Peter 2:9. Students explored the details of God’s story and how their personal stories play a part of the larger metanarrative of the Bible. As of June 1, 2016, attendance is anticipated to total 6,681 with 278 churches represented.

### **Fall Youth Retreats**

The purpose of these weekends is to help students become spiritually influential — to take the lead in disciple-making. Today’s students must live at a very high level of wisdom, purity and courage to withstand pressure without being influenced by it.

Two fall retreats took place at Fort Caswell in 2015. They were held Oct. 23-25 and Nov. 13-15 with featured speaker Acton Bowen. The theme, “Refined,” led students to take a glimpse into what it means to be a godly girl or a godly guy. Total attendance for both retreats was 749 representing 33 churches. There were 47 professions of faith, 264 commitments and nine students called to ministry.

Fall Retreats 2016 at Fort Caswell with featured speaker Jamie Dew, will be held Oct. 21-23 and Nov. 11-13.

### **Youth Ministry Training**

Youth Ministry Training, formerly called Student Ministry Lab, was held on Sept. 12, 2015, at Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin and Sept. 22, 2015, at Tyson’s Creek Baptist Church in Bear Creek. Attending were 108 youth leaders representing 25 churches. Youth ministers and youth leaders were led in learning more about this generation of teenagers, risk management, apologetics, involving

parents in youth ministry, ministering with disabled souls, working with volunteers, identity formation, and much more.

The training included ministry helps and ideas, speakers who addressed issues of spiritual growth and renewal, and a time of fellowship and sharing ideas. Youth workers realize they need all the help they can get in understanding this generation and how to reach them with the gospel. We have continually reviewed the results of our North Carolina Baptist youth ministry survey where we discovered that out of 4,200 middle and high school students who attended youth weeks camp at Caswell, over 3,700 failed the biblical literacy portion. We have suggested areas of discipleship in which students need to learn and grow before they graduate in order to have a solid foundation in what they believe. Some topics include theology of the Trinity and understanding God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit; what Baptists believe; and how to defend their faith.

In addition to these two specific events, we offered training at individual churches and associations throughout the year which allowed us to impact the ministries of 245 youth leaders across the state. Including the training we offered at the summer youth weeks, over 600 youth ministers and leaders were trained in 2015 with a focus on Christ-centered youth ministry and making an eternal impact on future generations.

### **Conclave**

Conclave is the largest gathering and considered one of the best training events in the Southeast for people who minister to teenagers in Southern Baptist life. The event was held Jan. 28-30, 2016, at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In attendance were youth ministers and youth workers

for a time of authentic worship, relevant training, honest conversation and personal encouragement. Featured speakers were Doug Fields, Clayton King, Jeff Iorg, Richard Ross, Allen Jackson and Ken Coley.

### **Ski Retreat**

The Student Ministry Ski Retreat was held Feb. 5-7, 2016, at Winterplace Ski Resort in Beckley, West Virginia. The retreat included all-day skiing and other winter activities on Saturday, as well as Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship services led by speaker Eddie Briery and the BeDoTell team. Skiing has always been a draw for students, but adding two worship services and an opportunity to hear the gospel brings the real attention to God's desire to have a relationship with all people, including teenagers. Participating were 700 people. There were four professions of faith and about 30 recommitments.

The 2017 Ski Retreat will be held Feb. 3-5.

*Merrie Johnson, Senior Consultant,  
Youth Evangelism and Discipleship*

## **CHURCH STRENGTHENING TEAM**

"His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:12 (CEB)

Small changes lead to great impact. This kingdom principle and paradox is evident in the teachings and life of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches about the small impact of yeast (Matthew 13:33), of mustard seed faith (Luke 17:6), of the widow's offering (Mark 12:42) and demonstrates it with five loaves of bread and two fishes (John 6:9).



This same “principle of the small” is recognized by today’s medical and health experts and it applies to our physical well-being whether it be to lose weight, run our first 5K, or adopt a healthier lifestyle. It’s the small changes that strengthens the physical body and over time leads to success.

Likewise, this same principle can be applied to the spiritual body as well. To strengthen the church requires making small incremental changes in diet (God’s Word), in training (discipleship) and in exercising (serving) over a period of time that leads to successfully crossing the finish line at the end of the race.

The staff comprising the Church Strengthening Team are your personal trainers ready to equip and encourage the body of Christ to become stronger and healthier churches for the race set before us. Start on your journey of strengthening now by reading how God strengthened His people and churches to makes disciples and impact lostness in North Carolina this past year in our reports. What about you? In the coming year, how may we help you discover what needs strengthening in your church’s body to make an impact for God’s glory and His kingdom?

*Neal Eller, Church Strengthening Team Leader*

## STEWARDSHIP

In the book, *God and Money: How We Discovered True Riches at Harvard Business School*, authors Greg Baumer and John Cortines define stewardship as the “active and responsible management of God’s creation for God’s purposes.” They then clarify it in this way.

“The key distinction in this revised definition is an impetus for action. Stewardship requires that we

actively engage in the utilization and distribution of God’s resources to accomplish His objectives. This includes giving, but also entails so much more: praying for wisdom in allocating His resources; providing leadership to organizations (church or para-church) that are utilizing or distributing those resources; and directly utilizing or distributing those resources ourselves.

“A steward is not just responsible for collecting and distributing funds; he is also responsible for how those funds are used— indeed, for the actual outcomes obtained through the use of those resources. Note that this definition of stewardship applies to all our resources, not just our tithes and offerings. If we embrace this definition, all of our purchases should be made through the lens of furthering God’s Kingdom. The resources we spend on our family, leisure, and entertainment should be seen as a means to serve God’s Kingdom: our homes always open to guests, our car keys held out in open hands, our fridges free to be raided.” (Baumer and Cortines, 47)

It was to this end that in early 2016, Stewardship partnered with the N.C. Baptist Foundation upon invitation from Mike Heath, minister of pastoral care and senior adults at Village Church in Fayetteville, to provide teaching, training and equipping to their Wednesday evening attendees twice a month for four months in spending, saving and serving. Two other partnerships offering quality stewardship resources for N.C. Baptists are available on our website. First, every N.C. Baptist church affiliated with the BSCNC can now download for free any digital resource available from the Stewardship Development Association (SDA). To access these resources, visit [ncbaptist.org/stewardship](http://ncbaptist.org/stewardship), click on the Stewardship

Development Association icon, and then register your name and password on the SDA site. Once you have completed these steps, you are now free to download any digital resource free of charge.

The second partnership is with the Reimagine Generosity Group. This resource-only group offers high-quality video and small group study series in the areas of generosity, stewardship and discipleship. These story-based videos are sure to connect with the homeland and millennial generations in your church. During the week of the BSCNC Annual Meeting and at other times during the year, you will be able to acquire these resources at a discounted price.

*Neal Eller, Senior Consultant, Stewardship*

## **2016 TAR HEEL LEADERSHIP NETWORK (TLN)**

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

*— John Quincy Adams*

This quote summarizes the hopes for N.C. Baptist pastors that participate each year in the Tar Heel Leadership Network (TLN). The following stories describe the ministry impact of TLN:

"Words cannot express the many ways God has used you and TLN in my life. I stand amazed how God has spoken through you, our guest speakers, and the brothers gathered around me to give just the right encouragement, instruction and challenge at just the right moment. Obviously it's because you have made yourself available to be a tool that the Holy Spirit can use. You are busy men with fruitful ministries- that you would take your time to pour into me humbles

and blesses me immensely. Thank you so much for sharing your time, your experiences, your wisdom and your life with us!" — Mike Motley, 2015 TLN alumnus and pastor of Trading Ford Church in Salisbury

On May 9, 2016, Steve Corts, director of the Tar Heel Leadership Network and pastor of Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons, received the following email. The email has been reprinted below with permission from both the sender, Michael Owens, pastor of Gate City Baptist Church in Jamestown, and Corts.

*Steve:*

*I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for your investment in the lives of pastors through the TLN. Charles Page was a mentor of mine and in my first year of pastoring (2001), he encouraged me to go through this with your dad. I did so, but in truth my takeaway was nominal at best. That was the case, I believe, because of where I was in life and ministry. I didn't even know where first base was.*

*Back in the fall, I was at the convention office to speak at chapel and Neal Eller asked if I were interested in participating in TLN. I said that I had already been through it, but then paused and asked if I could do it again. He said yes, and it is because of that invitation that I'm involved this year.*

*Sincerely, I believe this was part of a work that God was preparing to do in my heart. Since January, God has been speaking to my heart and showing me things that either I refused to see, was oblivious to, or simply wasn't giving Him the time to make clear. God helped me to realize that I was pastoring a church that was headed nowhere. We weren't taking on water, but not displacing it either. God helped me further see the reason: the leader*

*wasn't leading. No one vested in the life of this church, if pressed, would be able to honestly say that Gate City is going in any particular direction. Again, the fault for that lies at my doorstep.*

*Over the past few months, God has really been working in my heart, mind and life and TLN has been one of the tools that God has most regularly used. For the first time in ministry, I have a clear sense for our church a clear, God-given burden not only of what could be, but what must be I'll be sharing that vision with the church on what we're calling In Focus Sunday on the 22nd.*

*Not only have the sessions been enormously helpful, but the coaching time with Mike Sparks has been a God-send. When I first heard that we'd have to make a monthly coaching call to him, to talk about whatever we wanted, candidly, I was a bit nervous about the prospect. What will I talk with him about? What do I have to ask him? Now, I'm at a point, where I have to whittle down the list.*

*I say all of these things to communicate this one thought: God has used TLN in significant and meaningful ways in my life and ministry that will have lasting impact. I am so grateful to you personally for your willingness to take up the mantle of your father's passion to invest in the lives of pastors. It may very well be that you sometimes wonder if it is worth the sacrifice of time, effort and energy. I cannot speak for any of the others, but I can say for me, it has and is making a difference. These words are insufficient, but they are nevertheless sincere—thank you!*

*Michael Owens*

The following pastors and church staff made up the 2016 Tar Heel Leadership Network group: Bryan Blackwell, pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church,

Rockingham; John Compton, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Hickory; Jeff Dowdy, pastor of First Baptist Church, Swannanoa; David Dyer pastor of Fairplains Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro; Josh Glandon, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Gastonia; Phil Goble Jr., pastor of Blackwelder Park Baptist Church, Kannapolis; Tony Harper, associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Charlotte; Dale Hendricks, pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church, Cherryville; Jonathan Homesley, pastor of Lake Wylie Baptist Church, Charlotte; B.J. Keaton, former pastor of Lawrence Road Baptist Church, Hillsborough; Zach Kennedy, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Hope Mills; Jim Kiker, pastor of Unity Baptist Fellowship Church, Sophia; Derek Kilby, pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Wilkesboro; Jack Lee, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Fuquay Varina; Michael Owens, pastor of Gate City Baptist Church, Jamestown; Adam Self, pastor of Atlantic Missionary Baptist Church, Atlantic; William Smith, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Fayetteville; Tim Stutts, pastor of Front Street Baptist Church, Statesville; Daniel Webster, associate pastor of Harvest Baptist Church, Burlington; and Jordon Willard, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Roanoke Rapids.

For more information regarding the Tar Heel Leadership Network, call Neal Eller at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5636.

*Neal Eller, Team Leader, Church  
Strengthening Team;  
Senior Consultant, Stewardship*

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership development is essential in the local church if we are to impact lostness

in our state and beyond. The growth and decline of many churches can be impacted by the role of leadership. An intentional process of seeing disciples who have been won to the Lord and later trained to become disciple makers will eventually create the need for developing leaders that lead like Jesus.

The process starts with leaders in a local church that see their spheres of influence as a means of developing leaders who can fulfill the vision and mission of the local church. It is with great joy and excitement to see the convention in partnership with the local associations provide training for the local church leaders. Here are the equipping tracks that were conducted this year with sufficient numbers of trainers all over the state who can do it.

1. "Lead Like Jesus"—a training that focuses on how to become leaders that know how to lead oneself, others, teams and organization. The model that is used here is Jesus.
2. "Emotionally Healthy Leaders."—a training that focuses on the emotional, physical and spiritual life of a leader and how to have a balanced approach to doing ministry.
3. "Secret of Teams"—a training that focuses of developing and assessing teams to be more effective and efficient in doing their ministry.
4. "Peacemaking"—a training that will help resolve conflicts from a biblical perspective and approach.

Here are some examples of how the certified trainers of "Lead Like Jesus" have implemented the training.

Hilton Woodell, a pastor of Burnt Swamp Baptist Association has conducted the "Lead Like Jesus" encounter training with 26 pastors and deacons who have said that they wish they had this kind of

training early in their ministry. They said they would have avoided many pitfalls that they went through if only they had done it Jesus' way.

Kelton Hinton, director of missions for the Johnston Baptist Association, met regularly with his pastors for several weeks to go over the "Lead Like Jesus" study guide and saw how it has impacted their lives. He was using this material to train summer interns this year.

Pao Ly — a pastor of First Hmong Baptist Church and a Hmong coordinator for North Carolina and national leader for Hmong pastors in North America — conducted a "Lead Like Jesus" encounter training for 56 pastors and wives and had so many comments as to how this material will be very helpful in training the leaders in their local churches.

Simon Touprong, pastor of Vietnamese Hope Church and a second generation coordinator for Asians under Sei Hun Kim's leadership, conducted a WORD conference at Caraway for training young leaders in worship, outreach, resourcing leaders and discipling leaders. This is the kind of training that will give the next generation the opportunity to become leaders that will impact their generation and beyond.

We are praising the Lord for raising more leaders that see the equipping of the saints as one of the most important roles of the pastor if he is going to impact lostness.

*Ken Tan, Senior Consultant, Leadership Development*

## MILITARY AND CHAPLAINCY

The Military Chaplaincy efforts of N.C. Baptists has resulted in is a very robust

network, which consists of several hundred chaplains, pastors and lay leaders who are dedicated to bringing spiritual support to the many veterans and servicemen and women connected to North Carolina Baptists. As we network with military chaplains, churches, associations, nonprofits, and other individuals and groups, we share the love of Christ as we provide spiritual guidance, mentorship and training.

In the spirit of Luke 14:23 which says, "Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled'" (NKJV), we have taken new approaches to reaching our military and veterans as well as training for our chaplains.

1. We've started new military and veteran meetup groups, lunch-n-learn masterminds, and business breakfast meetings, which have been very effective. These new networks appear to be an open door to assimilating military and veterans with church leaders around the themes of faith, business and entrepreneurship. We look forward to building more of these networks around the state.
2. We continue to communicate with directors of missions, pastors, local church leaders, other N.C. Baptists, the North American Mission Board and other chaplain-endorsing agencies.
3. We have established talking points and new ministry paradigms that will enable churches to start and mobilize veteran-based ministries. Contact us for more details.
4. As most of our troops have returned home, outreach and disciple-making training are imperative. To further that cause, we are in the process of planning our first "Healing Our Veterans" regional conference, which

will take place in August 2016. We will invite church leaders, veterans and veteran support professionals to come hear the stories of veterans who are making a difference by using their faith in Christ as a catalyst to reach our warriors. We pray this will spur our churches to have a stronger voice in the veteran community.

We continue making frequent contact with officials from the N.C. Army National Guard, N.C. Air National Guard, active duty components, as well other military organizations around the state, advising them of our willingness to provide spiritual care to our military members.

*Thomas Watson, Contractor, Military and Chaplaincy*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY**

Across the state, N.C. Baptists work side-by-side with law enforcement officers, medics, firefighters and telecommunicators as they serve their communities. Chaplains build relationships with first responders and are intentional in finding ways to minister to those who are hurting and sharing the gospel with those who are lost. The following is taken from a field report from one of our chaplains:

"Ride along tonight with Officer 'Smith.' Early shift was busy with calls ranging from a domestic disturbance to a minor traffic accident. Officer volunteered for me to ride with him at roll call and I found out during our time together that he wanted to talk about spiritual matters. He claims to be agnostic but is seeking spiritual answers. I had the opportunity to answer his questions and share the truth of the gospel with him tonight. We are going to get together again next week for coffee. Total ride time tonight was five hours."

In Durham, 11 chaplains provide crisis response coverage to assist first responders on calls they answer. Most of the calls involve sudden, unexpected death in the home where the chaplain responds to care for the loved ones of the deceased. This coverage is provided 24 hours every day. The following is from the field report from one of our crisis response chaplains:

"I responded at the request of EMS to the scene of a cardiac arrest. When I arrived, resuscitation efforts were still in progress. CPR was discontinued shortly thereafter, and I prepared the family to receive the death notification from the paramedics. However, upon checking the patient to verify death, the medics discovered that his heart had started beating on its own. The patient was quickly transported to the hospital where he remained in ICU until he died four days later. I went by the hospital to pray with the family every day, and they requested that I be there when they disconnected his life support. The family had no church connections and asked me to officiate the funeral. I had the opportunity to share the gospel at the funeral and had 15 respond to the invitation."

If you would like more information on Public Safety Chaplaincy, contact Ralph Thompson at (919) 280-8908 or [Ralph@echap.org](mailto:Ralph@echap.org).

## CHURCH RENEWAL

Church Renewal Journey (CRJ) is a ministry of the Church Strengthening Team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Here are a sample of pastors' comments about how each of the five optional Church Renewal Journey weekends has had impact on their churches:

### Awakening Weekends

*"I'm still in awe of what God has accomplished in our church in the past three days. I've not felt His presence any stronger at FBCC than what I felt on Saturday night. The openness and Christian love that permeated the sanctuary was a joy to experience. I've already, it's a Monday morning, had people come by my office and tell me that walls have begun to come down and relationships are on the mend. Our God is an AWESOME GOD!"*

*"Sunday night was unlike anything we've had in the 13 years I've pastored FBC Chocowinity. I admit that at first I was a bit skeptical as to how well an open ended service might be received and at first folks were a bit timid about speaking. Then something happened and the Holy Spirit began to work and gave folks I'd never thought would speak publicly, the boldness to get in front of others and speak. Not one negative comment, not once. Did I say Hallelujah? Oh, yeah! God is good!"*  
—Richard Sheriff, Pastor FBC Chocowinity,  
April 8-10, 2016

### Equipping Weekends

*"Our people are on fire for the Lord, and have been renewed, refreshed, and in some cases have either rediscovered or discovered how God equipped them to participate in the ministry of His church. While we have always had a solid core group that has served, it is obvious that our core servant group has increased as a newfound zeal for ministry has hushed through those who have participated in the weekend. It further was a blessing to see the bond of unity that the weekend created not only among the congregation, but also between the congregation and myself as they committed to serving the vision that God has been leading me toward . . . in fact, they committed without even questioning what the vision was!"*

*"I have never seen anything like that before. It was and is a complete exercise of faith in their God and confidence in their pastor ... and I am humbled so deeply that words cannot express how grateful I am to be serving our Lord Jesus with this body of believers! Please be assured, that your ministry is perhaps the most influential, significant ministry that I have seen through the state convention. Your service to our Lord has been rewarded in the transformation of our members, and I want to personally thank all of you for your sacrificial service and allowing God to use you in such a dynamic instrumental way. I am convinced that if more churches committed to this ministry, than less churches would be declining or dying in our state and in our nation. Please, whatever you do, continue to walk faithfully in this ministry."*

*—Pastor Jeff Chappell, New Life Praise,  
March 18-20, 2016*

### **Prayer/Empowering Weekends**

*"Our church came together on Sunday evening, we witnessed an incredible outpouring of God's Spirit. Many tears were shed and many testimonies shared of where we saw God at work. Several members have commented to me since the service that it was the most powerful service they have ever experienced. On Sunday night, participants were given the opportunity to share the commitments they made during the weekend. Thirty-seven people indicated that they wanted to develop a personal quiet time. Imagine how God will move in their lives as they spend time in His presence. Seventeen individuals indicated that they wanted to learn to share their faith. Twelve shared that they had rededicated their lives to Christ and 10 people presented their lives to Christ in total surrender to His Lordship. This is just a small sample of the ways that God was at work. I have witnessed our church come together in the Spirit of Christ to seek His face and to live for His glory. Each of you will have a special place in the history*

*of Front Street and how we move forward. Thank you again for giving of yourselves for the sake of the gospel. Thank you for continuing to pray for us as we seek to be salt and light to our community and to the ends of the earth."*

*—Pastor Tim Stutts, Front Street Baptist Church, March 11-13, 2016*

### **Acts 1:8 Sending Weekends**

*"Our folks were excited by the opportunity to see and hear about all the opportunities the Lord has opened to us to participate in the Great Commission. They especially enjoyed getting to connect with church planters that we will be partnering with in the future. They were challenged by the teaching of Dr. Brian Davis, who did a wonderful job and they were encouraged by their small group gatherings. They liked the small group formation on the fly approach so much they have asked us to do that more often when we have combined services on a Sunday. As for the results, we are still reaping the benefits of this Acts 1:8 Sending weekend. We commissioned 120 people that Sunday morning to be a part of the Lord's harvest in our community and to the ends of the earth. We had several people respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting to participate in one of our international mission trips this year. I recently heard from one of our guys who responded that weekend that he's been asked to travel to another church in our state and help them start a ministry we have here to people struggling with addictions. Our folks are thinking strategically and creatively about being 'front porch' kind of people, and I believe the Acts 1:8 Sending weekend was a big part of that."*

*—Kevin Clubb, Pastor, Cape Carteret Baptist Church, Feb. 19-21, 2016.*

For more information, visit [churchrenewaljourney.net](http://churchrenewaljourney.net).

Bob Foy, Senior Consultant, Church Renewal Journey



## **Church and Community Missionaries**

Church and Community Missionaries (CCM) have an impact on our churches and the communities they serve. This year we had 15 individuals plus three visitors to come to our annual leadership training. Once again, we were able to be a part of the directors of missions/staff retreat, and our missionaries were able to have our training and still have time to attend breakout sessions that they needed.

Lorna Bius, from the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and a Send Relief missionary, led us for two days, and we were all refreshed and learned so much. The fellowship of the CCM group was so valuable to every attendee. They were able to share ideas, share disappointments and share success stories. They each expressed how grateful they were to our BSCNC for providing this opportunity for them.

*Phyllis Foy, Consultant, Ministry Evangelism*

## **SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

Four different ministries are clustered together in what we call "Special Ministries." Those four ministry areas are: deaf ministry, blind ministry, ministry to people with development disabilities; and literacy missions. In all four areas, we have expanded the implementation of the convention's strategy to "impact lostness through disciple-making."

### **Deaf Ministry**

Training leaders continues to be a major objective for us in the area of deaf ministry. To accomplish the goal this past year, we provided church interpreter training and multiple opportunities for deaf adult church leaders to be trained. One unique training experience occurred when we partnered with N.C. Baptist Men

to provide a disaster relief training for deaf Baptists. Twenty-four deaf leaders and interpreters were certified as "yellow hats" and soon a North Carolina deaf team will be assisting in disaster relief and rebuild projects.

We put great energy into the TriState Deaf School of Theology. This past year TriState celebrated 20 years of training deaf church leaders. TriState partners with Gardner-Webb University to offer college-level courses for deaf church leaders at very affordable prices. Teachers are all fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). Three students were awarded certificates at the 20th-anniversary celebration indicating that they had finished 18 credit hours in Bible and ministry related courses. The students who attend TriState make up a large percentage of the deaf leaders in our state.

Every year our Deaf Youth Retreat is an evangelistic highlight for us. This year eight campers made professions of faith and four made rededication-type decisions. We were excited to be able to put into the hands of each of these students an Action Bible and a DVD made by Kevin Clark in ASL on seven steps for Christian growth for new believers.

### **Blind Ministry**

In this area of ministry, relationships are very important. The consultant maintains a broad network of blind and visually impaired Baptists across the state with whom he communicates and encourages. Some Braille supplies are provided, and CD recordings are distributed. This past year, after much searching, a Braille Baptist Hymnal was found and placed in the hands of a needy blind Baptist church member.

## Special Needs

Special Ministries partnered with the BSCNC childhood consultant to provide training for children's ministry leaders in the area of special needs. A partnership with Joni and Friends is being explored to see if a wider network of training opportunities can be provided through a mutually beneficial collaboration.

The Happiness Retreats continue to be the flagship item for Special Ministries. Lester Evans and Judy Autry provide leadership as camp directors for this ministry. Last year, more than 750 campers and staff participated in the five Happiness Retreats. In 2016, a new emphasis is being tried, and a special family track will be implemented at one of our retreats. Families who have a child or children with special needs can attend at a special reduced price.

About 180 churches across the state have intentional ministries to people with developmental disabilities.

## Literacy Missions

Literacy missions is one of the few areas of ministry that keeps fairly careful statistics of the ministry results. This past year, we had 1,642 students in literacy classes. This is more than a 100 student increase from last year. We had 512 tutors. We know of 40 people who professed faith in Christ as a result of literacy missions. Most of those came from English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Last year we held eight basic workshops across the state in various places. A basic workshop is approximately 14.5 hours of instruction in ESL, tutoring children and youth, adult reading and writing, or English as a Foreign Language (for international mission trips). In a basic workshop, participants learn how to organize ministry, how to do the "nuts and bolts"

of a particular ministry (such as teaching ESL), and how to use this ministry as a tool for making disciples.

*Donnie Wiltshire, Senior Consultant, Special Ministries*

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The African-American Ministries of the BSCNC is continuing to serve the churches through leadership training, mentoring and coaching. A new pastors' peer fellowship group was started in the Charlotte area and other groups are on the way. Pastors and their leaders are excited about the new training that has been released titled, "The Conductor as Leader." This training is designed to assist leaders to understand how to lead with truth, deliver truth, and master the art of stewardship by being completely in sync with God. They are the pacesetter for those they lead.

The African-American Ministries continues its work with African-American North Carolina Baptists through discipleship, leadership development, evangelism, and creating a platform for pastoral support.

*Jae Richardson, Contractor, African-American Ministries*

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This has been a great year of seeing God at work across our state in the worship and music ministry of our convention. We continue to offer extensive training for worship leaders through our Worship Leader Boot Camps ([WorshipLeaderBootCamps.org](http://WorshipLeaderBootCamps.org)) and Worship Summits ([WorshipSummit.org](http://WorshipSummit.org)), having trained over 6,000 people since their inception. The Renewing

Worship blog (*RenewingWorshipNC.org*) is completing six years of service and continues to see tremendous traffic (60,000 page views per month this year). All of these tools are used to help impact worship renewal in the local churches, and we hear many stories of that happening around our state.

This year, we kicked off a new training opportunity — Worship Leader Boot Camp: EXTREME (*BootCampEXTREME.org*) to disciple and train a small group of worship leaders who want more intense training and interaction. This model grows out of a missional model that Senior Consultant for Worship and Music Kenny Lamm utilized in a closed country in Asia to raise up and train a handful of worship leaders, which included preparation with the group ahead of time and ongoing follow-up in a discipleship model.

Many of our churches are struggling to determine what their church's corporate worship should look like. Many are experiencing intense conflict over worship. Many have multiple styles of services and find themselves fragmented and generationally divided. Others wake up to find themselves having a form of worship that no longer connects with people, and their church is dying.

The Worship Summit has grown out of a need to help churches discover God's plan for their corporate worship. Many churches have sent leaders to our statewide Worship Summits and have realized the value in the process and information in terms of helping their local congregations move forward. Lamm has led many churches in their own Worship Summit experiences. In these, Lamm presents the biblical and missional views of worship, and through discussion around tables, helps people to compare this with the present realities of

their church's worship. The process takes about 3.5 hours. In many cases, once they realize there is a difference, then the Holy Spirit begins to work to change hearts and tear down altars of personal preferences that cause conflict in the church. We have seen many churches move toward unity in their worship after experiencing this journey together.

N.C. Baptists continue to benefit by participating in various music festivals and choral groups throughout the year in equipping our churches to make their praise glorious. All-State Youth Choir, the N.C. Baptist Singers and Orchestra, the Senior Adult Choir Festival, and three handbell festivals continue to flourish and minister to hundreds of people throughout the year.

We look forward to helping facilitate renewed worship and unity in worship in our N.C. Baptist churches in this coming year.

*Kenny Lamm, Senior Consultant, Worship and Music*

## PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Churches change pastors and pastors change churches. It happens every week in North Carolina. Because of this, the Pastoral Ministries office often assists pastors and churches seeking new ministry positions. Coaching, counseling and professional ministry consultations are available to those who may have had to leave their churches, as well as to those seeking to understand their sense of call into ministry and best ministry fit.

One of our best methods is the Sharing System, an online tool we offer to search for a new minister or new church. Churches seeking ministers may enter their church profile while, at the same time, ministers seeking a place of service

may do the same. Our system looks for corresponding “matches” between churches and candidates. The system doesn’t suggest that the matches indicate the choice for pastor; rather the name(s) shared can assist the church for a starting point for further exploration.

There have been 946 ministers and 330 congregations who have joined this past year. There also were 281 positions created and 44,057 referrals that were made.

In the course of church life, it is not uncommon for churches to experience conflict. Sometimes differences are healthy for congregations, as they provide space for new ideas and progress in achieving their God-given vision. Unfortunately, there are also times when unhealthy conflict severely damage churches. Pastoral Ministries assists congregations through these difficult moments through a variety of methods, including Peacemaker Ministries, Spiritual Directions and the efforts of convention staff.

Sometimes a church comes to a place when a vacancy occurs in its pastorate. Though there might be some anxiety, and even a sense of urgency about securing a new pastor on the part of congregants, the time between a former and future pastor can be good and healthy. Clarifying their identity, goals and values, as well as being receptive to the Holy Spirit’s leading, can help them begin a new course.

In such times, Pastoral Ministries offers to churches two important types of help. We are regularly involved with churches across the state at various stages in the search process for a new pastor, as well as helping the church become as healthy as possible prior to calling a new pastor.

A new venture that is underway to help churches in transitional times is an opportunity for directors of missions, together with former pastors, called “Transitional Pastor Training.” Individuals prepare for leading and facilitating congregations through in-between times as interim or transitional pastors, providing similar assistance cited above. When vacancies occur in churches, area directors of missions can provide names of people trained for these times and work alongside them in becoming as healthy a church as possible for the incoming pastor.

*Eddie Thompson, Senior Consultant,  
Pastoral Ministries*

## CHURCH HEALTH AND REVITALIZATION

This is the inaugural year for the Church Health and Revitalization Team. The goal of Church Health and Revitalization is to see God glorified through churches returning to their mission to impact lostness through disciple-making. For revitalization, impact truly is helping a church move from a survival mindset to an outward mindset of missional engagement. In the initial six months of work, the team has connected with 487 associational leaders, pastors and lay leaders representing 207 associations and churches to assist with revitalization efforts toward the mission.

John Mark Clifton of the North American Mission Board has asked, “What glory does it bring God for a church to die in a community?” Dying churches do not reflect God’s heart. In Haggai 1:5, the Lord commands His people to consider their ways and return to His mission. In the same way, God’s people today must take stock of their ministries and their mission and

return to the Lord's purpose of becoming a healthy, disciple-making church.

A primary pathway which the team uses to assist local churches contains three phases: The man, the ministry and the mission. In the first phase, investment is made in the pastor through peer learning groups and individual coaching to see the pastor develop the right character and the right skills for shepherding a revitalization process. The second phase consists of an internal audit of the church's ministry and local context, which results in a missional plan to impact lostness and make disciples. The third phase focuses on releasing the church to carry out the missional plan in their community and beyond. A pilot project of this approach is currently underway in the Concord area.

Some churches may find themselves in a position where they lack the willingness, ability or resources to experience revitalization on their own. Typically, these churches are within three to five years of closing their doors if current trends continue. These churches are known as "legacy churches." Generally, such churches are in communities that have seen dramatic demographic shifts, including many from underserved populations or unreached and unengaged people groups. In these

cases, the team seeks to assist legacy churches in seeking out partnerships, mergers, or opening their doors to church plants and language-based ministries to leave a legacy of Great Commission ministry in the community.

The Church Health and Revitalization Team desires to see every church send people out into the highways and hedges of their communities so that the Lord is glorified through the church's impact. Contact [revitalize@ncbaptist.org](mailto:revitalize@ncbaptist.org) or visit [ncbaptist.org/revitalize](http://ncbaptist.org/revitalize) for more information.

*Brian Upshaw, Team Leader,  
Church Health and Revitalization  
Patti Cardwell, Team Leader Assistant*





# CONVENTION COMMITTEES

REPORTS





**CONVENTION COMMITTEES** exist to fulfill very specific functions on behalf of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. There are four convention committees. The Committee on Nominations recommends to the messengers of the convention's Annual Meeting individuals to serve on three of the committees. However, the Board of Directors elects those serving on the Committee on Nominations. In addition, special committees may be appointed to evaluate and recommend action on various issues within North Carolina Baptist life.

The Committee on Nominations is comprised of individuals nominated by the convention's president and vice presidents for election by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors approves these recommendations in January each year. Members of the Committee on Nominations serve until their successors are elected.

The remaining convention committees are nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the messengers during the Annual Meeting of the convention. These committees are:

- Committee on Convention Meetings
- Committee on Resolutions and Memorials
- Historical Committee

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina seeks recommendations from

North Carolina Baptists for persons to serve on the convention committees. The convention desires diversity among the recommendations that will represent churches of various sizes and types, various professional and educational backgrounds, ethnic and racial diversity, gender, geographical areas, different age groups, and both lay persons and ministers.

The convention's bylaws state that "all Convention committees shall report either by oral report or written report at the annual meeting of the Convention." Those committees reporting orally are listed in the Annual Meeting program and the written reports follow. Messengers will vote during the Annual Meeting on the Committee on Nominations' slate of nominees as presented in its written report.

## **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT**

The Committee on Nominations is charged with the task of receiving and reviewing the numerous recommendations provided by North Carolina Baptists for service on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSCNC) Board of Directors, the committees of the convention, the boards of the institutions and agencies of the convention, and the board of North Carolina Baptist Hospital. The committee begins its work with the recommendations sent by North Carolina Baptists and when exhausted,

or in the event too few recommendations have been received for a specific place of service, the committee seeks to find candidates who meet the qualifications for service as outlined in the convention bylaws.

The full report from the Committee on Nominations can be found on the BSCNC's Annual Meeting website, in the Oct. 8 edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, on the *Biblical Recorder* website and in the Book of Reports provided to each messenger who completes their registration at the Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the committee members listed below, I want to thank each North Carolina Baptist who completed and submitted a recommendation. It is not too early to begin thinking about those individuals whom you wish to recommend for consideration by the 2017 Committee on Nominations. Please continue to submit your recommendations at [www.ncbaptist.org/recommend](http://www.ncbaptist.org/recommend), as your input is essential to the committee's work and the ongoing effectiveness of the missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

*Noah Crowe, Chair*

### **2016 Committee on Nominations Members**

Noah Crowe, chair, Robbinsville	Richard Odom, Stokesdale
Reginald Bakr, Browns Summit	Jonas Perez, Concord
Charles Brust, Bladenboro	Joseph Phan, Raleigh
Steve Frazier, Waynesville	Jonathan Rebsamen, Charlotte
Ken Gilbert, Cary	Steve Roy, Clayton
Marvin Green, Rutherfordton	Steve Schultz, Candler
Ronald Hester, Bladenboro	Hak Ung, Creedmoor
Kenn Hucks, Monroe	Beth Wooten, Beulaville
David Jones, North Wilkesboro	Eddie Yount III, Taylorsville

The Committee on Nominations report follows the BSCNC's bylaws directive to "nominate persons for election by the Convention to the committees listed in Article I.C.1 (b) – (d) of these Bylaws, such other committees as may be assigned to it, the chair of such Convention committees, the boards of trustees and directors of all institutions and agencies of the Convention, the Board, and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention."

Among other considerations for nominees, the bylaws state "It is desirable that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of members nominated to all committees of the Convention, the Board, the boards of trustees and directors of the Convention's institutions and agencies shall come from churches with a membership under four hundred (400)." This is indicated in the committee's report by (O) for 400 and over and by (U) for under 400 in church membership.

The bylaws further direct that, "The Committee on Nominations shall include in its report at a minimum the name, church, home town, association, occupation, and sex of each nominee, the name of the committee or board on which the nominee

is to serve together with such summary information as will make clear to this Convention the diversity and breadth of representation provided by the slates of nominees.”

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA**

### **Region 1**

No Vacancies

### **Region 2**

*Philip Brannan*, Temple Baptist (O), New Bern, Atlantic, Minister, Male

*Jason Currie*, Grifton First Baptist (U), Grifton, South Roanoke, Minister, Male

*Charles Headden*, Cornerstone Gospel (U), Cape Carteret, Atlantic, Minister, Male

### **Region 3**

*Robert E. Jordan*, Zion's Tabernacle Baptist (U), Lumberton, Robeson, Minister, Male

*Randy Locklear*, Westside Baptist (U), Hope Mills, Robeson, Minister, Male

*Darrin Moore*, New Hope Baptist (U), Whiteville, Columbus, Minister, Male

*Nathan Morton*, Elizabethtown Baptist (O), Elizabethtown, Bladen, Minister, Male

### **Region 4**

*Wayne Harrifeld*, Hocutt Baptist (O), Clayton, Johnston, Lay Person, Male

*Kelton Hinton*, Princeton Baptist (O), Princeton, Johnston, Minister, Male

*Jay Huddleston*, (2019 unexpired term of Nhiem Tran), Cary First Baptist (O), Apex, Raleigh, Minister, Male

*Robert Alton (Al) James*, Hales Chapel Baptist (O), Wake Forest, Johnston, Minister, Male

*Melanie C. Wallace*, Hephzibah Baptist (O), Wendell, Raleigh, Lay Person, Female

### **Region 5**

No Vacancies

### **Region 6**

*Jonathan Morris*, Troy First Baptist (U), Troy, Montgomery, Minister, Male

*Josh Phillips*, Memorial Baptist (O), Albemarle, Stanly, Minister, Male

*Clay Smith*, Matthews First Baptist (O), Matthews, Metrolina, Minister, Male

### **Region 7**

*Grant Atkins*, Cornerstone Baptist (U), Pinnacle, Surry, Minister, Male

*Christopher Benfield*, Fellowship Missionary Baptist (U), State Road, Surry, Minister, Male

*Mickey Cogdill*, (2018 unexpired term of Robert Duncan), Bannertown Baptist (O), Mount Airy, Surry, Minister, Male

*Ron K. Greene*, Oak Grove Baptist (U), Newland, Avery, Minister, Male

*Chris Hughes*, (2017 unexpired term of Toby Oliver), Mount Vernon Baptist (O), Boone, Three Forks, Lay Person, Male

### **Region 8**

*William A. Cooper*, (2017 unexpired term of Phil Oakley), Shelby First Baptist (O), Shelby, Greater Cleveland, Minister, Male

*Cail Elliott Sr.*, Parkwood Baptist (O), Gastonia, Greater Gaston, Lay Person, Male

*William D. (Billy) Fryar*, Double Springs Baptist (U), Shelby, Greater Cleveland, Minister, Male  
*Troy Grant*, Lakeview Baptist (O), Hickory, Catawba Valley, Minister, Male  
*Sandy Huntley*, (2019 unexpired term of Chris Hensley), Bethany Baptist (O), Forest City, Sandy Run, Lay Person, Female  
*Michael (Todd) Rudisill*, Christ United Baptist (U), Newton, Catawba Valley, Minister, Male

## **Region 9**

*Della A. Brindley*, Pole Creek Baptist (O), Canton, Buncombe, Lay Person, Female  
*Walter Brooks*, Calvary Road Baptist (O), Waynesville, Haywood, Lay Person, Male  
*James Felty*, Calvary Baptist (U), Brevard, Transylvania, Lay Person, Male  
*Donnie Ray Parks*, Biltmore Baptist (O), Fletcher, Buncombe, Lay Person, Male  
*Tracy B. Smith*, Ratcliffe Cove Baptist (U), Waynesville, Haywood, Minister, Male

## **Region 10**

*Robert S. Brown*, Franklin First Baptist (U), Franklin, Macon, Minister, Male  
*Thomas Nahlen*, Longview Baptist (U), Franklin, Macon, Minister, Male

## **Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina**

*Connie Coble*, Trinity Baptist (O), Raleigh, Raleigh, Lay Person, Female  
*Kenneth Haigler*, Wrightsboro Baptist (O), Wilmington, Wilmington, Lay Person, Male  
*Gary Issette*, Peace Church (U), Wilson, N.C. Miscellaneous, Lay Person, Male  
*Jerry Jordan*, Lakeview Baptist (U), Oakboro, Stanly, Lay Person, Male  
*Justin Lee*, Clinton First Baptist (O), Clinton, Eastern, Lay Person, Male  
*Joann Lutz*, Boiling Springs Baptist (O), Boiling Springs, Greater Cleveland, Lay Person, Female  
*David Powell*, Salem Baptist (O), Dobson, Surry, Minister, Male  
*Elaine Scarborough*, Wadesboro First Baptist (O), Polkton, Anson, Lay Person, Female  
*David B. Smith*, Lenoir First Baptist (O), Lenoir, Caldwell, Minister, Male

## **North Carolina Baptist Hospital**

*George D. Renfro*, Biltmore Baptist (O), Asheville, Buncombe, Lay Person, Male

## **Biblical Recorder**

*Kevin Atchley*, Elizabeth Baptist (O), Shelby, Greater Cleveland, Lay Person, Male  
*Tony Honeycutt*, Big Rock Creek Baptist (U), Bakersville, Mitchell, Lay Person, Male  
*Nathan T. Jones Jr.*, (2016 unexpired term of Rob Pocheck and full term), Cross Culture Church (U), Raleigh, N.C. Miscellaneous, Lay Person, Male  
*Daniel Meyer*, Mount Vernon Baptist (O), Blowing Rock, Three Forks, Lay Person, Male  
*James L. Pennington Jr.*, Temple Baptist (O), New Bern, Atlantic, Minister, Male

## **North Carolina Baptist Foundation**

*Bruce Cannon*, Bear Creek Baptist (O), Bakersville, Mitchell, Minister, Male  
*Michael C. Cummings*, Charlotte First Baptist (O), Charlotte, Metrolina, Minister, Male  
*Robert Howard*, Southport Baptist (O), Southport, Brunswick, Lay Person, Male  
*Roy D. Kreege*, Mount Calvary Baptist (U), Banner Elk, Three Forks, Lay Person, Male  
*Glen Warren*, Piney Grove Baptist (U), Fuquay-Varina, Raleigh, Minister, Male

### **Committee on Convention Meetings**

*Horace (Clint) Aclin*, Olive Chapel Baptist (O), Apex, Raleigh, Minister, Male  
*Larry Burns*, Mulberry Baptist (O), Gastonia, Metrolina, Minister, Male  
*Webster (Mark) Gregory*, Dublin First Baptist (O), Dublin, Bladen, Minister, Male  
*Garland Honeycutt*, Big Rock Creek Baptist (U), Bakersville, Mitchell, Minister, Male  
*Joe Daniel Staley*, Oak Grove Baptist (U), Lincolnton, South Fork, Minister, Male  
*Jeff A. Stephens*, Germanton Baptist (O), Pilot Mountain, Pilot Mountain, Minister, Male  
*Chip Hannah*, Chair, Peace Baptist (U), Whiteville, Columbus, Minister, Male

### **Committee on Resolutions and Memorials**

*Everett Coates*, Hocutt Baptist (O), Clayton, Johnston, Lay Person, Male  
*Buddy Cutshaw*, Macedonia Baptist (U), Indian Trail, Union, Minister, Male  
*Jarrold Scott*, (2017 unexpired term of Judy Mahaley) Green Pines Baptist (O), Raleigh, Raleigh, Minister, Male  
*Zachary Williams*, North Canton Baptist (U), Waynesville, Haywood, Minister, Male  
*Jonathan Blaylock*, Chair, West Canton Baptist (O), Canton, Haywood, Minister, Male

### **Historical Committee**

*Lloyd V. Fish Jr.*, Buff Creek Baptist (U), Franklin, Tuckaseegee, Minister, Male  
*James Lutzweiler*, Gethsemane Baptist (U), Jamestown, Piedmont, Lay Person, Male  
*William (Dale) Robertson*, North Main Baptist (U), Salisbury, Rowan, Minister, Male  
*Tim Sydnor*, Cary First Baptist (O), Cary, Raleigh, Lay Person, Male  
*Don Wright*, Chair, Salem Baptist (O), Apex, Raleigh, Lay Person, Male

## **COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS REPORT**

**The Committee on Resolution and Memorials received a single resolution for consideration for the 2016 Annual Meeting. The resolution was submitted by the Historical Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The committee is pleased to present the following resolution to the messengers for consideration.**

### **Resolution of Appreciation to Wake Forest University Z. Smith Reynolds Library**

Whereas, the Z. Smith Reynolds Library of Wake Forest University has for decades funded and maintained the N.C. Baptist Historical Collection at its facilities, and

Whereas, it houses the largest collection of historical documents related to the work and ministry of N.C. Baptist churches and associations in North Carolina covering a span of over 250 years, and

Whereas, the library has in recent years digitized thousands of documents, making it possible for researchers to access material online, therefore

Be it resolved that during its 186th annual meeting on November 15, 2016, the messengers of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina express their great appreciation to the staff of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library of Wake Forest University for its ongoing efforts to collect and preserve matters of historical significance to North Carolina Baptists, and

Be it further resolved that Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Director of Special Collections and Archives, be commended for her commitment to North Carolina Baptists and to the researchers who have benefited so greatly from her dedication, and

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the President of Wake Forest University and to the Dean of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library in recognition of the superb work of their staff.

## **Memorials & Dedication**

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials met Aug. 2, 2016, to consider those names of the men and women who had faithfully served North Carolina Baptists over the years and had received their eternal rewards from July 2015 to June 2016. In appreciation and honor, the committee presents the following persons to whom we dedicate this 2016 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual:

### **Bishop Phillip Davis**

Bishop Phillip Davis was founder and senior pastor of Nations Ford Community Church in Charlotte. In February 2016, Davis was one of 28 individuals selected to be part of the Young Black Males (YBM) Showcase. His Male Leadership Academy of Charlotte was also recognized for good deeds in the community. Davis worked alongside his wife of more than 40 years, Cynthia, serving the community.

### **Richard Davis Smith Sr.**

The Rev. Richard Davis Smith Sr. was a graduate of Wake Forest College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II. He was pastor of Spring Branch Baptist Church in Sampson County, Round Hill Baptist Church in Rutherford County, and in 1961, he began serving at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in the Sunday School department. He moved to the church building and planning department and served as business manager before retiring in 1991. He also served as interim pastor of several churches and pastored Carolina Pines Baptist Church of Raleigh.

### **Ruby Van Crumpler McSwain**

Ruby Van Crumpler McSwain was a devoted member of First Baptist Church of Sanford. McSwain regularly attended Sunday School and worship services. In 2002, she was awarded the North Carolina Baptist Heritage Award for her giving and service to organizations associated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

## IN MEMORIAM

Shirley "Gigi" Hicks Adams  
 James D. Blount Jr.  
 Dwain Horsley Bouldin  
 John Hendrix Bowden  
 Hugh Aldrich Burlington  
 Harry E. Byrd  
 Claude Connel  
 J. Roland Cooper Sr.  
 Bishop Phillip Davis  
 James Dunn  
 Jeannie Elliff  
 Donald Eugene Foster  
 Steve Goss  
 Henry William "Hank" Greer  
 Paul Julian Harrell Sr.  
 David C. Hayes  
 Frances Harrington Holleman  
 Malcom Haywood Ivey  
 Horace L. Jackson  
 George Jeffreys Jr.  
 George Alexander Jones  
 Clint Kimbrough  
 Brandon Scott Kincaid  
 Dale R. Martin  
 Pina Casebolt Maynard  
 Ruby Van Crumpler McSwain  
 William T. Mills  
 Thomas Robert "Bob" "TR" Mullinax  
 Robert E. Odom  
 Jessie Lord Parkerson  
 Horace Wilton Ricks  
 Forrest Clyde Russell  
 Erma LaVerne Schoeffler  
 William L. "Bill" Self  
 Harold A. "Happy" Shirley  
 John Meredith Simms  
 Richard Davis Smith Sr.  
 Earl Wilson Sossamon  
 Lyndell Edwin Stike  
 Bryson Trexler  
 Shirley "Gigi" Watkins Trexler  
 Eugene Stevens Warrick  
 Charles Herman Wellons  
 Thurman Alfred "Al" Woolbright  
 Frank Zedick

Spartanburg, S.C.  
 Raleigh  
 Matthews  
 Charlotte  
 Cary  
 Durham  
 Waxhaw  
 Elizabeth City  
 Charlotte  
 Winston-Salem  
 Oklahoma City, Okla.  
 Kingsport, Tenn.  
 Boone  
 Knoxville, Tenn.  
 Winston-Salem  
 Monroe  
 Cary  
 Iron Station  
 Florence, S.C.  
 Williamston  
 Hendersonville  
 Deep Gap  
 Goldsboro  
 Jonesborough, Tenn.  
 Apex  
 Sanford  
 Apex  
 Greenville, S.C.  
 Lexington  
 Cape Fear  
 Cary  
 Cary  
 Cary  
 Chamblee, Ga.  
 Rock Hill, S.C.  
 Daleville, Va.  
 Raleigh  
 Indian Trail  
 Elizabeth City  
 Cary  
 Cary  
 Columbia, Pa.  
 Moyock  
 Mount Holly  
 Durham



## **2016 Committee on Resolutions and Memorials**

Phillips McRae, chair, Peachland

Jonathan Blaylock, Canton

Calvin Bobo, Andrews

Chad Cooke, High Point

Mark Cottrell, Zebulon

Kristopher Estep, Waynesville

Robert O. Lyerly Jr., Indian Trail

Allen Williams, Whitakers

## HISTORICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Historical Committee is charged with the responsibility of collecting and preserving the history of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. It supports the work of the Baptist Collection at Wake Forest University and encourages churches, associations, institutions and agencies that are affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to preserve their historical documents, artifacts, correspondence and records. The committee also sponsors an annual historical writing competition encouraging churches and associational historians to submit books and significant compilations for special recognition at the convention's Annual Meeting.

The winner of the 2016 historical writing competition is: *Plowing New Ground: The Story of Blaise Baptist Church for the First Fifty Years, 1960-2010*. This book will be displayed at the Historical Committee booth in the exhibit hall during the Annual Meeting, and the authors, Jeremy Amick, Geraldine Angell and Gail Stewart will receive an award during the Monday evening session of the convention.

The winner of the 2016 multimedia competition is: *175 years SALEM: A Timeline of Salem Baptist Church of Apex, North Carolina 1840-2015*. The timeline will be displayed at the Historical Committee booth in the exhibit hall during the Annual Meeting.

The Historical Committee is also pleased to offer an historical excursion as a part of the 2016 Annual Session. Monday afternoon, Nov. 14, the committee will host a field trip to Sandy Creek Baptist Church, considered by many to be the "mother church" of evangelical Baptists in North Carolina. Information is available on the convention website or through the Business Services office of the convention.

*Don Wright, Chair*

### **Historical Committee Members**

Don Wright, chair, Apex  
Ronnie Chaney, Asheboro  
Curtis Dean, Greensboro  
Robbie Gibson, Sanford  
Ralph Justice, Raleigh  
Will Matthews, Clinton  
Howard McNeil, Seagrove  
Weeks Parker, Fayetteville  
Marcia Phillips, Mocksville  
Richard Price, Rocky Mount  
Les Puryear, Gulf  
Rick Rogers, Roanoke Rapids