

2017 Book of Reports

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA



RETURN TO ME, & I WILL RETURN



TO YOU, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS

ZECH 1:3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REPORT



MARC FRANCIS

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 six times since September 2016. Members include 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 2016 board meeting.

The Board of Directors elected the following officers:

President: *Marc Francis*

Vice President: *John Mark Harrison*

Board Secretary: *Ginger Brown*

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

Ken Jones, Michael Owens, David Spray and Melanie Wallace

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

Business Services Special Committee:

Mike Moore

Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee:

Earl Roach

Christian Social Services (Convention Relations) Special Committee:

Boyce Porter

Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee:

Lawrence Clapp

Communications Committee:

David Duarte

Evangelism and Discipleship Committee:

Ed Rose

The Board president made the following committee appointments:

Articles & Bylaws Special Committee
Includes both Board and Non-Board members as noted:

Board: *No appointments*

Non-Board: *Rob Roberts* (unexpired 2019 term of Jeff Broadwell), Brookdale Baptist Church, Siler City
Ashley Reffit (2020 term), Turner Memorial Baptist Church, Garner
John Compton was appointed as chairperson.

Budget Special Committee

Includes both board and non-board members as noted:

Board: *Melanie Wallace* (unexpired 2019 term of Tony Honeycutt), Hephzibah Baptist Church, Wendell
Donnie Parks (2020 term), Biltmore Baptist Church, Asheville
Non-board: *Bob Garbett* (unexpired 2017 term of Harry Thetford), Scotts Hill Baptist Church, Wilmington
Reggie Bakr (2020 term), St. Paul's Baptist Church, Greensboro
Jeff Isenhour was appointed as chairperson.

Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee

Three members of the Executive Committee: *Ken Jones*, chairperson; *Earl Roach*,
David Spray

The Board of Directors elected the following committee members:

Business Services Special Committee at-large:

Harvey Brown Sr (2020 term), First Baptist Church, Charlotte
Walter Mills (2020 term), First Baptist Church, Charlotte

Committee on Nominations

Six new members of the Committee on Nominations were nominated by convention officers *Cameron McGill*, president;

Joel Stephens, first vice president; and *J. D. Grant*, second vice president. During the January 2017 meeting, the board elected these individuals to serve:

Ben Curfman (2019 term), minister, Barberville Baptist Church, Waynesville
Michael Davis (2019 term), minister, Woodlawn Baptist Church, Charlotte
Mark Golden (2019 term), minister, Calvary Road Baptist Church, Waynesville
David Helms (2019 term), layperson, Galatia Baptist Church, Seaboard
James Keku (2019 term), layperson, Immanuel Baptist Church, Greensboro
Jennifer Thoppil (2019 term), layperson, Salem Baptist Church, Dobson (elected by the Executive Committee in March, as authorized by the board)
Charles Brust 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.

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina:

Kenneth Robinette, layperson from Rockingham First Baptist Church, Rockingham (U), Pee Dee Association, to fill the 2018 unexpired term of Joan Mitchell.

Nathan Sanders, layperson from Scotts Hill Baptist Church, Wilmington (O), Wilmington Association, to fill the 2019 unexpired term of Wendy Peters.

The Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee to fill the 2021 terms on the Fruitland Board representing the:

Convention Board of Directors: *James Felty*, layperson, Calvary Baptist Church, Brevard
Alumnus: *James Gore*, retired pastor, Millers Creek Baptist Church, Millers Creek
At-large: *Davis Hooper*, pastor, Liberty Baptist Church, Franklin
At-large: *David Philbeck*, pastor, Walls Baptist Church, Bostic, to fill the 2019 unexpired term of Buddy Freeman

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 11 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 serves in population centers across the state where concentrated pockets of lostness have been identified. 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. A Hispanic coordinator rounds out the team to increase their statewide presence and capabilities of reaching the lost.

In late 2015, a Board of Directors Meetings Evaluation Task Force was appointed 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. Based on task force recommendations, the Monday night sessions of the 2017 board meetings have been set aside as a time of strategic focus emphasis and engagement. The intent is for board members not only to become educated and trained, but to become motivated so that they will become agents of change in their communities. Initially, the convention's primary strategic focus was the top 100 pockets of lostness across the state. This year, the emphasis has broadened to the top 250 pockets of lostness.

In Hollifield's January 2017 report to the board, he reviewed four aspects of ministry related to the convention strategy: (1) Disciple-making, (2) Church Strengthening, (3) Church Revitalization and (4) Church Planting. At the May board meeting, he shared statistics and important data from the Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Group and the Evangelism and Discipleship Group affirming their efforts of carrying out the strategy. Most recently in September, Hollifield indicated that reported data from North Carolina Baptist churches shows the number of baptisms across the state are declining, so we should not only recognize, but also utilize opportunities to share the gospel. We must become proactive by repenting of our sin of silence when it comes to telling others about Jesus. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the Annual Church Profile not only to the convention, but to churches and associations as well.

Hollifield continually challenges the board to become advocates for the convention strategy as he fully believes a level of commitment from each board member will have an impact on the lostness that is so evident in our towns, our state, our country and our world.

A special prayer gathering titled "Broken Before the Throne" will be held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 7, during the Annual Meeting in Greensboro. Hollifield encouraged the board to attend and join their hearts together in praying for spiritual revival in our land.

Additional Actions of the Board of Directors were as follows:

Articles and Bylaws Special Committee

In May 2017, the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee presented to the Board of Directors six proposed amendments to both the articles and the bylaws of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for consideration. Following approval by the board, the amendments were condensed into five motions for the messengers. The proposed amendments, along with supporting rationale, can be found in the special edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, made available to the messengers in their messenger packet. The first motion requires a change to the Articles of Incorporation, while the others affect the bylaws only.

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 or Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer, at bdavis@ncbaptist.org.

Budget Special Committee

The Board of Directors

- Adopted the 2018 Cooperative Program Budget of \$31 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the 2018 budget for consideration to the convention at its 2017 Annual Meeting.
- Adopted the North Carolina Missions Offering goal of \$2.1 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the following 2018 allocations for consideration to the convention at its 2017 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>
TOTAL NCMO GOAL	\$2,100,000

Camps, Conference Centers and Fruitland Baptist Bible College

The Board of Directors

- Approved for a designated section of cottages at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell to be named Holbrook Village, in honor of Rick Holbrook, who retired on May 31, 2017. Holbrook served as the director of Fort Caswell for 32 years.
- Approved the development of a solar farm on the property of Caraway Conference Center and Camp. The executive leader for Business Services was authorized to execute the lease agreement based on specific parameters approved by the board.

Financial Matters

The Board of Directors

- Approved the transfer of 20 percent of the excess 2016 operating revenue to the Contingency Reserve Fund of the convention. This amount totaled \$25,668.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

- Approved a 1 percent of annual salary year-end gift for convention staff in November 2016. Funds for this gift were generated from interest income.
- Approved merit bonus gifts for a limited number of staff. These bonuses were given at the executive director-treasurer's discretion, in consultation with the executive leaders, for outstanding performance in 2016. Funding for these bonuses also came from interest income.
- Approved the transfer of \$250,000 to the Luther H. Butler Scholarship for North Carolina Baptists, managed by the North Carolina Baptist Foundation. Funds came from the reserves of the former church loan program.
- Approved funding assistance for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's North Carolina Field Ministry Program at Nash Correctional Institute. A total grant of \$69,500 over the next five years, with an initial contribution of \$36,000 in 2017, was approved.

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 two policy updates to the convention's employee handbook:
 1. Internet Social Networking and Social Media Policy
 2. Intellectual Property and Use of Copyright Protected Materials Policies

A personal note from Marc Francis, board president

I have been a North Carolina Baptist since my conversion in 1978. As a teenager and young adult, I was ignorant of the BSCNC. Sensing a call to ministry and becoming involved in local church ministry while pursuing theological education, I was introduced to the BSCNC and made aware of its ministries. Upon entering full-time ministry in local churches, I began attending annual meetings and participating in BSCNC-sponsored training events and mission opportunities. I was as aware of the BSCNC as anyone I knew. However, in my time of serving on the Board of Directors, I have become much more aware of the workings of our convention and of our dedicated and capable staff. I have been exposed to the work of the convention in a more in-depth way, and I am better for the experience. My church is benefitting also. I want to encourage each BSCNC church to make every effort to participate in the life of the convention in order to be informed, but also to benefit from the resources and opportunities provided to us as members of the BSCNC. Make yourself available to serve on the Board of Directors or some other committee. Participate in disaster relief or a mission trip. Send your children and youth to BSCNC camps. Attend a training event for Sunday School or worship. Your participation will strengthen your Christian walk, your church and our convention. Together, we can carry out our strategy of "Impacting Lostness through Disciple-making."

2018

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

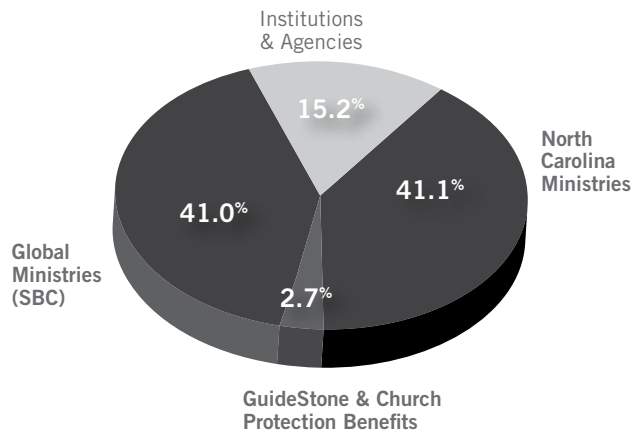
MISSIONS BUDGET

TOTAL \$31,000,000

GLOBAL MINISTRIES (SBC)		\$12,710,000 (41.0%)
	2017	2018
International Mission Board	\$6,201,375	\$6,407,111
North American Mission Board	\$2,803,597	\$2,896,609
SBC Seminaries	\$2,726,096	\$2,816,536
Other Ministries & Administration	\$ 570,807	\$ 589,744
NORTH CAROLINA MINISTRIES		\$12,725,000 (41.1%)
	2017	2018
Convention and Board Operations	\$2,510,041	\$2,585,041
Convention Ministry Groups		
Administration & Convention Relations	\$3,215,594	\$3,245,674
Business Services	\$1,505,757	\$1,533,015
Church Planting & Missions Partnerships	\$2,673,702	\$2,692,644
Evangelism & Discipleship	\$2,678,031	\$2,668,626
TOTAL Ministry Groups	\$10,073,084	\$10,139,959

INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES		\$ 4,715,000 (15.2%)
	2017	2018
Christian Social Services		
Baptist Children's Homes of N.C.	\$1,675,000	\$1,700,000
Baptist Children's Homes, DDM Program	\$ 360,000	\$ 370,000
N.C. Baptist Aging Ministries	\$ 760,000	\$ 780,000
N.C. Baptist Hospitals (FaithHealth Division)	\$ 610,000	\$ 615,000
TOTAL	\$3,405,000	\$3,465,000
Agencies		
The <i>Biblical Recorder</i>	\$ 415,000	\$ 425,000
The <i>Biblical Recorder</i> Special Project	\$ 25,000	\$ 0
North Carolina Baptist Foundation	\$ 95,000	\$ 100,000
TOTAL	\$ 535,000	\$ 525,000
Fruitland Baptist Bible College	\$ 700,000	\$ 725,000

GUIDESTONE & CHURCH PROTECTION BENEFITS		\$850,000 (2.7%)
	2017	2018
Protection Benefits For N.C. Baptist Church Staff	\$ 825,000	\$ 825,000
Ministers' Emergency Reserve	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000



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.¹

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.² 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.

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

² 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.³

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.

Discover

- Answer discovery questions.
 - Gather, validate and assess data, utilizing tools such as, but not limited to:

³ U.S. Census, "North Carolina Quick Facts," <http://1.usa.gov/lig9JO>. Internet, Date Accessed: March 7, 2013

- Intercultural Institute for Contextual Ministry report⁴
- Annual Church Profile data for existing churches within the focus area
- “Operation Reach”⁵
- 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.
 - 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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

- 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 ministry teams of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) by seeking to create clear, effective, creative and professional

communications that influence the world for Christ.

All of the Communications Team's efforts seek to support and align with the convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making" and the convention's mission "to assist the churches in their divinely appointed mission."

The team works with BSCNC staff and ministry teams to develop communications strategies for their respective ministries and various ministry events. The team utilizes a variety of communication vehicles to accomplish its goals, which include print, online, digital, electronic, video, written and social media channels.

Over the past year, the team provided promotional and communications support for numerous BSCNC events, including the annual Disciple-Making Conference, N.C. Baptist Women's Retreat, Annual Meeting and more. The team also handled a variety of on-site production duties during the Annual Meeting. The team also developed promotional resources and materials for the annual North Carolina Mission's Offering (NCMO).

Following is an overview of some of the Communications Team's significant ministry accomplishments and milestones from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Patterned

The Communications Team provided production and promotional support for "Patterned," the disciple-making curriculum developed and released by the convention. The team worked together to copyedit the content, design the study guide, and film and

edit the videos that are part of the 10-week study. All "Patterned" materials are available at patternednc.org.

Mission of God

The Communications Team worked with the convention's Peoples Next Door N.C. in the development and release of the "Mission of God," a six-week Bible study that provides a biblical and theological foundation for missions. The team produced the six videos that are part of the study, as well as provided editorial and design assistance for the corresponding student and leader guides. The "Mission of God" study is available at ncbaptist.org/missionofgod.

Pray for 30 Days

Partnering with the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening, the Communications Team helped produce the "Impact" 30-day devotional prayer guide in 2016, as well as supplemental videos. Numerous N.C. Baptists utilized the print and electronic versions of the devotional as well as daily prayer prompts that were made available by text message and email during the 30-day prayer emphasis in October. The current and previous prayer guides are available at prayfor30days.org.

Email Communications

In an effort to utilize email more effectively as a communications tool, the Communications Team worked with the convention's Information Technology and Information Services (IT/IS) Team to begin the process of transitioning the convention's email to a new third-party vendor. The new system allows users to customize their email preferences when receiving news and information from the convention. As part of the transition,

the Communications Team introduced a new monthly email newsletter and a new monthly email events listing that are sent to all convention email subscribers. Visit ncbaptist.org and click on the “Newsletter Sign Up” button to register to receive email from the convention.

Website Redesign

Working with the IT/IS team, the Communications Team began the initial stages of a complete redesign of the convention’s website, ncbaptist.org. This work will continue into 2018.

Leading Voices

The Communications Team launched a new article series called “Leading Voices” this year that features writing contributions from pastors and ministry leaders from across North Carolina. If you are interested in contributing, or want to learn more, email the Communications Team at communications@ncbaptist.org.

Social Media Growth

The Communications Team utilizes social media to share news, events, videos, resources and more with N.C. Baptists. The convention saw steady increases in the number of followers on its two primary social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. In June 2017, the convention had nearly 6,400 followers on Facebook and more than 2,700 on Twitter. The Communications Team is also increasing its social media presence on Instagram, which also saw an increase in followers. The team also conducted social media training events at the Pee Dee Baptist Association in February 2016 and the Catawba Valley Baptist Association in June 2017. Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/ncbaptist) Twitter ([@ncbaptist](https://twitter.com/ncbaptist)) and Instagram ([@ncbaptist](https://www.instagram.com/ncbaptist)) to receive up-to-the-minute information from the convention.

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

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

A pastor in Garner reported his church was increasing Cooperative Program giving by 6 percent for 2018.

The church he leads is not a megachurch, but averages 200 or so in attendance on Sunday — a strong church that is growing. But, he said his members like the idea of partnering with other Baptists so they can accomplish more kingdom-focused missions and ministry than they could ever do alone.

Similar opinions have begun shaping up across North Carolina and also across the United States. The result has been that Cooperative Program giving percentages have been more positive over the last year or two.

A 6 percent increase in Cooperative Program giving is wonderful, of course, but even a 1 percent increase helps more than one might think — if enough churches join in.

Note that if all 4,300 or so churches affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) increased their Cooperative Program giving by just 1 percent of their incomes, it would produce about \$6 million in additional funds for missions. Under the 2017 Cooperative Program budget, an additional \$1.2 million would be used to send and support missionaries in North Carolina, North America and overseas.

Such an increase would also help Southern Baptists start even more new churches across North America — beyond the average of two new churches a day we already start. Ministries across North Carolina would also be multiplied.

These “what if” totals refer just to North Carolina. If all 46,000 Southern Baptist churches across the country similarly increased their Cooperative Program giving by just 1 percent of their undesignated receipts, it would produce an astounding \$100 million in additional funds each year.

Imagine what could happen: Missionaries could be assigned to most of the unreached people groups — those who have not heard the gospel and have no missionaries assigned to them — around the world.

These days, many of those unreached people now live in North Carolina. An increase in funds would enable more training, materials, planning and all the other support that

is helping equip North Carolina Baptists to engage with this new missions challenge so close to home.

Some interesting efforts are underway to help Baptists understand the close relationship that exists between stewardship, giving to the local church and accomplishing the missions task assigned to the church.

One of the most successful new tools for missions education is called 52 Sundays, a guide that presents an international missionary, North American missionary or North Carolina church planter to pray for each Sunday throughout the year. Colorful photos can be projected and brief information provided on these brave missionaries who serve far and wide before the congregation joins in prayer. Over a year, a church can get acquainted with “their” missionaries they support through the Cooperative Program and additional missions offerings.

52 Sundays started here in North Carolina, but has been adopted by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for nationwide distribution. Churches across the country now use the prayer guide each Sunday.

Starting with the 2018 edition, the national office of Woman’s Missionary Union will support 52 Sundays through its many print and digital outlets — and will even provide translation into other languages. In North Carolina, the 2018 edition of 52 Sundays will be sent to the churches in mid-December of 2017.

North Carolina is one of the state conventions partnering with the SBC Executive Committee on a new computer-assisted effort to keep pastors informed on the Cooperative Program through regular letters or emails.

Another approach in North Carolina will feature pastors talking to pastors and others on videos, explaining why they agree that the Cooperative Program is absolutely the best method for churches to multiply their missions dollars.

Finally, consider this. Each year, usually in April, Southern Baptists set aside a Sunday as Cooperative Program Sunday as a day to think about this missions funding mechanism that started in 1925. It may seem strange to designate a day to how we multiply missions by putting funds into a major missions fund, then spend that money for missions and ministries as approved by messengers from the churches.

But this simple idea that was the Cooperative Program has been one of the major factors in Baptist growth across our country and about our world. With enough churches behind it, the

Cooperative Program will enable Baptists to accomplish even more kingdom work in the years ahead.

Mike Creswell, Senior Consultant

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ INFORMATION SERVICES

The effective use of technology is an expectation for nearly anyone engaged in ministry today. Therefore, to fulfill the mission of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), the Information Technology/Information Services (IT/IS) Team works diligently to equip, support, provide data and manage web services necessary for the convention staff to assist churches.

The IT/IS Team provides the best equipment, services and training to the convention staff so they will have the best to serve in their capacities of impacting lostness through disciple-making. Our team works hard at keeping systems running, equipment updated, and skill sets improving. We strive to be ready to respond to the most urgent concerns that surface in our organization and our partner churches and associations. The IT/IS Team has focused on numerous efforts in the last year. The following provides highlights of specific tasks the IT/IS team completed.

Ron Raspberry, our network administrator, has been working to upgrade the infrastructure, which is what all other technologies are running on. The software and hardware of the data center was upgraded to handle the growing need for high performance data communications and data storage.

Raspberry also worked with the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, Caraway Conference Center and Camp,

the Piedmont Baptist Association and Dutch Cove Baptist Church to address Wi-Fi and other needs. Security is a high priority. Devices connected to the internet require monitoring and constant upgrades. Improvements to building access and surveillance have been made at convention properties.

Russell Schwab, our systems administrator, has been working hard this year to encourage more churches to submit essential data through the Annual Church Profile (ACP). We had a milestone in that this year we actually improved the number of submissions over the previous year. Many thanks to Becki Canterbury who helps us keep our records up to date and assists Schwab in this effort.

Lai Salmonson, our webmaster, has been helping expand and improve our web presence. He has been teaching churches how they can develop and maintain a website. Fifty participants were part of his training over the year. Salmonson has also been working with our convention's Communications Team to more effectively use WordPress, Wufoo, Campaigner and MailChimp. Lai manages 40 websites that support the convention's mission and strategy.

Judy Autry, our team's ministry assistant, has been involved in training staff and others on the use of Microsoft products. Fifty-eight churches sent 78 individuals for training on Microsoft Office. Training is an important effort of the IT/IS Team. Our team's staff works collaboratively with the Communications Team's staff on the development of websites and with all convention staff on the use of ACP data, Microsoft Office products, and Google products.

The IT/IS staff desires to assist in making convention communications and

information available to our churches. The IT/IS Team is very grateful for the opportunity to minister and serve in our areas of giftedness.

John D. Jones, Team Leader

Judy Autry, Team Leader Assistant

OFFICE OF PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Statewide Prayer Conference

The 2017 statewide prayer conference was held at Osborne Baptist Church in Eden. Speakers were Steve Griffith, pastor of Osborne Baptist Church; K. Marshall Williams of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mel Blackaby of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Georgia; and Gordon Fort of International Mission Board.

The conference provided a ripe environment for spiritual transformation as the Holy Spirit worked in people's lives. During the conference, individuals with the Osborne Baptist prayer ministry were praying along one of the walls just outside of the meeting hall. God was at work in people's lives. The 2018 statewide prayer gathering is scheduled for March 9-10 at Lake Hills Baptist Church in Candler.

Regional Prayer Gatherings

Over the past year, regional and associational prayer conferences, summits and gatherings were held in partnership with associations and churches across North Carolina. The "Call to Me" regional prayer gathering was held in partnership with Carolina Baptist Association, Fruitland Baptist Bible College and Ebenezer Baptist Church on March 7-8, 2017. The "Knowing Jesus" prayer summit was held May 13, 2017 in partnership with the West Chowan Baptist Association and Cashie Baptist Church.

Prayer Focus at the Annual Meeting

During the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) in Greensboro, the Office of Prayer partnered with the Strategic Focus Team and the Piedmont Baptist Association to host a "Pray Greensboro" prayer vision bus tour during the Tuesday afternoon breakout sessions. Two buses of pastors, messengers, associational and convention leaders traveled to strategic pockets of lostness and prayed toward church revitalization, church planting, lostness, revival and spiritual awakening. During the convention, additional opportunities for prayer through prayer stations, prayerwalking and the Annual Meeting prayer room were provided for messengers and participants.

Area-Wide Concerts of Prayer and Pastor Prayer Efforts

The Office of Prayer has also partnered with associations, churches and various ministries to encourage, develop, facilitate and lead concerts of prayer and pastor prayer efforts for revival and spiritual awakening. Some locations include the Greater Gaston Baptist Association, Carolina Baptist Association, Randolph Baptist Association, Robeson Baptist Association, Elkin Baptist Association, Sandy Creek Baptist Association, North Roanoke Baptist Association, Caldwell Baptist Association, West Chowan Baptist Association, Burnt Swamp Baptist Association and the Chowan Baptist Association. The Pastor Prayer Initiative Team, a team 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.

Prayer Bus Tour Initiative

In November 2016, March 2017 and May 2017, three prayer vision bus tours were conducted by the Office of Prayer in partnership with the Strategic Focus Team, Piedmont Baptist Association, Chowan Baptist Association and the Raleigh Baptist Association. Approximately 160 pastors, ministry staff and prayer leaders prayed toward lostness, church revitalization, church planting, university campuses and spiritual awakening across the three associations and areas. The purpose of this initiative was twofold: to pray toward lostness, revival and spiritual awakening; and to foster a movement of prayer for disciple-making that impacts lostness, revival, church planting and spiritual awakening in churches and communities across North Carolina and beyond. Other prayer bus tours are scheduled throughout 2017 and 2018 in Fayetteville, Wilmington, Laurinburg, Charlotte and the Yancey Baptist Association. For more info on these prayer bus tours, contact the Office of Prayer.

Kingdom-Focused Prayer Training

Throughout the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017, the Office of Prayer partnered with associations, local churches and convention ministries to provide kingdom-focused strategy sessions, prayer conferences, resources, prayer retreats, summits, prayer weekends and prayerwalking training. These sessions focused on biblical prayer training and the development and 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.

Cross Functional Prayer Team

The first Cross Functional Prayer Team meeting was convened by the Office

of Prayer in the Cary offices during May 2017. The purpose of this gathering was to provide a forum for convention teams and ministries to unite, serve one another and seek to fan the flames of God's prayer activity within convention ministries, churches, associations, entities and beyond. Through these meetings, convention ministry leaders are working together to develop avenues and opportunities for more effective collaboration, communication and partnerships in prayer mobilization.

Church Planting Prayer Network

In partnership with the Church Planting Team, a prayer network is being developed to mobilize kingdom prayer for North Carolina church planting efforts. A biweekly 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 their Church Planting Basic Training courses. If you or your church would like to receive the email and join the church planter prayer network, please contact the Office of Prayer at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513 or froma@ncbaptist.org.

BSCNC Prayer Room Efforts

The on-site prayer room at the Baptist building 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/ministries for times of focused prayer. 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 and/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 BSCNC building each year with the staff praying for revival and awakening in America.

Prayer Resources

Strategic prayer resources such as Prayerwalking Made Simple, Praying Your Friends to Christ, and Prayer Prompts for Prayer Groups booklets, as well as the "Arise," "Awaken," "Greater Things," "Echo," "Impact" and "Return to Me" devotional prayer guides and other materials that assist believers in prayer for revival, spiritual awakening and the mission are available through the Office of Prayer. Our newest resource, "Return to Me," a 30-day prayer guide and devotional for revival and spiritual awakening is downloadable and free. 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 and Spiritual Awakening
Fatima Roma, Ministry Assistant*

STRATEGIC FOCUS TEAM

Overview

For the Strategic Focus Team, 2014 through 2016 were years of team formation, building an accurate understanding of the first 100 pockets of lostness, enhancing relationships necessary for engaging these pockets of lostness, building strategic partnerships, and facilitating a growing momentum toward impacting lostness through disciple-making. The year of 2017 was especially noteworthy due to an increasingly greater impact on lostness by more local churches and associations. It also included implementation of a

new pocket engagement process model that enhanced the team's ability to communicate progress and next steps. Further, 2017 was the year in which the focus was expanded to include the next 150 pockets of lostness by working to enlist local churches, associations and individuals outside the eight population centers to accept responsibility for leading the charge to eradicate lostness in these pockets. Learnings and resources from the work in the first 100 pockets would be the foundation for engaging the next 150 pockets.

Following are reports from the eight population centers for 2017. 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 all 250 pockets. It is our prayer that as you read this report, you will experience a personal calling to engage lostness in these pockets and beyond.

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

BLUE RIDGE

The Blue Ridge area is the setting for six of our top 100 pockets of lostness. During this past year, four local strategy teams were established with plans in place to form two more, which will then cover all six of the top 100 pockets of lostness. Each local strategy team is focused on efforts to strengthen the existing churches in each pocket by helping them become Great Commission churches as they work toward developing and implementing a strategy for engaging lostness and

building multiplying disciples of Christ. As population segments are identified, plans are also made to engage those segments through missional communities and church planting.

Prayer: The prayer team for the Blue Ridge area is seeking to bathe everything that is done in prayer. They meet one evening a month for dinner and a three-hour prayer session to pray over all of the plans and issues in each of the pockets of lostness. This intercessory prayer emphasis has been used by God to draw others into this great movement of impacting lostness through disciple-making in this area. Pastors have enthusiastically accepted the invitation to participate on local strategy teams. Church planters have been raised up, and God has brought strong champions into the various population segments who are already called and focused on reaching ethnic and affinity groups, including African-Americans, the LGBT community, Hispanics, Eastern Europeans and others.

Local Strategy Teams: Four local strategy teams have been established for pocket Nos. 45, 59, 68 and 71. Each team is moving through the catalyzing steps in the process and moving toward the “develop” stage.

Church Strengthening: One church in pocket No. 45 is pursuing a revitalization plan, which has led it to invite three different congregations to use its facilities. The church is also pursuing a merger that could breathe new life into its aging congregation. Another church in pocket No. 68 is developing a revitalization plan that has led them to establish a missional community of people passionate for reaching the lost and building disciples. They are training their youth to be missional followers of Christ through aggressive equipping as disciple-makers.

A church in pocket No. 59 has developed and is implementing a plan for church strengthening that has led it to recast their vision with an aggressive outreach to the community resulting in a doubling of their attendance in one year.

Church Planting: The church planting cohort is fully involved with a gathering every third Thursday for support, encouragement, fellowship and training for all of the interested church planters in our area. Four church plants are being supported by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) in the Blue Ridge area during this past year. Each one is growing and thriving in its different locations and in reaching its particular population segments.

Legacy Church Strategy: During the past year, we have seen four legacy churches adopt a plan for revitalization that included a merger/acquisition strategy.

Reed Memorial Baptist Church in Asheville voted to give their facilities to Fellowship Asheville. Reed Memorial was down to nearly 30 in attendance and ready to make some courageous decisions about its future. Fellowship Asheville was meeting at the YMCA and had grown to over 430 in attendance, but it was told it had to move out because of renovations. At just the critical time, the two congregations came together in agreement. On the first Sunday of April, Fellowship Asheville gathered for its first worship service in the Reed Memorial building and had over 570 in attendance.

Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church has welcomed Reach Life Church, a multi-ethnic congregation, to join in using the Merrimon Avenue facilities.

Deaverview Baptist Church invited Biltmore Baptist Church to establish

a west campus as the members of Deaverview joined in with Biltmore to see a great work established there.

Calvary Baptist Church has now invited Missio Dei to begin meeting at its facilities, which will make use of classrooms that have not been used in many years.

Population Segments Engagement

Process: In pocket No. 45, the population segments of college students, millennials, African-Americans, bohemians, LGBT and deaf may all be found. We now have leaders for all of these population segments except for bohemians. Each ministry is developing and reporting at our local strategy team meetings.

In pocket No. 68, apartment dwellers, Slavs and Hispanics have been identified as needing to be reached. We are collaborating with the Great Commission Partnerships Team and Church Planting Team about developing a strategy for multi-housing ministry.

Steve Harris, Blue Ridge Strategy Coordinator

METRO CHARLOTTE

We have been blessed to see several churches step forward to take responsibility for the lostness around them in pockets Nos. 3 (Charlotte-Windsor Park), 4 (Charlotte-Independence), 7 (Charlotte-Tyvola), 11 (Charlotte-University City), 43 (Huntersville), 44 (Concord) and 55 (Kannapolis). We have begun the process of gathering leaders from these churches and the local associations regularly for opportunities to learn more about the people who live in these pockets and discover ways in which we can meaningfully engage them with the gospel. In the coming year, we will

establish strategy teams that focus on engaging the population segments within individual pockets.

With local strategy teams as the goal and building on our current activity of relational consultation, we have launched three P3 groups in Metro Charlotte. P3 stands for “Pocket Prayer & Planning.” These groups are a joint effort with the local association leadership to identify pastors and churches that are ready to strengthen relationships that will result in impacting lost pockets.

Several pockets are included in each P3 group so the meetings do not become burdensome to the participants. Each meeting begins with a time of prayer for the lost people in a pocket. The balance of the time is used to interactively consider the obstacles and opportunities for the gospel in the nearby pockets.

As champions and strategists are identified in P3 groups, they will be recruited to take part in the local strategy teams that will focus on individual pockets or population segments within a pocket. As leaders transition through churches, the P3 groups will serve as ongoing preparation and recruiting pools for replacement and expansion.

Advancement of the gospel in the lost pockets of metro Charlotte faces many barriers. Some are resource-based, some are systemic and some are spiritual. The need for the good news of Christ is massive. Nine of the top 10 pockets of lostness statewide are within the city limits of Charlotte, covering 28 percent of the city's geography and encompassing 43 percent of its population. Many factors promote isolation — both for individuals and congregations — in these pockets. Those challenges include poverty, political differences, racism, gentrification

and religiosity. In some ways, the economic advancement of the region has made people more resistant to the gospel all along the economic spectrum.

Facing such needs, we must be strategic, contextual, intentional, missional and determined. We need to know lost people, pray for them, share life with them and love them, all while strengthening and sending the saints. By taking advantage of resources made available through the state convention, such as MissionInsite, working collaboratively with other congregations (both connected to lost pockets and on mission from other areas), and calling in the help of our skilled specialists, we are developing strategies of engagement that will help us eliminate the lost pockets of metro Charlotte.

Dan Collison, Metro Charlotte Strategy Coordinator

COASTAL

The coastal population center is located in southeastern North Carolina and 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 work of impacting lostness through disciple-making looks different across this population center as the area has a diverse context. Prayer is one unifying strategic effort throughout the coastal area as pastors are gathering to pray together, prayer strategies are being developed, and a focus on prayer walking is being established. Below you will find some other examples of impacting

lostness through disciple-making.

College Acres Baptist Church, in Wilmington, under the leadership of senior pastor Robert Keatts, along with pastors Corey Knight and Jordan Wilson, are intentionally reaching out into the lostness. As College Acres is located within pocket No. 48 and with a membership that lives across Wilmington, which also includes pocket Nos. 40 and 73, the church sees the opportunity it has to make a difference within the lostness around them. College Acres holds a Vacation Bible School (VBS) at its church like most Southern Baptist churches do, but the church also has chosen to engage lostness in four off-campus areas around Wilmington. Each summer, College Acres spends one evening a week in each of these four areas holding mini VBS events. Not only are church members present in these communities weekly during June, July, and August, they also spend time within those areas growing gospel relationships at other times throughout the year.

Progress continues in pocket No. 69, which is located in Jacksonville. Mapping was completed earlier this year as the focus team subdivided the pocket into neighborhood segments. Churches in the pocket are continuing an intentional outreach through neighborhood prayer walks and various events. Efforts are being made to include other churches to aid in this monumental task of touching over 11,000 unreached households with the love of Jesus Christ.

Another significant event that took place this past year was through Midville Baptist Church. Joe Cappar, director of missions for the New South River Baptist Association (NRBA), said that "Midville is serving as a legacy church, and the people of Midville are transferring the Lord's property to the people of Pillar Church of

Jacksonville for the continuation of the Lord's kingdom work in that location." Pillar Church Jacksonville began in Brian and Kelli O'Day's home on Jan. 6, 2013. As the church grew, it moved into the NRBA building. The congregation looks forward to serving the Lord in its new location.

*Chuck Campbell and Michael Boarts,
Coastal Strategy Coordinators*

FAYETTEVILLE

With fewer people identifying themselves as followers of Jesus within North Carolina, the opportunity is great to impact lostness through disciple-making. Identifying the lostness around our churches is important so church members can focus on the direction God wants them to go. Lostness can be identified within the pockets of lostness, people groups and population segments. As churches build a disciple-making culture within their congregations, they are becoming a spiritual force to make disciples of the lost around them and around the world.

Throughout the Fayetteville population center, directors of missions (DOMs), pastors and church members are working to identify the lostness in their communities and build disciple-making cultures in their churches. This is demonstrated in different ways across the different associations.

In pocket No. 41, Theron Hawkins is planting Next Level Church. Hawkins is using the local recreation center as a place to connect with the people in the community and to hold weekly Bible studies. Hawkins is building gospel relationships through activities such as recreation baseball teams in partnership with the River Community Church, and a block party in partnership with Temple Baptist Church.

Another example within pocket No. 41, is Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church where Pastor Jamale Johnson is leading the church to reach out into the community and intentionally building disciples. Seeing an opportunity to come alongside the state convention's strategy in an effort to impact lostness through disciple-making, Johnson led Mt. Sinai to affiliate with the New South River Baptist Association, the BSCNC and the Southern Baptist Convention.

South Erwin Baptist Church and Neill's Creek Baptist Church are partnering to engage the pockets of lostness located between their churches. Pastors Turner Matthews of South Erwin Baptist and Chris Turner of Neill's Creek Baptist recognize their churches are located between pocket Nos. 135, 163, 119 and 219 and have church members that live within all four pockets of lostness. Matthews and Turner have come to the conclusion that relationally making disciples as Jesus did is a strategy to which God has called them. Building a disciple-making culture looks different within the two churches because they are contextually diverse, but they share common strategies like creating micro groups. These groups are designed for participants to live life together in gospel relationships with a biblical framework for growing disciples. The commitment includes an expectation of multiplication as everyone within the micro groups will create their own micro disciple-making groups.

*Michael Boarts, Fayetteville Strategy
Coordinator*

GREENVILLE

The Greenville population center is located in the north-central coastal region of North Carolina and is comprised of 22 eastern counties. Several major

cities make up the landscape which includes Greenville, Rocky Mount, Wilson and Goldsboro, as well as nearly 50 smaller cities scattered throughout the area. Twenty-six pockets of lostness have been identified in this region. These 26 pockets contain 85,900 unreached households. This year several associations, churches, pastors and local leaders have continued to work together to impact lostness through disciple-making in these pockets and beyond.

Within the city of Greenville, churches are focusing on pocket No. 50 under the leadership of Scott Setzer, associational missionary of the South Roanoke Baptist Association (SRBA), and team leader Erick Ingram, pastor of Freedom Church. Many SRBA churches came together

to host several strategic events throughout this summer yielding much fruit for the kingdom in pocket No. 50. Ingram said much of the success is due to regional churches collaborating and praying together. Many doors are opening in the community because of their summer community outreach which included home Bible studies in numerous apartments, networking with community and local leaders, and partnerships with area churches beyond the SBC which led to expanding opportunities to work in other communities. Freedom Church and others are continuing to regularly prayer walk their communities looking for natural entry points for serving, helping and loving their neighbors.

This past year a historic prayer meeting took place in the North Roanoke Baptist Association (NRBA) focusing on impacting lostness. John Hamm, director of missions for the NRBA, developed an "impacting lostness" team, which felt led to engage pocket No. 86. This pocket is located in the city of Rocky Mount.

Church leaders came together to pray for God's direction and wisdom in reaching not only pocket No. 86, but also pocket No. 177 located in Roanoke Rapids. About 750 people representing 32 NRBA congregations and 17 additional area churches attended the prayer meeting and joined together to cry out to God. Six hundred individuals made public commitments to be used of God to reach the community for Christ. The desire of these individuals is for their churches to place a greater emphasis on praying for spiritual needs and that God will use them for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

Chris Schofield, director of the BSCNC's Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening, said after the meeting that it was a unique event in which God's presence was felt in a special way. The impacting lostness team will continue to move forward with efforts of this nature as it seeks to impact lostness through disciple-making. Hamm said that an event of this nature is of historic proportions, as it had never taken place before in Rocky Mount. Robin Fisher, leader of the impacting lostness team, said that the next steps are to continue to develop a unified strategy of impacting lostness in Rocky Mount and Roanoke Rapids. A sub-team was formed to reach pocket No. 177 in the Roanoke Rapids area.

Chuck Campbell, Greenville Strategy Coordinator

TRIAD

This Triad report begins with a praise for the 2016 Pray Greensboro event conducted during the Annual Meeting last November. Attendees toured pocket Nos. 23 and 30, as well as the "unreached people group corridor" of Greensboro, by bus for the specific purpose of praying for the lost and

the work ongoing to reach them with the gospel. Two buses filled with North Carolina Baptists were filled and sent out with the following prayer focuses:

• **Bus No. 1: Pocket No. 30**

- 16th Street Mosque (*people group focus*)
- N.C. A&T State University (*college focus*)
- Northside Baptist Church (*church revitalization focus*)
- Magnolia Street Baptist Church (*revival prayer*)

• **Bus No. 2: Pocket No. 23**

- Chua Quan Am Buddhist Temple (*people group focus*)
- UNC-Greensboro (*college focus*)
- Immanuel Baptist Church (*Hispanic and African-American church planting focus*)
- Magnolia Street Baptist Church (*revival prayer*)

Work for the period covered herein centered primarily on six of the 21 pockets identified in the Triad population center. These six pockets of lostness became a principal focus in order to leverage opportunity, build momentum and develop ministry models to use moving forward. The six pockets are distributed across the Triad as follows: four in Greensboro, one in Winston-Salem and one in High Point. The status of the work in each of the pockets is indicated with the appropriate phase designation from the pocket engagement process model in italics.

Pocket No. 27: Lawndale Drive/North Greensboro areas are in the develop phase. Efforts to engage the Nepali people are at the center of the strategy with multiple churches involved. The success of the health screening mobile unit, in partnership with N.C. Baptist Men,

and a regular gathering of the Nepali believers is a point of celebration.

Pocket No. 23: West Florida Street/Coliseum/South UNCG areas are in the develop phase. This is one of two pockets included in the Annual Meeting prayer bus tour and has seen plans developed for at least two new church plants.

Pocket No. 29: Winston-Salem downtown/Innovation Corridor / Bowman Gray areas are in the catalyze phase. This pocket is in the initial stages of engagement. The Skyline community is engaged by Old Town Baptist Church working with the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association to plant a new congregation focused on the urban poor. Joe and Duncan Maye are the church planters seeking to reach this community.

Pocket No. 30: Northeast Greensboro/Cone Hospital area is in the develop phase. Work in this pocket is strategically focused on reaching the refugee population mostly from west, central and east Africa. The first big event in partnership with the N.C. Baptist Men (NCBM) and Moses Cone Hospital was a success, and volunteers staffed the NCBM dental unit and were able to see over 30 dental patients mostly from the Legacy Crossing apartment complex. The local strategy team has created a three-tier strategy model for pocket No. 30:

1. Tier one: Prayer – The network of churches comprising the strategy team and the Piedmont Baptist Association will have a weekly prayer walking presence in six to seven high-priority areas in the pocket. Each church will have a scheduled prayer walk time and then encourage people to go out in groups on their own during the week to continue in prayer for their assigned area of the pocket.

2. Tier two: Events – The strategy team is planning on four events a year that will take place at the Magnolia Street Baptist Church building. The two events currently scheduled this year are a dental clinic on Oct. 29 and a fall festival on Nov. 12.
3. Tier three: Consistent touches – Each month, the churches will mobilize in the areas where the refugee and people group populations live in an effort to have a consistent presence in these communities. The goal is that continued efforts within the mission site will result in gospel conversations taking place.

Pocket No. 22: West Market/ South Guilford College areas are in the catalyze phase. The work here includes a congregation developing a culture of disciple-making to better position itself to reach the lost in a changing community. In addition, two congregations now have plans to partner in supporting a Hispanic network launched in the area.

Pocket No. 38: High Point College North area is in the cultivate phase. This community now enjoys a number of newer churches that appear to be demographically aligned with the surrounding community. There is also the possibility of another new church plant. This pocket is ready for deeper exploration and early formation of a local strategy team in the coming year.

While the progress made this year across the Triad population center has been exciting and momentum is building toward a significant impact on lostness through disciple-making, there is much more yet to be done. We celebrate the churches, associations and individuals who have not only accepted, but have embraced the call to “go therefore and

make disciples.” But still, lostness is growing, and more partners are needed to take the gospel to pockets not yet engaged. Is it possible you are one of those called to join the work?

Russ Conley, Team Leader; Strategic Focus Team

(NOTE: The strategy coordinator position for this population center was vacant at the time this report was written.)

TRIANGLE

The Triangle area of North Carolina contains 25 pockets of lostness. In these pockets, population density, diversity, and distance from the gospel combine to create hard-to-reach groups of people. In 2017, a number of Triangle churches joined together to form local strategy teams. These strategy teams began to develop meaningful approaches to impact lostness through disciple-making in each hard-to-reach group.

Pocket No. 18: Cary – This pocket of lostness represents one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the Triangle, serving as home to at least 23 different ethnic groups. Leaders from five different churches met regularly throughout 2017 to determine how to reach this area. These leaders identified more than 20 hard-to-reach segments in this pocket and began to develop disciple-making strategies to reach the top five. Strategies included prayer walking neighborhoods, strengthening cooperation between Hispanic churches, starting a Korean church and making plans to start a Vietnamese church.

Pocket No. 13: North Raleigh – North Raleigh is an area experiencing rapid change. Investors are building high-end apartments that attract Raleigh’s young elite. Homeowners are buying old homes,

tearing them down, and building homes at three times the value in their place. Many of those migrating into this area are far from God and hard to reach. About a dozen leaders from four different churches have formed a strategy team to develop disciple-making strategies to reach the hard-to-reach residents moving into this area of North Raleigh.

Pocket No. 24: Apex – Pocket No. 24 is a bedroom community for the Research Triangle Park. This pocket is home to at least a dozen suburban neighborhoods. More than 70 percent of the people living in these neighborhoods have little or no connection to an evangelical church. Leaders from two different churches began meeting to determine the best approach for reaching these neighborhoods. This team plans to establish small groups in each neighborhood. These small groups will serve their neighborhood, share the gospel and multiply to form new small groups in their effort to impact lostness through disciple-making.

Pocket No. 88: Clayton – Kelton Hinton, director of missions for the Johnston Baptist Association, led churches in the Clayton area to engage pocket No. 88. Leaders from these churches learned that as many as 95 percent of those living in apartments have no relationship with an evangelical church. Clayton area churches are concentrating their efforts on reaching those living in these apartments. They also discovered a need for more church plants among African-American families, blue-collar neighborhoods and the rapidly growing suburbs south of Wendell.

Raleigh Prayer Bus Tour – On May 18, about 50 participants from 14 different churches took part in the Raleigh Prayer Bus Tour. The tour wound its way through

four different pockets of lostness. Participants prayed as they passed by university campuses, mosques, ethnic restaurants, public parks and changing neighborhoods. Participants also heard from special guests at three different planned stops along the way. These special guests shared some of the challenges involved in reaching Raleigh's diverse population in these pockets of lostness.

Cris Alley, Triangle Strategy Coordinator

UNIFOUR (Greater Hickory)

The work in the Unifour population center changed in 2017 as the strategy coordinator position transitioned from a contract position to one of full-time employment. This has resulted in much more attention being focused on the pockets of lostness in this population center.

In 2016, focus was placed on lost pockets No. 60 (Hickory), No. 77 (Denver), No. 82 (Newton), No. 84 (Granit Falls) and No. 97 (Conover). Efforts in these pockets continued into 2017, and the following additional pockets of lostness became focal points this year: No. 46 (Cramerton), No. 51 (Gastonia), No. 65 (Mooresville), No. 75 (Stanley), No. 80 (China Grove), No. 81 (Gastonia), No. 89 (Dallas) and No. 90 (Salisbury). Beyond these pockets of lostness that are within the state convention's top 100, there are also another 28 lost pockets within the convention's 250 pockets of lostness (aka the next 150 pockets of lostness) that are in the Unifour/Greater Hickory strategy coordinator's expanded responsibilities.

The Unifour/Greater Hickory population center strategy coordinator serves the following Baptist associations where lost pockets have been identified: Yadkin, South Yadkin, Greater Gaston, Catawba Valley, Catawba River, South Fork,

Rowan, Caldwell, Kings Mountain, South Mountain and Alexander.

Pocket No. 60: Hickory – Several strategic efforts are underway within in the 3-mile radius of this pocket that will help eradicate this lost pocket:

1. John Whaley, international director of “The Rooftop” ministries, has helped develop strategic prayer goals to focus on lost pocket No. 60. In addition to prayer walks and drives, Whaley has distributed a brochure to ask all the churches in the association to have a day of prayer for lost pocket No. 60. Whaley has also distributed a list of all the Baptist churches and pastors who serve within the pocket, so that as many people as possible will be praying specifically for these pastors and churches.
2. Dayspring, a “Training for Trainers” (T4T) church, launched within this pocket on Sunday April 9, 2017. Glenn Pinckney is the church planter and is serving as the pastor of the church. John Compton, senior pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Hickory, is serving as a sponsoring church. The new church is located at 1415 16th Street NE, Hickory, which is a multi-ethnic, low-income section of Hickory. The church’s vision is to reach this community with all of its difficulties and diversity for Christ and train these new disciples to be “doers of the Word, and not hearers only.”
3. East Hickory Baptist Church was ‘replanted’ and rebranded as East Hickory Church on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. Under the leadership of Mark Schmitz, who is serving as the transitional pastor, the church merged with Foothills Church. They have written a new constitution and bylaws, moved to an elder system of polity and are committed to

focusing on reaching the immediate community for Christ. The church’s theme is “believe, become, belong.”

4. Steve Clark, pastor of New Life Authentic Christian Community Church and member of “Impact 60,” the local strategy team focused on lost pocket No. 60, has trained over 18 couples in “LIFE Communities” (LIFE stands for Living an Intentional Faith Everyday). This training is designed to help church members begin to engage their neighborhoods, building relationships that will lead to sharing the gospel and discipleship. Some of these “LIFE Communities” trained members are residing within lost pocket No. 60 and are active in praying for and building relationships with their lost neighbors.
5. Jimmy Tilton, member of East Hickory Church, is identifying the multi-family dwellings communities located within lost pocket No. 60. The goal is to develop and implement a strategy to engage residents living in these dwellings. An estimated 90 percent of multi-family dwelling residents are unreached with the gospel, and there are over 20 multi-family dwelling communities located within this lost pocket in need of gospel engagement and disciple-making.
6. Gray Little, director of Corporate Chaplains of America, is developing strategy to engage businesses located with this lost pocket. Gray is already involved with 10 businesses and three or four of them are located within the pocket. Little provides training for lay people to serve as volunteer chaplains to provide a gospel presence in lost pockets.

Pocket No. 77: Denver – Three pastors in Denver — Steve Owenby (West Point Baptist Church), Ben Rudolph (The Church at Denver) and Chris Gibbs (Denver

Baptist Church) — have been working together for several months to impact this lost pocket. They have been mapping, mailing out flyers and prayer walking the entire 3-mile radius. In addition, Steve Harris, strategy coordinator for the Blue Ridge population center, and the Unifour/ Greater Hickory strategy coordinator met with Mike Madding, senior pastor of The Cove. Madding has committed his church to reach this lost pocket and has sent a mass mail out to its residents. The Cove has also already established a new campus, the Denver Campus, near this pocket. We believe this campus will have a great impact on the residents living within the 3-mile radius. Brett Gray is serving as campus pastor of the Denver church.

Pocket No. 82: Newton – The strategy coordinator has been involved in building relationships with the pastors and churches located within this pocket. He has had meetings with the pastors and leaders of Calvary Baptist Church, East First Street Baptist Church, Lahu Church, Recovery Church, Vertical Life Church and First Baptist Church of Newton. The goal is to mobilize a local strategy team to begin to discuss, develop and implement strategy that will lead to the eradication of this pocket of lostness.

Pocket No. 84: Granite Falls – Twenty-five Baptists from four churches gathered on May 19-20 at Day3 Church in Granite Falls for a “LIFE Communities” training. Steve Clark, pastor of New Life Authentic Christian Community Church in Conover, led the training, with the goal of training Baptists to engage their neighborhoods with the gospel through building relationships and interaction. Lynn Parsons, pastor of Day3 Church, is developing a feedback loop on social media to help those trained, share stories of engaging their neighbors, offer prayer, find ways to serve them and share the love of Jesus.

Pocket No. 97: Conover – Mitch King, pastor of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church and member of the BSCNC Board of Directors, has taken the leadership role to adopt lost pocket No. 97. After attending a breakout session at the January board meeting at Caraway Conference Center, King arranged a meeting with the strategy coordinator and four other pastors from the Alexander Baptist Association. Their desire was to adopt lost pocket No. 97 and begin developing and implementing strategy to engage the unreached in this area.

On April 30, five churches from the Alexander Baptist Association, including the Unity Hmong Church, prayer walked the entire 3-mile radius of lost pocket No. 97. The group is currently praying for a church planter to step forward to work with them to plant a new church within this pocket of lostness.

Pocket No. 51: Gastonia – Thane Kendall, director of missions for Greater Gaston Baptist Association, organized an initial meeting of the Baptist pastors serving within this pocket. Five churches participated in the May 30 meeting, during which the strategy coordinator presented an overview of the pocket of lostness and facilitated a conversation among the pastors focused on next steps for engaging this pocket of lostness. Since the initial meeting, additional pastors have joined the effort. The strategy coordinator’s goal is to form a local strategy team to develop and implement a strategy to eradicate this pocket of lostness and to use what the Lord teaches us to help in other pockets.

John Gordy, Unifour Strategy Coordinator

HISPANIC/IMMIGRATION

Reaching the Hispanic population of North Carolina is a multistage process.

By partnering with like-minded organizations, a multi-ethnic conference will be held in Charlotte in November 2017. The goal is to create awareness and educate N.C. churches about reaching the ethnic population of the state with an emphasis upon Hispanics.

In collaboration with the Collegiate Partnerships Team, second-generation Hispanics are being reached. James Sprout Community College in Wallace is the target location because of the high number of Hispanic students in the region. This outreach is expected to become a pilot project that may result in a model for reaching other second-generation Hispanics in North Carolina. The Eastern Baptist Association is helping to coordinate this endeavor.

Partnering with Miguel Echevarria, director of Hispanic leadership development for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Hispanic leaders are being trained across the state. There is a desperate need for Hispanic churches in North Carolina to develop biblical leaders and for those leaders to have access to higher education from accredited institutions. Roberto Fernandez, director of the Hispanic program at Fruitland Baptist Bible College, is also helping to accomplish this goal.

A contextualized engagement process is under development for the Hispanic pockets of lostness across the state. Potential partners in this process, focused upon specific geographical regions, are continuing to be identified.

Baptist Immigration Services

Considerable advances are underway regarding Baptist Immigration Services this year. The Hispanic strategy coordinator, along with Larry Phillips (contract strategist for Baptist Immigration Services)

have completed advanced trainings in immigration law. In addition, both men have completed mandatory shadowing hours with an immigration attorney or an accredited immigration representative with the Department of Justice.

Phillips now holds accreditation from the Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP) through the U.S. Department of Justice allowing him to practice before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. These credentials are now required in order to assist immigrants with even the simplest of tasks including how to prepare and submit required immigration forms.

The state convention is developing relationships with key leaders and strategic agreements with organizations such as the Council on Immigrant Relations (CIR) in Raleigh. CIR is a non-profit organization helping immigrants address legal status questions. Our work continues with local Baptist associations to provide regional immigration training across the state.

Numerous seminars have been provided for Hispanic leaders regarding immigration-related issues in the eastern and western parts of North Carolina. These events have usually been two to three hours in length and gave the participants, in some cases not just Hispanics, a panoramic perspective of their immigration options.

Multiple immigration conferences and several regional events for the remainder of this year are in the planning stages. In these conferences, churches and individuals will be informed about the need, available options and possible responses to the immigration concerns that are affecting our communities.

Amaury Antonio Santos, Hispanic Strategy Coordinator

FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) seeks to assist its member congregations in fulfilling the Great Commission mandate to make disciples. Baptists of North Carolina are specifically focused on impacting the lost world through our testimony of God and the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. North Carolina Baptists are devoted to going into the highways and hedges and proclaiming the gospel with the hope that God will call the lost to turn to Him.

Fruitland Baptist Bible College (FBBC) is a ministry of the BSCNC, and like all other convention ministries, Fruitland seeks to prepare leaders in disciple-making for the 21st century. The administration, faculty and staff at Fruitland are devoted to making disciples who will in turn make disciples. Our students are provided a curriculum with a strong biblical foundation. This foundation prepares students to distinguish between a pragmatic view of ministry and a practical ministry which prioritizes a relationship with the transcendent God.

FBBC is owned and operated by the BSCNC and is dedicated to impacting the world by making disciples whose lives are shaped by a relationship with Jesus Christ. Far too many followers of Jesus are being impacted by our social institutions and culture. Fruitland seeks the spiritual development of its students both in the classroom and through the total experience of preparation for ministry.

Though the assignment may vary from individual to individual, the responsibility of preparing for ministry and missionary service has led many of God's servants to enroll at Fruitland. Fruitland's work in spiritual development is well known. The

graduates of Fruitland are the school'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" (Phil. 1:6). As Fruitland moves boldly into the 21st century, President David Horton is devoted to impacting the lost world through disciple-making. In recent years, God has sent many young men and women to Fruitland from a variety of professions and vocations, including police officers, business leaders, nurses and school teachers, among others. These students are coming to Fruitland because the school has a reputation of teaching the Bible and helping train students to understand the difference between genuine practical ministry and a pragmatic ministry.

Many young students are coming to Fruitland who desire to make disciples in secular professional and vocational positions following in the footsteps of godly men and women like Joseph, Esther and Daniel. These men and women lived godly lives in the middle of a pagan society without compromise. The most effective way to impact the lost world is to train people to teach others to do the same. This is the central focus of FBBC.

The current enrollment at FBBC is 325 students. Included in this number are 106 Hispanic students studying on campuses across the state from Wilmington to Sylva. Many Fruitland students are engaged in service to local churches while enrolled in our programs. For example, God is using many Hispanic students to make disciples in churches in the United States, as well as churches abroad. Some of our students are returning to their homes in Mexico and South America to engage in missions in ministry.

In addition to Hispanic students, Fruitland is also blessed to have seven students from Myanmar (formerly Burma). Much like our Hispanic students, these young men and women are very serious students of the Word of God and are taking full advantage of the English courses offered at Fruitland as they prepare to communicate the God's Word to the people from Myanmar living in the United States. Recently, several of these students returned to Myanmar for mission work in Myanmar and Thailand. God used these students in a wonderful way to lead many to Christ and proclaim the gospel to their people.

In the past six months, Fruitland has received a larger number of requests from churches and ministries for student placement than we have recorded in past years. The school has provided churches with pastors, associate pastors, youth leaders and children's ministers in increasing numbers over the last year. Fruitland Baptist Bible College wishes to thank every church around the state for supporting our ministry and sending us wonderful and godly students.

In the effort to educate Christian leaders for the 21st century who are equipped to make disciples and impact lostness, Fruitland offers an associate degree in religion/Christian ministries, as well as certificate programs for English and Hispanic students. These programs have the Bible as their foundation. These programs include Biblical exposition in the context of making disciples in Church ministry and serving God in the secular world in order to impact lostness and make disciples.

Fruitland 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. Fruitland seeks the spiritual development of its students both in the classroom and through other ministerial preparation experiences. Fruitland's unique program prepares graduates to immediately enter ministry or to continue their education with any number of educational partners with whom we enjoy articulation agreements.

In the effort to educate Christian leaders to impact the lost world by making disciples, the degree program at Fruitland requires study in three fundamental areas — biblical studies, language/communication and Christian ministry/service. Fruitland intentionally prioritizes the Scriptures as the foundation of its communication and ministry classes in order to avoid the pragmatism of the Pharisees. Scripture teaches us to "...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33, NKJV). Those who prioritize the kingdom of God over the pragmatic will have a genuinely practical ministry.

Fruitland is anticipating an exciting future. In addition to the main campus located in Hendersonville, online classes are also available. Fruitland also has satellite campuses in Rocky Mount, Monroe and Wilkesboro. In addition to the main campus, Spanish speaking students are served at satellites campuses in Wilmington, Statesville and Sylva.

The Rocky Mount campus offers a Christian training certificate. This certificate consists of 36 quarter hours in the areas of New Testament survey; spiritual life and study skills; English grammar and composition; Old Testament survey; doctrine and revelation; homiletics; evangelism and discipleship; church history and world

religions; Christian education; apologetics; pastoral ministry and church leadership; church leadership for health and growth; missions, church planting and church growth; and interpersonal relationships and team building.

Dr. Bill Mackey is the director of the program at Rocky Mount. Mackey, the recently retired executive director-treasurer for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, brings a lifetime of ministry experience to his role with Fruitland. His work with the Rocky Mount campus is a blessing to students and faculty alike.

Fruitland also offers a Christian leadership certificate and a diploma of Christian ministries for Hispanic students. Robert Fernandez is the director of the Hispanic programs at Fruitland. The certificate program consists of 32 quarter hours in 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/homiletics; Church history; pastoral ministry; pastoral counseling; and church planting. The Hispanic program is offered on the main campus in Hendersonville, as well as satellite campuses in Wilmington, Statesville, and Sylva.

David Horton, President

CONVENTION AUXILIARY NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST MEN

The why, how and what of NCBM

What is the why, how and what of North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM), also known as Baptists on Mission?

Why? – To glorify God by developing disciples that live as missionaries who are called, gifted and sent to be Jesus' presence in our world.

How? – By facilitating church and individual involvement in local, state, national and international missions, we help Christians better understand how they are called, gifted and sent to be Jesus' presence in our world. We help Christians see needs in their world and see that God has already provided them with gifts and abilities required to meet needs as they serve others in Jesus' name. The 18 ministries that are supported by NCBM, along with numerous projects and partnerships, are various ways that churches and individuals can engage in missions.

What? – Thousands of Christians (and churches) growing as disciples of Christ, aware of hurts and needs of people in their world and prayerfully seeking how God is calling them to glorify Him as they engage in missions in their community, across our state and around the world, are engaged in NCBM's work. We exist to help churches and Christians get personally involved in sharing Christ as they are personally involved in missions. The goal of NCBM is to help North Carolina Baptist churches involve their members (men, women and students) in missions.

North Carolina Baptists on Mission/ NCBM areas of work

NCBM volunteers serve in 18 ministries that include the following:

STATE/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROJECTS

God is changing lives through mission trips sponsored by NCBM in North Carolina (mission camps, Impact N.C., etc.) and to places such as Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Vermont, the Rocky Mountain region, 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, former director of missions for Little River Baptist Associations, 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 [and] encouraged, and thousands of New Testaments and eyeglasses were distributed along with 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 more than 30,000 meals per day. We now have more than 250 disaster recovery trailers (owned by local churches and associations) that are used to do clean up 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... In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew slammed our state and affected thousands of families. Since then, N.C. Baptists have prepared

over 530,000 hot meals and devoted over 30,000 volunteer days of labor to hurting people. People in great need are hearing and seeing the love of Christ, and many people are coming to commit or to recommit their lives to Jesus. The rebuilding from Matthew will last another two years or more.

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 served through this ministry may include the impoverished, Hispanic and other ethnic groups, migrant workers, fair workers, the homeless, the elderly and others.

HEALTH SCREENING MINISTRY

The newest ministry in which we are involved is health screening with a mobile health screening bus. This ministry provides not only basic health screening clinics, but also 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 screenings, finger stick glucose, Cholestech LDX for total cholesterol and HDL results, body mass index calculations, depression screenings, and vital signs assessments.

Lives are being changed... Tammy Weeks, NCBM prayer coordinator, shares about the recent health screening bus visit, "God's hand was truly upon the Eastern

Association and health screening ministry at their first event. When I scheduled the bus, I had no clue how it would come together but 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 Woman's Missionary Union (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 pre-packaged 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. Two of our newest efforts are DI Kids (Deep Impact Kids), a missions weekend/

week for children and their leaders and compassion ministries.

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 locally and around the world. Over 1,600 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. 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, father-daughter 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 and 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. They are: Richard Brunson, executive director-treasurer; Paul Langston, missions mobilization consultant; Mark Abernathy, consultant for partnerships and men's ministry; Tom Beam, consultant for 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; Lynn Tharrington, executive 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.

Richard Brunson, Executive Director-Treasurer

Lynn Tharrington, Executive Assistant

SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Christian Life and Public Affairs (CLPA) Special Committee is charged with the responsibility of speaking to

but not for North Carolina Baptists. The committee understands its purpose as one that calls attention to public policy, but strives to help N.C. Baptists approach public policy from a Christian worldview that supports the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's strategy of impacting lostness through disciple-making. The gospel must be the motivating factor for Christians in the public sphere, and this is especially true in matters of public policy.

CLPA's focus throughout 2016-17 has been upon two critical areas: immigration and religious liberty. The CLPA committee has sought to endorse study by and dialogue among our churches on these issues and approach both issues through the lens of the gospel. CLPA desires to introduce churches to the people and resources from our state convention that can best assist churches as they wrestle through the complexities of immigration and how our responses should best reflect the love of a Savior who came to seek and to save the lost. Related to religious liberty, the CLPA committee is currently involved reviewing materials for consideration for use in small group or individual study.

The role of the gospel in public policy and social discourse is as important today as it was during the formation of our nation. The contemporary challenges to religious liberty and the myriad issues emanating from immigration appear insurmountable, but these are not new challenges for they parallel what our nation endured in its earliest days. We must not forget that the gospel informed those early men of renown during the colonial era, and the leaders of that day were committed to a philosophy of government rooted in the truth of Scripture – that all men are created equal.

In addition, it is imperative that Baptists of all people never forget the suffering we endured at the hands of

the rudimentary state church in the colonial era. Early Baptists in this country fought for religious liberty for all people. Religious liberty is indeed the first freedom upon which all other rights and freedoms stand. The erosion of religious liberty will quickly result in the loss of free speech, freedom to assemble and all other freedoms for which our Baptist forefathers sacrificially fought to preserve.

We count it a privilege to serve North Carolina Baptists and covet your prayers as we continue to move forward.

Earl Roach, Chairman

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Christian Social Services Special Committee encourages North Carolina Baptist churches to involve their members in the work of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSCNC) social service institutions. 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 assisted these institutions in the promotion of their ministries and shared the stories of how these institutions are engaged in the convention strategy of impacting lostness through disciple-making.

This year was another year to celebrate with Baptist Children's Homes as its Annual Food Drive was a great success. The committee members encouraged their associations and churches across the state to contribute, and N.C. Baptists responded in a most generous way. BCH serves over 700,000 meals and snacks each year. BCH ministered to over 21,000 individuals this year, including single mothers and disabled adults. The

committee continues to encourage our associations and churches to invite BCH speakers to come to their locations and share the many ways they are impacting lostness through disciple making.

As the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry continues to help aging adults stay in their homes as long as possible by connecting them to churches and other organizations, the committee continues to encourage associations and churches to support this effort. NCBAM provided the committee members with "red bags." Committee members then shared these items with associations and churches to encourage them to provide this resource to their senior's in order to manage their medications and to make these medications highly visible in times of emergency. The committee is privileged to assist NCBAM volunteers as they establish relationships, which open the door to impact lostness through disciple making.

The North Carolina Baptist Hospital's Division of Faith and Health Ministries extends the love of Jesus Christ and then connects individuals with congregations in an effort to impact lostness through disciple-making. The committee assisted in the distribution of the Mother's Day Offering DVD and encouraged 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 supported by over 1,400 churches resulting in over \$537,000.

The Committee continues to raise awareness among church and associational leaders regarding the counseling services that are available through CareNet. Finally, the committee continues to assist the FaithHealth

Division in its efforts to connect N.C. Baptists with the hurting and helpless in our communities in order that those who are need of medical attention will find care at the hospital by entering, "the right door, at the right time, ready to be treated and never alone."

These ministries would not be possible without the generous support of the Cooperative Program by N.C. Baptist churches. In addition, each of these institutions, and the ministries they provide, enjoy the support of annual offerings to further expand their efforts to go forward showing love, presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ and impacting lostness through disciple making. Thank you North Carolina Baptists for making a difference for Jesus Christ.

Boyce Porter, Chairman

CONVENTION INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA

In the summer of 2016, I received a stunning message that depicted the desperate journey — both figurative and physical — of three siblings who had just come into Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) care.

A 9-year-old boy packed a small bag, took his 3-year-old and 5-year-old sisters by their hands and led them out of their family home and away from a world filled with abuse. The boy didn't know where to go. All he knew was he had to save his sisters.

Not long afterward, a deputy spotted the siblings walking along the highway. The boy, dressed appropriately in his Superman shirt, told the stunned officer, "Please take me and my sisters to foster care. We can't live with our mom and stepdad anymore." Within a matter of hours, these precious

children found compassionate refuge at Baptist Children's Homes. This 9-year-old big brother succeeded in his mission to rescue his little sisters. And at Baptist Children's Homes, he met his own Savior when his cottage parents introduced him to Jesus. (In 2016, 147 of the children and families that BCH served made decisions for Christ.)

It has been 34 years since I accepted the invitation to be president of Baptist Children's Homes. After more than three decades, I am even more inspired by these courageous young people (if that's possible) as well as our ministry's amazing friends.

Your generous support, your prayers, your gifts of time and talents are the reason why we can rescue children, bring hope to families, empower the dreams of developmentally disabled adults and guide aging adults along their journeys.

Please come alongside us as we continue to fulfill the vision of sharing hope... changing lives in the name of Christ. Together we have accomplished much, but the mission continues.

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

Note: Blackwell's story is the feature of the 2017 annual offering. Please pray about your church's participation. For more information and to schedule a speaker, call 336-474-1209 and visit bchoffering.org.

Greater Vision Outreach Ministry Launched

BCH has expanded its community outreach to children and families through the Bob and Carolyn Tucker Greater Vision Outreach Ministry, a new statewide endeavor to meet the physical and spiritual needs of working families struggling with poverty. The

10,000-square-foot Tucker Center is under construction on the Mills Home campus in Thomasville where clients will find food, resources, education and training, as well as referrals to a variety of community-based organizations. The center will offer food items and access to the center's marketplace where clothes, hygiene products and a limited amount of furniture will be available through a voucher system. Even though the building is not yet complete, the ministry is operational and has already served more than 8,500 people. Greater Vision is seeking volunteers and partnerships with other non-profits in order to best impact the physical and spiritual needs of the community. *To become involved, contact director Marjorie Rorie at 336-747-0018.*

New College Ministry Supports Former Foster Care Children

HOMEbase launched in Fall 2016 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. Located at the convention's former Baptist Student Union building, the new ministry grew out of a need to aid students who have been wards of the state, orphaned, aged out of foster care or even homeless. Many of these students drop out of college because they do not have families they can depend upon for even basic necessities. HOMEbase helps students develop life skills, creates social opportunities, meets physical needs, and provides emotional and spiritual support throughout their college experience. Director and former pastor Jim Dean oversees the center and supports Western Carolina students, including some who have been in Baptist Children's Homes' care. *For more information, contact director Jim Dean at 828-508-0035.*

N.C. Baptists Share Faith, Raise Support through 'Ride to Clyde'

For the second consecutive year, motorcyclists roared across the state in the

"Ride to Clyde" — a North Carolina Baptist charity ride supporting Baptist Children's Homes. Stretching from Oak Island to Clyde, the mountain community that inspired the ride's name, 97 bikers traveled the 460-mile route from May 11-13, 2017. Along the way, bikers visited boys and girls at three of BCH's locations and shared the gospel throughout their journey. The ride ended at BCH's Broyhill Home in Clyde where the bikers announced they raised \$32,379. Including donations received in the days after the ride, the final total reached \$33,550. The 2018 Ride to Clyde will be May 10-12.

Visit www.bchnc.org/ridetoclyde

Fancy Finds Upscale Resale Shop Opens

In the fall of 2016, BCH opened Fancy Finds, an upscale resale shop, which is the first of its kind for the organization. Fancy Finds creatively repurposes gently-used furniture and home décor items — most of them donated — and sells them to generate proceeds for BCH's statewide ministries. Fancy Finds also offers estate sales and downsizing services. The store is located at the Mills Home in Thomasville and is open the first and third Friday and Saturday of each month. Visit fancyfinds.org.

NCBAM's AAIM Events Encourage, Inspire and Educate

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry's (NCBAM) Aging Adults Innovating Ministry (AAIM) program continues to grow and inspire leaders of aging adult groups across the state. AAIM is an outreach of NCBAM that holds an annual roundup each spring, as well as regional gatherings each fall.

The 2016 fall gatherings were held in Thomasville, Greenville and Asheville. Leaders of aging adults were encouraged in their service to their church's aging members, as well as informed about the

many ministry opportunities available with aging adults in their communities.

Titled “The Family of God,” the May 2017 AAIM Roundup focused on the special needs of caregivers and the role of the church in supporting them. More than 150 senior adult ministers, lay leaders and church members attended. Allan Blume, editor/president of the Biblical Recorder, provided the keynote address. Beth Harris, a minister’s wife who has walked the caregivers’ journey, provided the closing address. Following four early-bird sessions, the agenda also included special music, as well as opportunities to visit with select vendors and a “parade of churches.” Exhibiting churches shared innovative ways they are helping frail, aging adults and their caregivers.

As a result of the AAIM outreach, ministries and outreaches of churches and associations to aging adults are being strengthened. Following last fall’s regional gathering in Asheville, the Buncombe Baptist Association (BBA) partnered with NCBAM to form the BBA’s senior adult leaders group.

Norma Melton, church and community missions director for the BBA, is enthusiastic about the new leaders group. “This partnership will be a blessing to the churches in the Buncombe Association and their senior adult ministries. There is great strength in partnering together,” Melton said.

Serving Developmentally Disabled Adults – Stephen

Stephen was one of the first four men to call Davis House “home” on March 10, 2003. For the 43-year-old, it was the first time to ever live apart from his family.

“My husband Dean and I knew that we would not always be able to care for

Stephen,” says Martha Trivette, Stephen’s 89-year-old mother. “Davis House has been the way we prepared Stephen for the future.”

The Trivettes live in Winston-Salem not far from where Stephen lives now. He visits with his mom, dad and sister Nancy on weekends and holidays. Baptist Children’s Homes’ Developmental Disabilities Ministry operates nine group homes for adults with special needs, helping them to achieve goals and their highest level of independence.

“I have two homes,” Stephen says. “I live with my friends here, but I see my family a lot, too.”

While living at the Davis House, he actively participates at The Enrichment Center, a Forsyth County day program that aids in independent living, goes on trips with his housemates to restaurants and the occasional shopping outing. The dollar store is a favorite stop.

“I’m thankful for my friends and family,” Stephen shares. “I’m thankful that I am able to live here.”

Trivette agrees with her son. She says that as a North Carolina Baptist, she knew BCH could be trusted. *“I have had peace of mind since day one. Anytime I feel the need to visit, I am always welcomed,”* Trivette said.

Learn more about the Developmental Disabilities Ministry at hereismyhome.org

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina
P.O. Box 338
Thomasville, NC 27361
1-800-476-3669
www.bchfamily.org
John Floyd Lee,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

BIBLICAL RECORDER

Lost! Can you feel the despair and hopelessness that erupts from that word? Lost! It's a very uncomfortable feeling.

A child that is separated from his parents in a large shopping mall; a woman driving alone down a rural road at night and cannot find her way; a hiker in the woods with no clear sense of where he is – these are only a few scenes where untold anguish captivates the heart of a person who does not know where they are or what to do next.

Jesus talked about the problems associated with lostness in the 15th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. He told three great parables that illustrate the concerns. a sheep is lost, a coin is lost and a son is lost. Each situation caused deep concern, but produced great celebration when found.

Lostness is a problem. It's a bad thing when someone or something is lost. But spiritual lostness is much worse because it is eternal. It cannot be ignored. It is irreversible after the last breath leaves the human body.

Your *Biblical Recorder* staff shares the concerns of Baptist leaders who are addressing the spiritual poverty and lostness around us. The downturn in baptisms within the Southern Baptist Convention says we are not responding to the distress call of our neighbors. Spiritual darkness dominates our communities.

The mission of the *Biblical Recorder* is not simply to provide news and information from a Christian worldview. We also want to motivate N.C. Baptists to change the trend of increasing lostness in North Carolina and the world. Our mission is the Great Commission. We partner with the

local church to help motivate and equip members to share the gospel.

More people are dying without Christ in our state than ever in history. There are more lost people in North Carolina now than in any time in history. That is not acceptable to our Lord and is not acceptable to your *Biblical Recorder* staff.

We want to impact lostness. We want to see our churches revitalized and church members on fire for Christ. We want to encourage our fellow believers to regularly engage in gospel conversations. We want to see new churches planted and more believers sent out from local churches to take the gospel around the world.

When you pick up a copy of the *Biblical Recorder* or read our online content, you can be confident we are doing our best to give you news, information and inspiration that is biblical, focused on the Great Commission and glorifying God. That's what we do!

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 Monday to Saturday? 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 reach our lost culture, we need information that is both inspirational and accurate. Your *Biblical Recorder* staff is serious about equipping our readers to impact lostness.

All of the people in your church 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 faithful, witnessing Christians 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 and North Carolina Baptist mission agencies, seminaries and related entities.

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, affordable source for Baptist news and information. Will you consider expanding your church group plan or begin a new group? Consider including 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 47,000 Southern Baptist churches. We are supported by your gifts to 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 (Matthew 22:37) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). 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.
- 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 affordable, also.
- Our **website**, BRnow.org, is packed with more than 16,000 pages of valuable information. It is one of

the highest-ranked websites among Baptist newspapers worldwide.

- 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, Instagram and YouTube. We're able to 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 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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Lee Pigg, Chairman, Board of Directors

K. Allan Blume, Editor/President

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

The mission of the North Carolina Baptist Foundation after almost 100 years remains the same: to impact lostness and support disciple-making 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 2016-17, the foundation was blessed in its efforts to accomplish this mission as:

- 50 new accounts were established, the majority of which will permanently support kingdom work in North Carolina and around the world.
- Gifts to all accounts totaled \$4,206,225.58.
- A total of \$9,365,842.26 was distributed (\$7,610,978.97 to mission endeavors and \$1,754,863.29 to individuals through charitable trusts).
- Assets under management at the end of 2016 totaled \$146.3 million.
- 42 grants were made to special ministry endeavors totaling \$128,075.
- 177 presentations were made to N.C. Baptist churches, associations and other denominational entities by foundation staff.
- N.C. Baptist Financial Services had 73 church loans totaling \$41.35 million at the end of 2016.
- The outstanding certificates of participation balance stood at \$35.8 million.

Today the foundation manages 2,279 accounts, 1,421 of which are endowments benefitting 547 different ministries on a permanent basis. In its 96-year history, the N.C. Baptist Foundation has distributed \$129.6 million to ministry efforts and \$51.7 million to individuals through charitable trusts for a total distribution of \$181.3 million.

In 2015, the foundation joined with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in a new scholarship ministry offering awards to N.C. Baptist students attending an N.C. Baptist college or university. Based on both need and academic achievement, 123 scholarships were awarded for the 2017-18 academic year totaling \$252,500. Including other scholarships, a total of \$280,500 was awarded. Applications for scholarships are available online each year from Jan. 1 to Feb. 15.

The foundation staff is always available to assist N.C. Baptist individuals and churches who want to make a lasting impact for the kingdom.

*M. Clay Warf, Executive Director
Allen Overton, President and Chair of the
Board of Trustees*

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL/WAKE FOREST BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

In 1919, God inspired leaders of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) with a vision to build a hospital that would extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Expert medical care and compassion for patients and families were core values for the 88-bed hospital that opened in 1923 in Winston-Salem.

In 2017, the legacy of these founders continues to unfold through Wake Forest

Baptist Medical Center, a fully integrated academic medical center. Wake Forest Baptist Health includes North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Brenner Children's Hospital, Wake Forest Innovations, and Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, an urban research and technology park. A network of affiliated community based hospitals, physician practices, outpatient services and other medical facilities are also included. Wake Forest School of Medicine is ranked among the nation's best medical schools.

Today, the system has 1,004 acute care and rehabilitation beds and includes Wake Forest Baptist Health-Lexington Medical Center, Wake Forest Baptist Health-Davie Medical Center, and Wake Forest Baptist Health-Wilkes Medical Center, as well as clinics, diagnostic centers, and other primary and specialty care facilities serving 22 counties in northwest North Carolina and southwest Virginia.

Dr. Julie Ann Freischlag, M.D., Named New Chief Executive Officer

On Feb. 14, 2017, Dr. Julie Ann Freischlag was named as the new chief executive officer of the medical center beginning May 1, succeeding Dr. John McConnell, who had served as CEO since 2008. He transitioned to a new position in the medical center in May. Freischlag will oversee the full scope of the academic health system, the School of Medicine, Wake Forest Baptist Health, Wake Forest Innovations, Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, the network of hospitals, physician practices and medical/surgical services.

Freischlag, in her words, "a wife, mother, vascular surgeon, researcher and administrative leader," came to the medical center from Sacramento, California, where she was vice chancellor for human health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at the University

of California Davis. She previously served as the chair of the department of surgery/surgeon-in-chief at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

In an early open discussion with hospital staff she stated, "It is my philosophy that everyone in our state and our contiguous states, perhaps the rest of the country, deserves a touch with Wake Forest Baptist providers."

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 expertise of medical providers, and a network of community resources. A major component of our "ground game" in FaithHealthNC is the work of our "connectors" – local, trusted individuals who have earned respect and credibility in their local areas. They find ways to "open doors" of contact with congregations to identify and enlist volunteers to become FaithHealth partners.

In addition, connectors identify community resources to improve health. Connectors work with volunteers from congregations to take neighbors to medical appointments, help them run errands, help them find food, offer prayer and encouragement, and all kinds of simple acts that make a giant difference.

Our work with Baptist associations will expand in 2017-2018 as we identify target associations where we will place connectors. We will work with directors of missions to look at the future integration of FaithHealthNC across North Carolina, much like we did as we launched FaithHealthNC in 2012 in western North Carolina. The support we receive from the state convention's Cooperative Program

missions giving budget provides the funds to make this expansion possible. For this we are profoundly grateful.

Please visit faithhealthnc.org to learn more about our ministry.

Mother's Day Offering – A Source of Hope

The theme for the 2017 Mother's Day Offering was, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16, ESV). North Carolina Baptists have been sharing what they have by giving to this offering since 1924 to help patients at Baptist Hospital facing frightening financial burdens due to hospitalization. These gifts truly make a life-changing difference in so many lives.

People like Laura Clark, a happy, healthy working mother of two daughters, and a former athlete and wife to a busy police detective who suddenly developed a deadly heart condition. An ambulance ride to the hospital, a week in intensive care, another emergency treatment seven months later, and the skyrocketing medical bills and escalating worries over money took its toll. Her husband worked a lot of off-duty weekends and nights to pay the bill and the family never saw him. Laura said, "We felt hopeless."

But their hope was restored when their bill was paid by the Mother's Day Offering. "It was like the biggest burden was lifted from our heads. It was unbelievable. I cried for two days", she said. "My husband didn't have to work so much. My girls and I see him again. It was like God was saying, 'You've been through so much, here.' We feel so blessed."

The Mother's Day Offering changed Clark's life. Please visit mothersdayoffering.org to see her story and other recipient's stories.

Thank you North Carolina Baptists, for your gifts to the Mother's Day Offering in the name of Jesus Christ.

CareNet, Inc. – Lifting Spirits. Holding Hope.

For over 40 years the Baptist state convention has pioneered a unique, one-of-a-kind partnership with a mental health ministry that reaches across 70 North Carolina counties. In that span of time it is estimated that over a 250,000 North Carolinians have been touched by this ministry of hope, healing and growth. The care of the mind, body, spirit and community is a hallmark of the Division of Faith and Health Ministries of which CareNet is a part and a witness to the extraordinary vision of the BSCNC to attend to the whole life of the disciples of Jesus.

The following is a snapshot of this past fiscal year and the unique ministry provided by CareNet counselors, a ministry that is enabled by the generosity of the convention. Below are highlights showing how this shared ministry of the convention continues to innovate.

Wilmington/Jacksonville: Through our Jacksonville location housed in the New River Baptist Association office, we have expanded care of our nation's military and their families. Torn by trauma, grief, marital discord, depression, anxiety and children with behavior problems, our CareNet center is a welcome place of hospitality and hope for those who sacrifice in service of our country.

Greenville Region: We are partnering with a non-profit school in Greenville's most vulnerable neighborhood by placing a counselor in the school to work with children and their families. Up the road in Edgecombe County, you will find a CareNet counselor at a homeless shelter sponsored by local congregations.

Fayetteville: The largest civilian mental health provider in North Carolina, this is the oldest CareNet center (started in 1975) outside of Winston-Salem. We also provide tele-behavioral health for military who are deployed by bringing loved ones together over a secure and private web connection for care and support. Through the generous gift of a house by a local Baptist congregation we have a counseling ministry exclusively dedicated to children and their families.

Lumberton Region: Our CareNet counselors stood side by side with convention and local Baptist associations' relief efforts by providing support and counseling after the trauma of Hurricane Matthew that devastated the area.

Harnett County Region: By partnering with a local funeral home, we are expanding our care to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. And, through a strong partnership with Campbell University, we train the next generation of counselors in master's degree programs from the counseling department and divinity school. Finally, a partnership with the Department of Public Health on campus is supporting us in a statewide research project that will help CareNet understand how our work of mental health can expand into the community to address health inequities and disparities.

Burlington/Alamance County: Through one of our addiction counselors, we are addressing the opioid epidemic in this community with plans to place another counselor at the local Family Justice Center where vulnerable families seek support, care and advocacy.

Winston-Salem Region: Our largest region spanning Mt. Airy, Kernersville, Mocksville and Winston-Salem locates counselors in pediatric and primary

clinics as well as an area retirement home. This region has also sponsored "Soul Shop," an education program for faith communities focused on suicide desperation and education. This is a growing problem for young people in our communities ages 15-34.

Wilkes Region: In the town where our newest Wake Forest Baptist hospital is located, this center is ground zero for trauma associated with substance use in North Carolina. We have a counselor in a homeless center and have plans to locate counselors in local primary care offices along with a closer alignment with the local hospital that is now part of our family.

Statesville/Mooresville Region: This center provides all the mental health care for Iredell Memorial Hospital employees along with employee assistance contracts with some local corporations. We are also connected with a very large primary physician group in the region, which will bring us closer to providing behavioral health care alongside primary care.

Marion Region: Our newest center in the network (started in 2016) enables us to reach further west in rural N.C. communities where access to mental health and substance use services are sparse.

In a turbulent policy environment where behavioral health is already reimbursed well below its cost, the partnership with the Baptist state convention is a beacon of hope and a welcome respite for tired and weary souls who cannot incur the full cost of services. We are confident our mission of mental health, which impacts one out of five Americans, will continue to thrive as we develop new and innovative forms of care that touch the mind, body, spirit and community. Thank you North Carolina Baptists

for standing with and for the broken, despondent, tired and hopeless who are given the opportunity through sensitive and compassionate care in 35 CareNet locations to reclaim life, love and hope.

Chaplaincy and Clinical Ministries

The Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program allows Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center chaplains to provide spiritual and supportive care to patients, their loved ones and staff of the Medical Center. Chaplains serve in several capacities, including a 24-hour, on-call ministry within the hospital, and helping people with a range of medical, emotional and spiritual needs. The CPE educational program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation, and offers a variety of programs, including some in community-based settings.

One of our newest chaplains spent over 25 years with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department as its chaplain. He is now our chaplain to first responders. Other new chaplains are the manager of spiritual care services at the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, Wake Forest Baptist Health-Davie Medical Center, and Wake Forest Baptist Health-Wilkes Medical Center.

Center for Congregational Health – Opening Doors to Hope and Wholeness

Congregations are experiencing unprecedented changes and with these changes strategic opportunities. Since its inception, the Center for Congregational Health (CCH) has sought to assist churches. However, just as congregations have experienced great change so has the CCH. As a self-supporting ministry of the hospital, CCH has refined and refocused its role in the FaithHealth strategy.

The CCH plays a key role in supporting, encouraging and strengthening congregations and thus extends the

Medical Center's mission of health and healing beyond the hospital's walls. During the past fiscal year, the Center has provided a variety of consulting, coaching, and training ministries supporting clergy, lay leaders, congregations, and the FaithHealth movement itself. Faith communities and the volunteers from those communities form the backbone of the FaithHealth movement.

CCH staff and professional coaches in the Center's coaching network provided coaching for approximately 30 ongoing clients. Consultants work with congregations in the areas of re-visioning/strategic planning, conflict management, pastoral and staff transitions, church mergers, and the challenges of financial sustainability.

CCH staff work directly with the FaithHealth congregations and clergy in the 22 county service area and beyond. As part of the FaithHealth Ministries Division, we provide service and training to the Clinical Pastoral Education residents and interns. The CCH staff often refers clients to CareNet or other Medical Center services.

Additional Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Highlights

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center was ranked among the nation's best hospitals in five adult medicine areas by U.S. News & World Report in 2016. Those areas included: cancer (19); nephrology (25); ear, nose and throat (35); and neurology and neurosurgery (46).

In addition, 325 physicians are listed in the Best Doctors in America.

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center also holds the "Gold Seal of Approval" from The Joint Commission, the nation's

independent esteemed standards-setting and accrediting body for health care quality.

The Comprehensive Cancer Center has had its designation by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) renewed for five years. It is one of three NCI centers in North Carolina and one of 46 in the country.

Brenner Children's Hospital, the pediatric arm of the medical center, received verification as a Level 1 pediatric trauma center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). It is one of only 51 Level 1 pediatric trauma centers in the country, the only one in our region and one of three in North Carolina.

The School of Medicine, the Bowman Gray Center for Medical Education, relocated to its new facility in the fall of 2016. The building, located in the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, is a former R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company manufacturing plant.

Thank you North Carolina Baptists for partnering with us for over nine decades to continue to carry out the health care mission envisioned in the minds of those who believed there should be a place to extend the healing ministry of Jesus. It is a privilege we hold as sacred. We are blessed by you and grateful for your financial and prayerful support.

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

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

AFFILIATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

After 130 years, Campbell University continues to lead with purpose — graduating our first class of medical school students and welcoming students in the fields of nursing and engineering.

Since its earliest days, the school formerly known as Buies Creek Academy has been a loyal partner with the Baptist churches of North Carolina and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to teach 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're honored and blessed to share with you our recent accomplishments.

First Graduating Class of Doctors

On May 20, a milestone day in the 130-year history of Campbell University, 150 members of the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine's inaugural class became medical doctors — the first Campbell-produced medical doctors and the first osteopathic physicians educated in North Carolina.

The charter class began their residencies in 32 states across the nation this summer. Thirty-five percent of the class will practice in the southeastern portion of the United States in medically underserved regions or regions currently facing a physician shortage.

The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates the United States will face a shortage of more than 90,000 physicians by 2020 — a number that could grow to more than 130,000 by 2025. That shortfall will have a greater

impact on underserved areas, or the 20 percent of Americans who live in rural or inner-city locations deemed "health professional shortage areas."

Nursing School Launched

The fall semester began with the launch of the Catherine W. Wood School of Nursing, and the first day of classes for the inaugural class of 46 students marked what President J. Bradley Creed called a "historic moment for Campbell University. This program grew out of the state's and region's need for health professionals," he said. "It will help advance Campbell's mission to prepare servant leaders who make an immediate impact in the communities where they live."

The charter class began its journey in the newly opened Tracey F. Smith Hall of Nursing & Health Sciences, the second building on Campbell's Health Sciences Campus. The 72,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art teaching facility is designed to be a space for collaborative learning and team building while allowing students to experience the challenges and rewards of health care in a psychologically-safe environment.

Diversity in Engineering

When Campbell chose Jenna Carpenter as the founding dean of its School of Engineering, the university chose a national voice for women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and careers and a leading expert on the biases women face in the classroom and workforce. When the school launched last fall with its first group of engineering majors, the percentage of young women in that group was above the national average. This spring, the school achieved the highest percentage of female engineering faculty in the nation with 83 percent of its faculty and 100 percent of its administrative staff being women. Carpenter has built a staff of top faculty with degrees from MIT, Duke, Purdue and Penn State, to name a few.

"We are building a very innovative engineering program that emphasizes hands-on, project-based learning, professional development training and service and professional skills," Carpenter said. "And we have developed innovative teaching and learning spaces. All of these things have helped us attract top faculty, including those who are likely to reach out to large numbers of women and other underrepresented groups."

World Religion and Global Cultures Center Named

Campbell University's Divinity School hosted a ceremony to recognize the official naming of the George W. and Joan O. Braswell World Religions and Global Cultures Center. Founded in 2007, the World Religions and Global Cultures Center is the creation of Dr. George Braswell, retired senior professor of world religions, and the only one of its kind among divinity schools in the United States. The center functions as a resource for ministers and laypersons to learn, teach, and train others to understand the cultures and religions of the world from a Christian perspective.

"George has been hard at work building relationships across interfaith communities," said Campbell Divinity Dean Andy Wakefield. "Making sure that students have a chance to sit down with someone from various faith traditions and ask open questions and hear open answers for it to not be an antagonistic process but rather a dialogical process."

*Thomas J. Keith, Chairman,
Board of Trustees
J. Bradley Creed, President*

CHOWAN UNIVERSITY

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. In northeastern North Carolina, Chowan University nurtures students in the classroom, on the athletic field and through campus ministry. Learning and serving are at the core of a Chowan education.

Chowan Christian Service Association

Over 11 years, the Chowan Christian Service Association (CCSA) raised over \$1.7 million dollars in scholarships for ministerial students and mission experiences and served 132 students; 88 through academic scholarships and 73 through scholarships for mission trips abroad. Over 400 donors, comprised of individuals, churches and organizations, have established 72 scholarships, 39 of which are endowed. An additional 20 mission endowments have been created.

In May, the CCSA was pleased to recognize seven graduating seniors — the largest class, since CCSA's inception. One of those graduating was 72-year-old pastor Robert Barmer, who received his bachelor's degree in religion. When he began at Chowan, Barmer intended to take two classes to help build his resume for a pastoral position. But thanks to the Ministerial Grant and a CCSA Scholarship, Barmer fulfilled a lifelong dream. Pastor Barmer currently serves at the Potter's House in Windsor.

Campus Ministry

Led by the Rev. Mari Wiles, minister to the university, and the Rev. Drew Phillips, associate minister, Chowan Campus Ministry is extremely active. Every night of the week but Saturday there is a student-led ministry that meets on campus. Often weekends are spent ministering in local churches. Campus Ministry is in its third year of training ministry chaplains, upperclassmen living in freshman resident

halls providing another layer of welcome, hospitality and friendship to the newest Chowan family members.

A priority of Chowan's campus ministry is to introduce students to missions locally and globally. The first opportunity this year was in response to the devastation of Hurricane Matthew in eastern North Carolina. Our students partnered with Baptists on Mission and did "mud-outs" on three different occasions.

For spring break, Chowan Campus Ministry led a team to Atlanta. While in the inner-city, these Chowan student missionaries served the homeless at the Gateway Center and tutored students at homework hot spots. On this trip, sophomore Amber Cunningham discovered how the abiding presence of God intersects with the call to service. "You can't bring God anywhere," she said. "He's already there no matter where you go. Our job is to make sure people can see His love, His compassion, and His works through the light He has put in us."

In May, the Campus Ministry sent forth its 25th mission team to Johannesburg, South Africa. There they partnered with the Door of Hope Ministries. The team was inspired by its first assignment on the trip, which was to meet and hold orphaned babies. After spending time in the nursery, the team of 19 turned to manual labor, producing 880 bricks by hand that will be used to build one of the first homes in the Door of Hope Village to house abandoned toddlers.

Campus Improvements

Chowan recently completed the final phases of renovation of the Helms Center. The newly renovated center now houses the Bynum Rhodes Brown Aquatic Center with a state-of-the-art pool, newly refurbished and air conditioned Bob Burke

Basketball Court, and completely renovated locker rooms. The final phase included the brand-new Health and Fitness Center geared toward female students. The final phase of this project was funded by the Cannon Foundation Grant.

Additionally, Chowan was pleased to name an apartment building for a beloved friend and former trustee, the late Jewell Glover, who was a member of Galatia Baptist Church. Her family was delighted to make this possible because Glover cared for the whole student. It is appropriate that one of Chowan's finest student housing facilities bears her name.

Athletics

Chowan athletes are making an impact athletically and academically. An estimated 375 student-athletes have participated in 17 sports during the 2016-17 year. Of that number, 212 are members of honors societies, 77 are on the dean's list, 40 are on the president's list, 59 are part of the Honors College, 11 were chosen for "Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities," and 21 were honored at Awards Day Convocation.

Not only do Chowan athletes score well in the classroom, they excel in competition as well. Men's tennis brought home a Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) championship, earning its first-ever NCAA Division II Tennis Championship Sweet 16 appearance. The team ended its spectacular season ranked No. 41 in the nation and No. 2 in the Atlantic region. Softball and men's golf both brought home CIAA championships and made appearances in the NCAA Division II Regionals. One of Chowan's newest sports, women's swimming, picked up seven meet wins in its inaugural season under head coach Matt Hood.

Chowan students and coaches also snagged notable distinctions from the CIAA and NCAA. Senior volleyball player Suraya Chase was named CIAA player of the year and was nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year. Baseball head coach Taylor Furlough was named CIAA coach of the year for the first time in his career, leading the team to the CIAA baseball championship title game. Polina Novachuk helped women's tennis to a No. 7 ranking in the Atlantic region and was named CIAA player of the year. Softball players of distinction included: Kayla Robins (D2CCA All-American); Danielle Baccus (CIAA player of the year); and Brittany Parson (CIAA rookie of the year).

Academics

In February, Chowan was one of 22 colleges and universities that participated in the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Ethics Bowl, debating ethics in law. The 2017 Chowan Ethics Bowl team made history as the first team from Chowan to advance to the semifinal rounds. They were accompanied by their campus coordinators Keith Reich, chair of the religion department, and J. Brabban, Lee Oliver Fagan Distinguished Professor of the Bible.

The students made an exhilarating and undefeated run-up to the semifinals in the first four rounds, taking out Wake Forest University in round one and Gardner-Webb University in round two. Pfeiffer University and Wingate University were defeated in subsequent rounds. This is the first time in the history of the competition that the Chowan University Ethics Bowl team has advanced to the semifinals. All four rounds were unanimous decisions for Chowan by the judges.

In April, the North Carolina Phi chapter of Alpha Chi represented Chowan University at the national convention in

Louisville, Kentucky. With 22 students, 20 of whom presented, Chowan was the largest contingent in the country. Two students won presentation prizes: Lewis Wrenn Woodard received the Blake and Trish Janutolo Prize in Organismal and Ecological Biology for his paper, "Salinity Alters Behavior, Growth, and Development in *Xenopus laevis* Tadpoles," and Warren Powers II received the Ellen Millsaps Prize in American Literature for his presentation titled, "The New Sorrow Songs."

Keep Chowan in your Prayers

Please keep Chowan in your prayers as we continue to teach and minister to the students God has given us. Keep up with the latest Chowan happenings at chowan.edu or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/ChowanAlumni. Come see us in Murfreesboro. We would enjoy showing you our beautiful campus in our lovely town.

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

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY

At Gardner-Webb University (GWU), we believe our love for God is best expressed through our 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. GWU 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 as we grow in knowledge and wisdom, we enthusiastically affirm our active participation in influential and impactful academic, service, leadership and ministry assignments.

Christian Mission/Service

Providing opportunities that stretch the mind, stir the heart and prepare students for the practice of ministry in the local church is a key goal of GWU's School of Divinity. Through unique trips to Greece and Turkey, Cuba, and Latin America, dozens of divinity students explored a variety of sites in order to enhance their understanding of biblical texts and international cultures.

The Greece/Turkey trip featured visits to Istanbul, five of the churches of Revelation, the island of Patmos, Corinth, Athens, Delphi, Berea, Thessalonica, and Philippi. Dr. Robert Canoy is the dean for the GWU School of Divinity, and he served as the leader and key facilitator of the trip. He believes experiencing the lands of the Bible firsthand offers divinity students a tangible association to spiritual truths.

"Encountering biblical stories in as near to their original geographic contexts as possible opens up the world of the Bible in ways that reading the story alone often does not," Canoy reflected. "Our goal is not to leave the text in the world of the original audiences, but to transition that world to our own — which really is very similar in many ways despite our different cultures."

Seven other students made history as the first group from the School of Divinity to travel and study in Cuba. Led by Dr. Hebert Palomino, associate professor of pastoral care and counseling, the group visited several places, including the Baptist seminary in Santiago de Cuba, where Palomino helped to establish a counseling program.

"The highlight for me was the opportunity to attend services in different churches," Rowena Casino, of Boiling Springs, shared. "It was a blessing to see and experience their expression

of worship. We spoke a different language, but that did not hinder us from worshipping together."

Another divinity school professor utilized his international connections to help students extend God's love to the people of Latin America. Dr. Terry Casino, professor of missiology, led the group experience through Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico, as part of the school's missiology and intercultural studies concentration curriculum.

"A missiologist once said that missions work is caught rather than taught. By going overseas, divinity students had the opportunity to see for themselves what God is doing outside their comfort zone in North America and fulfill their own share of the Central Commission to make disciples of all nations," Casino shared. "Collectively, the team ministered to over 1,000 people in four countries in a span of 10 days."

Students interacted with residents through praise activities at local churches, education programs for children and aid for the poor, as well as cultural exploration by dining on native cuisine and visiting popular attractions. "By gaining a better understanding of alternative cultures, we become more capable in presenting the gospel within contexts other than our own, relating the good news of Christ to their circumstances by stepping over the cultural boundaries which tend to separate us," explained Zach Emory, of Forest City, a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion student. "We live life in their shoes, viewing the world through their eyes."

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

For the ninth consecutive year, GWU has been named to the President's Higher

Education Community Service Honor Roll, sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the U.S. Department of Education.

Launched in 2006, the honor roll recognizes those institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. GWU has continued as an honor roll mainstay because of students' commitment to a wide variety of service initiatives. Dr. Tom LeGrand, director of the GWU IMPACT Center for Christian Ethics and Social Responsibility, said the recognition is an affirmation of the university's overall mission.

"We are educating great students to also be great people. We want students to serve with effectiveness and impact while they are here. But more than that, we want them to make that same impact with their life," LeGrand shared. "This is just one demonstration of our students working together with faculty and staff to make the world a better place, both locally and globally."

In the past year alone, 2,499 GWU students engaged in academic service-learning initiatives and/or community service opportunities outside of class. Through various projects, students logged a total of 71,402 hours of intentional community service.

Service Trip to Boston

While handing out lemonade and preparing meals, GWU students learned about serving others during a 2016 visit to the city of Boston.

Micah Martin, director of the Center for Personal and Professional Development, and Brian Arnold, director of Student Activities, began offering the service trip a few years ago. "Our point in doing

this is to help students understand that wherever you end up, big or small city, there are always needs by those in the community," Martin explained.

One of the service projects involved teaming up with an organization that raises funds for childhood cancer, Alex's Lemonade Stand. Students helped staff the Inaugural Lemon Climb, an event in which participants raced to the top of a skyscraper via a staircase. "This included assisting with set up and break down, registration, bag check in and check out, communication to participants, and overall encouragement," noted Sarah Currie, GWU dean of students, who was a leader on the trip.

Students also explored Boston, participated in history tours and visited Fenway Park, Harvard University and the aquarium. "I hope the students learned the value of traveling, of seeing another city and interacting with cultures that are different from their everyday experience," observed Currie. "Plus, they experienced the reward you receive by serving others and serving with their fellow classmates."

Awards, Accolades and Distinctions

Gardner-Webb ranked among the top 20 percent of higher education institutions in the nation according to the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Colleges" list. In addition, GWU is one of just six national universities in the country that reported no classes with more than 50 students in 2015.

Recently, GWU achieved Doctoral University status with The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, moving from a pool of some 750 institutions in the United States. to an elite list of just 334 in the nation. Among private schools in North Carolina, only GWU, Duke University and Wake Forest University share the Doctoral University

(Carnegie) and National University (U.S. News) categorization. "Like the move to NCAA Division I athletics over a decade ago, Gardner-Webb University's new classification is simply one more indicator of the remarkable growth the university has experienced in recent years," shared GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie. "The most rapid growth has been in the area of graduate degrees, particularly in education, nursing and our new physician assistant program."

In 2015, GWU was in the Regional University-South category. Now, due to its doctoral program growth, GWU is listed as a first-tier, National University. "This new classification," Leslie affirmed, "is simply one measure of the success that the university has been blessed with as we continue to expand the kinds of educational opportunities available both on the Gardner-Webb campus and through our distance education programs."

Recognition for Web-Based Learning

Gardner-Webb is developing a reputation for exceptional web-based learning opportunities and was honored as a 2016-2017 Best Online College by *AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org* for offering the best combinations of online program volume, breadth, and affordability available in today's marketplace. The university ranked 35th out of the top 50 institutions of higher education in the nation, ahead of notable programs such as Auburn University, Villanova University and New York University, among others.

Students at GWU can take online courses to earn credits toward a range of degrees, and some undergraduate programs are offered in online-only formats through the Degree Completion Program (DCP). In addition, master's degrees in accounting, business administration, English,

international business administration, nursing, and sport pedagogy are also available in online formats at GWU.

Fundraising Support

GWU officials are thanking supporters for their part in the record-breaking success of a one-day, dollar-for-dollar matching fundraiser to benefit the university's Annual Fund for student scholarships and financial aid. Held earlier this year "#DoubleDawgDay" raised \$86,738 — a 25-percent increase over last year's total. The number of donors grew by 31 percent, with 217 individuals participating, the most ever involved in this fundraising effort.

"Thanks to these donors, more students can now have outstanding college experiences and pursue their goals at Gardner-Webb," said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. "Ultimately, their generosity enables the university to carry out our mission to serve God and humanity."

According to Sara McCall, director of GWU's Annual Fund, #DoubleDawgDay, is a day dedicated to raising scholarship monies. "Each year, Gardner-Webb alums, parents, and friends who give financially help students and the GWU community as a whole," McCall reflected. "These gifts are vital to students' opportunities and successes. Supporters and donors have made — and will continue to make — a substantial difference in the lives of today's young people."

Nearly 97 percent of students receive some form of scholarship or financial aid, and a large part of that assistance is directly connected to the GWU Annual Fund. Officials are pleased by the results of #DoubleDawgDay and are hoping to build on its success for future fundraising events.

New Programs/Research/Academics

Criminal Justice Administration:

Gardner-Webb is now offering an undergraduate degree in criminal justice administration. The Bachelor of Science program incorporates the university's liberal arts interdisciplinary education with knowledge in social, political, domestic and global criminal justice issues.

Dr. Bobbie Cox, associate professor of criminal justice, devised the curriculum from her 30 years of experience in the criminal justice field and 25 years of teaching experience. "I wanted to develop a 21st century criminal justice program," Cox affirmed. "Our program will provide students a unique opportunity to study cybercrime, homeland security, terrorism and intelligence that incorporate science and technology in investigative strategies. Our professors are well accomplished academically in their disciplines and additionally, they have extensive professional experience in these areas to share with their students."

The curriculum model will provide student-centered programs of study based on current law enforcement, societal and political demands of criminal justice officers to meet the growing local, national and global law enforcement and homeland security concerns of society. The criminal justice administration major requires 36 hours, with an overall requirement of 128 hours to complete the Bachelor of Science degree. There is an opportunity for students to complete a minor in other related fields such as psychology, sociology, accounting or science. Requirements include participation in field experiences or an internship in a criminal justice agency. Study abroad options will also be offered.

Cox explained, "The courses offered in the criminal justice administration major will prepare our students with a level of higher education that includes increased critical-thinking, ethical decision-making, and multicultural communication skills in addition to providing a solid foundation of technical and professional skills to address the needs of our evolving, complex society."

Graphic Design: GWU is offering new degree programs in the Department of Communication & New Media. Students can choose either an associate degree or bachelor's degree in graphic design.

"Adding the associate's degree is an innovative approach," offered Dr. Bob Carey, chair of the Department of Communication & New Media. "We are giving students not only the necessary tools for the workplace, but also a liberal arts background emphasizing critical thinking and creativity."

The associate degree in graphic design is the university's first Associate of Arts (AA) degree. The two-year program includes 66 total hours with 36 hours of general education courses. All of the AA general education requirements will fulfill those for the bachelor's degree.

Previously, graphic design was offered as a concentration within the communication studies major. The bachelor's degree expands the concentration and consists of 128 total hours with 54 in the major, which includes an internship experience plus required courses in art and marketing.

School of Education: The university is providing select education students with a new program concentration option. The GWU School of Education recently

developed an Exceptional Children (EC) concentration, which is offered to elementary education majors beginning next spring.

"The average child no longer exists in today's classroom," shared Dr. Jason Parker, associate dean of GWU School of Education. "This program concentration option will help our elementary education graduates be more effective in meeting the needs of diverse learners."

The 14-credit-hour concentration will allow candidates to expand their existing knowledge of teaching by participating in varied clinical experiences in which theory is integrated with practice. Courses in the concentration include Critical Components of Special Education, Specially-Designed Instruction for Exceptional Learners, Communication and Collaboration with Stakeholders, and Providing Instruction: Continuum of Alternative Exceptional Children Placements.

"EC teacher vacancies are among the highest need areas in schools," Parker added. "Adding the Exceptional Children concentration is a way for Gardner-Webb to help school systems place quality teachers in classrooms."

Summer Research Scholars: While many college students spend their summers lying by the beach under a shady umbrella, 10 GWU students have chosen to spend their break working on an extensive project that could potentially shape the course of their academic careers.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (SURS) is specifically designed for students such as these, who are looking to broaden their horizons during the summer months. "The undergraduate research program's mission is to involve students and professors in

scholarly projects that come to fruition outside the boundaries of the classroom," says Dr. June Hobbs, creator and director of the summer scholars program.

Hobbs started the program in 2012 as part of her job as GWU director of undergraduate research. Five years later, the endeavor has rapidly expanded from only one researcher the first summer it was introduced to 10 researchers in the summer 2017 term. Each will complete academic ventures of their own choosing. Over a five-week period, students must work for 40 hours a week on a project ranging anywhere from a scientific experiment to a creative writing project to an assignment combining research with service learning.

According to Hobbs, the enterprise gives students the opportunity to work closely with a chosen faculty mentor or collaborator in order to produce a project that can be presented in a professional forum. For example, students can present papers at GWU's Life of the Scholar Multidisciplinary Conference, publish manuscripts in a scholarly journal, exhibit their work in an art gallery, etc.

The experience is meant to be fully immersive, much like a full-time job, as participants live on campus and meet with their mentors on a weekly basis in order to perfect their individual projects and research their chosen topics. Not only does the undertaking provide students with an opportunity to research a topic related to their field of study, it also benefits students in their future professional endeavors. "The program is a good springboard into highly competitive graduate programs," says Hobbs. "It enhances their student experience and professional development as well as the reputation of GWU."

Intersections of Faith & Service

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.

*Frank Stewart,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
A. Frank Bonner, President*

MARS HILL UNIVERSITY

Mars Hill University is preparing for the end of an era. Dan G. Lunsford, who has served the university since 1998, announced in January his plans to retire. The exact timing of his retirement will depend on the completion of a successful search for a new university president, but Lunsford said it will be in the first half of 2018. Lunsford began his service at the university as the dean of the School of Education and Leadership in 1998. He became president on an interim basis in January 2002, following the resignation of the late Max Lennon. The board of trustees made the position permanent in May 2003.

Lunsford's tenure at Mars Hill has been marked by growth in many areas, fitting the theme of his presidency: "preserving the past, assuring the future." Under Lunsford, the school transitioned from a college to a university in 2013; completed its first comprehensive capital campaign (and is in the final stages of its second); saw the largest building boom in campus facilities since the 1970s (with the addition of three new residence halls and three new classroom and laboratory

buildings, as well as the building and renovation of several athletic facilities); established the Asheville Center for Adult and Graduate Studies in south Asheville; added a large portion of the campus to the National Register of Historic Places; strengthened and added academic programs (including an honors program, a nursing school, and master's degrees in criminal justice, elementary education, and management); and increased funding for scholarships and other financial aid for students. This spring, Lunsford was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, in recognition of his long service to the citizens of North Carolina.

New Academic Programs

The new criminal justice graduate degree, a master of arts in criminal justice (MACJ), is one of three new academic programs approved last year. The others are a bachelor of fine arts (BFA) in art, and a certificate program in community engagement.

The MACJ degree is intended to serve individuals interested in pursuing graduate education in the field of criminal justice either to advance their careers, or to give them an opportunity to begin work in the field in something other than an entry-level position. The university worked with community partners and students currently enrolled in the undergraduate criminal justice program as part of its research to determine whether there was enough demand in the region for the MACJ, which is scheduled to begin in spring 2018.

The new BFA in art will provide a solid foundation for students who wish to pursue a career or graduate study in art, and it builds on Mars Hill's commitment to the culture and heritage of the southern Appalachian region.

The certificate in community engagement will help undergraduate students develop and demonstrate their potential for success in non-profit, governmental or social enterprise careers. It dovetails with the university's mission statement of providing an education that helps provide responsible citizenship, character development and connection to the world of work.

Building Dedications

The university began the 2016-17 school year with dedications of two new classroom and laboratory buildings: Day Hall and Ferguson Health Sciences Center.

Day Hall is the new home for the university's business administration program and also houses most on-campus classes for the adult and graduate studies program, a black box theater, box office and lobby for adjacent Owen Theatre, the university bookstore, and the Hilltop Café restaurant. Day Hall is named for Troy and Pauline Day of Kannapolis. Troy Day is an 1948 graduate of Mars Hill College, chair of the Mars Hill University Foundation Board, and a former chair of the university's board of trustees.

Ferguson Health Sciences Center houses the Judge-McRae School of Nursing, which received accreditation this year from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The building features state-of-the-art simulators and other technology to prepare nurses for 21st century health care careers. Ferguson Health Sciences Center is named for Carolyn and Jack Ferguson of Candler. The Fergusons are longtime supporters of Mars Hill University and its students. A 2004 gift provided for the construction of Ferguson Math and Sciences Center, which sits across the street from the health sciences facility. Carolyn Ferguson is a two-term trustee of the institution,

and Jack Ferguson is a member of the foundation board. The Judge-McRae School of Nursing is named for Linda Judge-McRae and Norman McRae and their daughter, Caroline. The McRaes own Caris Healthcare in Knoxville, Tennessee, and are longtime supporters of their alma mater. Linda Judge-McRae graduated from Mars Hill College in 1986 and is a trustee of the university. Norman McRae is a member of the Mars Hill class of 1984.

*Wayne Higgins,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Dan Lunsford, President*

WINGATE UNIVERSITY

Wingate University's 121st academic year since its founding in 1896 was highlighted by an enrollment of 3,193 students of whom 2,084 were undergraduate students and 1,109 were graduate and professional students. These students were enrolled in 35 undergraduate majors, 35 minors, 12 career concentrations and nine pre-professional courses of study, as well as master's degree programs in accounting, business, education, sport management and physician assistant studies, and doctoral programs in education, pharmacy and physical therapy.

During the year, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reviewed the rigor of these academic programs and the strength and vitality of the university's overall operations granting a full and unqualified 10-year certificate of reaccreditation with special commendation for Wingate's Quality Enhancement Plan, which complements academic instruction with field experience for high impact student comprehension.

The university serves its 3,193 students principally on the main 400-acre campus in Wingate but also on campuses in Charlotte and Hendersonville. Almost 80 percent of 2,084 undergraduate students live on the Wingate main campus creating a vibrant living and learning student community. The administration and board of trustees had these students in mind when the university opened the 80,000 square-foot McGee Center for recreation and fitness in January 2017 dedicated to student health and wellness in honor of President Emeritus Jerry E. McGee.

Unmatched by most, if not all, North Carolina colleges and universities, Wingate University's enrollment has grown 21 percent in five years from 2,373 students to 3,193 students. All indicators suggest the unprecedented enrollment expansion will continue to become a sustainable enrollment surge in the foreseeable future with at least a 50 percent increase in the number of freshman students electing to enroll at Wingate University in the fall of 2017.

Twenty-nine percent of Wingate University undergraduate students in the 2016-17 academic year were the first in their families to attend college. Seventy-six percent were North Carolina residents. Sixty percent were female, and 40 percent male. Sixty-four percent of undergraduate students were white; 14 percent were African-American; and 22 percent were international, Hispanic and Asian.

The university is proud to serve fully one-third of its students whose family financial circumstances could not pay for a college education for their son or daughter without substantial scholarship and grant assistance. The university's faculty and staff change the destinies of these youth, most of whom are the first in their families to earn a college degree.

Wingate University believes inclusivity is moral, true to our Christian heritage, and important for the university's sustainability. Spanning the years 2013-2023, the national changes in high school graduates by race will have the following trend: Negative 5 percent white; plus 49 percent Hispanic; plus 37 percent Asian and Pacific Islander; plus 17 percent American Indian and Alaskan Native; and plus 8 percent African-American.

Highlighting the 2016-17 year in sports, the Wingate Bulldogs were national men's soccer champions and also recognized for coaching staff of the year and defensive player of the year. The women's swimming squad was runner-up national champions.

Five hundred thirty-seven undergraduate student athletes competed in 22 NCAA Division II sports. The university has won the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) Echols Athletic Excellence Award the past 11 years. Wingate is first in North Carolina and among all NCAA Division II Academic All-America-producing colleges in the 2000s with 88 student-athletes honored. Wingate ranks first among SAC schools with 97 lifetime Academic All-America student-athlete selections. A comprehensive strategic plan guides the university's growth and development. The strategic plan includes the following vision:

"A national model for independent higher education, Wingate University is affordable, inclusive, and sustainable. The University blends in-class exploration with out-of-class application to deliver an uncommon and life-changing educational experience."

The strategic plan's mission statement is the following:

"The mission of Wingate University is to develop educated, ethical and productive

global citizens. Following its Judeo-Christian heritage, the University seeks to cultivate the following in its students: Knowledge, Faith, and Service.”

One result of the strategic plan is that Wingate will launch a Department of Occupational Therapy in 2018. Another strategic initiative calls for the university to be a Laboratory of Difference Making for the citizens of the Town of Wingate, Union County and the region, creating partnerships that impact and leverage positive change benefiting people who live and work in the university’s footprint of service and influence.

In the summer of 2017, the university established the Faith Development Council, whose membership is alumni and friends with diverse professional experiences across denominational, church, nonprofit, social services and ministry careers. The purpose of the council is to continue to bring students new meaning and fresh relevancy to Christian faith, witness and service discussed and practiced in an ecumenical, inclusive openness respectful of all religions and people of faith who trust God and do good loving their neighbor and seeking peace at home and abroad.

Wingate University stands committed to its historic values of faith, knowledge and service and salutes the many North Carolina Baptists who served over the decades and serve faithfully today as members of the university’s board of trustees, as well as those alumni and friends among North Carolina Baptists who continue to generously support the university’s students, faculty and staff.

*Luther Moore,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Rhett Brown, President*

CONVENTION CO-LABORER WOMAN’S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA

Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU NC) is a missions organization whose purpose is to challenge, prepare and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Woman’s Missionary Union also desires to help strengthen the local church. Statistics have shown that churches with WMU give more to the Cooperative Program, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Research has also shown that churches with WMU are more likely to have a more actively involved laity in all areas of church missions and ministry.

WMU NC staff and executive board members are always eager to assist churches in their efforts to flourish and grow. In February 2017 alone, they spoke in 51 churches, each time promoting missions education, local missions involvement, and the need for prayer support and giving to national and international missions. In the timeframe of this report, the Executive Director-Treasurer and President Amy Pardue Boone spoke in more than 60 churches, at several camps and in other venues. We believe solid missions education programs lead to stronger and healthier churches as congregations reach outward rather than inward.

WMU NC has been making an impact for 131 years, since Fannie E.S. Heck pioneered missions involvement and missions education. We are thankful for our many foremothers and for our current president, staff, executive board members and church leaders who continue to serve so faithfully.

WMU NC Staff

WMU NC has been blessed this year with two new staff members. In November, Kelly Brame joined the staff as year-round camp program/summer camp director at Camp Mundo Vista (CMV) following a 17-year career at Gardner-Webb University. Brame has been a tremendous asset as we seek to minister to more people in our mountain-top retreat setting. In May, Sara Lamkin became our preschool and children consultant. Her experience in missions, working with children, fluency in Spanish and work in multicultural areas will be an asset for WMU NC.

Current full-time staff include: Amy Pardue Boone, executive director/treasurer; Kelly Brame, year-round camp program/summer camp director at Camp Mundo Vista; Cheryl Daniel, accountant/human resources; Margaret Harding, adult consultant; Bob Navey, resident facilities manager at Camp Mundo Vista.

Part-time staff include: Jenn B, communications coordinator; Julie Keith, student/collegiate and young women consultant; Sara Lamkin, preschool and children consultant; Ani Simpkins, resource coordinator/ministry assistant.

Ministry to Preschool and Children

WMU NC plants the love of missions in children's hearts at a very early age. We are thankful that our missions organizations continue to grow as new ones begin.

"Hats Off to Missions" was the theme for coed Children in Action Day at Camp Mundo Vista in October as participants interacted with and showed appreciation for first responders. Sarah Davenport, former International Mission Board (IMB) missionary, shared her mission field experiences with the children. The theme for Girls in Action (GA) Day in March was "Sow. Grow. Go." Mike Boone, former IMB

missionary in Mozambique and South Africa, taught children about agricultural missions. Children planted a garden on the CMV campus. Food was collected for the local food bank. Nearly 400 children, leaders and volunteers attended these special missions days.

Ministry to Youth, College and Young Women (SHINE NC)

First Baptist Church of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., was the site of the fifth Carolina Girls event on Oct. 21-23, with over 250 participants. Carolina Girls is an event hosted by WMU NC and WMU SC for teen girls, Acteens and Acteen leaders. Eric and Anissa Haney, IMB missionaries to Sweden, and Andrew Mann, serving in New York, inspired and challenged attendees to experience real freedom in Christ. Participants shared God's love through mission projects on Saturday afternoon.

On Dec. 15-17, WMU NC participated in the Here and Now Missions Conference for college students and young adults at the Shelby Missions Camp. Students were challenged to share, learn and grow in missions awareness and involvement. Projects included building wheelchair ramps, making shoes for Ugandan children and making jump ropes for underprivileged children.

WMU NC was one of several sponsors of the International Student and Scholar Conference on April 7-9 at Caswell Conference Center and Camp. The purpose of the conference was to grow "Stronger Together" while bridging geographical, racial, cultural and language barriers. Students from 21 countries came together to enrich relationships with conversation and new experiences. A student from the Republic of Yemen shared: "The conference made it so easy for us to connect our traditional behavior and mentalities into one basic word which is 'love'."

Four Acteens were selected to serve as N.C. Acteen panelists. Two of the panelists have the honor of serving on the 2017 national Acteens panel. Congratulations to Layne Harrison of University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte, and Sierra Lee of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Fayetteville. These panelists from North Carolina shared their testimonies in the annual WMU missions celebration in Phoenix, Arizona.

WMU NC is committed to investing in the lives of young women through SHINE, a growing organization for young women ages 18-35. SHINE stands for "Serving God. Helping Others. Inspiring believers. Networking community. Experiencing Christ." A group of these young women participated in conferences and Club SHINE at Missions Extravaganza. A highlight of 2016-2017 has been the production of five short video clips about the SHINE ministry. These are available online and through the WMU NC office.

Missions and Ministry Opportunities for Women/Adults

WMU NC's desire is for all adults to be involved in missions in their churches. WMU materials are available for Women on Mission or Adults on Mission (coed). WMU NC is available to assist any church to start, restart or revitalize its women and adult missions and ministries. We are thankful for all who faithfully participate in the WMU objectives: pray for missions, take part in mission action and witnessing, learn about missions, support missions, develop spiritually toward a mission lifestyle and participate in the work of the church and denomination. It is our goal at WMU NC to provide opportunities for women/adults to be involved in missions. In the past year we provided:

- Habitat build in Wake County.
- Military wives retreat.
- Retreat for women prisoners.

- Supplies for the Red Box ministry for women and juveniles in prison at Christmas.
- Two rebuild mission trips to Warsaw to help hurricane victims.
- Ministers' wives support groups.
- Emphasis materials on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), featuring several conferences on PTSD at our annual Missions Extravaganza.

Mission Trips

One goal of WMU NC is enlisting more men, women and youth for mission trips. We are always thrilled when people go for the very first time and their lives are forever changed. This year's WMU NC-sponsored mission trips included:

- 2016 MissionsCAROLINA held in Roanoke Rapids for sharing love and concern for the homeless.
- 2017 MissionsCAROLINA held at Camp Mundo Vista to beautify and improve facilities.
- Lake Tahoe, California, for resort ministries and sharing the gospel with children.
- Barre, Vermont, to conduct Vacation Bible School at Faith Community Church and partner/encourage North Carolina natives Chris and Becca Autry and other church planters.
- South Africa, for the purpose of expanding Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) in a new province in Cape Town, South Africa, and to strengthen the partnership between the CWJC of Wilmington and the CWJC of South Africa.
- Armenia, for women's retreats at the seminary and other locations as a continuation of our partnership.
- Guatemala, for a team of Baptist Nursing Fellowship members to minister at the Good Shepherd Ministry Center in Xela.
- Pennsylvania, to minister to church planter wives and their churches.

Future 2017 Trips

- Vermont, for training children and youth leaders in various church plants.
- Wales, to disciple new believers from the Islamic faith.
- Armenia, to disciple Armenian women to be teachers and leaders in their churches.
- Pennsylvania, to encourage church planter wives in eastern Pennsylvania.

Ministry Following Hurricane Matthew

When Hurricane Matthew struck eastern North Carolina on Oct. 8, 2016, many WMU NC individuals sprang into action to help those affected. Two WMU NC e-newsletters quickly resulted in \$8,000 to share between the Eastern Baptist Association and the Robeson Baptist Association. We also contributed \$4,082 for restaurant gift cards for those living in hotels in Robeson County. In addition to water and supplies, we collected books for one of the churches and one of the public schools that lost their libraries. National WMU replaced, with no charge, the WMU literature lost in the hurricane. Camp Mundo Vista was able to donate cots to the Eastern Baptist Association to accommodate volunteers to sleep at the associational office. Two women rebuild trips involved women from several parts of North Carolina and WMU of Virginia. Girls in Action groups collected supplies for the hurricane relief as well. A Christian Women's Job Corps site in Wilmington, having experienced similar loss of home and possessions, held a party for a GA group in the Robeson Baptist Association. A GA group in Louisiana saw an eastern North Carolina GA group on Facebook and sent a care package of comfort foods – jambalaya mix and beignets.

2017 Missions Extravaganza and Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church of Greensboro was the site of the 2017 Missions Extravaganza

(ME) and the 126th WMU N.C. Annual Meeting. Ruth Ripken, whose husband, Nik, authored *The Insanity of God*, was guest speaker. She challenged listeners concerning the persecuted church and the high price many pay for being a Christian. Linda Cooper, national WMU president, spoke, as well. Cooper is a dental hygienist by profession, and jokingly says, "I have a captive audience — and sharp tools in my hand" as she shares the gospel with her patients. Cindy Johnson of Stage Two Ministries and minister of music at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem was featured musician.

More than 560 women and men attended the weekend event which offered 52 breakout sessions. Also present were Joye Smith, preschool consultant from National WMU, and well-known author Rosalie Hunt, who performed a monologue of Lottie Moon. The missions project was to do random acts of kindness in Jesus' name while traveling to and from the event. WMU NC provided Scripture cards with our logo for the women to put on homemade goodies or gifts. Other highlights

included the parade of nations featuring flags from many countries, a Hispanic music group from Daystar Church in Greensboro, and video clips from Nik Ripken, who was unable to attend the meeting due to surgery.

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).

Church Leadership Training

Training and encouragement for the tasks of being a missions leader is very crucial. Two training offerings included the “By All Means” training in Sylva and the “Come to the Table” training at Camp Mundo Vista. Over 250 women were introduced to the new theme, new curriculum and creative ways to bring missions alive in their local churches. In addition to the group trainings, all age-level consultants visited churches and met with individuals desiring assistance.

Hispanic WMU (La Union Feminil Misionera — UFM)

In May, 116 Hispanic women met in retreat at Camp Mundo Vista. The theme was “De Todos Modos” (“By All Means”). Caroline Jones, former IMB missionary, former WMU NC president, and former staff member of National WMU, was guest speaker. Several breakout sessions were led by leaders in the UFM. Newly elected officers included President Linda Trevino of Charlotte. They also celebrated the National Day of Prayer in November, as well as other day retreats.

Focus on WMU

“A Beautiful Thing,” based on the washing of Jesus’ feet in Mark 14:39, was the theme for the 2016 focus on missions and ministries of WMU NC and week of prayer for the Heck-Jones Offering. The 2017 theme “Shining like Stars” emphasized Philippians 2:14-16a. Our staff, executive board and other WMU NC leaders are privileged to be invited into the churches, not only in February when many churches observe “Focus on WMU Sunday.” A speaker is always available to come to churches, no matter the size of the church, the distance or the time of year.

Four two-to-three-minute video clips featuring CWJC, women’s prison retreat, military wives retreat and a general overview of WMU NC are now available

on the WMU NC website. Videos are undated, appropriate for use in worship services and relevant any time of year.

Christian Women’s Job Corps (CWJC)/ Christian Men’s Job Corps (CMJC)

Stories of transformed lives come from the 15 CWJC/CMJC across North Carolina and “Project Dorcas” CWJC in South Africa. A CWJC national certification training was held in Durham in August 2016. CWJC/CMJC is an investment into HOPE — Helping Others Prepare for Eternity. At “The Bridge,” the Wilmington site, the protégées are taught a holistic approach in response to the mandate of the Great Commission in that each participant seeks ways she can serve others. Some are serving outside of CWJC, feeding the homeless in three different venues and teaching English as a second language to men and women from Myanmar. This site was featured in the *May Missions Mosaic*.

Two participants from “The Bridge” and coordinator Mary Ellen Bowman traveled to South Africa in May to teach at the Baptist Union of South Africa Women’s Conference and to encourage and support the CWJC ministry there. Bowman has been asked to return to expand the ministry to the western province in Cape Town.

Camp Mundo Vista (CMV)

In 2019, Camp Mundo Vista (CMV) will celebrate 50 years of promoting missions education and involvement. Program director Kelly Brame and resident manager Bob Navey have already begun preparing for this celebration. Recent revitalization efforts include the replacement of cots with comfortable beds. Several church groups are refurbishing two former bath houses into efficiency apartments which may be used by furloughing missionaries or as places of respite for pastors.

The program director is exploring many avenues to see what unique and special ministries God is preparing for CMV. Congolese Day will be held in August for the first time. Attendees will receive theological training, as these refugees have already begun church planting in the Raleigh area.

This year's eight-week summer camp included girls and teens missions weeks, girls mini camps, and mother/daughter mini camps. We are thankful to have been included with the student summer ministries of North Carolina Baptists as we seek dynamic, young camp staff, many of whom are involved in ministry on their campuses.

2017 National WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration (Phoenix, Arizona)

Several days before the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention each year, representatives from all of the U.S. states and Puerto Rico celebrate the joys and testimonies of God's mighty acts through WMU. Referring to this year's WMU Missions Celebration theme, "Defining Moments," newly-elected National WMU Executive Director-Treasurer Sandra Wisdom-Martin said, "Every life has a series of defining moments – moments that shape us and change us and make us the person we are today." Wisdom-Martin, who succeeds Wanda Lee's service of 16 years, was elected unanimously in July 2016. WMU NC President Dee Dee Moody, who serves as a vice president of National WMU, was present to cast her vote. Wisdom-Martin, having most recently served WMU Texas, brings a great enthusiasm and creativity to this role.

Participants celebrated the 20th anniversary of Christian Women's Job Corps. They previewed the movie "Mully," which features Charles and Esther Mulli.

Born into poverty in Kenya, Charles eventually became an entrepreneur and multimillionaire. He was called by God to sell his property and businesses in order to provide street children in Africa with shelter, medical care, education and more. The movie's tagline is "Changing the world one child at a time." Charles and Esther Mulli have taken guardianship of more than 12,000 abandoned children. National WMU has partnered with the Mully Children's Family to restore young women broken by exploitation. Through WorldCrafts, a ministry of WMU, young women are taught beadwork, dress making and design at the Yatta Vocational Training Centre. Their products are sold through WMU with 100 percent of the profit returning to the centre.

National WMU Offers New and Ground-Breaking Missions Education

National WMU has developed an extensive online training course. DEVELOP courses train leaders in the age-level missions organizations. A certificate for leadership is offered through the Christian Women's

Leadership Center upon completion of online courses, including leadership foundations, leadership formation and leadership skills.

The 2016 International Mission Study, designed for all age levels, featured the post-modern culture of Norway. Who would have known two years ago when National WMU began researching Russia as the focus of the 2017 study, that Russia would be a major topic in current news? Churches are encouraged to use this study and focus on the mission work there during the Christmas season.

Lastly, "Missions in a Box" is a new non-traditional approach designed for homeschool or individual children not

involved in missions education in their churches. The kit includes a story book, a craft and a badge. "Missions in a Box" is now available for Thailand and Peru.

New Mission Organizations Begun from July 2016-June 2017

- WMU – 2
- Women on Mission – 2
- Acteens – 1
- Youth on Mission – 4
- Challengers – 1
- Children in Action – 13
- Royal Ambassadors – 2
- Girls in Action – 1
- Mission Friends – 4
- Total: 30 new organizations

WMU NC – It's More than a Project, It's a Way of Life

Those who participate in WMU NC realize the large sphere of influence the

organization encompasses. Belonging to a WMU organization means belonging to something big. Gifts to the Heck-Jones Offering through the local church, toothbrushes purchased for red boxes at Christmastime, providing a mission study for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, teaching children about Annie Armstrong, using the prayer calendar every day, providing a well for villages in Kenya, reading devotions on Facebook written by an IMB missionary, and texting with a missionary on the edge of the Amazon jungle. All of these avenues are fulfillment of the Great Commission.

May we – "By all Means" – continue the work until the whole world knows.

Amy Pardue Boone, Executive Director-Treasurer

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 2017 through the Business Services Group.

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

- Baptist building operations
- Property/casualty insurance
- Accounting
- Budgets
- N.C. hunger ministry grants through Global Hunger Relief
- Legal matters
- Investments
- Printing/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 Special Committee of the Board of Directors and are grateful for the time and effort 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 enable men, women, and children to return to Him and experience life in Christ.

John Butler, Executive Leader, Business Services Group
Penny Cozadd, Executive Leader Assistant

GUIDESTONE/ COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SERVICES (CABS)

The GuideStone Team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has a new name: the Compensation and Benefits Services (CABS) Office. Changes in fiduciary laws make it necessary to cease using the "GuideStone" name for our office, since convention employees in this office are not actually GuideStone employees. It does not change anything related to individual retirement accounts of pastors and staff members, and our office will still be able to provide answers to general questions regarding retirement, insurance and other financial needs of our churches. Our goal continues to be keeping our North Carolina Baptist association offices and churches up-to-date on changes that affect them. The following information is a summary of those efforts:

Retirement

The CABS Office 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 Benefits

We were pleased to be able to continue offering life and disability benefits to all staff members of N.C. Baptist churches participating 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.

Tax and Health Insurance Laws

Health Care Reform Law: GuideStone remains a leader in providing detailed information regarding the impact that new tax and health care laws have on our churches and their staff. Timely and thorough updates of changes in the tax law are available on the GuideStone website. We are certain that there will be many more changes in the coming months related to health care laws, and your CABS Office will work diligently to stay on top of these changes.

Church Staff Compensation

The results of the 2016 Southern Baptist Compensation Study are available online by visiting compstudy.lifeway.com. 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.

Mission Dignity

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 Mission Dignity. For assistance, call the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5604 or 5637, visit our website at ncbaptist.org. Or call GuideStone at (888) 984-8433 or visit the GuideStone website at GuideStone.org.

Davis Blount, Senior Consultant, CABS Office

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources (HR) is committed to selecting the best possible employees to work with the convention and its churches — Baptist Christians committed to impacting lostness through discipling-making. As the ethnic diversity of cooperating churches expands, the convention diligently seeks out individuals it might employ to assist these congregations. Once employed, HR seeks to develop convention staff in order to facilitate an organizational culture of trust, value and respect among employees. The ability for convention staff to provide effective consultation, training and coaching is enhanced by HR's efforts to encourage collaboration across the organization. HR works with the following areas:

- Recruitment and selection of personnel for staff within the BSC and its related facilities.
- Orientation/training and development of employees.

- Performance management.
- Employee relations.
- Termination of employment/exit interviews.
- Records maintenance.
- Maintenance of the BSCNC employee handbook, with updates per federal and state employment law.
- Benefits administration.
- Background checks of employees and volunteers at BSCNC-related conferences, camps and facilities.
- E-Verify process for all employees hired by BSCNC.

The HR Office is committed to keeping the convention 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

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 arise 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 see the needs of others. God then develops within them a passion for ministering to the hungry in their backyard. In 2016, churches focused on sharing the gospel to more than 123,000 people in their efforts to share not only bread and water, but the Bread of Life and the Living Water. Our statistics indicate that 192 people made a profession of faith. 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

CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER AND CAMP

The mission of Caraway Conference Center and Camp is to provide each guest with comfortable facilities, quality programming, gracious hospitality and friendly service in a Christ-like manner. This year, the Caraway staff had the opportunity to serve over 21,000 guests.

Caraway is a ministry tool that may assist North Carolina Baptist churches in their efforts to enhance, grow and equip their congregations through camps, retreats, meetings and training events. Caraway facilities accommodate adults, children and youth.

Caraway is centrally located in the state near Asheboro. It sits on 1,100 beautiful acres in the Uwharrie Mountains. Through Christian hospitality, the Caraway staff will help to facilitate all types of events to have an impact for the kingdom of God.

Caraway also provides summer camping programs for boys and children, grandparents and grandkids, father/son, mother/son and father/daughter camps. Caraway also hosts the Fall Festival of Fellowship for Senior Adults each year in partnership with the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM).

Caraway is owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and is a vital resource in disciple making in North Carolina and beyond.

Jimmy Huffman, Director

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST ASSEMBLY AT FORT CASWELL

In 2017, we celebrated our 67th year of hosting camps and conferences for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. This beautiful facility, tucked away on the eastern tip of Oak Island, is rich in history and now serves as an instrument of peace, offering guests a place of quiet reflection and relaxation and, for many, the opportunity to experience Christ.

The year also saw the retirement of former Fort Caswell Director Richard Holbrook. At his retirement celebration in May, we reflected on the countless changes,

upgrades and building projects that Caswell has seen in the years he served as leader of this incredible facility. N.C. Baptists are truly fortunate to have had a leader as committed to God's purposes for this property as he was for 32 years.

Looking forward from 2017, we have been intentional in setting our hearts and expectations toward God's continuation of this legacy and a hope that its kingdom-building impact will grow exponentially in the years to come.

An important part of our ministry here is to maintain and improve our facilities. The major exterior repairs to Lantana Lodge are now complete. 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. The plans and permits to rebuild and repair the pier that was damaged last year during Hurricane Matthew are now complete and construction work was scheduled to begin in late August. Long range plans for Caswell include a new medium-sized multipurpose auditorium for groups of 200 to 400 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.

These 288 acres of unspoiled coastal property are, perhaps more than ever, a

needed haven for N.C. Baptists who find refuge from the concerns of the world within Caswell's gates. Our programs for senior adults, youth, women, men and other vital training events continue to revitalize and refresh Baptists from every corner of the state. Each year, scores of guests share stories of how impactful their time at Fort Caswell has been to the spiritual health of their ministries and church families. Each year, these stories reaffirm, at every step, just how blessed we are as a denomination to have this place of peace.

Brian Hemphill, Director

TRUETT BAPTIST CAMP

Truett Camp is one of the best places to come together to expose the guests to wonders of our Creator in the beautiful setting in the southwestern tip of North Carolina. This is the 65th year of camps being held. Our campus is adorned in the spring with rhododendrons, azaleas, day lilies and trees, and we enjoy four seasons of beauty.

Our Happiness Retreats are enjoyed by the campers as well as their helpers to show love in action by helping each other.

Two weeks of girls' 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 much more to introduce campers to Christ.

We have one week of boys' camp, and each camper gets to meet someone who will possibly be a lifelong friend. We have other church camps that show forth God's work on campus, and when they leave, they echo to someone the love of God that they have learned in trusting God in all they do.

All of these camps help us know how to express God's love through our lives and work.

The guests can have their meeting or camps in the Roberson Conference Center or the education building and have an overnight stay in the barracks or staff lodge. We have a zip line, a pond for paddle boating or fishing, a gym and a swimming pool for added fun that can be enjoyed by our campers and guests.

Remember, a day, weekend or week at Truett Baptist Camp will echo in your heart and mind experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Some of our former campers and counselors have become ministers, local and foreign 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 ensure that each person's stay is even more enjoyable.

Kevin Roberson, Camp Director

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 teams within the CPMP Group work faithfully and diligently to awaken North Carolina Baptists to the boundless Great Commission ministry opportunities God has given us.

During 2016-2017, the CPMP Group worked faithfully to assist with the implementation of the state-wide strategy of “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 99 new churches during 2016 — 177 new church plants and 32 new affiliates.
- Between July 2016 and June 2017, celebrated over 4,400 professions of faith through the ministries of church plants funded by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) and received \$119,956 in Cooperative Program gifts from these new churches. New church plants also contributed \$75,447 to local Baptist associations and an additional \$56,828 for church planting causes.
- The Hispanic Church Planting Institute is currently training 175 Hispanic leaders from 16 different Spanish-speaking countries.

- BSCNC church planting consultants worked with peoples from 69 different language groups.
- In the fall of 2017, N.C. Baptist churches are leading reproducing gospel ministries on 48 college campuses.
- The Collegiate Partnerships Team positioned itself as a national leader in ministry to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to Early College Programs.
- In conjunction with the International Mission Board (IMB), the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and other state conventions, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships planned and coordinated the Reaching the Nations in North America Summit, a national training event for engaging ethnic peoples in North America.
- Celebrated the engagement by N.C. Baptists of 26 of the top 80 unreached people groups in North Carolina.
- Launched the “Mission of God” Bible study series.
- Assisted many of the 317 N.C. Baptist churches who have partnered with 28 SEND cities to reach North America with the gospel.
- 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 – IMB, NAMB and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Chuck Register, Executive Leader
Shirley Sells, Executive Leader Assistant

ASSOCIATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Associational missionaries across North Carolina play a critical 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 continues to offer opportunities, training and resources to help associational missionaries enter the field with a fresh, intentional and deliberate approach. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) is most grateful for the crucial strategic ministry partnerships with the associational leaders representing 77 associations across the state. Our staff is thankful for these leaders, for their servant hearts and faithfulness toward “impacting lostness through disciple-making” in their churches, communities and beyond.

Associational Missions Conference

Associational Partnerships and the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference formed a joint planning team consisting of the Associational Missions Conference officers and convention staff that collaborate to enhance our relationship and plan the annual meeting of the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference. During this four-day training event in April, we provided training for potential and new associational missionaries that included a track for spouses, a track for church and community ministries personnel, and a full agenda of education, training and fellowship for associational missionaries.

The conference theme was “Renew and Redirect: Building Foundations for Church Revitalization.” Our guest presenters were Aubrey Malphurs, Ray Gilder and

Brian Upshaw. The emphasis focused on foundations and strategy relating to church revitalization. Breakout sessions included topics and training in MissionInsite, what directors of missions need to know about church revitalization, the vital role of mercy ministries in a community, and ministering to bivocational pastors.

Search Committee Training

Associational Partnerships assists associations with filling vacant associational ministry positions through associational search committee training and 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 convention and other entities that resource associational missionaries. These include: 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) allow local associational partners to receive assistance with resourcing outreach opportunities that include church planting, collegiate ministry, strategic impact, ethnic and language ministry, and various other ministries. The entire SPR process — which involves the association receiving the forms for submission, instructions and guidance of the process, delivery to the appropriate convention ministry group, communication on the request's status, and final approval — flows through Associational Partnerships.

North Carolina Missions Offering Support

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 mission 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. Though not an exhaustive list, the following selected reports give an idea about how NCMO funds are used by the associations to address a variety of mission endeavors.

Tom Lamkin, Sandhills Baptist Association

"Sandhills Baptist Association will be using the NCMO funds for both local missions and work beyond our borders. These funds will support our partnership with the Coalfields Baptist Association of West Virginia and a local church partnership with an unreached people group in East Asia. Funds will also be used to support new ethnic work in our area. The expanding military presence in our region will get expanded ministry support as well through work with military personnel and their families before, during and after deployment."

Brad Roderick, Piedmont Baptist Association

"Part of the money we received through the NCMO this year will be dedicated to reaching Hispanics. Over 50,000 Hispanics now live in the area of our association. We are planning, in partnership with several of our churches and the BSCNC, to bring in a catalyst who can help us start multiple reproducing faith communities."

Bob Lowman, Metrolina Baptist Association

"Metrolina Baptist Association is using the N.C. Missions Offering funds to help with summer missions, including the

work of our three summer missionaries, World Changers Charlotte and projects in partnership with four student groups coming to our area this summer. Those funds also help with the costs of church planting partnerships, as we assist with the starting of congregations including ethnic church plants to reach the many people groups in Charlotte now. These funds, this year and each year, are a vitally important part of the financial support we need to do the Great Commission together as a family of churches in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and to the ends of the earth. Thank you to our churches who gave to the N.C. Missions Offering, and through that giving, supported the work of their local association."

Lon Chenowith, Sandy Run Baptist Association

"Sandy Run Baptist Association principally utilizes the offering to encourage pastors and pastoral staff by purchasing resources for them. We invest back into leadership by buying books and, at times, study Bibles that pastors would not ordinarily purchase for themselves. Many of these are bivocational pastors. We also applied it to saturation evangelism and website work on a smaller scale."

Eric D. Cook, Union Baptist Association (UBA)

"One of the ways the UBA will be using the NCMO funds is to sponsor a large youth gathering we have each year. The gathering is called "The Event," and this year we will have close to 600 youth attending. This year's gathering will focus on discipleship training with an emphasis on evangelism. We also have directed some of the funds to strengthen our church planting efforts. Also, our N.C. Baptist Men ministry endeavors have benefited from the NCMO offering."

Bonnie Eanes, South Yadkin Baptist Association

"The South Yadkin Baptist Association (SYBA) uses the NCMO funds to purchase Bibles which are distributed through our toy store ministry, fair ministry, and through the weekly ministry of the SYBA Food and Clothes Closet."

Marty Childers, Yates Baptist Association

"Thank you to both North Carolina Baptist for giving to the state's mission offering and the state convention for giving back to the local associations. It is a great example of the Baptist distinctive of cooperation. This year we will be using part of the funds to help language work here in the Durham-Chapel Hill area. Almost one-fourth of the population in our association speak another language other than English when they go home at night, and the vast majority do not know Jesus. Because of this offering, we hope to see that change."

Joe Cappar, New River Baptist Association

"We always divide those funds among three or more efforts in our association. Nearly half of the funds will go to our association-wide summer mission trip to West Virginia. This provides opportunity for members of smaller churches that do not conduct mission trips or individuals who are unable to attend whatever mission trip their church may be doing. NCMO funds help us to keep the cost per person lower, which, of course, allows greater participation. About 30 percent of the funds will go to training — associational staff training and leadership development training. This allows greater opportunity for short-term training opportunities for staff or members of our ministry action teams. About 15 percent of the funds will assist our ministers' conference to provide seminar topics that otherwise would not be possible."

For example, this month, May, we will partner with the local community hospital to provide a seminar open to the clergy of our entire community on the topic of end-of-life Issues. The remaining percentage, this year, will go to future ministry projects. Currently, our primary future ministry project is addressing pocket of lostness No. 69, which is in our New River Mission Field."

Church and Community Ministry

Associations across the state are engaging in the strategy to impact lostness through developing disciple-making cultures in the churches. 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 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 (CCM) 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, dental and hair cutting that result in trusting relationships and professions of faith.

Another CCM, Randolph Wilson in the northeast region, continues to lead

volunteers and teams throughout the area to address the need of sub-standard housing and handicap issues. Charles Reed, CCM in the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, offers resources to hurting families with food, clothing, medical supplies and financial assistance 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 to bivocational ministers has proven difficult but extremely necessary since these ministers do not 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 ministers. 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 fewer 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 Fruitland Baptist Bible College in October 2016. Perry Brindley, director of missions for the Buncombe Baptist Association, 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, "Built to Last." Sessions were offered that addressed: building a solid spiritual foundation; building a strong marriage; building a durable ministry; and building a kingdom-focused church.

The convention has about 1,400 churches with bivocational staff, but the number of churches significantly increases when all with 125 or fewer in average worship attendance are included. 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 an annual meeting at various locations across the United States.

MissionInsite

Many associational missionaries, church planters, strategic coordinators, pastors and church staff utilize the demographic services provided by the 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 use the tool to train pastors to survey ministry and mission needs in their ministry context.

Invaluable information is available in understanding 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 information not only has given basic demographics on their target, but the mosaics feature has also enabled them to understand these people's likes, dislikes and preferences in life and matters relating to Christ and church.

Associational Partnership continues to search for individuals who have a passion for demographic studies and touching the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ who would be interesting

in being trained to serve as trainers of MissionInsite in your local setting. I am indebted to and grateful for Shirley Sells, executive leader assistant in Church Planting and Missions Partnerships, and Lauren McCall, team leader assistant in Associational Partnerships, who continue to provide proven, skilled and invaluable expertise 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 its 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 different from the congregation those who are being focused on are will help them 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 convention for making this 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) or world missions 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 and state convention 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

Giving birth is a natural part of life. God designed us this way. Parenting new churches is a natural part of impacting lostness through disciple-making. The church is initiated and designed by God. In North Carolina He continues to raise up sending churches and missionary church planters to impact the estimated 5.8 million lost souls residing in our state. A sending church is responsible for a new church plant until the plant is self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating. The need is apparent, and it is growing. Presently there are over 300 languages spoken in our state and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSCNC) Church Planting Team is already working with 69 language groups. The need is great for visionary sending churches who will respond to the call and commit to reach the unreached in their own communities and beyond through the gathering of new disciples and starting new congregations. Church planting is an effective strategy to impact lostness with the good news of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Church Planting Story – Chau Cil

Many Vietnamese people have come to America to live and are adjusting

to a different way of life. Years ago the Montagnard people were mostly farmers who lived in villages in the highlands of Vietnam. They endured heavy persecution and many thousands were killed during the war when they sided with the United States to fight against the communist government in Vietnam.

Lighthouse Community Church is a strong and growing church located in Knightdale. Their worship attendance began at 20 and grew to 70 within an 11-month time period. They worship in their own language and are a welcoming place for those who are far from home to come and hear the Word of God preached for the first time. Many have already come to know the Lord Jesus as personal Savior. Church planter Chau Cil (Chow-Seel) is a bivocational pastor who works at a tech firm in the Research Triangle Park while also pastoring Lighthouse Community Church.

When it comes to impacting lostness through disciple-making, new church plants like Chau Cil's are highly effective. The new mission can fully concentrate on reaching the unreached due to their ability to focus on outreach, evangelism and disciple-making without the distractions facing many existing churches. With such focused energy as new believers are reached and disciples are grown, leadership is consistently developed, which leads to effective impact as they become faithful "fishers of men." Between July 2016 and June 2017, new churches reported over 4,400 professions of faith. Church planters had more than 76,000 evangelistic contacts in an effort to impact the lostness around them.

Church Planting Story – Scott Reid

If you head out of Winston-Salem, you'll see a lot of horse farms and barns. That's where Home Church first started meeting with

about 50 people. They have since grown and moved into a storefront building in downtown Thomasville. Along with meeting there for worship on Sundays, they have opened a coffee shop in the front of the building so the general public can stop in for a latte and possibly hear the gospel, as well.

Scott and his group are willing to try about anything that will help people hear and respond to the gospel of Christ. 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 99 new churches. Of these, 67 were new church plants receiving coaching and financial assistance through the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) and the Cooperative Program. A total of 32, primarily new missions, joined our Baptist family by affiliation and received resources like coaching, partnerships, training and missions.

Church Planting Story – Christian Rodriguez

The number of Hispanics in the Charlotte area is estimated to be around 200,000. Church planter Christian Rodriguez is the pastor and planter of Church, the new Hispanic Church in Charlotte that meets at the Great Commission Center of Metrolina Baptist Association. Though the church just started earlier this year, many people have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ already. They have been successful, and the church has been growing. Through this new church plant, Christian desires to continue impacting the Hispanic community of Charlotte with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Missions Giving

New churches give to missions just like existing churches. In an effort to embed missions giving into their DNA, new

churches receiving financial assistance from the convention “tithe to missions” once their public launch has occurred. From July 2016 to June 2017, new churches are reporting \$119,956 given to the Cooperative Program and \$75,447 to the associations. Moreover, in an effort to increase church multiplication, these new churches are providing \$56,828 to other new church plants like themselves.

While the above figures may not seem large in comparison to many existing churches, it is helpful to remember that new churches start small. Actually, the typical new church has an average attendance of 84 in worship after four years, according to the book *Viral Churches* by Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird. As a new church grows, the lost are reached, disciples are made and giving increases, too. Some of these new church plants initially gather in homes, offices, associational facilities or restaurants. Their commitment to giving and missions will be long-term, and they fully understand that by combining mission giving with other new and existing churches, greater kingdom impact will take place. We are better at doing missions together in a way we could never accomplish individually.

Worship Attendance

Joining together for worship is a measurable component in determining the effectiveness of our fishing for men and how we are doing in “impacting lostness through disciple-making.” New churches in North Carolina are gathering over 4,536 in attendance each week. These reports are only from those presently being funded, so hundreds may be added to these numbers from newly affiliated churches cooperating with the convention. God is blessing the faithfulness of missionary church planters and the churches who send them.

Training Opportunities

The Church Planting Team continues to serve sending churches and missionary church planters by equipping them to impact lostness and to make disciples in an effective and contextually appropriate way. Therefore, the convention provides different opportunities for learning based upon the geographic areas of focus, language, context and need.

William Ortega, senior Hispanic church planting consultant, is guiding the Hispanic Church Planting Institute in North Carolina. There are 175 Hispanic leaders enrolled in the institute, representing 16 Spanish-speaking countries. This is a yearlong equipping process. The first seven months include monthly Saturday instructional gatherings in 10 different regions of the state. The final five months are focused on contextual application and coaching. God is blessing this strategic training initiative.

In addition to training for church planters, Ortega trained nearly 300 Baptist Hispanic pastors, church planters and lay leaders that gathered for a congress on missions and church planting in Hickory on May 19-20, 2017. The purpose of the congress this year included three specific approaches: church growth; evangelism and disciple-making; and church planting. One of the outcomes was an awakening among the pastors and planters in the area of church growth that includes the need for evangelism, making disciples, and a strong commitment by Hispanic churches to plant new churches.

“Multiply” is a six-month training process that equips church planters to plant successful churches that make disciples and reach the lost. This equipping is happening all over North Carolina. Church Planting senior consultant Ralph Garay

is joined by contractors, Jeff Moody, Corey Alley and Frank White in the efforts of the BSCNC Church Planting Team. These men are currently leading five cohorts involving 30 church planters. These cohorts, or small groups of church planters, gather monthly in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte for experiential and practical training that cover 12 competencies of church planting. These competencies include: casting a clear and compelling vision; fundraising; clear communication for kingdom impact; and so much more. These cohorts also gather to support and pray for one another through the work of church planting.

Keith Jefferson, senior consultant for African-American church planting, is one of the newest members of the Church Planting Team. Jefferson, who formerly served with the International Mission Board, equips and coaches African-American missionary church planters. These missionaries gather in regional monthly events. Presently, these learning cohorts connect in Charlotte and Rocky Mount. Successful church planting missionaries share their best practices, followed by conversations and application contextualized to each planter’s unique context.

Church Planting Story – Jazz Cathcart

Asheville is one of North Carolina’s most beautiful cities, situated in the mountains in the western part of the state. It’s also a city that needs new churches to reach the many people with no Christian faith. We thank the Lord today for the mission work of Reach Life Church, planted by Jazz Cathcart. Reach Life meets for worship on Sunday afternoons in a building they rent from another church on Merrimon Avenue in downtown Asheville. The church is engaging hard to reach young adults and students along with older adults. In the past nine months, Reach Life has

made 395 evangelistic contacts. Members also meet in home groups for growth in discipleship, which is a major focus of the church. They work with a local helping group to provide food for homeless people, acting on the instruction from the Lord found in Matthew 25:40 about ministering to “the least of these.” Their church name is their call to “Reach Life.” With the call and objective of impacting lostness through disciple-making, utilizing the resources God provides through churches of the convention, the Church Planting Team is committed to equipping and serving sending churches, missionary church planters, associations and networks. Together as faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can do much more as we give our very best to share the gospel and to plant new churches.

Mark Gray, Team Leader

Savannah Parks, Team Leader Assistant

COLLEGIATE PARTNERSHIPS

Reclaiming the Mission

Baptist Student Union (BSU) began almost a century ago (1921) as a mission of the Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources). BSU strategically brought the many collegiate ministries of churches into alignment with one overarching, trusted program. Instead of many churches clumsily bumping into each other on college and university campuses as they sought to disciple college students, BSU enabled them to work in concert with one another. And for decades, it worked beautifully.

Some of the cultural norms BSU depended upon, however, changed, and BSU slowly became less and less effective. For one thing, while BSU functioned as a chaplaincy – discipling college students

who were predominantly already Christian, helping those students “make their faith their own,” teaching them to give their lives in service to Jesus by serving others, and even helping many students discern a call to vocational ministry – college campuses became mission fields with fewer and fewer Christian students so that now, even in North Carolina, it is estimated that less than 10 percent of the students on a given college campus are born-again Christians. No longer could a model of ministry focused on students who were already Christians continue to work.

Furthermore, through the decades of incredible success with BSU, a shift took place among churches. Slowly, instead of BSU serving as a conductor helping the churches work in concert with one another, BSU became the arm of the local church on college campuses – doing the work on the campus instead of the church. And through the years, local churches became satisfied in allowing parachurch ministries like InterVarsity, Campus Crusade for Christ (now Cru) and the Navigators to tackle the campus for them. As this happened, the college campus and the local church became further divorced from one another.

When the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) took the courageous step in 2014 of walking away from a program that once worked but had become more and more ineffective in a changing culture, churches were faced with the reality of becoming reacquainted with a mission field long trusted to parachurch organizations and denominational entities. N.C. Baptist churches began a journey in 2014 toward reclaiming that mission field. To think that the journey would be an easy one would be naïve. To refuse the journey would, in essence, continue to ignore the

Great Commission. Needless to say, the journey, though difficult, has been an exercise in obedience.

There are two aspects of this journey that the Collegiate Partnerships Team would like to highlight this year:

1. God is moving.
2. Churches are pioneering.

God is Moving

At the start of 2014, when the BSCNC changed to the new collegiate ministry strategy that placed the impetus on churches, many people correctly questioned whether or not churches would be able to step up to this new initiative quickly enough. After all, for the strategy to work, churches, at a bare minimum, would have to take ownership of the nine university campuses where the convention had campus ministry already taking place. Thankfully, N.C. Baptist churches proved themselves up for the task.

In only three-and-a-half years, nine campuses engaged with the gospel turned into 48 campuses engaged with the gospel. Clearly, God has been at work. What a joy it has been to witness the diversity of churches that make up the N.C. Baptist family engage previously unengaged campuses with the gospel. African-American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic and multicultural churches have all been part of the movement to see “No Campus Left” without a gospel presence. Small churches and large churches, mountain churches and coastal churches, rural churches and urban churches: God is stirring and calling college students to Himself.

There are currently 148 college and university campuses in North Carolina, and the Collegiate Partnerships Team is striving to help N.C. Baptist churches take the gospel to every single one of them. As

of July 2017, the following 48 campuses have a reproducing gospel presence. The collegiate partnerships team has identified four criteria that defines a reproducing gospel presence on a campus:

1. It meets on campus as a group [large group, small group or network of small groups];
2. It is doctrinally sound [Protestant and orthodox];
3. It is under the authority of, and submissive to, the local church;
4. It is multiplying.

- 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 (Hudson Campus), Hudson
- Caldwell Community College (Watauga Campus), Boone
- Campbell University, Buies Creek
- Cape Fear Community College (Main Campus), Wilmington
- Catawba Valley Community College, Hickory
- Central Piedmont Community College (Cato Campus), Charlotte
- Central Piedmont Community College (Levine Campus), Matthews
- Chowan University, Murphreesboro
- Cleveland Community College, Shelby
- Duke University, Durham
- East Carolina University, Greenville
- Elon University, Elon
- Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville
- Guilford Technical Community College (Jamestown Campus), Jamestown
- High Point University, High Point
- Johnston Community College, Smithfield
- Mars Hill University, Mars Hill
- Meredith College, Raleigh

- Montreat College, Montreat
- 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, Winterville
- Queens University, Charlotte
- Randolph Community College, Asheboro
- Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (South Campus), Concord
- Shaw University, Raleigh
- South Piedmont Community College (Polkton Campus), Polkton
- Southwestern Community College (Franklin Campus), Franklin
- St. Augustine University, Raleigh
- 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

In addition to the above campuses that already have a reproducing gospel presence, the Collegiate Partnerships Team is currently working with churches to establish ministry on the following campuses:

- Central Piedmont Community College, Central Campus, Charlotte
- Davidson College, Davidson
- Davidson County Community College, Thomasville
- Guilford College, Greensboro
- Isothermal Community College, Spindale
- James Sprunt Community College, Wallace

- Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte
- Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte
- Southwestern Community College (Jackson Campus), Sylva
- Wayne Community College, Goldsboro

God is working through His church to make the gospel accessible to every student on every college campus.

Churches are Pioneering

In June of 2016, Darrick Smith joined the Collegiate Partnerships Team as a senior consultant, and, in addition to working with churches to reach campuses that are predominantly white institutions, God has used Darrick to help churches pioneer work on historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). HBCUs have a rich history in North Carolina with both the oldest HBCU in the South (Shaw University) and the largest HBCU in the nation (N.C. A&T). Despite North Carolina having the second highest number of HBCUs in the nation, N.C. Baptists have historically been ineffective at reaching those campuses. To change our track record, churches would need to take on a mentality of pioneering new mission fields and cultivating new ground.

HBCUs are marked by a culture largely unfamiliar to many N.C. Baptist churches. They present challenges unique to that culture. Thankfully, several churches were ready to embrace that pioneering mindset and take advantage of Darrick's area of expertise. Consequently, six of North Carolina's 11 HBCUs now have a reproducing gospel presence. Some of these campuses are being engaged by predominantly Anglo churches striving to be multicultural. Even more exciting, the last 12 months have seen, for the first time, predominantly African-American N.C. Baptist churches engaging universities with the gospel. Thank God for our churches pioneering the frontier of HBCUs.

With the appropriation of funds set aside by the Board of Directors for the utilization of contracting former missionaries from the International Mission Board (IMB) who took the Voluntary Retirement Incentive (VRI), Collegiate Partnerships senior consultant Tom Knight guided a research project to identify the N.C. college and university campuses with the most international students. With this information, Tom has been able to identify not only the campuses with the most international students, but also the churches best positioned to reach those students.

Consequently, we have seen the greatest surge in recent history of churches desiring to reach the nations even as the nations come to us. No Passport Needed, a resource Tom developed to help churches build teams tasked with engaging international students with the gospel, is now being utilized not just in North Carolina, but in several other states across the nation. We are grateful for the record number of churches who are taking advantage of Tom's expertise in the area of ministry with international students.

In 2003, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched the nation's very first Early College High School at Guilford College in Greensboro. Two years later, North Carolina's Innovative Education Act created the first wave of 14 early college high schools (ECHS). Those first 14 have now grown to 113, and North Carolina is the national leader in this educational area, touting one-third of the nation's ECHSs.

ECHSs were created to target students who had the desire and ability to perform well but were at risk because of a lack of resources. ECHSs are built around these students who are often marginalized by traditional high schools. They are intentionally kept small. Most

are only 200 students, but they boast rigorous academic curricula and limited extracurricular activities. Topping off the innovation, after five years of education instead of four, these students are able to earn not only a high school diploma, but also an associate degree or equivalent vocational/technical certificate.

What's more, every single one of these ECHSs meet not in their own facilities, sequestered off from other educational systems, but on college campuses with high school students integrated with college students. Even while North Carolina led the way nationally, N.C. churches have failed to catch on. These future leaders in our communities have gone largely ignored by churches for two main reasons — college ministers often see these students as high school students because of their non-traditional young ages, and youth ministers often see them as college students because of the location of their classes.

In an attempt to develop a model churches can utilize in a widespread effort to reach these innovative schools with the gospel, Collegiate Partnerships senior consultant Evan Blackerby led a pilot project with several experimental initiatives to discover what works and what unique challenges churches should anticipate. This project resulted in a proven model now being utilized by several churches in both rural and urban settings. As our educational systems continue to develop, the advancement of the gospel will rest on the shoulders of churches eager to pioneer innovative ways of communicating the gospel in new arenas.

The Collegiate Partnerships Team simultaneously invites messengers of the 2017 Annual Meeting to celebrate all that God is doing across the state of North Carolina in the area of collegiate ministry and challenges the churches represented

by those messengers to join in the movement that is taking the message of the gospel to every college and university campus. God has done amazing things, yet there is much more left to do!

Jonathan Yarboro, Team Leader

Alex Konzelman, Team Leader Assistant

GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERSHIPS

Of the more than 7.1 billion people who live in the world, 4.2 billion are unreached, representing 7,050 unique unreached people groups. Of those 4.2 billion unreached people, more than 219 million are currently not being engaged in disciple-making leading to church planting. Consider the people of northern Yemen as an example. There are 11.8 million northern Yemeni people living in the world today, with only 35 believers and no churches among them. This is what it means for a people group to be unreached and unengaged, and there are thousands of people groups just like the people of northern Yemen.

Yet, God is doing something truly amazing in our day. In His gracious goodness, God is bringing the unreached within the shadow of our own steeples. In North Carolina, more than 300 languages are spoken in our public schools. We know of 158 people groups in our communities, of which more than 80 are considered unreached or unengaged.

God has even brought northern Yemenis to North Carolina. There are more than 800 northern Yemeni people living in towns and communities like Greenville, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Goldsboro and Fayetteville. Now why would God allow northern Yemenis to move within arm's reach of our churches in North Carolina?

Our Father desires that the people of northern Yemen be given an opportunity to hear the gospel of His Son. He desires that they might be brought into the family of God, and He intends to do just that through the word of His disciples.

Peoples Next Door in North Carolina

In 2014, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships began the process of researching the eight major population centers across our state to discover what unreached peoples from around the world had taken up residence in these areas. In the first year, we did initial discovery work in the metro Charlotte, Triad, and Triangle areas. In the second year, we did initial discovery in the Blue Ridge, Greenville, Fayetteville and Unifour (greater Hickory) areas. By the beginning of 2017, we have finished initial discovery in the coastal region, finalizing the mapping of all eight major metro areas. In addition, in 2017 the Peoples Next Door N.C. team finished a Peoples Next Door report for each of the top 100 pockets of lostness throughout the state.

We have labored diligently to see local churches participate with us in the discovery process in each of these population centers in hopes that they might develop a heart and passion for the unreached peoples living in their communities and intentionally engage them in disciple-making. Of the 80 top priority unreached people groups located in the eight population centers, 26 are now being engaged by local churches through a disciple-making strategy. See below some of the examples of what God has been doing in our state over the last year.

- Prior to 2017, we did not know of a single Thai believer in North Carolina who had come out of a Buddhist background. We have seen a small group from the Summit Church take

on the responsibility of ensuring the Thai people in the Raleigh-Durham area are engaged with the gospel. This year, we saw our first two Thai believers come to faith and our first Thai Bible study started in the Triangle. When the first believer heard that there was no Thai speaking church in the Triangle, he asked, “Can we make one?” He is now working with our Buddhist peoples engagement catalyst to make that dream a reality.

- This year, we saw the formation of two collaborative teams made up of multiple churches that are all focused on disciple-making among Indian-Asian communities in the Triangle and metro Charlotte population centers, where there are more than 65,000 Indian-Asians between the two areas. There are six churches collaborating in the Triangle and eight churches collaborating in the Charlotte area to ensure the gospel is heard by every South Asian in their region, and to see every new South Asian believer gathered into a church for biblical discipleship. It is truly a joy to see churches partnering together with a kingdom mindset for the spread of the gospel among some of the most unreached peoples in the world.

In July of 2016, we launched a resource called the Mission of God. The Mission of God is a six-part video-based Bible study series that walks through Genesis to Revelation, showing God’s desire to see all the peoples of the whole world come to faith in Jesus Christ. It is led by Devon Griffin, assistant professor of cross-cultural studies at Palm Beach Atlantic University. The series may be used as a small group Bible study, a teaching series for Sunday or Wednesday nights, or a pastor’s personal study on the mission of God. Lester Evans, team leader for Associational Partnerships

said, “The Mission of God laid a deep theological, historical and chronological foundation for God’s mission and our role as disciples.... It is an excellent study for transitioning believers to become reproducing disciples.” The series may be accessed at ncbaptist.org/missionofgod.

There are three key resources developed in the last year or two that are focused on equipping N.C. Baptists to pray with insight for the unreached people groups from around the world who are now living in our communities. The first of these is the “30 Days, 30 Peoples” prayer guide, designed to guide you and/or your church through 30 days of prayer for 30 different unreached people groups who have been discovered in North Carolina. A prayer emphasis held during April 2017 featured the “30 Days-30 Peoples” prayer guide, and dozens of churches and hundreds of N.C. Baptists participated. The second is a set of prayer flip card booklets for each of the major population centers — Blue Ridge, Coastal, Greenville, Fayetteville, metro Charlotte, the Triad, the Triangle and Unifour. The third of these resources is a virtual prayer map housed on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina website at ncbaptist.org/prayermap. The interactive map allows N.C. Baptists to commit to praying for particular people groups in the different population centers where they have been discovered.

Finally, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships continues to encourage church leaders to utilize the “Peoples Next Door N.C. Manual for Discovery and Engagement.” This undated resource helps pastors and lay leaders in churches throughout North Carolina and North America better understand how they might discover, intentionally engage and begin to make disciples of the unreached people groups God is bringing to be our neighbors. Leverage this resource to

begin a work among your Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or Sikh neighbors today.

Multi-Housing Ministry in North Carolina

North Carolina's multi-housing community is both large and growing. As of 2015 in North Carolina, 33.7 percent of all occupied homes are considered multi-family housing, which represented 1,272,370 of the 3,775,581 occupied homes in the state. Of the more than 10 million residents of North Carolina, it is estimated that at least 3.3 million people live in multi-housing contexts. Missiologists tell us that in North America, on average, 95 percent of the residents living in multi-housing environments are unchurched. If this is true for North Carolina, more than 3.2 million of the 3.3 million people living in the multi-housing communities across our state are not connected with a local church. In metro Charlotte, the Triad, and the Triangle, there are 1,855 apartment communities with 389,081 units accommodating an estimated 909,951 residents.

North Carolina Baptists must respond to this massive mission field right here in our own communities. Through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, North Carolina Baptists have contracted with three individuals to serve as multi-housing engagement catalysts. Each of these individuals have been assigned a primary area of responsibility: K.O. Grissett serves the Triangle; Joe Maye serves the Triad; and Brian Norris serves metro Charlotte. While their primary responsibility is to catalyze gospel engagement of the multi-housing communities within their three areas, they are also available upon request for consultation across the state. Whether in their particular area of responsibility or in consultation throughout the state, their primary focus is multi-housing communities within identified pockets of lostness.

While these catalysts are available to consult with those desiring to start their own multi-housing ministries, there is still an incredible need for laborers for least-reached communities in our state. Will you and your church take on a multi-housing community near you? Let our catalysts help you get started in developing and implementing an engagement strategy for the multi-housing communities in your city.

SENT: Students on Mission

Several years ago, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships developed a three-year program that provided an opportunity for N.C. Baptist students to be equipped and sent to engage unreached peoples in North Carolina, North America and internationally. In a collaborative effort with the Collegiate Partnerships Team and several N.C. Baptist churches, we are revamping and piloting SENT: Students on Mission in the summer of 2018.

The vision for this redesign was to build a structure for SENT that is simple, local church driven, reproducible, and scalable. Five churches have committed to recruit a minimum of five students each to pilot this in the summer of 2018. Our hope for each of these churches is to assist them in incorporating SENT into their existing student leadership development processes and missions strategy. The responsibility of a church in this endeavor is to identify which of the two options fit within their own partnerships, leadership and missions strategies, select church leaders for each team of students (maximum of six students per team), recruit students, and, by following the next steps process we have developed, coordinate all logistical and leadership development components concerning their students. Consider how you and your church might leverage SENT to

mobilize and equip your students to be missional globally.

SENT is designed to leverage the existing partnerships that a local church has developed within North Carolina, in North America and internationally. Any student from the age of 17 and older is eligible to apply to participate through this program within their local church. It is set up to take place over a six- to eight-week stint during the summer months. There are two options that a local church might choose from — global focus or diaspora focus.

The global focus begins with an orientation week where all participating churches bring their students to one location for four days of missional training designed to prepare them for the context to which they are being sent. The students leave from the four-day training and travel with their leader to work alongside their North American partner for five to seven days. Immediately after this, they will travel to work alongside their international partner for 10 to 20 days. When they return to North Carolina, they will devote eight hours a week for two to three additional weeks toward a local outreach in North Carolina. The diaspora focus is nearly identical to the global focus except for the 10 to 20 days in an international context, making it a shorter and more affordable option for both the churches and students who participate.

As an example, Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord is initiating SENT as a component of its student and missions strategies in the summer of 2018. They will have a group of students working among Indian-Asian Hindus with their ministry partner in Boston, with their partners in South

Asia and in two neighborhoods filled with Indian-Asians only a few miles from where their church gathers.

If a student participates in SENT one summer, he or she can apply through their church to be an intern the following year. As an intern, the student will be trained further in missional principles and given more responsibility by assisting their team leader throughout the entire planning and implementation process. Once a student has been an intern, he or she can apply again for a third summer to be a student team leader.

As a student team leader, the student will be trained further in missional and leadership principles, be fully responsible for planning and leading a team of students who are participating in SENT for the first time. If a student follows this three-year process, our hope is to develop them as a leader to the point that they are prepared to either be sent as a missionary to spend their lives reaching the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ or to help mobilize, train and equip others to do so.

North American Partnerships

Through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, N.C. Baptists have developed close partnerships with four North American cities — Baltimore, Boston, New York City and Toronto. In each of these cities, partnerships are primarily focused on disciple-making that leads to church planting. In most of them, the demographic focus is much like our focus within North Carolina to least-reached places and unreached peoples.

- In Boston, N.C. Baptists are laboring with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to see the more than 40,000 South Asians, more than

25,000 Khmer-Cambodians and the thousands of international students reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- In New York City, N.C. Baptists are working with the Metro New York Baptist Association and Global Gates, a ministry focused on transforming unreached people groups living in the world's gateway cities, to see unreached people groups from places like India, Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet, and many others reached here so that we might see their people reached globally.

The Office of Great Commission Partnerships is still documenting the existence, health, and length of the partnerships that local churches in North Carolina have in different areas of North America. So far, we know of 317 North Carolina Baptist churches that have developed long-term, healthy and biblical partnerships in 28 of the 32 SEND cities as identified by NAMB. The top four cities for North American partnerships are New York City with 83 partnering churches, Baltimore with 55 partnering churches, Toronto with 54 partnering churches, and Boston with 24 partnering churches. Would you be interested in joining us on a vision trip to one of these regions next year?

International Partnerships

Through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, N.C. Baptists have developed partnerships in several strategic areas of the world. One of the partnership opportunities is in East Asia. Tibetans make up 6.4 million people in this region, of which, 96 percent are unreached. Another is in South Asia where more than 96 percent of the population have no gospel witness. A third is in the country of Moldova, which has been named the poorest country in Europe and holds

a population that is approximately 96.7 percent non-evangelical. A fourth partnership opportunity is in Southeast Asia. This region includes more than 1.7 billion people, which equals one-fourth of the world's population. This region houses over 2,800 people groups with 385 unengaged and unreached people groups. Each of these partnership opportunities represent incredibly strategic areas for N.C. Baptists to engage in partnership for the spread of the gospel in desperately dark parts of our world.

Each year, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships plans a trip to each of these regions. The trips are designed for pastors and lay leaders who are seriously considering the possibility of developing long-term, healthy and biblical partnerships in these regions for the spread of the gospel through disciple-making and church planting. This year, eight pastors and lay leaders traveled to Moldova, South Asia, and Sumatra in Southeast Asia for the purpose of forming partnerships through their churches in these regions. Planning is already underway for trips to Tibetan East Asia, South Asia, Sumatra in Southeast Asia and Moldova for next year. If financial difficulties would hold you back, scholarships can be made available to you. Would you join us next year?

Please contact Zac Lyons, senior consultant for the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, at zlyons@ncbaptist.org or (984) 202-6037, if you or your church are interested in partnering together for the spread of the gospel through disciple-making in least-reached places and unreached peoples here, there and everywhere.

Zac Lyons, Senior Consultant

EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

REPORT



LYNN SASSER
EXECUTIVE LEADER

THE EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

is focused on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSCNC) 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 (evangelists). 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 never content to stop with conversion alone. This culture provides an environment for the recently converted to grow in 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 to regularly reproduce disciples 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.

This year we developed a new resource to assist North Carolina Baptist churches in disciple making — "Patterned." "Patterned" is a 10-week Bible study designed for any follower of Jesus Christ to gain practical tools to engage in our

Lord's Great Commission mandate to become a disciple-maker within the context of community. It has been well received with over 10,000 copies distributed across the state.

It is a great challenge for plateaued or declining churches 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. In an effort to assist our declining and plateaued congregations, our group has an ongoing ministry focus on Church Health and Revitalization. We focus on the spiritual needs of congregations alongside the systems required to sustain health and vitality.

The Evangelism and Discipleship Group is comprised of two teams, the Disciple-Making Team and the Church Strengthening Team. Their stories follow.

*M. Lynn Sasser, Executive Leader,
Evangelism and Discipleship Group
Kathy Markham, Executive Leader Assistant*

DISCIPLE-MAKING TEAM

Disciple-Making Conference

The 2017 Disciple-Making Conference was held Feb. 27 at Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons. The conference included main sessions led by pastors Micah Fries, D.A. Horton and Ed Newton, plus a series of practical equipping sessions.

Fries currently serves as senior pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Prior to accepting the call to pastor Brainerd Baptist, Fries served as vice president of LifeWay Research, a pastor in Missouri and as an international church planter in West Africa.

Horton serves as pastor of Reach Fellowship, a church plant in Long Beach, California. He is also the chief evangelist for the Urban Youth Workers Institute. Prior to his current roles, Horton served as an urban church planter and pastor in Kansas City, Missouri, and a coordinator of urban student ministries with the North American Mission Board.

Newton serves as lead pastor of Community Bible Church in San Antonio, Texas. Newton has been a speaker at the BSCNC's summer youth weeks at Fort Caswell. He has a unique ability to connect with individuals of various ages. As a communicator, Newton seeks to inspire others to be passionate and dedicated followers of Christ.

Main sessions and equipping sessions focused on the two pillars of disciple-making: evangelism and discipleship. The equipping sessions, including a special women's track with Tabatha Frost of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, were offered to help leaders apply the concepts of disciple-making within multiple areas of life and ministry.

"Our goal was to help attendees understand that evangelism is absolutely essential for disciple-making," said Lynn Sasser, executive leader of the convention's Evangelism and Discipleship Group. "Individuals must hear and understand the gospel in order to decide to follow Jesus. Then they must be discipled so that they can share the gospel with others and become a disciple who makes more disciples."

"Patterned" Disciple-Making Resource

In August 2016, the convention published "Patterned," a 10-week disciple-making resource designed to equip every follower of Christ to make disciples. This tool is directly related to the convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." The lessons were written by North Carolina Baptist pastors, ministers, lay leaders and former missionaries who taught through Bible studies and short teaching videos. The lessons in "Patterned" have a two-fold purpose—scriptural depth and practical application. A Spanish version of the material, "Modelar," was also released. Additionally, e-book versions of both resources were published at patternednc.org and modelarnc.org.

Every North Carolina Baptist church was able to request up to 15 free copies of the material. Materials were made available on the respective websites, at various events and at the convention's 2016 Annual Meeting. By God's grace the materials were distributed to hundreds of North Carolina Baptist churches. Ed Rose, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Wendell, used "Patterned" in his church. He commented that the material helped not only his church, but also helped shift his focus to be more intentional about disciple-making in relationships. He used and encouraged other pastors to use "Patterned" as part of the disciple-making equipping strategy in the local church.

"The Story"

In the fall of 2016, Andy Royals, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Lincolnton, attended "The Story" learning community at the South Fork Baptist Association. Royals discovered that sharing the gospel through conversation was more effective than giving a gospel presentation. As a result, Royals went back and equipped his people in "The Story." They realized

it is much simpler to have a gospel conversation by sharing their personal stories and then showing how God's story intersects with theirs. Royals has equipped his people on four different occasions, even taking time during Sunday morning worship for shared testimonies and to teach "The Story" to his congregation.

Brian Upshaw, Team Leader, Disciple-Making Team

Patti Cardwell, Team Leader Assistant

CHURCH HEALTH AND REVITALIZATION

Revitalization is a widely discussed topic these days, and it is something your convention staff sees as key to reaching pockets of lostness — our cities, communities and beyond — with the gospel. We are beginning to discover remarkable stories of how God has used various revitalization pathways to strengthen His church and to see her become the bride of Christ He intends her to be.

Two are better than one, and a threefold cord is not easily broken.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him — a threefold cord is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (ESV)

This passage of scripture has proven to be true in the lives of three churches in the Winston-Salem area of the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association, now led by Associational Missionary Walker Armstrong.

This story demonstrates how associational leaders, local pastors and churches can partner together effectively and draw upon the resources of one another to impact their city and beyond with the gospel.

Pastor Nathan Cline and his team at Revo Church, a young church plant, sensed that God wanted them to do more than plant a single church. They believed God wanted to use Revo Church to reach the city of Winston-Salem. This would require more than a church plant. Multiple churches and/or locations would be needed.

As they prayed, sought the Lord and plotted on a map where members of Revo Church lived throughout the city, they discovered that none of their people lived in the northern section. However, former associational missionary, Jim Pollard, connected Cline with First Baptist Church of Rural Hall, which is located in the northern part of the city. The leadership team from Revo Church and the remnant from FBC Rural Hall spent a year praying and discussing what the future might look like if the two congregations were to become one.

At the end of that process, about 20 seasoned members and leaders from Revo Church, along with about the same number from First Baptist Church of Rural Hall, combined forces to become Revo North. In two short years that congregation has grown from the original 40 to over 250 in weekly attendance.

The key players God brought together were the associational missionary, the lead pastor of Revo Church and the First Baptist Church of Rural Hall congregation. The two churches determined they could be better and stronger together rather than separate. Due to the merger, Revo Church now has a vibrant testimony in two key locations in the city.

Following that merger, Armstrong connected Revo Central, the original sponsoring church, with another struggling congregation located in a very diverse and unreached area of Winston-Salem. After three months of prayer and preparation, Armstrong led 18 of the remaining members of South Fork Baptist Church to merge with Revo Central. He also asked the Rev. Tommy Lockwood to serve as transitional interim pastor for approximately four months. At the end of the transition, Revo Central relaunched in the newly renovated South Fork Baptist Church building. Revo Central celebrated its first Easter services at the new location with over 500 in attendance. Recently, nine new believers were baptized.

These stories, and others like them, demonstrate what can happen when churches are willing to join God and each other. Together they are stronger and better positioned to bring glory to God and expand His kingdom. Two are better than one, but a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Lonnie Reynolds, Consultant, Church Health and Revitalization

EMBRACE AND WOMEN'S EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

During the 2016-17 ministry year, Embrace sought to equip women to make disciples who make disciples. Equipping took place first and foremost through church and associational consultations as the Embrace staff worked with pastors, women's ministry leaders and those interested in women's ministry.

Equipping also took place during events. The first event occurred during the women's track of the convention's

Disciple-Making Conference in February 2017. Tabatha Frost, pastor's wife and past women's ministry director at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, led the two-hour women's track. Frost taught how disciple-making – the combination of evangelism and discipleship – is displayed in Scripture. She also provided practical ways to engage women in gospel conversations, using the "3 Circles" conversation guide from the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and how to disciple them in the Scriptures following their acceptance of Christ as Lord and Savior.

Embrace hosted five round table events across North Carolina. The round tables were designed for women's ministry leaders and allowed them the opportunity to evaluate their women's ministry in light of the Great Commission mandate to make disciples. Leaders were given assessments to determine how they were intentionally equipping women with tools to share the gospel in everyday conversation and to disciple other women one-on-one. Frost's Disciple-Making Conference materials were also used. The women's ministry leaders were then led to set goals and objectives that focused on how to intentionally equip the women in their churches for disciple-making. Each women's ministry leader left the round table with next steps to begin implementing a process to reach the disciple-making goals she had set.

In 2016, Embrace piloted the Embrace Leadership Network (ELN), and in 2017, the ministry launched the network statewide. Through ELN, women from across the state participated in four Saturday teaching sessions focused on equipping. The subject areas included: 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 relevant for a women’s ministry in today’s culture.

Gloria Edwards, a member of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, joined the 2017 ELN. She commented on her experience, “I feel honored to be a part of Embrace Leadership Network. My spirit has been regenerated, and I am more determined to encourage and help others in their walk with Him! It is easy to sit on the sidelines as an older, somewhat seasoned woman of God, but this forum has and continues to push me to do more.”

Anne Smith, women’s ministry director at Kenly Missionary Baptist Church in Kenly, agreed regarding her time with the ELN, saying “What a wonderful opportunity it is to be able to take part in learning Christian leadership and network with other Christian leaders in the state. I have learned so much and I love to share what I’ve learned with others.”

During the last weekend of October 2016, Embrace hosted the 2016 N.C. Baptist Women’s Retreat at Caraway Conference Center and Camp near Asheboro. The theme, “Overwhelmed,” was taken from Psalm 16:11, “You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever” (NASB). Author and speaker Carolyn McCulley joined the retreat as the main plenary session leader and encouraged the women not to be overwhelmed with their circumstances, but to be overwhelmed with God’s presence. Through large group and breakout session teaching times, women were taught how to study and apply Scripture to each area of their lives. Many of the retreat participants, who ranged

in age from early 20s to 80s, commented they were learning to study and apply Scripture for the very first time. Retreat participants also spent a significant amount of time in prayer as they sought the Lord’s Word and will for the situations they were facing.

Missions Involvement

In September 2016, Embrace hosted “Embracing New York,” a four-day mission trip to New York City, to work with Graffiti Coney Island, one of seven ministry sites developed by Graffiti Ministries located in Manhattan. Though Coney Island is well known for its famous boardwalk, it is home to 65,000 residents who live within a 0.69 square-mile neighborhood. Estimates show less than 3 percent of the population are evangelical Christians.

Graffiti Coney Island began ministry in January 2015 under the leadership of pastor and ministry director Stephen Trainer. Trainer, who has sought to build relationships within the Coney Island community, employed the mission team in prayerwalking and staffing the “Coney Island Anti-Violence Collaborative” block party. Coney Island has one of the highest poverty and crime rates in New York City. Trainer has served on the board of the collaborative to be a presence of the light of Christ. This has enabled him to build relationships based on trust and to display the difference the gospel can and does make.

Through the block party, team members engaged thousands of residents who attended the party with gospel conversations and explained about the church and various ministries that Graffiti Coney Island offers to the community. Paula Rogalski, a mission team member and church member of Cornerstone Fellowship in Forest City, observed, “This trip helped me to see the ‘big picture’ of

God's desire to bring every individual into the kingdom of God and to see every person as a creation of God despite their economic situation. How Stephen Trainer used the servant mentality as a way to build relationships and become a disciple-maker for those who are unchurched was very enlightening. Seeing the church in Coney Island serve others in a way that brings value to the individual is what impacted me the most."

Half of the mission team was comprised of ministry wives. While on the mission trip, this group of women spent a day with New York City church planter wives. During their time together, they were able to pray with and for the church planter wives, as well as listen and encourage one another. The team gifted each church planter wife with Bible study resources and books.

For many women, serving with Embrace on a mission team is their first time being on a mission trip. Deborah Sasser, a team member from Harvest Baptist Church in Burlington, said of her first mission experience while in New York, "Since this was my first mission trip, I did not know what to expect. The preparation for the mission trip was intense, but certainly worth the effort. The study, 'Helping Without Hurting' was really eye opening. The information gleaned from that study will be useful in all areas of ministry in the future. Even though I could not fully anticipate and prepare for the specific mission opportunities we were assigned in New York, I tried to look at every personal encounter as a potential place for God to work, whether I was having a conversation with the driver of our car or encouraging church planter wives."

In June 2017 Embrace hosted "How Do I Reach My Neighbor?" featuring Katherine Carter. Carter is a former missionary with

the International Mission Board (IMB) who served in Central Asia with her family. Through the gathering, Carter taught women how to begin building relationships with women from Central Asia. She provided an understanding of a Central Asian woman's cultural background, shared best approaches for building friendships and offered practical ways to begin gospel conversations.

Ashley Allen, Senior Consultant, Embrace and Women's Evangelism and Discipleship

FAMILY EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP (FAITH AT HOME)

Did you know less than 10 percent of Christian households pray (other than at mealtime), read the Bible, do devotions or participate in any type of family worship at home? We have retirement plans, education plans and vacation plans, but do we have a plan for how to grow spiritually as a family?

A new ministry called Faith at Home works alongside pastors and church leaders to develop a family disciple-making strategy based on the first verse in Scripture commanding disciple-making. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (NIV). As churches refocus their ministries to equip families, parents and grandparents will have opportunities to discover new ways to be disciple-makers of their children and grandchildren in the natural rhythms of daily life.

In April 2017, the Faith at Home ministry traveled North Carolina on the Faith at Home Pre-Conference Tour. The tour made stops in Ahoskie, Pleasant Garden,

Dublin, Charlotte, Concord, Hickory and Cary. The goal was to begin sharing how churches can equip families to be the primary disciple-makers of children and grandchildren. As we traveled from city to city, 82 pastors came to hear how their churches could refocus their ministries to equip families to make discipleship at home a priority. Also on the tour, 178 parents and 163 grandparents discovered new and practical ways to be disciple-makers of their children and grandchildren as they live out each day.

In a phone conversation, one pastor said, "After I attended the Pre-Conference Tour event in Concord, I could not wait to share this great information with my senior pastor and other staff members."

A pastor from High Point said, "During the Faith at Home Pre-Conference Tour, I discovered how much the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina cares for families. Not only did they bring the Pre-Conference Tour to my own backyard, but the convention has also invested in a family ministry consultant to walk with us as we implement Faith at Home in our church."

In addition to a number of parenting events throughout the state, the marriage ministry conferences have remained a thriving, ongoing ministry.

Mark Smith, Senior Consultant, Family Evangelism and Discipleship

CHILDHOOD EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Eric Geiger, vice president at LifeWay Christian Resources, has written on his blog at ericgeiger.com that based consultations and conversations with pastors and friends in the ministry that the two most difficult roles to fill on a

church staff are a kids ministry director/pastor and a groups director/pastor.

In response to this need within our state for children's ministry leaders, Childhood Evangelism and Discipleship is creating "Foundations of Children's Ministry," a video training series to help leaders who are new to children's ministry. Topics will include: how preschoolers and children learn; safety and security policy development; evangelism with children; ministry with preteens; and discipline in the classroom. It is anticipated that more video topics will be added in the future.

Opportunities for children's ministry leaders to connect with each other were offered throughout the state. Times of connecting through fellowship, sharing ministry ideas and asking questions of each other were highlights of each gathering.

Safety and security training continues to be a major concern for churches. Consultations, training and resource sharing are frequently offered by childhood ministry to assist churches as they develop policies that provide safe environments for children. Helping churches understand safety and security as part of an effective outreach ministry to young families is stressed.

Leadership training is offered on many Sundays at individual churches. The percentage of leaders who will attend on Sundays after church is much greater than any other time of the week or at larger associational or team events.

The millennial generation has reached adulthood and is bringing a new mindset, focus and energy to churches. This is especially true for children's ministry. Understanding the difference that millennial parents will make in ministry is crucial to engaging and

keeping this generation involved with the local church. Their desire to build community through authentic and honest discipleship offers the potential to reach the unchurched for Christ in refreshing new ways. Training for church leaders on this important topic was offered at several events this spring.

Childhood ministry has partnered with Camp Caraway Children's Camps by providing quiet time and devotional resources and by training camp staff as they minister to children throughout the summer.

Scorecard

Statistics show that a person considers themselves regular in church attendance when they are present three to four times per month. If families only attend three to four times per month, the importance of equipping families to disciple at home is more important than ever. Plans for training for family ministry that is infused into existing ministries, rather than an additional ministry silo or program, continues to develop and is now offered as Scorecard training events. Helping church leaders understand the need for a vision that includes family ministry and practical helps to make this vision a reality is the purpose of Scorecard. Three Scorecard events were held this spring and more are scheduled for the fall of 2017.

*Cheryl Markland, Senior Consultant,
Childhood Evangelism and Discipleship*

Bible Drill

What if every parent and child in your church could quickly find any reference in the Bible? What if each of them could make personal application of the verse or passage? What if parents and children worked together learning verses and their meaning? Bible Drill is an effective ministry tool that can be used in the home or church as a way to disciple our children and youth today.

In 2017, five churches across North Carolina hosted regional Bible Drills after drillers and speakers had competed at church and associational levels. On April 22, Coats Baptist Church in Coats, Flint Hill Baptist Church in Shelby and Mount Zion Baptist Church in Hudson hosted regional drills. On April 29, Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord and Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke hosted drills. Over 440 children, youth and high school students participated at the regional level as a driller or as a speaker.

First Baptist Church of Asheboro hosted the state finals. The top three drillers and speaker at finals moved on to the nationals. The National Invitational Tournament for drillers and speakers was held June 16 at First Baptist Church in Brunswick, Georgia.

Five nine-year state winners were recognized this year. A nine-year winner is a child who started competing in Bible Drill in the fourth grade and achieved the state winning score for nine years. What has a nine-year winner accomplished? Here is a breakdown.

After three years in Children's Bible Drill, a child will know:

- 75 verses.
- 30 key passages.
- Names and sequence of 66 books of the Bible.

After three years in Youth Bible Drill, a youth will know:

- 60 verses.
- 30 doctrinal statements.

After three years in High School Bible Drill, a youth will know:

- Three plans for the steps to salvation (The Romans Road, Faith and Path to Heaven).
- 30 verses that answer belief, ethical and doctrinal questions.

This year in Bible Drill, we had a very special young boy who touched the hearts

of many. This young boy was adopted by a Christian family who firmly believes in Bible Drill and teaches it in their home. Because it is taught in their home and it is not an option, this young boy participates even though he has not yet made a profession of faith. He has a physical handicap, but it does not stop him from participating. He has no legs, but the pure joy on his face when he drills is contagious to those who are around him.

His father commented, "My wife and I pray that this (Bible Drill) pays off dividends and paves the way for God to bring our son into a saving relationship with Himself. After that, what he has learned through Bible Drill will be a foundation for the rest of his life as he lives for Christ. I personally credit Bible Drill with raising the level of spiritual maturity and biblical understanding in our youth group. It is an amazing tool of God to touch the hearts of children, youth and even adults with His Word."

Bible Drill prepares our children today for the future of the kingdom. If you would like more information on how to begin a Bible Drill Ministry in your church, please feel free to contact Deborah Robson at drobson@ncbaptist.org.

Deborah Robson, Bible Drill Ministry Coordinator

Church Weekday Education

When a group of people come together with a clear purpose for existence and defined strategy for success, they cannot be stopped. That was the focus of the 2016 Church Weekday Education Conference held at the Embassy Suites in Cary Aug. 11-12.

The conference started Friday as Lana Neal, from Forest Park Baptist Church in Elizabeth City and former consultant with the N.C. Division of Child Development, led weekday directors in understanding

five essential elements of an effective team and how the leader makes it happen. On Saturday, she continued the discussion with all weekday staff. "Everyone can become a leader," Neal said. "We lead in our homes, our workplace and our personal lives." She discussed the characteristics of a great leader and how learning environments contribute to our leadership growth.

In addition to Neal, 13 other leaders offered their expertise on a variety of subjects including: safety and security; taking care of ourselves so that we can enjoy the mission and ministry God has given us; making crafts on a budget; music with preschoolers; effective lesson planning; developmentally appropriate practices; sensory play and sensory disorders; art as an opportunity to teach and develop important skills; food and cooking in the preschool classroom; preschool math skills; bringing nature into the classroom; assessments; incorporating God, the Bible, and prayer throughout the school day; discipline; and talking to parents about difficult topics.

Directors were given the opportunity to discuss ideas and solutions to issues faced in leadership, such as: hiring and firing; fund raising; student immunization record requirements; ministering to families; and frugal advertising ideas. With over 165 in attendance, the conference was a time of encouragement, challenge and refocus for weekday staff.

Mary Sweat, Consultant, Church Weekday Education

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Children, preschoolers and adults were "Submerged" in God's Word during Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the summer of 2016. The Bible stories

were about Jesus seeing Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, a blind man and children — looking on the inside and not just on the outside. VBS students grabbed their goggles and flippers and dove into the Bible studies, related crafts, music and missions to learn about the theme verses, Psalm 139:23-24.

As of this writing, the statistical numbers for 2016 are not yet available due to some reorganization at LifeWay Christian Resources. North Carolina churches that hold VBS average 100 students and faculty, which also means that approximately 10 percent, or 10 people, were visitors to those schools. It's amazing to think that between 5,000 and 6,000 prospects were discovered through these events. Think of the lives and families that can be changed in the present and for eternity just through the work of dedicated volunteers in the local church.

In "Submerged," we were reminded that Jesus sees, Jesus knows and Jesus saves in the lives of boys, girls and adults. Through the curriculum guides and training events, there has been more focus on "continuing the connection" or follow-up.

Think of one-word thoughts that describe your church. What experience would you have if you came to your church for the very first time and did not know anyone or anything about church? How welcoming is it? How do you find what to do and where to go on Sunday morning? Is the greeting time at the beginning of the service the only time for meeting people? Are there "assigned" seats in your Sunday School class?

Here's an idea: how about starting a new class just before VBS, and the new members would come from prospects discovered through VBS? The one thing that new class members would have in common would be that it is their first time in that church's

Sunday School. Everyone starting on the same page would offer some comfort level to adults who find it hard to try this small group. Children have already met their classmates and might even know them from school or the neighborhood.

At spring training events across North Carolina, it is encouraging to see the level of cooperation and sharing in areas and associations. Churches share resources and workers to help other churches or groups conduct VBS. Praise God for this support of one another.

The first week of VBS for the summer of 2017 is beginning with "Galactic Starveyors." It is the 90th year of VBS. These schools are happening mostly at night in big and small churches across North Carolina. Some are even happening in a newer form known as Backyard Kids Club, where the school happens in members' yards and on decks in neighborhoods near the church.

Many thanks to our state team that attends VBS and helps in associational training as needed all around the state. Also, thanks to the thousands of volunteers who make VBS possible in North Carolina by answering the call when asked to share the love and saving knowledge of Jesus to boys, girls and adults.

Gail Ledbetter, VBS Contractor

SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUPS

In 2016, 525 leaders attended various Sunday School training events throughout the state. One example of innovative ways in which the Lord is working to make disciples in Sunday School and small groups took place in Walnut Cove. Jim Cohn, pastor of First Baptist Church of

Walnut Cove, realized there was a need for the gospel to be shared with people who would probably never attend his church. As a result, Jim and his church sought a location off campus to open a ministry called Community First.

Community First is located in a high-traffic area of downtown Walnut Cove. Staffed by volunteers five days a week, the ministry is focused on building relationships with people. At Community First, God has established a place where people can come to talk, pray and study the Bible. Understanding the importance of Sunday School and small groups, they continue to develop Bible studies at that location.

This is not Walnut Cove's first experience with off-campus Bible study. They also have a presence in an apartment complex several miles from their church. They started by meeting the needs of people, building relationships and having conversations, which led to a Bible study. In contrast to what seemed a slow beginning with few in attendance, the Bible study now consists of 25 people on a regular basis.

Rick Hughes, Senior Consultant, Sunday School and Small Groups

CAROLINA FAITH RIDERS

I met Nelson several years ago when I owned a powder-coating business. Nelson is an old-school Charlotte biker who has been riding since the late '60s and early '70s. Since I sold the business, I see Nelson only at bike rallies each year. In 2016, Nelson sent me a Facebook message when his close friend, Max, passed away. Nelson was heartbroken. He contacted me because he knew I was "religious" and wanted me to say a few words at Max's "celebration of life."

The celebration began with a ride from Ben's V-Twin (a motorcycle shop owned

by Max's friend, Ben) to a biker bar in Charlotte, owned by Max's friend, Hollywood. The crowd consisted of Outlaws, old-school and new-school bikers. I waited for some time to speak. I knew I was going to have to share the gospel quickly and precisely. The longer I waited, the more it seemed like I was not going to be able to speak.

Nelson had already been drinking heavily when I asked if he still wanted me to say something. He said we should talk to Hollywood, who said, "Go for it!" I told the crowd I needed to say some words about Max and began to deliver Nahum 1:1-7, which warns of God's wrath but concludes with, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him" (ESV). Then I explained the ABCs of repentance and closed in prayer. Several people said they appreciated my being there and thanked me for those words.

I still see some of those people on bike rides and plan to follow up with as many as possible. Nelson would not have thought of asking me to speak at Max's celebration of life had he not seen me "doing ministry" at biker events.

Did anyone come to know the Lord as his or her Savior that day? I do not know, but they know that He can be their Savior. Carolina Faith Riders participate in events across the state in order to build relationships as a platform for disciple-making.

Phillip Morris, State Coordinator, Carolina Faith Riders Motorcycle Ministry

YOUTH EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Summer Youth Weeks

Summer Youth Weeks 2016 consisted of seven weeks of camp at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.

These weeks combined worship, small and large group studies, special interest tracks, church group devotions, a new afternoon opportunity called “Youth Ministry University” and many other fun activities. The theme for the summer was “Every... one, Every... thing, Every... day, Every... where: Living on Mission,” based on 1 Peter 2:9, which says, “But 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” (NIV).

Campers enjoyed a helicopter view of the Bible by understanding the meta-narrative of God’s plan from Genesis to Revelation, with specific attention on creation, fall, redemption and restoration. Speakers for the summer were: Trevor Atwood; Tony Merida; Eddie Briery; Acton Bowen; Afshin Ziafat; Wes Hamilton; and Mike Satterfield.

After celebrating the packaging of 1.25 million meals by campers over the previous five summers, we continued this mission effort for Haiti through the offering and meal packaging in 2016. 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 — \$67,085.31 was received. Go God! Attendance for the 2016 camps was 6,566, representing 277 churches. Total decisions included 297 first-time professions of faith, more than 940 commitments and 334 called to full-time Christian ministry.

The chaperones who attend Youth Weeks camp are invited to attend four days of youth ministry training. Chaperones play a huge part in ministry to students while at camp and back at home, as many serve as volunteers in their church’s youth

ministry. Subjects include: characteristics of millennials; adolescent brain development; issues of purity in heart, soul, mind and strength; homosexuality; and Christian worldview.

During the summer of 2017, we sponsored seven weeks of youth camp for teenagers at Fort Caswell. The theme for our 2017 camps was, “Way. Truth. Life.” based on John 14:6. Students took an in-depth look at the life of Christ and how they can model their lives after Him. As of June 1, 2017, anticipated attendance for the summer is 6,478, representing 265 churches.

Fall Youth Retreats

The purpose of these weekends is to help students become spiritually influential and 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 2016 on Oct. 21-23 and Nov. 11-13 with featured speaker Jamie Dew. The theme, “Questions,” led students to look at honest questions people have about God and faith. They explore apologetics and practical ways to defend their Christian faith. Total attendance for both retreats was 1,056, representing 49 churches. There were 26 first-time professions of faith and 84 commitments.

Fall retreats for 2017 at Fort Caswell with featured speakers, Jody Jennings and David Sons, will be held Oct. 20-22 and Nov. 10-12.

Scorecard

Scorecard is a new training program for leaders in ministry to the next generation. Scorecard events were held in 2017 at First Baptist Church Garner on March 11,

Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe on March 18, and Bear Creek Baptist Church in Bakersville on March 25. A total of 57 childhood, youth and family leaders attended, representing 18 churches.

Scorecard is all about changing how we measure success in youth ministry. It is so much more than how many attend. It is about how they are involved, what students need to know before they graduate high school, and how to plan for success in the life of a church, from nursery through high school graduation.

Over 5,000 N.C. Baptist teenagers involved in our summer camp were surveyed, and we discovered that we are not teaching for biblical literacy in the local church. Youth ministry is more than having fun and pizza. We must change how we involve students, parents and families if we want to see the score changed. We look forward to additional Scorecard events in the fall of 2017 in Spindale, Statesville and Oxford.

In addition to these three specific events, we offered training at individual churches and associations throughout the year, which allowed us to impact the ministries of 240 youth leaders across the state. Including the training we offered at the summer youth weeks, over 1,000 youth ministers and leaders were trained in 2016 with a focus on Christ-centered youth ministry and making an eternal impact on future generations.

Conclave

Conclave, the largest gathering and best training event in the southeast for people who minister to teenagers in Southern Baptist life, took place Jan. 26-28, 2017, at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Youth ministers and workers gathered for a time of authentic worship, relevant training,

honest conversation and personal encouragement. Featured speakers were Chip Luter, Doug Fields, J.D. Greear and Ed Newton, with Allen Jackson, Richard Ross, Tony Rankin, Ricky Chellete and Ken Coley leading breakouts.

Ski Retreat

The student ministry ski retreat was held Feb. 3-5, 2017, 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 Acton Bowen 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. Nearly 500 people, representing 21 churches, participated. There were five professions of faith and 26 rededications to Christ.

The 2018 ski retreat will be held Feb. 2-4.

Merrie Johnson, Senior Consultant, Youth Evangelism and Discipleship

CHURCH STRENGTHENING TEAM

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
— Galatians 3:28 (ESV)*

"God has designed the church — and this is the heart of Paul's mission — to be a fellowship of difference and different. It is a mixture of people from all across the map and spectrum: men and women, rich and poor. It is a mix of races and ethnicities: Caucasians, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Latin Americans, Asian Americans, Indian

Americans — I could go on, but you see the point. The church is God's world-changing social experiment of bringing unlikes and differents to the table to share life with one another as a new kind of family." — Scot McKnight, *A Fellowship of Differents: Showing the World God's Design for Life Together* (p. 16)

It is for the difference and differents that the Church Strengthening Team exists. We desire to strengthen the body of Christ through training, equipping, and discipling the body of Christ to be the kingdom in the present world and learn to live into that kingdom reality in the here and now as disciples who are making disciples.

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 strengthen the physical body and over time lead 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 make 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

Tiffany Ramos, Team Leader Assistant

Stewardship

Spend any time around me and I am sure our conversation will soon turn to the subject of generosity. Maybe what you will find most interesting is that I am not concerned with your generosity as much as I am consumed by the generosity of God. For you see, not until you are consumed with the God's generosity will you ever care about your own generosity.

Allow me to put it another way. John Stott writes in his book, *The Radical Disciple*, "God wants his people to become like Christ, for Christlikeness is the will of God for the people of God" (Kindle edition, p. 28-29). Paul states it this way in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (ESV).

The point of all this: generosity is not something you do or even a value that one should aspire to be, but before you think I am some sort of heretic, this is what I believe...

Generosity is not something you do;
Generosity is someone you become!

Therein lies why I believe we must change our thinking, our language and our actions toward this thing we call stewardship. Far too long, we have compartmentalized stewardship by reducing it down to giving of money only, following religious cultural norms, only addressing it when we are in a financial crisis or wanting to fund a “pet” project, or simply ignoring it all together.

Nothing will change until we realize this: Stewardship is a discipling, biblical, spiritual, kingdom and eternal issue. It's not a “we need more money from our people” issue. The paradigm must change. Until we have discipled our people to live Matthew 22:34-40 resulting in Luke 9:23 will they ever have a passion for Matthew 28:18-20.

In March of 2017, Nick Poindexter and Jamie Reavis, lead pastor and associate pastor of Collide Church in Yadkinville, led the congregation through a Generosity Infusion Campaign. When I first met with them, they clearly stated up front as to their motive of why they wanted to launch the campaign. Unfortunately, in my perspective, it had nothing to do with generosity and a whole lot more to do with just getting more money in. After more discussion and collaboration, they settled into the thinking of what I described in the above paragraphs and decided that the Generosity Infusion Campaign would become a launching pad for more teaching and equipping in future months. March came and went and I heard very little from Nick and Jamie until May 1 when I received the following email from Nick.

“The generosity campaign/series was really taken to heart by our people, in my opinion. I've seen it change me and my family firsthand, and the stories of how God worked through it have been extremely encouraging as well. Giving to

the church has increased (which is a good sign), but more importantly a culture a generosity is growing here on all levels which is so exciting.”

Nick continues sharing how the Generosity Infusion Campaign impacted Collide's church planting efforts: “Our new plant actually started meeting for the first time together yesterday! It was just trial run consisting of the launch team from our church (no outside attendees yet), but it went smoothly and we have 29 there! So we are exciting for that group as we work toward building that team and church plant! Thanks so much for checking in, Neal! It's great hearing from you and we are grateful for your investment in us!”

Did you catch that? You see, the heart motive of Collide Church all along was to plant another church. This was their why, their purpose for launching the Generosity Infusion Campaign. When they abandoned the idea of launching the campaign for the sole purpose of what they wanted from their people to launching the campaign for the sole purpose of what they wanted for their people, to become more and more like their generous Savior, God blessed them more than they could have imagined.

If you wish to see a video of those sharing a few of their generosity stories, you may do so by going to their Facebook page at facebook.com/collidechurchnc.

“Being generous is the natural, consistent, and occasionally spontaneous giving of our material possessions to God's service and to our communities so that God's Kingdom would advance. Understanding the riches we have already received in Christ not only liberates us from excessive concern over our wealth, talents and time but also motivates us to invest them in the eternal Kingdom of God.” – J.D. Greear,

pastor of The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham. (From the sermon, "Prioritize Me and Multiply" from Genesis 13:1-14 preached on Nov. 8, 2015)

Tar Heel Leadership Network

"The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve." — John Stott, "Issues Facing Christians Today" (p. 375)

The Tar Heel Leadership Network exists to develop humble, shepherd leaders willing to love and serve their flock. Each year, 20 pastors and/or church staff commit to a yearlong leadership development program of teaching, coaching and mentoring from a highly experienced and capable faculty, that includes:

- Steve Corts, pastor of *Center Grove Baptist Church, Clemmons*
- David Horner, retired pastor of *Providence Baptist Church, Raleigh*
- Ryan Pack, pastor of *North Augusta First Baptist Church, North Augusta, S.C.*
- Jack Homesley, pastor of *Calvary Baptist Church, Charlotte*
- John Compton, pastor of *Mountain View Baptist Church, Hickory*
- Bud Wrenn, pastor of *Integrity Church, Burlington*
- Mike Sparks, former associate to Dr. Steve Corts and to David Horner
- Tom Howe, Executive Director/CEO of "Unleashed By Design"

The following pastors and church staff made up the 2017 Tar Heel Leadership Network group:

- Joe Lund, Pastor
Balfour Baptist Church, Hendersonville
- Steve Lloyd, Pastor
Macedonia Baptist Church, Fayetteville

- Paul Warrick, Senior Pastor
Baptist Temple Church, Reidsville
- Brian Medlin, Senior Pastor
Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Oakboro
- Chadwick Whitley, Senior Pastor
Poplar Springs Baptist Church, State Road
- Virgil Dwyer, Pastor
Ives Memorial Baptist Church, Pinebluff
- Justin Lucas, Student Pastor
Trading Ford Baptist Church, Salisbury
- Chris Reese, Lead Pastor
Enka Baptist Church, Enka
- Joe Maye, Church Planting Pastor
Rise Church, Winston-Salem
- Jason Golden, Pastor
Fellowship Baptist Church, Siler City
- Timothy Brown, Senior Pastor
Arden First Baptist Church, Arden
- Eric Nixon, Senior Pastor
West Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe
- David Crowther, Senior Pastor
Mount Olive Baptist Church, Pittsboro
 - Michael Horton, Senior Pastor
Encouraging Word Church, Waynesville
- Kelly Bullard, Sr. Pastor
Temple Baptist Church, Fayetteville
- Shep Bevis, Associate Pastor
Gate City Baptist Church, Jamestown
- Michael Davis, Pastor
Woodlawn Baptist Church, Charlotte
- Matt Bryant, Associate Pastor
Rich Fork Baptist Church, Thomasville
- Kris Estep, Pastor
Barberville Baptist Church, Waynesville
- David Spray, Campus Pastor
Lake Hills Church - Haywood, Waynesville
- Randy Speight, Senior Pastor
Trinity Baptist Church, Whiteville

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, Church Strengthening Team
Leader and Senior Consultant, Stewardship*

HISPANIC MINISTRIES

The Lord is bringing the world to North Carolina with more than 1 million Hispanics according to the U. S. Census, and He has done so for the purpose of “impacting lostness through disciple-making” of other people groups. 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 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 data update showed that more than 73 percent of Hispanic-Americans nationwide speak Spanish at home. The North Carolina Governor’s Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs reported in September 2010 that of the 21,301 (2.7 percent) Hispanic-owned businesses, 36.9 percent are Mexican/Mexican-American owned, 9.3 percent Puerto Rican-owned, and 43.5 percent other Hispanic-, Latino- or Spanish-owned.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) strives to provide consulting and resourcing for congregations and associations in Hispanic ministries in order to assist them in fulfilling their God-given mission to make disciples. 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; international festivals; evangelistic block parties; backyard Bible clubs; home Bible studies, inner-city special ministries; Vacation Bible School, multi-housing ministries; special summer missionary projects; and Bible and tract distribution.

Since July 2016, 36 meetings have equipped 2,526 persons to impact the 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 disciple-making through church strengthening and revitalization.

As a result of these meetings, families are being reached and striving 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 in ministry toward the Acts 1:8 challenge of 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 (SBC) Executive Communication Committee met for an update during the National LifeWay Partners Summit at Ridgecrest on Dec. 5-7, 2016. Additional national meetings were conducted with the SBC Executive Leaders and National Multi-Ethnic Fellowships in Atlanta, Georgia, on Aug. 12-13; the Great Commission Conference in Orlando, Florida, on Nov 16-18; and the SBC Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in June 2017.

Guillermo Soriano, senior consultant for Hispanic ministries with the Baptist state convention, continues to serve as network facilitator. The network seeks to strengthen the development of an effective global network among Hispanic-Americans and the Executive Committee of the SBC for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the United States and beyond by engaging national Hispanic leaders for contextualized disciple-making strategies for reproducing gospel lives in others.

Hispanic Evangelism and Discipleship Strategy Development

Pastors and Wives Enrichment and

Planning Retreats: Two strategic retreats engaged pastors and wives to focus on spiritual renewal in their kingdom prayer life, pastoral life, marriage and family

enrichment, ministry networking, and strategic planning toward disciple-making and leadership multiplication. As a result, they have expressed a better understanding of, and a greater desire for being involved in, North Carolina Baptist ministries.

Pastors and wives continue to express how meaningful this retreat has become for their spiritual growth, renewal in their marriage relationship, and in their ministerial relationships with other pastors, the state convention, and the SBC. Two strategic retreats were held in 2016 with a total of 68 participants from 38 congregations. A retreat at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell was held Oct 21-22, and the second retreat was held in Hickory on Oct 28-29.

Written testimonies by the attendees express a strong desire of participants to return in 2018. Excerpts from these testimonies describe how the retreats equipped them in their marriage and ministry to multiply disciple-makers as included below:

Caswell

- "It reaffirmed how to reach the lost with the challenge of making them multipliers."
- "Use our marriage to make disciples of another marriage of young believers."
- "It has cleared and revitalized my vision and desire to make disciples."
- "It strengthens my relationship with my wife and God, encouraging me to continue serving the Lord."
- "It has equipped me with tools to draw closer to my community and to lead new disciples at the foot of the Lord."

Hickory

- "Everything that we value and do must be to multiply."

- “To share with those who do not know the gospel and do follow up with discipleship.”
- “A better understanding that as churches, we experience similar difficulties, and that united in Christ and in prayer, we can be supportive to move forward.”
- “Sharing gospel lives with other pastors and brothers in Christ.”
- “Reaffirm our commitment of love with Christ to make disciples not only within the church, but outside as well in order to lead others to God’s kingdom.”

Hispanic Ministries 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 to build kingdom relationships for contextualized collaboration in making fully-devoted disciples of Christ. These consultations have been conducted sometimes only with the pastor and his wife toward more effective and meaningful results.

This year, 279 relationship-driven consultations were conducted throughout the state. Some of these meetings included cultivating relationships for potential state convention affiliation. Other consultations were related to: pastoral leadership; pastoral family and marriage crisis; conflict resolutions; church organization; pastoral retirement; leadership team effectiveness; relational models of Anglo church and Hispanic ministry/congregation; theological formation; pastoral ordinations; pre-marital counseling; resourcing churches without a pastor; church building and

grounds; new pastors; and churches seeking potential pastors.

Cross-cultural networks continue to be strengthened among pastors, lay leaders and associational leadership. 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 leaders for cross-cultural disciple-making. These leaders are able to operate within their own culture and languages and among other people groups.

Additionally, these networks 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. During last year, the state convention engaged these networks in more than 22 meetings and disciple-making celebrations.

Hispanic Ministries Multipliers: Families Reaching Families

“Families Reaching Families” is an effective cross-cultural theme to impact the Hispanic communities by engaging church families in disciple-making with families without a church home. Culture and language connect families in their communities to share Christ’s love in fulfillment of the Great Commandment through the Great Commission.

Thirteen workshops were held with 465 participants to focus 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 equipped families 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 a great kingdom harvest for His glory.

Reaching the Younger Generation

Impacting and developing youth and young adults in disciple-making involved more than 772 youth and young adults from Hispanic congregations in eight conferences, retreats and regional rallies held at Caswell, Hendersonville, Washington, N.C., Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Wilson and Lumberton. The Lord blessed with more than 81 registered decisions in Christ. Some of these decisions have led laypersons to engage in theological education, spiritual renewals and disciple-making ministries.

Hispanic Youth Retreat

The statewide Hispanic youth retreat is designed to reach youth between the ages of 12-18. The 2016 retreat was held at Caswell during Labor Day weekend and was a blessing for all participants. The Lord blessed with 277 in attendance from more than 29 congregations and a total of 35 registered decisions for Christ, including 12 professions of faith, 20 rededications and two decisions to enter vocational ministry.

The 2016 theme was "Follow The Light," based on 1 John 1:15, which says, "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." The schedule was focused on how God wants us to live daily with Him through the challenges of this world as we "Follow the Light" of Christ as disciple makers for His glory.

The workshops addressed issues such as God's invitation to His redemptive and transforming power, understanding our destiny, defining our true treasure, biblical examples of disciple-makers, and how and when to begin a disciple-making journey. In addition, six hours of strategic training was conducted with 58 counselors on how to develop a youth disciple-making team in their local church.

Excerpts from the 2016 attendees' testimonies describing how this retreat equipped them to follow the Lord are included below,

- "I accepted Jesus into my heart for the first time."
- "To leave everything behind and follow the light (Jesus)."
- "It showed me that I need to be a light and to pray and help others that need Jesus."
- "To appreciate my life while following Christ, no matter what, and to serve my Lord with more love and passion in spreading His Word."
- "It gave me a better understanding of Christianity and a stronger relationship with God to go and make disciples of other people by sharing God's word with them."

The 2017 youth retreat was held at Caswell on Sept. 1-4 with the theme "My Identity" based on 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Hispanic Young Adult Conference

This statewide conference is designed to reach single and married young adults between the ages of 18-35. The 2017 conference was held at Caswell from June 2-4. The Lord blessed with more than 221 participants. Disciple-making workshops engaged married and single adults, respectively, to become disciple multipliers in daily living. The Lord blessed

with 28 registered decisions of faith, including three saved, nine reconciled and four surrendering to vocational ministry.

The theme “Royalty” was based on 1 Peter 2:9, which says, “But 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 conference focused on how the participants could understand the privilege and blessings from God as He transforms us into “royalty” in His eternal kingdom so that we can live as Christ’s disciple-makers with our family, neighbors, friends and everyone else.

The interactive workshops engaged everyone in how to follow God’s own heart in every decision for building gospel conversations with others. The married participants were challenged to make disciples by working together in growing a godly marriage with topics that included: growing together; serving our King; delighting together; and impacting our world.

Meanwhile, the single adults focused on developing a lifestyle of disciple multiplication through such workshops as: transforming lives; responding to our King; from a heart to a heart; and becoming disciple multipliers. The Lord provided a wonderful environment and collaboration from everyone, and we had a good participation from churches in Virginia and South Carolina.

Some of the following excerpts from the 2017 testimonies describe how this conference equipped them to follow Christ.

- “To disciple my family and others around me.”
- “I committed more in my daily life to follow Christ.”

- “Steps on how to love others in my life no matter what.”
- “To carry Christ’s message to those around me and to live a more complete life.”
- “A spiritual and physical help that will remain in my mind and heart to live it out daily, to share with others, the church and the world.”

Next year’s conference will be held June 1-3 with the theme “Connected,” based on John 15:5. The written testimonies expressed the participants’ affirmations to return for the 2018 conference with more people.

Guillermo Soriano, Senior Consultant, Hispanic Evangelism and Discipleship

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This has been a great year of seeing God at work across our state in the worship and music ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC). We continue to offer extensive training for worship leaders through our worship leader boot camps (WorshipLeaderBootCamps.org) and worship summits (WorshipSummit.org), having trained thousands of people since their inception.

The Renewing Worship blog (RenewingWorshipNC.org) is completing seven years of service and continues to see tremendous traffic (65,000 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.

We continue to offer the training retreat, 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 grew 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. We offered audio training workshops across the state led by Mark Brady, associate pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Moyock, which involved equipping sound technicians in the local church to better do their ministry.

This year, we held a LeadWorship Workshop with Paul Baloche and a number of world-class worship musicians to inspire and train entire worship teams. Over 1,000 people attended this event held at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem from March 31 to April 1.

Churches are struggling to determine what their corporate worship should look like. Many are experiencing intense conflict over worship. Some 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. The 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

With the average Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) pastor staying at their church just three years, change is a common occurrence in our N.C. churches. A new ministry vacancy happens somewhere every week. 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 tools for assisting churches and ministers in their search is the online instrument called the Sharing System. 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 as a starting point for further exploration. Currently, there are 521 ministers and 333 congregations who are active in our system.

Whether we like to admit it or not, conflict is a reality in every congregation at some time or another. 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 damages churches. Pastoral Ministries can assist congregations through these difficult times by equipping them to respond to conflict biblically.

When a church comes to a place where there is a pastoral vacancy, often there is some anxiety, and even a sense of urgency about securing a new pastor on the part of congregation. However, the time between a former and future pastor can prove to be positive and healthy. It allows the members to clarify their mission, vision, goals and values. It also reminds them that learning to be 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.

Also, a new system is being designed to help churches in transitional times between pastors. Individuals who are interested in this effort complete a thorough training program for leading congregations during these strategic times of transition. When a vacancy does occur in churches, we are able to provide area directors of missions with names of those people trained for these situations and work alongside them in becoming as healthy a church as possible for the incoming pastor.

Finally, we also offer the "We Still Do" pastor and wife getaway. Its purpose is to help ministers and their wives to get away for a time of encouragement, fellowship, challenging teaching and time alone. The events are held at Caraway Conference Center in the spring and at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell in the fall.

*Eddie Thompson, Senior Consultant,
Pastoral Ministries*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The African-American Ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has made some major impact among the African-American churches as we continue to build new relationships. Our "Empowering You" conference this past year made impact in the ministries and lives of the participants. As we strive to find ways to impact lostness through discipleship and evangelism training, workshops and classes, it is beginning to catch on in some of the churches. One of those ways is the Lifeline Groups and marketplace Bible study. This concept is designed to allow participants to have a more intimate setting with their small group and the ability to choose topics

that meet their specific needs as they live out their own personal journey with God and continue to be strengthened through discipleship, building relationships and mentoring. Our goal is to continue serving the churches through discipleship conferences and teaching, leadership training development, mentoring, coaching, and building relationships with the pastors and leaders.

Jae Richardson, Contractor, African-American Ministries

ASIAN MINISTRIES

North Carolina is ranked as the third-fastest growing state for the Asian-American population. To reach 300,000 Asians in North Carolina, the church has the vital mission to share the gospel and to develop Asian leaders for Christ. Asian Ministries seeks to help churches to preach the gospel, to develop a disciple-making strategy, to connect immigrants and their descendants for the Great Commission and to develop leadership pipelines among Asian-Americans.

God works through His people. Sei Hun Kim, the former Asian ministries consultant has established 11 field coordinators. They represent Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Burmese, Laotian, Vietnamese, Montagnard, Filipino, H'Mong, Lahu/Thai/Karen and second generation Asian-Americans. Each coordinator is an influential leader who actively teaches and trains leaders and congregations in their language church networks in North Carolina to impact the lostness through disciple-making.

Training: K'Them, the Montagnard coordinator, trains 37 students each week in four different locations. Most of his students are pastors and future pastors. K'Them travels extensively to train those students each week with theology and

practical ministry skills, but most of his training comes from his own example as a pastor and missionary. The most exciting part of his training is global multiplication. Kyle, a young student who takes K'Them's training, decided to become a long-term missionary to the Philippines. He went to the Philippines for a short-term missions trip, and he led 619 people to Christ. Kyle felt the calling to become a missionary to share the gospel in the Philippines, and K'Them rejoiced for Kyle becoming the first Montagnard missionary from North Carolina.

Bounyong is the Laotian coordinator who actively pastors in his church, but also trains lots of Laotian leaders. Beginning in May 2017, he started monthly school of Laotian leaders. At the first session, he trained 39 Laotian leaders from nine churches. He is going to lead the monthly training in basic theological subjects through December 2017. Bounyong's wife, Alie Vongsa, also leads women's training throughout the year. In April, she led a training for 42 women leaders from eight churches. Through their training ministries, leaders are multiplied to share the gospel.

At the Laotian revival meeting in April, three members of Khmu Oak-View Baptist Church were commissioned to become missionaries in Laos and Thailand. The power of the gospel is changing the hearts of people and equipping them to be indigenous leaders to become missionaries to their home countries.

Naw Bawk is the Burmese coordinator. He pastors a Burmese church in Greensboro and another church in Chapel Hill. He focuses on training pastors to preach from the Bible for healthy church ministry. He and his church in Greensboro coordinated an annual southeastern regional Burmese conference, held May 26-28 at the Piedmont Baptist Association. More than 200 Burmese leaders and future leaders participated

from four southern states, including South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina and Indiana.

Caden Lee, the Korean coordinator, led a family seminar in May to equip 60 church leaders and members from seven churches in the Charlotte area with biblical truth about the family. Kwang Joo, Sammy Joo's father from Korea, led a pastors' seminar in June. Thirty-five key leaders representing 16 Korean churches in North Carolina participated. Kwang Joo led a seminar on the biblical definition of a church leader.

Additionally, other coordinators extensively network their language churches for equipping and training the leaders with the gospel for the Great Commission.

Podcast: Reaching immigrants' descendants is a big challenge, but also a great opportunity to reach the nations in the United States. Second generation Asian-Americans who were born and grew up in the homes of Asian immigrants can speak English fluently along with their parents' language. They are bridge between the American culture and their indigenous culture. They can reach majority and minority groups with the gospel of Christ, so it is vital to reach and raise Asian-Americans for the Great Commission.

Approximately 150 Asian churches and ministries are found across North Carolina, but less than a half of them have active ministries to reach Asian-Americans due to a lack of leaders. There is no leadership network nor pipeline among Asian-Americans. As a response, the N.C. Asian-American ministries podcast launched in May 2017 to highlight Asian-American leaders and their ministries in North Carolina. The podcast is also designed to network those leaders through social media. The weekly podcast is published through social networks such as Facebook to

connect Asian-American leaders in North Carolina and beyond.

The first episode was an interview series with Jacob Park, the lead pastor of English ministry at First Korean Baptist Church in Raleigh. In the podcast episodes, Park shared his personal story of conversion and ministry calling. He also shared about the reality of Asian-American ministries and how churches should respond. The podcast is a communication tool for Asian-American leaders to share honestly about their lives and ministry experiences.

The WORD conference at Caraway Conference Center and Camp was scheduled for July 7-8 to equip and network Asian-American leaders. Under the grand commandment to follow Christ (Luke 9:23), Asian-Americans were encouraged to deny themselves, take up the cross and follow Christ for His glory.

Asian Ministries exists to help churches impact lostness through disciple-making. Prayers are needed to see Asian leaders being raised and churches being multiplied to advance His kingdom.

Sammy Joo, Senior Consultant, Asian Ministries

MILITARY AND CHAPLAINCY

The Military Chaplaincy efforts of N.C. Baptists has resulted in a very robust network, which consists of several hundred chaplains, pastors and lay leaders dedicated to bringing spiritual support to the many veterans and servicemen and women connected to N.C. Baptists. We network with military chaplains, churches, associations, nonprofits, and other individuals and groups, and we share the love of Christ as we provide spiritual guidance, mentorship and training.

In the spirit of 1 Samuel 14:1, where Jonathan said to his armor bearer, “Come, let’s go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side,” we stand with our military members, chaplains and veterans as they continue to engage in many physical, mental, emotional and spiritual battles today.

1. We’ve seen success with our business breakfast meetings, which have been very effective in bringing veterans in the community to the table to fellowship around the topics of faith, entrepreneurship, life and business.
2. We continue to establish relationships with directors of missions, pastors, local church leaders, other N.C. Baptists, the North American Mission Board and other chaplain-endorsing agencies.
3. To further outreach and discipling, we hosted our first “Healing Our Veterans” regional conference in August 2016 at Calvary Baptist Church’s West Campus in Advance. Church leaders, veterans and veteran support professionals came to hear the stories of veterans who are making a difference by using their faith in Christ as a catalyst to reach our soldiers. This conference was a huge success, and we look forward to replicating this effort in different regions in the future.
4. We continue to make frequent contact with officials from local 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

EMERGENCY CHAPLAINCY

Across North Carolina, there are several hundred public safety agencies such as law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) that do not have chaplains available to serve them. Most of those agencies would like to have chaplains but don’t know how to start the process.

Also, across our state, there are approximately 4,300 N.C. Baptist churches. While many of our pastors and churches are involved in public safety chaplaincy, there are many more who would like to be, but they don’t know how to start the process either.

That’s where chaplaincy support through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina comes in. We currently have a list of public safety agencies that are seeking chaplains. We have met face-to-face with police chiefs, fire chiefs and other agency leaders who have asked for help in providing chaplains to serve their people. These leaders realize the value of chaplaincy. The question is, as Great Commission Christians, do we realize the value of chaplaincy?

As N.C. Baptists, we want to meet this need. Agencies are asking for chaplains. We want to provide those chaplains.

The first step in meeting this need is to raise awareness and educate our people. Give us a call and ask about our seminar, “Being the Chaplain in Your Community.” This event will help your members begin to understand the value of chaplaincy. It will also help them to see how chaplains are needed in every area of the community — not just public safety.

Training is the next step in meeting the need. We are working together with several

other nonprofits to provide the training that is required to be an effective chaplain.

The work of the chaplain is simple. You recognize God's call on your life to minister to a certain group of people. You train yourself to do that ministry and then get permission to serve the group. Once you are trained and begin working in a group, you work to build relationships with the hope of gaining permission to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Chaplains are needed all across our state. Give us a call to find out more about training the chaplains that God has called to meet this great need.

Ralph Thompson, Contractor, Emergency Chaplaincy

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

North Carolina is rather unique in Special Ministries. To the extent of our knowledge, no other state convention provides this collected emphasis. In Special Ministries, we seek to share the gospel at the point of human need. Each of our four areas of "special ministry" is focused on a group of people with exceptional types of needs, which includes deaf ministry, blind ministry, ministry to people with developmental disabilities, and literacy missions. Our goal is to create a disciple-making culture in every area of ministry.

Deaf Ministry

North Carolina Baptists have been giving major attention to deaf ministry since 1951. In 1952, we brought Jerry Potter to work among the deaf in our state. Potter worked to multiply ministries and invested in many churches by training interpreters and church leaders. Potter was helped for four decades by Neal Peyton. Donnie

Wiltshire began to continue the work done by these men in 1999. Wiltshire has continued the emphasis of training leaders for churches and has invested much of his ministry in equipping deaf men and women to be leaders of deaf churches and deaf ministries.

Important training conferences continue to be a part of this equipping ministry. In addition to conferences, Tri-State Deaf School of Theology, a partnership enterprise with Gardner-Webb University, trains deaf leaders. For more than two decades, we have offered 70 classes, trained over 138 students, and had 21 deaf pastors, five missionaries and one full-time evangelist as students. Eighteen different people have taught over these years. Almost every deaf church leader in North Carolina has taken classes with Tri-State.

Two weekend retreats for deaf pastors have become an important part of equipping leaders. In 2016, one retreat was held at Caraway Conference Center and Camp and another at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Caswell. The Caswell retreat also included wives and children. Encouraging these pastors to move their churches toward a culture of disciple-making is a major emphasis at both retreats.

Our deaf youth retreat this year was smaller than usual. Even so, eight campers made decisions for Christ. Four of those were salvation decisions. This year we were able to give each of these students a copy of the "Seven Beginning Steps" DVD to provide campers with a follow-up tool as they seek to follow Christ. Many of these campers do not come from believing homes, and Christian growth is a great challenge. The DVD resource, developed last year, is proving to be a helpful piece for guiding these new believers.

The new deaf disaster relief team, trained last year at our “Deaf Together in Christ” conference, participated in four work events. Three of those were disaster relief projects, and one was a project to help one of the deaf pastors. We look forward to this team doing much more work in the future. Kevin Clark, a contract worker with the state convention, coordinates the deaf disaster relief team. Clark also led deaf North Carolina Baptists on four international mission trips.

Blind Ministry

This past year we were blessed with a gift of two copies of *Experiencing God* in Braille. We are distributing these copies on a loan basis to share this important work among our blind friends. We were able to do several Braille projects for various North Carolina Baptists this year. Also, one copy of the Braille Bible and one copy of the Evangelical Braille Hymnal were distributed. We continue to copy the Biblical Recorder onto CDs for blind readers. Our retreat for people who are blind and visually impaired continues to be very popular in the blind community.

Special Needs

A highlight for Special Needs ministry for many years has been a Spring Fling held at Campbell University. This past year, Campbell was unable to host this event. God provided a great host in the Rich Fork Baptist Church of Thomasville. Several hundred of our special needs friends and their caregivers came for this one-day day camp at Rich Fork. It was a tremendous day of gospel sharing through song and story for our day campers. This event was so successful that we are considering having two spring flings next year – one at Campbell and one at Rich Fork.

Our Happiness Retreats are also rather unique in Baptist life. We are unaware

of any state convention that offers an event of our size. There are a few state conventions with a camp or retreat for people with special needs, but our state offers five retreats. We had almost 750 campers, caregivers, and staff at our five Happiness Retreats last year.

Happiness Retreats offer opportunities for campers to have a real summer camp experience, offered at their level of ability. Worship and spiritual growth are major components of the five retreats. We have been offering Happiness Retreats since 1974. We are very grateful for our “Friends of Happiness Retreats,” and an endowment fund started several years ago to help keep Happiness Retreats affordable for our special campers.

Every year an important emphasis of our ministry is to introduce churches to special needs ministry. Last year we talked with churches in every part of our state about starting a new ministry. The growing autism crisis around the nation is sparking much of this interest. Churches can minister to this growing need through mainstreamed classes, self-contained classes, or the growing trend of reverse mainstreamed classes. Since the autism epidemic has reached every area of the state and nation, this ministry can be a major outreach tool to families who don’t know how to cope with the challenges.

Literacy Missions

The need for literacy ministries continues to grow in our state. State studies show approximately 22 percent of our state population cannot read a newspaper. The student dropout rate is at a staggering level. Of great significance, the number of internationals in our state is growing at a staggering rate. Literacy Missions seeks to bring the gospel into all of these areas.

Here are some of our 2016 responses to these needs:

- Church and associational ministries had over 1,723 students.
- Teachers working with these students numbered 557.
- Over 50 churches had intentional ministries.
- We know of 43 professions of faith connected to these ministries.
- We conducted 14 major workshops last year to equip teachers.

Following is a testimony that highlights the impact of the English as a second language ministry:

"God has led me to share the love of our Lord Jesus with three Chinese families in our city in a number of different ways. For example, in addition to teaching them conversational English, I've had the privilege of going with them to a lawyer and a bank to help them understand the steps in buying a home. I have helped them to be more accepting of American customs and culture and helped their children with their school work.

"One of these families has brought special joy to my heart. I study the Bible regularly with the mother, and was blessed to lead her to the Lord. She has joined my Sunday School class now as well. She is on fire for the Lord, and has led her husband and oldest daughter to faith. These three were baptized together last fall. I praise God for allowing me to serve Him."

Donnie Wiltshire, Senior Consultant, Special Ministries

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This year has been an exciting time in the area of leadership development as we

saw more churches embrace the call of Ephesians 4:12 "to equip His people for the works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." It is a blessing to have pastors, churches and associational leaders commit themselves to the important role that God has given them of equipping the saints.

We provided four Spiritual Leadership Equipping Tracks this year that trained leaders to become more Christ-like in the areas of character, capacity, context and competence. These are the new training modules that were added this year to a growing list of training events with trainers/facilitators located all over North Carolina, which can be requested through the state convention and associations.

1. Character: "Leadership Greatness"

— This training material was produced by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and has been updated and revised to fit our context. This material covers the five areas of leadership that are critical in the development of every leader, namely: character, contentment, calling, crafting and coaching. We were privileged to have Duane Kuykendall, director of missions for Catawba Valley Baptist Association, who received the training at NAMB and applied it to different contexts of his ministries to conduct the training.

Scott Setzer, associational missionary with the South Roanoke Baptist Association, said the following about the training:

"In March 2017, I took four pastors from the South Roanoke Baptist Association to the Leading Change in the Church conference that was

sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and LifeWay. The pastors had agreed before attending the conference to participate in a monthly six-month learning cohort where they would continue to effectively implement change in the church. During the first three meetings, I utilized Leadership Greatness to set a framework for what it looks like to be a godly leader. This helped them to further explore their calling and see how important character is when it comes to the life of the leader. We also spent time focusing on crafting personal vision and mission statements along with defining our personal core values. We followed up concentrating on how to effectively set goals. These exercises were time well spent that came directly from what I learned in the Leadership Greatness Equipping seminar.”

2. Capacity: “3 in 1 Profile of a Leader”

— This training provided a tool by which a leader can understand and assess how God has wired each person on their team on the basis of their calling, spiritual gifts and personality profiles. We were privileged to have Bert Ross, former trainer with the NAMB who is currently serving as the chief human resource officer and leadership development director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, lead the training. His vast experience of training leaders, both in churches and in the secular world, allowed us to see how important it is to understand how we are all uniquely designed by God in order for to effectively carry out our God-given roles.

Kris Tan, pastor/elder, Glory of God Christian Fellowship in Raleigh, said the following about the “3-in-1 Profile of a Leader” training:

“3-in-1 personality training helped me better understand different personalities of our church members and how to deal, talk and delegate ministries to our leaders. This training helped me understand how Christ dealt with the 12 disciples.”

3. Context: “The Secret of Teams”

— This training, produced by Mark Miller, vice president of high performance leadership for Chick-fil-A, used the principles of an effective team that he taught at Dogwood Church in Georgia, where he is a member. He then applied it at Chick-fil-A. For our training, the leader was Jay Vineyard, former leadership development consultant for Georgia Baptist Convention who currently serves as associate pastor of Dogwood Church in Georgia. His experience as a state convention worker and pastor made his presentation both practical and transferrable.

4. Competence: “Peacemaking”

— This training material was produced by Ken Sande, who used a biblical approach to resolving conflicts that is applicable to everyday life. Eddie Thompson, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSCNC) senior consultant for Pastoral Ministries who is certified in Peacemaking training, led the event.

Terry Stockman, associational missionary with the West Chowan Baptist Association, said the following about leadership development training:

"In associational life, assisting churches in the area of leadership development has become one of the most important aspects of associational missionaries. With the assistance of Ken Tan and the leadership development team at BSCNC, the West Chowan Baptist Association (WCBA) has been able to leverage key pieces of the quality training. Specifically, the Leadership Profile (DiSC) piece has allowed us to discover how people are wired, therefore, allowing us to successfully place them in the leadership positions that best fits their giftedness and personality. Beginning in 2018 every associational team member will participate in the DiSC profile in order to order to help them know how they may best serve the Lord and their team. **(Editor's note: DiSC is a personal assessment tool that helps individuals and teams identify personality and behaviors in four categories: dominance, influence, steadiness and conscientiousness.)**

"The leadership development ministry at [the] BSCNC has many other leadership training pieces available to associations, assisting in developing more effective structures within the WCBA. "The Secret of Teams" piece, for example, is helping me to begin introducing better structures to our leadership in order for us to manage the overall activity of the WCBA. Hopefully, as this process develops, churches will see its value and take advantage of this resource for their church organization. Obviously there are many more great resources

available through the BSCNC, such as "Leadership Greatness," "The Emotionally Healthy Leader," "The Peace Maker" (dealing with church conflict), and "Lead Like Jesus" that can enhance any organization eager to be a good steward of God's resources and make disciples. I would encourage any associational missionary or church leader to check out what is available through the BSCNC. Making disciples must be our priority and any tool that equips us to perform this task better is worth checking out."

We thank God for the pastors, church leaders and associational leaders who took the time to receive training and are now training others in their own context of ministry. These leaders now make themselves available to train and encourage the return of many leaders to their role of equipping others. You can see the list of training and trainers available to assist you by visiting ncbaptist.org/leadershipdev.

*Kenneth Tan, Senior Consultant,
Leadership Development*

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. 7 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 2018 Committee on Nominations. Please continue to submit your recommendations at 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.

Charles Brust, Chair

2017 Committee on Nominations Members

Charles Brust, chair, <i>Bladenboro</i>	David Jones, <i>North Wilkesboro</i>
Ben Curfman, <i>Waynesville</i>	James Keku, <i>Browns Summit</i>
Michael Davis, <i>Charlotte</i>	Richard Odom, <i>Stokesdale</i>
Steve Frazier, <i>Waynesville</i>	Jonas Perez, <i>Concord</i>
Mark Golden, <i>Waynesville</i>	Joseph Phan, <i>Raleigh</i>
Marvin Green, <i>Rutherfordton</i>	Jonathan Rebsamen, <i>Charlotte</i>
David Helms, <i>Pendleton</i>	Steve Roy, <i>Clayton</i>
Ronald Hester, <i>Bladenboro</i>	Jennifer Thoppil, <i>Mount Airy</i>
Kenn Hucks, <i>Indian Trail</i>	Beth Wooten, <i>Beulaville</i>

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

Wanda Guest, 2018 unexpired term of David Foster, Conway (U), Conway, West Chowan, Lay Person, Female

Region 2

No Vacancies

Region 3

Tim Evans, Massey Hill (U), Wade, New South River, Minister, Male

Donald Goforth, Great Marsh (U), Saint Pauls, Robeson, Minister, Male

Joseph (Joe) Lee Jr., Wells Chapel (U), Wallace, Eastern, Minister, Male

Richard Weeks, Piney Grove (U), Clinton, Eastern, Minister, Male

Ethan Welch, The Bridge Church (U), Wilmington, Wilmington, Minister, Male

Region 4

Matt Capps, Fairview (U), Apex, Raleigh, Minister, Male

Ken Coley, 2019 unexpired term of Scott Allmon, Wake Cross Roads (O), Wake Forest, Raleigh, Minister, Male

David Herman, 2019 unexpired term of Jay Huddleston, Pleasant Grove (O), Franklinton, Flat River, Minister, Male

Region 5

Brenda Hicks, 2018 unexpired term of Carolyn Ashley, Oak View (O), Kernersville, Piedmont, Lay Person, Female

Andrew Hopper, 2018 unexpired term of Karl Minor, Mercy Hill (O), Summerfield, Piedmont, Minister, Male

Region 6

Phil McRae, 2018 unexpired term of Bryan Blackwell, New Home (U), Peachland, Anson, Minister, Male

Region 7

Durant Barr, 2019 unexpired term of Billy Blakley, Fairview (U), Hiddenite, Rocky Face, Minister, Male

Chris Hughes, Mount Vernon (O), Boone, Three Forks, Lay Person, Male

Roger Parker, Baton (U), Hudson, Caldwell, Minister, Male

Region 8

Billy Cooper, 2019 unexpired term of Ed Rogers, Shelby First (O), Shelby, Greater Cleveland, Minister, Male

Region 9

No Vacancies

Region 10

Al Hood Jr., Murphy First (O), Murphy, Truett, Minister, Male

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Wayne Adams, Pinehurst First (U), Carthage, Sandhills, Lay Person, Male

Pam Annas, Fellowship (U), Hudson, Caldwell, Lay Person, Female

Denise Critcher, Mount Vernon (O), Deep Gap, Three Forks, Lay Person, Female

Dana S. Dixon, Aversboro Road (O), Garner, Raleigh, Lay Person, Female

Nancy Hall, Apex (O), Apex, Raleigh, Lay Person, Female

Matt Hollifield, Charlotte First (O), Davidson, Metrolina, Lay Person, Male

Roy Howell, Green Level (U), Apex, Raleigh, Lay Person, Male

Jim Jacumin, East Valdese (O), Connelly Springs, Catawba River, Lay Person, Male

Kenneth Robinette, 2018 unexpired term of Joan Mitchell, Rockingham First (U),

Marston, Pee Dee, Lay Person, Male

Nathan Sanders, 2019 unexpired term of Wendy Peters, Scotts Hill (O), Wilmington,

Wilmington, Lay Person, Male

Robert Sandy Saunders, Snyder Memorial (O), Fayetteville, New South River, Minister, Male

Biblical Recorder

Cindy Jennings, Corinth (O), Elizabeth City, Chowan, Lay Person, Female

Frank Norwood, Matthews First (O), Matthews, Metrolina, Minister, Male

Donna Robinson, Mud Creek (O), Brevard, Carolina, Lay Person, Female

Donnie Seagle, Holly Springs (O), Franklin, Macon, Minister, Male

Meredith Snoddy, Green Street (O), Greensboro, Piedmont, Lay Person, Female

North Carolina Baptist Foundation

Fred Graf, North Wilkesboro First (O), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, Lay Person, Male

Charles D. (Chuck) Kennedy Jr., 2019 unexpired of Harold Brown, The Summit (O),

Durham, Yates, Lay Person, Male

Hal Koger, 2018 unexpired of Richard Newton, Calvary (U), McLeansville, Piedmont, Lay Person, Male

John S. Rogers, Asheboro First (O), Asheboro, Randolph, Minister, Male

Johnny Ross, Salem (O), Cary, Raleigh, Minister, Male

Michael W. Smith, Fruitland (O), Hendersonville, Carolina, Minister, Male

Phil Stone, Moncure (U), New Hill, Sandy Creek, Minister, Male

North Carolina Baptist HOSPITAL

William C. Warden, Wilkesboro (O), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, Lay Person, Male

Sheree B. Watson, Hickory First (O), Hickory, Catawba Valley, Lay Person, Female

Committee on Convention Meetings

Chris Canuel, Cheerful Hope (U), Carolina Beach, Columbus, Minister, Male

Steve Kirk, Selma (U), Selma, Johnston, Minister, Male

Joshua Lathan, Pea Ridge (U), Columbus, Polk, Minister, Male

John Malek, Dillon Road (U), Winston-Salem, Piedmont, Minister, Male

Jeff Maynard, Newfound (O), Hendersonville, Buncombe, Minister, Male

Wesley Smith, Flint Hill (O), Shelby, Greater Cleveland, Minister, Male

Caleb Sprinkle, 2019 unexpired term of Mark Gregory, Charlotte First (O), Charlotte,

Metrolina, Minister, Male

Devon Varnam, 2018 unexpired term of Leo Guerrero, Tar Heel (U), Tar Heel, Bladen, Minister, Male

Simon Touprong, Chair, Vietnamese New Hope (U), Wake Forest, Raleigh, Minister, Male

Committee on Resolutions and Memorials

Kenny Gooden, Union Grove (O), Yadkinville, Yadkin, Minister, Male

Aime Kidimbu, Love Evangelical (U), Raleigh, North Carolina Miscellaneous, Minister, Male

Jared Parks, Front Street (O), Statesville, South Yadkin, Lay Person, Male

Jonathan Blaylock, Chair, West Canton (O), Canton, Haywood, Minister, Male

Historical Committee

Chris Furl, 2018 unexpired term of Curt Dean, Peachtree Memorial (O), Marble, Truett, Minister, Male

Brent Highfil, Hocutt (O), Clayton, Johnston, Minister, Male

Peter McDonald, Midway (U), Columbus, Polk, Minister, Male

Allen Murray, Oak Grove (U), Lake Toxaway, Transylvania, Minister, Male

Brandon Powell, Central (O), Wendell, Raleigh, Minister, Male

Billy Rice, 2019 unexpired term of James Lutzweiler, Locust First (O), Albemarle, Stanly, Minister, Male

Amy Whitfield, 2019 unexpired term of Lloyd Fish, Imago Dei (O), Wake Forest, North Carolina Miscellaneous, Lay Person, Female

Dale Robertson, Chair, North Main (U), Salisbury, Rowan, Minister, Male

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS REPORT

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials is pleased to present the following two resolutions to the messengers for consideration at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The committee suggested some modifications in the wording of the “Resolution on a Biblical Stance on Human Sexuality and Marriage” as it was submitted in order to differentiate it from similar resolutions on human sexuality and marriage that messengers have considered in recent years.

Also, the committee feels strongly that the convention needs to address a critical and perennial issue in our culture. In light of recent racially driven events in Charlottesville, Virginia, and even more locally in Durham, the committee feels that the convention needs to formally express a biblically grounded opinion on the cultural issue of racism in America. It is in that spirit that the committee developed and submits to you the “Resolution Denouncing Racism.”

Both of these resolutions were published in the *Biblical Recorder* in accordance with our bylaws, and the full text of each is included below.

Resolution on a Biblical Stance on Human Sexuality and Marriage

WHEREAS, God created two complementary and distinct sexes, male and female, and embedded their differences in the very biology of the human race (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:6); and

WHEREAS, The separation of one's gender identity from the physical reality of biological birth sex rejects God's perfect intent in creation, and undermines the ultimate purpose of humanity, which is to bring honor and glory to God (Isaiah 43:7); and

WHEREAS, God in His divine wisdom established marriage as the union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) recognizes the biblical definition of marriage as "the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime," stating further, "It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race"; and

WHEREAS, The cultural pressures of modern society have begun to sway persons even within the Body of Christ from holding fast to these biblical teachings regarding human sexuality and marriage; and

WHEREAS, The church is called to proclaim with conviction the biblical truths regarding human sexuality and marriage; and

WHEREAS, The Bible commands Christians to love all of their neighbors, which includes those with whom we may disagree; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, November 6-7, 2017, affirm God's good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one's self-perception; and be it further

RESOLVED, That North Carolina Baptists affirm the biblical definition of marriage as being exclusively between one man and one woman, and the biblical truths regarding God's purpose for marriage, being ultimately for benefit of mankind, especially as it relates to procreation and the establishment of strong families under the Lordship of Christ; and finally be it

RESOLVED, That North Carolina Baptists commit to pray for our neighbors who identify themselves as homosexual and transgender, to minister to them with Christ's love, and, as they repent, to help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Resolution Denouncing Racism

WHEREAS, The Bible clearly teaches that God has created all men and women in His image, from all tribes and nations of the world (Genesis 1:27; Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, Christ died for the sins of people from every nation, tongue, and tribe (Revelation 5:9); and

WHEREAS, Christians are commanded to make disciples from every nation (Matthew 28:19); and

WHEREAS, The Bible declares, “God does not show favoritism, but in every nation the person who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him” (Acts 10:34-35); and

WHEREAS, Significant racism still exists in our communities, as evidenced by recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, Durham, North Carolina, and other cities across our nation, and the devil uses these opportunities to perpetuate division and strife in our society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Annual Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, November 6-7, 2017, denounce racism in all its expressions as sin against a holy and just God, because it disregards the image of God in all people and denies the truth of the Gospel that Christ died for the sins of all mankind; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the content and sentiments of the resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017 titled “On the Anti-Gospel of Alt-Right White Supremacy”; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on North Carolina Baptists to humble themselves before God, acknowledging that while the preservation of history is critically important for a nation, the demonstration of Christ’s love and the proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples must take precedence over the important personal preferences of individual Christians, including the preservation of history. Therefore, we call on North Carolina Baptists to joyfully set aside anything that might create a barrier for the sharing and hearing of the full truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That North Carolina Baptists commit to pray fervently for those who advocate racism, so that they may become aware of their sin through the light of the Gospel, repent of the sin of racism, and recognize that the love of Jesus Christ has been extended to all men and women of every race and nation.

Memorials and Dedication

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials and Resolutions Committee met on July 25, 2017 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 during the time period of July 2016 to June 2017. In appreciation and honor, the committee presents the following persons to whom we dedicate this 2017 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual:

Timothy Richard Roberson

Timothy Richard Roberson, 52 of Hayesville, passed away Sunday, Aug. 14, 2016 at Murphy Medical Center. He was a native of Cherokee County and the son of the Rev. Richard Roberson and Doris Stiles Roberson. He was the director of Truett Baptist Camp in Hayesville. Timothy loved spending time with his family and grandchildren. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and golfing. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Sharon Chastain Roberson; one daughter, Adrian Queen, and husband, Nick, of Murphy; one brother, Kevin Roberson, and wife, Lisa, of Pine Mountain, Georgia; two grandchildren, Stone Queen and Rylee Queen; one nephew, Nick Roberson; and several cousins.

Warren Eugene Kerr

Warren Eugene Kerr became a Christian in 1947, and shortly after that decision he said he was called to preach. He served as pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Durham; West Hill Baptist Church in Hillsborough; Pearce Baptist Church in Zebulon; Hinshaw Street Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro; Hope Valley Baptist Church in Durham; and New Friendship Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, where he retired in 1990. After retirement, Kerr served as the interim pastor of Hinshaw Street Baptist Church; Enon Baptist in East Bend; Robinhood Road Baptist in Winston-Salem (twice); Oakview Baptist in High Point; Maplewood Baptist in Yadkinville; Lewisville Baptist in Lewisville; Huntsville Baptist in Yadkinville; Forbush Baptist in Yadkinville; and West Bend Baptist in Lewisville. He was a pastor for 60 years, and he was a former member of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, as well as a former moderator of the Brushy Mountain Baptist and Liberty Baptist associations. He was a member of Robinhood Road Baptist Church.

Gary Harthcock

Gary Harthcock served as a patrol plane commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II, married his wife, Evelyn Dorothy White, in 1945 and retired from active military service the next year. Harthcock used his bachelor of science in agriculture in a number of arenas, including starting a business building greenhouses. He eventually joined the staff at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and was later the director of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute (now Fruitland Baptist Bible College) in Hendersonville.

The Harthcocks began serving with the International Mission Board (IMB) when he was 56 and she was 55, first serving on the island of Antigua in the Caribbean. They developed irrigation systems on several islands and used agriculture to minister to the people. Although they officially retired in 1985, they continued to work alongside the IMB. Centered on loving, serving and showing people Jesus, the couple continued serving through multiple short-term and volunteer mission assignments. They moved to Liberia in 1986 with IMB's Master's Program to continue the ministry efforts of IMB workers who returned to the U.S. for home assignments.

In 1992, the Harthcocks moved to Mongolia to teach English to medical doctors. While serving there, also with IMB's Master's Program, the couple wrote 85 lessons on the parts of the human body. These lessons were later published. The couple led 17 Mongolians to the Lord and started a church that was the first Christian church approved by the Mongolian government. The Harthcocks' ministry service with IMB continued in Guyana where they served for six months before they relocated to Cambodia in 1996 to teach English to Buddhist monks, as well as doctors, surgeons and medical professionals in hospitals. The Harthcocks hosted birthday parties for Buddhist monks in their home and served spaghetti, French bread and birthday cake. As the Harthcocks shared the gospel, several Buddhist monks made decisions to follow Christ and left the monastery, following the Lord in believer's baptism and joining the church. As a result of their time teaching English, the Harthcocks developed "Easy English Teaching" tools and wrote 19 booklets for teaching English to Buddhist monks and others, tailoring the

publications to expose students to the gospel.

In 1999, in their late 70s, the Harthcocks moved to Thailand and continued ministering and writing books, Bible lessons and tracts that have since been translated into seven languages and are used worldwide. Gary was 82 and Evelyn was 81 years old when they completed their Master's Program assignments. The couple continued to serve using their own funds. In his last days in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Harthcock wrote daily devotionals titled "Spiritual Food" that were emailed to people worldwide. He always addressed the emails to his "lovable worldwide family."

William "Bill" Bowyer

An Illinois native, William "Bill" Bowyer went to Southern Illinois University where he served his local church as a student minister and janitor. He received his master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and married his wife, Deana. Bowyer pastored Royal Oaks Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas; First Baptist Church of Effingham, Illinois; Rock Hill Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri; and Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church in Raleigh, where he served for the past 19 years. He would share Christ wherever he went, from restaurants to other countries. During his 40 years of pastoral ministry, Bowyer led 43 mission teams to places such as El Salvador, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Azerbaijan and Russia. He was a trustee at two seminaries: Southeastern and Midwestern. Bowyer served as the chairman of the search committee that recommended Midwestern's latest president, Jason Allen. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Deana; two sons, Jacob Bowyer of Raleigh and John Bowyer of Nashville, Tennessee; two granddaughters; and brother Tim Bowyer of Newnan, Georgia.

IN MEMORIAM

Marjorie Ann Tripper Bennett	Burlington
Leland Leslie Bingham	Williamston
William "Bill" David Bowyer	Wake Forest
Yates Millard Brooks	New London
Joseph F. Butler	Cary
Mary Charles (Charley) Wrape Butler	Cary
Walter Graham Byrum	Winterville
William O. Crews	Vancouver, Wash.
Patrick M. Cronin	Greensboro
Mary Lynn West Davis	Fairmont
Jerry Lee Freeman	Marshall
Sean Gallagher	Fairmont
John Alan Gore	Tabor City
Marian Sanford Gibbs Grant	Greensboro
Kathryn Marie Hardy	Wake Forest
Gary Harthcock	Chiang Mai, Thailand
Jack B. Johnson	Henderson, Nev.
Warren Eugene Kerr	Winston-Salem

Charles Walter Kinley
 Cecil Eugene "Gene" Lawing
 A. Max Lennon
 Robert Clayton Lewis
 Timothy Elbert McClure
 Leslie Settles Millard
 Joseph G. O'Connell
 Daniel "Dan" Franklin Page
 Jack A. Painter
 Robert Parham
 Kathy White Qualls
 Timothy Richard Roberson
 John Herbert Sailhamer
 Gregory "Greg" Thomas Spurling
 Mary Carolyn Bean Sullivan
 Raymond Hargus "Chap" Taylor
 Larry D. Thompson
 Michael Travers
 Denny Lee Turner
 Barbara Ann Ravert Voorhes
 Roger Aubigne White
 William "Bill" Michael Whitlow
 Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Williams

Gastonia
 Morganton
 Greenville
 Charlotte
 Cornelia, Ga.
 Pikesville
 Thornhurst, Pa.
 Greenville, S.C.
 Raleigh
 Nashville, Tenn.
 Apex
 Hayesville
 Fullerton, Calif.
 Newton
 Granite Falls
 Ahoskie
 Greensboro
 Shawnee, Okla.
 Concord
 Mauldin, S.C.
 Roseboro
 Morven
 Rocky Mount

2017 Committee on Resolutions and Memorials

Jonathan Blaylock, chair, Canton
 Calvin Bobo, Andrews
 Chad Cooke, High Point
 Mark Cottrell, Zebulon
 Kristopher Estep, Waynesville
 Zachary Williams, Waynesville
 Buddy Cutshaw, Indian Trail
 Jarrod Scott, Raleigh
 Everett Coates, Clayton

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 2017 historical writing competition is: *Entertaining a Hope: A Bicentennial History of Edenton Baptist Church 1817-2017*. This book will be displayed at the Historical Committee's booth in the exhibit hall during the Annual Meeting, and the author, Jesse J. Croom, will receive an award during the Monday evening session of the convention.

The winner of the 2017 multimedia competition is: Friendship Baptist Church in Murphy, N.C. This DVD will be displayed at the Historical Committee's booth in the exhibit hall during the Annual Meeting, and the church will receive an award during the Monday evening session of the convention.

The Historical Committee is also pleased to offer "The Reformation Symposium," which will be held in Auditorium I of the Koury Convention Center on Monday Nov. 6 from 3-5 p.m. The film *This Changed Everything* will run in the same Auditorium I on Monday at 10 a.m. and again at 7 p.m.

Don Wright, Chair

2017 Historical Committee Members

Don Wright, chair, Apex
Ronnie Chaney, Asheboro
Ralph Justice, Raleigh
Will Matthews, Clinton
Howard McNeil, Seagrove
Marcia Phillips, Mocksville
Les Puryear, Gulf
Dale Robertson, Salisbury
Tim Sydnor, Cary