...he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

LUKE 10:29
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 certain business actions of the convention and reports to the board and the convention its actions and recommendations. The Executive Committee met seven times since September 2017. 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/Baptists on Mission, 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.

The Board of Directors elected the following officers for 2018:
- 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 for 2018:
- Ken Jones, Matt Ledbetter, Clay Smith and Melanie Wallace

The Board of Directors committees and special committees elected the following chairpersons for 2018:
- Business Services Special Committee: David Richardson
- Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee: Troy Grant
- Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee: Lawrence Clapp
- Communications Committee: George Hunnicutt
- Convention Relations Special Committee: Boyce Porter
- Evangelism and Discipleship Committee: Rick Byrd

This report includes actions taken by the board and Executive Committee since the conclusion of the September 2017 board meeting.
Based on changes to the convention’s bylaws that were approved by the messengers at the November 2017 Annual Meeting, board officers and board committee chairpersons for 2019 were elected at the September 2018 Board of Directors meeting. In the past, these elections were typically held in January. Four at-large members of the Executive Committee will continue to be elected in January.

The Board of Directors elected the following officers for 2019:
President: Clay Smith
Vice President: Melanie Wallace
Board Secretary: Ginger Brown

The Board of Directors committees and special committees elected the following chairpersons for 2019:
Business Services Special Committee: David Richardson
Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee: Bob Jordan
Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee: Al James
Communications Committee: George Hunnicutt
Convention Relations Special Committee: Chris Hughes
Evangelism and Discipleship Committee: Tracy Smith

The Board President made the following committee appointments:
Articles and Bylaws Special Committee Includes both board and non-board members as noted:
Board: Kelton Hinton (2020 term), Princeton Baptist Church, Princeton
        Donald Goforth (2021 term), Great Marsh Baptist Church, St. Pauls
Non-Board: Gregory Shaver (2021 term), Hopewell Baptist Church, Monroe
        John Compton was appointed as chairperson.

Budget Special Committee
Includes both board and non-board members as noted:
Board: Terry Stockman (2021 term), Meherrin Baptist Church, Murfreesboro
        Non-board: Barbara Bowen (2021 term), Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh
        Jeff Isenhour was appointed as chairperson.

Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee at-large members:
Lee Davis (2019 term), Crosslink Community Church, Mebane
Ben Francis (2020 term), Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia
Josh Hayes (2021 term), Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, Marion

Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee
Three members of the Executive Committee: Ken Jones, chairperson,
        Lawrence Clapp, Matt Ledbetter

The Board of Directors elected the following committee members:
Business Services Special Committee at-large:
Eric Chetwood (2021 term), The Summit Church, Durham
James Zik (2021 term), Beach Road Baptist Church, Southport
Committee on Nominations

Seven new members of the Committee on Nominations were nominated by convention officers Lee Pigg, president; Joel Stephens, first vice president; and J.D. Grant, second vice president. During the January 2018 meeting, the board elected these individuals to serve:

- **Mark Brady** (2020 term), pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church, Moyock
- **Carolyn Fowler** (2020 term), layperson, Meherrin Baptist Church, Murfreesboro
- **Sam Harvin** (2020 term), pastor, Anderson Creek Community Church, Spring Lake
- **Connie Millsaps** (2020 term), layperson, Pine Grove Baptist Church, Franklin
- **Josh Pruitt** (2020 term), pastor, West Point Baptist Church, Rutherfordton
- **Jason Wilkinson** (2020 term), pastor, Union Chapel Baptist Church, Zebulon
- **Robin Fisher** (2018 unexpired term of Joseph Phan), pastor, Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, Rocky Mount

**Charles Brust** was elected to serve as chair of the committee.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved the following interim recommendation from Lee Pigg, convention president, for the Committee on Nominations:

Robin Fisher was approved to assume the duties as chair for the remainder of 2018. Charles Brust resigned in June due to moving out of state.

The Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee to fill the 2022 terms on the Fruitland Board of Directors representing the:

- **Convention Board of Directors:** **Al James**, member, Hales Chapel Baptist Church, Zebulon
- **Alumnus:** **Ken Houston**, member, Crossroads Baptist Church, Mountain View (Hickory)
- **At-large:** **Jerry Durmire**, member, Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, Hiddenite

Impacting Lostness through Disciple-Making Update:

Since 2006, Milton A. Hollifield Jr. has served as the executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (convention). He developed a vision for North Carolina Baptists: “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.

Hollifield’s report to the board in January 2018 focused on the strategy and its progress. The launch of the strategy in 2014 has been the driving force behind the reorganization of the staff, the budget and the board itself. Hollifield asked the convention executive leaders to provide an overview of what is taking place in their respective areas of work in fulfilling the strategy.

Chuck Register, executive leader for Church Planting and Missions Partnerships, shared celebratory statistics related to Church Planting, Collegiate Partnerships, Great Commission Partnerships and Associational Partnerships. Since 2014, North Carolina Baptists have welcomed 408 new congregations, with 290 of those being non-Anglo church plants. Of the new churches, 31 percent were located within a pocket of lostness. There are 52 college campuses across the state that have a reproducing gospel presence. In 2014, there were only nine.

Lynn Sasser, executive leader for Evangelism and Discipleship, reported on work being done within the Church Strengthening Team and the Disciple-making Team. He said the common focus for both teams is “to engage our convention’s strategy of ‘Impacting Lostness through Disciple-making’ as we strengthen churches by helping them develop a disciple-making culture.” Numerous opportunities for training have been and continue to be provided to church leaders and congregations. There have been 846 connections with associations and churches to assist with revitalization efforts. Since 2014, 1,468 professions of faith have been recorded at Caswell during the summer youth weeks.

Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer and executive leader for Administration and Convention Relations, explained the five-step process the Strategic Focus Team (SFT) relies on to track progress in assisting churches in their efforts to engage a pocket of lostness: cultivate, catalyze, develop, coach and engage. He indicated that within each pocket of lostness, there are churches that are in need of strengthening, opportunities for church planting and obstacles originating from hard-to-reach segments of population. Davis reported 68 of the top 100 pockets of lostness and 51 of the next 150 pockets of lostness are at some stage of engagement.
John Butler, executive leader for Business Services, said the Business Services group supports the work of the board and the SFT in fulfilling the convention strategy by providing financial resources, both monetary and informational, and by encouraging support of both state convention and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes that impact lostness in North Carolina and around the world. Gifts to the Cooperative Program (CP), Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions remain on an upward trend. In the last five years, North Carolina churches have contributed $152,735,825 to SBC causes.

In closing, Hollifield urged the board members to continue to support and become personally engaged in the convention strategy of impacting lostness through disciple-making. He asked them to encourage their friends to reinvest their lives in others.

At the May meeting, Hollifield asked for prayer for the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas, on June 12-13. His spiritual challenge to the board was based on three Scripture verses:

1. Ephesians 4:1-3: Conservative Southern Baptists are currently divided over numerous issues. One does not have to read much to realize that we are lacking in trust, value and respect. In order to develop these attributes, we must manifest Christlike humility in our attitudes, words and actions.
2. Galatians 2:11-14: Unfortunately, as Christ-followers, we do not always reflect the lifestyle that we should. We need to examine our hearts and repent of hypocrisy within ourselves.
3. Colossians 2:6-8: If we proclaim Christ, we should live with behaviors and attitudes that remind others of Christ.

Hollifield ended his message with the reminder that as God’s people, we are to live in a manner that is worthy of our calling – with humility, patience and love.

Again in September, Hollifield provided a strategy update to the board. Amaury Santos, Hispanic strategy coordinator, and Larry Phillips, immigrant ministries strategist, shared information about Baptist Immigrant Services (BIS). BIS is a new ministry being established to assist immigrants with immigration needs, but also to help integrate them into the community all while engaging them with the gospel. Immigration centers are planned for locations across the state, with the first one opening in Lincolnton.

Jonathan Yarboro, team leader for Collegiate Partnerships, explained how churches play a vital role in reaching college students with the gospel message. When the strategy was launched in 2014, only nine college campuses were engaged with the gospel. As of September 2018, 51 campuses are being engaged with the gospel. The Collegiate Partnerships Team views a campus as engaged when specific criteria are met. Hollifield added there were 376 student conversions during the 2017-2018 school year. More than 2,000 students were discipled, while 450 served as summer missionaries.
Hollifield also shared updates to church planting statistics previously given in January. There are now 445 new congregations across the state, with 303 of them being non-Anglo. Furthermore, since 2014, 34 percent of the new church plants are in identified pockets of lostness. Efforts continue to engage unreached people groups (UPGs) with the gospel. To date, 86 out of 162 mapped UPGs have some degree of engagement.

The Church Health and Revitalization specialists help pastors and church leaders in plateaued or declining churches assess their current reality. They encourage them to envision a future of making disciples and impacting their communities with the gospel. Since 2015, the convention has connected with 2,900 pastors and lay leaders in 846 churches. Youth weeks at Fort Caswell continue to be a popular evangelistic event. Attendance for the past four summers totaled 32,450, with 1,835 professions of faith recorded. Senior consultants Mark Smith, Merrie Johnson and Cheryl Markland are readily available to provide disciple-making assistance and resources for families, youth and children, respectively. Hollifield expressed the importance of creating a disciple-making culture within the home.

Hollifield closed by encouraging the board members to stay focused. We cannot afford to let distractions get in the way of our strategic mission of impacting lostness through disciple-making.

**Additional actions of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee were as follows:**

**Budget Special Committee**
The Board of Directors:
- Amended the 2019 Cooperative Program (CP) budget proposal of $31 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the amended 2019 budget proposal for consideration to the convention at its 2018 Annual Meeting. While the overall budget amount was not changed, the board amended the proposed CP allocation to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The CP allocation was proposed to increase by 0.5 percent for a total of $155,000; however, the board amended the budget by reducing the amount of this allocation. The CP allocation to the SBC was reduced by $45,000. The proposed budget included budget cuts to each of the institutions and agencies of the convention as well as the vast majority of the state convention’s internal ministries. Through the action of the board, funds were reallocated in the proposed budget, restoring funds for the following: Biblical Recorder ($30,000); Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina ($5,000); North Carolina Baptist Foundation ($5,000); and Fruitland Baptist Bible College ($5,000). This amendment restored the Biblical Recorder and Fruitland Baptist Bible College allocations to equal their 2018 budget allocations; however, the amendment did not fully restore the budget cuts made to the Baptist Children’s Homes and the North Carolina Baptist Foundation.
• Adopted the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) goal of $2.1 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the following 2019 allocations for consideration to the convention at its 2018 Annual Meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N.C. Baptist Men</td>
<td>$856,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Planting</td>
<td>$596,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Work Camps</td>
<td>$313,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilization Ministry Projects (Baptist Men)</td>
<td>$124,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associational Projects</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NCMO GOAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,100,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:
• Approved the 2019 Cooperative Program Budget of $31 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee.
• Approved the North Carolina Missions Offering goal of $2.1 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee.

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

The Board of Directors:
• Approved a land conservancy easement from the Piedmont Land Conservancy on up to 235 acres of the Caraway Conference Center and Camp property. Funds of approximately $564,000 ($2,400 per acre) will be used for future construction at Caraway.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:
• Approved naming the new Camp Caraway gym in honor of Dr. Charles Harris, former camp director.

**Business Matters**

The Board of Directors:
• Approved for property located at 2123 and 2125 SoHi Drive, Durham, N.C., to be deeded to Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel church in January 2019. A memorandum of understanding will be executed between the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Yates Baptist Association and Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel regarding any renovations and both the current and future use of the property.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:
• Approved a recommendation that the convention no longer accept and forward funds designated for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

**Financial Matters**

The Board of Directors:
• Approved the transfer of a 2017 operating surplus to the Contingency Reserve Fund of the convention. This amount totaled $381,097.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:
• Approved a 1 percent of annual salary year-end gift for convention staff in November 2017. 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 2017. 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.
• Determined convention staff compensation levels are appropriate based on comparisons with other state conventions.

Personnel Matters
The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:
• Gave approval for John Butler, executive leader for Business Services, to approve the 2018 housing allowance requests for the convention’s ordained staff.
• Approved five policy updates to the 2018 convention employee handbook:
  1. Creation of New Job Positions at BSCNC (Policy No. 101)
  2. Employment Process at BSCNC (Policy No. 102)
  3. Employee Classifications/Contractors (Policy No. 105)
  4. Hours of Work (Policy No. 106)
  5. General Policies, Schedule of Payments, Deductions Note (Policy No. 126)

Respectfully Submitted,
Marc Francis, president
Ginger Brown, secretary

A personal note from Marc Francis: Challenges for the BSCNC

Over the past four years it has been my privilege to serve in leadership of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC). I have served on the Board of Directors, the Evangelism and Discipleship Committee, the Executive Committee, and as vice president and president of the board. Hopefully my service has helped to advance the work of the BSCNC in some small way. Personally, my service has opened my eyes to needs and opportunities for ministry in and around North Carolina. As I conclude my term as board president, I’d like to offer five challenges to North Carolina Baptists.

1. **Become educated about the work of the BSCNC.**
   We are active in a wide variety of ministries, programs and opportunities, meeting the needs of people in our effort to “impact lostness through disciple-making.”

2. **Participate in the work of the BSCNC.**
   It is not enough to learn about the convention when there are so many opportunities to get involved in kingdom activities. Give to the Cooperative Program. Attend equipping conferences and the Annual Meeting in
November. Serve on the Board of Directors. Join a variety of hands-on ministry options from disaster relief to refugee ministry to church planting, and more.

3. Involve others in the work of the BSCNC.
Involve others from your church or from local churches in your area. Invite them to come with you as you participate. Nominate them to serve in some capacity. Contact them with information and resources from the BSCNC that meets a need they have.

4. Pray for the BSCNC.
We have outstanding leadership and ministry support from our executive director-treasurer, executive leaders, team leaders, consultants, administrative assistants and others. Pray for God’s leadership, direction and passion to lead our leaders.

5. Utilize the BSCNC.
Contact the convention and speak to a consultant in a particular area of ministry. Invite someone from the BSCNC to speak in your church or to equip your church leadership. Contact your BSCNC staff to get involved in your associational leadership training or ministry preparation.

The BSCNC exists to support the churches. We have many useful resources. Utilize the BSCNC to support your church.

Thank you for the privilege of serving.

Marc Francis
Board President 2017-18
## 2019 Cooperative Program Missions Budget

**TOTAL $31,000,000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Ministries (SBC)</th>
<th>2018 $12,820,000 (41.35%)</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Mission Board</td>
<td>$6,407,111</td>
<td>$6,462,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American Mission Board</td>
<td>$2,896,609</td>
<td>$2,921,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBC Seminaries</td>
<td>$2,816,536</td>
<td>$2,840,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Ministries &amp; Administration</td>
<td>$589,744</td>
<td>$594,848</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Carolina Ministries</th>
<th>2018 $12,765,000 (41.18%)</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention and Board Operations</td>
<td>$2,585,041</td>
<td>$2,709,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Convention Ministry Groups**

| Administration & Convention Relations | $3,245,674 | $3,310,200 |
| Business Services | $1,533,015 | $1,470,000 |
| Church Planting & Missions Partnerships | $2,692,644 | $2,700,000 |
| Evangelism & Discipleship | $2,668,626 | $2,575,000 |

**TOTAL Ministry Groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,139,959</td>
<td>$10,055,200</td>
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</table>
## INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Social Services</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
<td>1,695,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Children’s Homes of N.C.</td>
<td>$ 370,000</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Children’s Homes, DDM Program</td>
<td>$ 780,000</td>
<td>760,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.C. Baptist Aging Ministries</td>
<td>$ 615,000</td>
<td>510,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C. Baptist Hospitals (FaithHealth Division)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,465,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,325,000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agencies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Biblical Recorder</td>
<td>$ 425,000</td>
<td>425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina Baptist Foundation</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 525,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$515,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruitland Baptist Bible College</td>
<td>$ 725,000</td>
<td>725,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES:** $4,565,000 (14.73%)

## GUIDESTONE & CHURCH PROTECTION BENEFITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection Benefits For N.C. Baptist Church Staff</td>
<td>$ 825,000</td>
<td>$ 825,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministers’ Emergency Reserve</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL GUIDESTONE & CHURCH PROTECTION BENEFITS:** $850,000 (2.74%)

- **Institutions & Agencies:** 14.73%
- **North Carolina Ministries:** 41.35%
- **Global Ministries (SBC):** 41.18%
- **GuideStone & Church Protection Benefits:** 2.74%
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.
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.

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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:

• Intercultural Institute for Contextual Ministry report 4
• 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.
• Continue prayer initiatives and efforts toward networking population center pastors and churches.

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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 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.


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.


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

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 mission of the Communications Team is to serve 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.

Following is an overview of some of the Communications Team’s significant ministry accomplishments and milestones from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Ministry and Event Support
Over the past year, the Communications Team worked with each of the respective ministries of the state convention to provide communications support through writing, editing, graphic design and videography. The efforts included developing a variety of promotional materials and resources for various ministries and events, as well as the annual North Carolina Missions Offering. In addition, the Communications Team handled a variety of on-site production duties during the BSCNC Annual Meeting last November.

Communications Survey
At the direction of the Communications Committee of the BSCNC Board of Directors, the Communication’s Team conducted a communications survey of N.C. Baptists from April 1 to May 18, 2018. The survey was designed to evaluate the state convention’s current communication strategies and seek input related to future approaches to communications. The survey was the first comprehensive assessment of the BSCNC’s communications efforts since 2012. The survey was accessible online and by mail. A printed copy of the survey was mailed to each N.C. Baptist church. A total of 762 surveys were completed, with 423 completed online and 339 submitted by mail. At the time of this report’s submission, an analysis of the survey results was being conducted, and a presentation of the results was scheduled to be given at the fall meeting of the Board of Directors in September 2018. A summary of the key findings and action items from the survey will be included in this report next year.

Website Redesign
Throughout 2017-2018, the Communications Team, working in conjunction with the Information Technology and Information Services (IT/IS) Team, continued its development work on a redesign of the convention’s website, ncbaptist.org, that commenced in 2017. The launch of the new site was anticipated for the fall of 2018.
Social Media
The convention saw an increase in followers of its primary social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in 2017-2018. The number of Facebook followers increased from 6,495 to 8,347, an increase of 28.5 percent. The number of Twitter followers grew from 2,837 to 3,072, an increase of approximately 8.3 percent. The Communications Team began utilizing Instagram more during the past year, and as of June 30, 2018, the convention had 994 followers on Instagram. The Communications Team also conducted consultations with several convention ministries related to social media use and best practices. In addition, the Communications Team conducted a social media workshop for pastors in the Caldwell Baptist Association on Jan. 3, 2018. You may follow @ncbaptist on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Email Newsletters
June 2018 marked the one-year anniversary of the introduction of the convention’s new monthly email newsletter and monthly email events listing. Recipient engagement with the new emails and their content consistently ranks at or above the industry standard for religious organizations. The Communications Team also worked with a number of convention ministries to assist them in the development and launch of email newsletters for their respective ministries. The new system allows users to customize their email preferences related to what news and information they want to receive from the state convention.

Visit ncbaptist.org/signup to sign up to receive convention news and information via email.

Kathryn Carson, Team Leader
Trent Anthony, Team Leader Assistant

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
North Carolina Baptists minister together in hundreds of ways across our state and beyond. Behind all those ministries is a love for Christ and a desire to both proclaim and live out the gospel He brought.

The main component enabling and fueling these works is the Cooperative Program, now totaling $31 million. This is how N.C. Baptists cooperate financially year-round for missions and ministry support.

There is room for both pride and concern when looking at Southern Baptist giving levels. Nationwide support for the Cooperative Program has trended slightly upward over recent years. In North Carolina, Baptists have also slightly increased their Cooperative Program giving.

Sadly, there has been no big increase in giving such as the numbers of lost people in our state and nation would say is needed. Still, N.C. Baptists have won the right to feel good about much in their giving.

Consider what N.C. Baptists gave in 2017 through their Cooperative Program gifts and what they gave to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions plus what they gave to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions.
More than 60 percent of their total missions dollars went outside North Carolina, primarily to the two Southern Baptist mission boards and the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Further, consider that N.C. Baptists led all other state conventions in their support for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and were second among the other state conventions in their support for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

N.C. Baptists are accustomed to hearing such reports and think it is commonplace. But it is anything but commonplace.

Chris Furl came to serve Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church near Murphy about three years ago. He came from another denomination and knew nothing about the Baptist approach to missions support.

He had never heard of the Cooperative Program, but Peachtree Memorial members were solidly behind it, routinely budgeting about 10 percent of their total income for it. Furl figured he should know where all those dollars were going, so he began a study of the Cooperative Program.

“I was astonished to see the numerous avenues of ministry the money affected,” he said. Now Furl calls himself a Cooperative Program fan and is proud of his church’s support.

Capturing the viewpoints of pastors like Furl was the goal of a new series of Cooperative Program videos recorded during 2017 and 2018. See these brief videos at vimeo.com/channels/nccooperativeprogram.

A new challenge for Cooperative Program promotion in recent years has been the growing numbers of ethnic groups among N.C. Baptists. Baptist congregations across our state now speak scores of languages as they worship on Sunday.

Cooperative Program materials in Spanish have been distributed to the more than 150 Hispanic churches that are now part of our convention. One new piece in Spanish is called “Neustra Iglesia No Está Sola” (Our Church Is Not Alone), which provides photos and information on teaching and fellowship opportunities for Hispanic churches plus information about the Cooperative Program.

Is your church praying for your missionaries every Sunday? One of the best ways to do that is with “52 Sundays,” our missionary prayer guide. Show your members a different missionary every Sunday, present information on the ministry and then lead in prayer. Think of how much your members will learn about missions over a year.

For 2018, “52 Sundays” was available in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese. The 2019 edition of “52 Sundays” will include 15 of North Carolina’s church planters who are planting new Baptist churches from the mountains to the sea.

Videos, print materials, ads, in-church presentations, phone consultations all are part of helping N.C. Baptists understand and support their unique giving system called the Cooperative Program. For more information, contact the Cooperative Program Office at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513.

Mike Creswell, Senior Consultant
Fatima Roma, Ministry Assistant
The Information Technology/Information Systems (IT/IS) Team seeks to provide the best equipment, services, and training to the convention staff so they can best serve North Carolina Baptists in their efforts of impacting lostness through disciple-making. The team works to keep systems and infrastructure running to provide the necessary services to Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) staff, churches and our national agencies. Attacks to networks and equipment are constantly occurring, creating challenges to systems. Following are some of the highlights of the team members’ efforts in the last year.

Ron Rasberry serves as network administrator, and keeps upgrading and updating systems on a regular schedule to keep things safe. He also helps with the wireless system at the Baptist Building in Cary, Caraway Conference Center and Camp, and Fort Caswell. Rasberry has offered his expertise to churches and associations in responding to the challenges of technology. One of his new projects has been building access controls for the facilities in Cary, which he is developing. He was also the designer and builder of the security video surveillance systems used in Cary.

Russell Schwab serves as systems administrator. In this role, he has been making tremendous progress in the effort to increase the number of churches that submit their Annual Church Profile (ACP). BSCNC churches submitting the ACP rose to 63.8 percent as of Jan. 23, 2018. He also configures and delivers all the equipment our staff use, such as laptops and desktops. Schwab and Lai Salmonson, the convention webmaster, have been working with the Communications Team to configure and develop the convention’s mass email process to keep our churches better informed of ministries and activities. As a result of these efforts, we are getting open rates of greater than 30 percent, which is higher than industry averages.

Lai Salmonson, serves as webmaster, and continues to develop websites and web based activities to support the BSCNC. Upgrading websites is a must in order to keep them safe. Website development classes are taught across the state to help churches, associations and church planters.

Judy Autry, serves as the team’s ministry assistant and is actively involved in training BSCNC staff to effectively use the software provided to them by the organization. This year, 71 individuals from various churches also attended and benefitted from one of her trainings for Microsoft Office. Leading training efforts is one of the activities most all of the IT staff engage in to assist BSCNC staff and staff members from churches and associations. Popular training topics include sessions benefitting the associational clerks, those starting websites (72 people representing 55 churches) and skills needed to effectively utilize Microsoft Office software.

The IT/IS Team responds to many challenges during the average day. It is a privilege to work with some amazingly committed and knowledgeable servants of Christ as we assist our staff that assist the churches in the ongoing effort of impacting lostness through disciple-making. If a member of our staff can assist your church or association, we hope that you will feel free to contact us.

John D. Jones, Team Leader
Judy Autry, Team Leader Assistant
OFFICE OF PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

2017 "Broken Before the Throne" Prayer Emphasis
Last November, during the 2017 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) Annual Meeting in Greensboro, messengers and guests united in one-accord prayer toward revival and spiritual awakening during the "Broken Before the Throne" prayer gathering. The prayer service was based upon God's invitation in Acts 3:19 to return to Him through genuine repentance, humility and brokenness so that He might pour out His mercy, forgiveness, restoration and refreshing upon His people and upon our nation. It was truly a blessed time together in Christ as God moved mightily among His people.

Following last November's prayer gathering, many pastors and leaders returned to their churches and associations with a renewed burden for revival and spiritual awakening. Many of those leaders also implemented similar prayer gatherings in their churches and areas and used the resources that were created and used during the prayer gathering at the 2017 Annual Meeting to help with planning and implementing a prayer service.

Those resources are free and can be found at www.praync.org under the "Broken Before the Throne" link. Please use these resources to encourage, challenge and lead others to seek Christ through repentance and prayer for revival and spiritual awakening.

Prayer Conferences
The 2018 Statewide "Awaken" Prayer Conference was held at Lake Hills Church, Candler, North Carolina, on March 9-10, 2018. Speakers included: James Walker from Lake Hills Church; John Avant, president of Life Actions Ministries; K. Marshall Williams, senior pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia; Perry Brindley, director of missions with the Buncombe Baptist Association; and J. Chris Schofield, director of the BSCNC Office of Prayer. The conference provided a ripe environment for spiritual transformation as the Holy Spirit worked in people's lives. Lake Hills Church had its prayer ministry groups interceding in prayer throughout the conference. The 2019 Statewide Prayer Conference is scheduled for March 8-9 at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church in Pleasant Garden, North Carolina.

Over the past year, regional prayer conferences, summits and gatherings were also held in partnership with associations and churches across North Carolina. "The Bible and Spiritual Awakening: A Northeast North Carolina Bible Conference" was held at Rocky Hock Baptist Church on June 2, 2018 in Edenton. Speakers included: James Horton of Rocky Hock Baptist Church; Michael Cloer of Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount; Chuck Register, executive leader for Church Planting and Missions Partnerships with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; and J. Chris Schofield, director of the BSCNC's Office of Prayer.

Concerted Prayer Efforts for Revival and Spiritual Awakening
Throughout the past year, the Office of Prayer has partnered with associations and individual local churches to develop, facilitate and host concerts of prayer, prayer services, spiritual awakening emphases and pastor prayer efforts for revival and spiritual awakening. Some of the locations included the Brier Creek, Brushy Mountain, Bladen, West Chowan, Greater Cleveland, Little River, Pee Dee, Tar River, Buncombe, Metrolina, Rowan, Sandhills, Elkin, Yadkin, Roberson, Burnt Swamp and Dan Valley Baptist associations, and the Cape
Fear Network of Baptist Churches (formerly the Wilmington Baptist Association). Several of these gatherings were also associated with existing meetings, conferences, areawide meetings, pastor’s gatherings and prayer events, which sometimes attracted interdenominational participation.

**Prayer Initiative Team**

A team of pastors and associational leaders continues to meet on regular basis to pray, plan and seek the Lord concerning prayer initiatives and ways to mobilize, assist and support the multiplication of pastor prayer efforts for revival and spiritual awakening across North Carolina and beyond. The group meets to study Scripture, pray and seek the Lord, dialogue, network and develop strategies/initiatives that will encourage, challenge and mobilize prayer among leaders toward revival and spiritual awakening. If you are interested in being a part of a group like this, please contact J. Chris Schofield in the Office of Prayer at cschofield@ncbaptist.org or call (919) 459-5514.

**Partnership Prayer Bus Tours**

God continues to raise up a desire among believers, churches and associations to pray for revival, spiritual awakening and engage pockets of lostness through on-site prayer. During the past year and in partnership with local associations and the state convention’s Strategic Focus Team, the Office of Prayer has conducted partnership prayer bus tours in the following associations: New South River; Wilmington (Cape Fear Network); Tar River; Metrolina; and Greater Gaston. These prayer bus tours allowed pastors and leaders to pray together toward five strategic prayer focus areas: revival and spiritual awakening; lost pockets and people groups; colleges and universities; church planting opportunities; and church revitalization efforts. To schedule a partnership prayer bus tour, please contact Fatima Roma in the Office of Prayer at (919) 459-5513 or froma@ncbaptist.org. You may also visit www.PrayNC.org.

**Kingdom-Focused Prayer Training**

Over the past year, the Office of Prayer partnered with associations, churches and state convention ministries to provide kingdom-focused strategy sessions, consultations, conferences, prayer weekends and prayerwalking training. These sessions focused on biblical prayer training and the development/implementation of contextually sensitive prayer efforts that mobilize believers to pray more effectively toward the mission and impacting pockets of lostness through the making of disciples.

**Cross Functional Prayer Efforts**

The Office of Prayer hosted a second cross functional prayer team meeting in May 2018 at the Baptist Building in Cary. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum for convention teams and ministries to better partner, collaborate, unite and serve one another as they seek to fan the flames of God’s prayer activity within state convention ministries, churches, associations, entities and beyond.

The Office of Prayer continues to work with the state convention’s Church Planting Team to develop and mobilize kingdom prayer for North Carolina church planting efforts. An email is sent to intercessors who have committed to pray daily for one strategic prayer request. If you or your church would like to receive the weekly email and join the church planter prayer network, please contact the Office of Prayer at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513 or email Fatima Roma at froma@ncbaptist.org.
BSCNC Prayer Room and Efforts
The on-site prayer room at the Baptist Building in Cary is a place where intercession and personal/group prayer experiences can take place. The room is designed so participants may sit, kneel or access kingdom prayer opportunities through a computer prayer station. The prayer room is focused on kingdom prayer efforts and Jeremiah 33:3 is displayed throughout the room in seven different languages. If your association or local church group is interested in visiting, touring 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 coordinates the National Day of Prayer gathering at the Baptist Building each year with the staff praying for revival and awakening in America. The 2018 theme was UNITY based on Ephesians 4:3.

SBC Prayer Mobilization Efforts
The Office of Prayer is also involved in assisting, partnering and providing leadership with Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities, state conventions, ethnic fellowships, associations and churches through the Southern Baptist PrayerLink Network. PrayerLink is a network of Southern Baptist prayer leaders which seeks to foster a culture of kingdom-focused prayer toward revival and spiritual awakening throughout SBC life and beyond. For more information or to get involved in PrayerLink, visit www.sbcprayerlink.org.

Prayer Resources
Prayer resources that assist believers in prayer for revival, spiritual awakening and the mission, such as the “Prayerwalking Made Simple” booklet and the “Return to Me” devotional prayer guide along with downloadable PowerPoint presentations and training videos, are available at www.PrayNC.org or by calling (800) 395-5102, ext. 5513. Resources also can be ordered online at www.ncbaptist.org/store.

J. Chris Schofield, Director
Fatima Roma, Ministry Assistant

STRATEGIC FOCUS TEAM

Overview
The Strategic Focus Team (SFT) has the responsibility to assist North Carolina Baptists to focus on the 250 most concentrated pockets of lostness across our state. These small geographic areas, usually 3-to-6 miles in diameter, represent places where the lost population is growing and changing faster than the local church has kept pace. Over time, these areas have filled with groups of people that are different from the local congregation and particularly hard to reach.

For example, these groups of people may speak different languages, follow different religions, and live at different socio-economic levels. A growing number of people in these pockets are leaving religion altogether, making them particularly hard to reach. North Carolina’s pockets of lostness are filled with all kinds of people living behind significant barriers to the gospel.

Still, Christ has commissioned His churches to make disciples of all kinds of people. The SFT helps North Carolina Baptists take a missionary approach to the groups of people living in these pockets of lostness.
Since 2014, the SFT has initiated work in 68 of North Carolina’s top 100 pockets, which are generally located in eight population centers across the state. This past year, the team moved forward to begin assisting churches to engage the remaining 150 pockets, completing detailed research in 33 pockets and initiating work in 51 pockets. The strategy coordinators assigned to the SFT help churches and associations develop strategies within these pockets to engage North Carolina’s hard to reach. These strategies often include strengthening existing churches as well as planting new ones. However, disciple-making lies at the heart of each strategy as churches work to establish sustainable, multiplying disciple-making among every group of people living in North Carolina’s pockets of lostness.

In the reports that follow, you will find regional updates from each strategy coordinator. These reports detail the work of North Carolina Baptists and the SFT as they partner to impact lostness through disciple-making in North Carolina’s 250 pockets of lostness.

Cris Alley, Team Leader
Daniela Sanchez, Team Leader Assistant

BLUE RIDGE

The Blue Ridge population center encompasses pockets of lostness in the Greater Asheville area. During this past year, the work of four local strategy teams entered the coaching phase. Each local strategy team focuses on one of four pockets of lostness in the Asheville area. The churches located in these pockets are at various stages of strategy development to engage lostness and build multiplying disciples of Christ. Each team works toward the goal of strengthening existing churches so that they are fully functioning as Great Commission churches and starting new works among unreached population segments.

Prayer
The prayer team for the Blue Ridge population center takes its calling very seriously. Supernatural breakthroughs have taken place in seeing declining churches revitalized and unreached population segments engaged. One example is that Asheville has a large Bohemian population that has been, for the most part, unengaged and unreached. The prayer team prayed for three years that God would send a church planter called to this particular segment. Last year, Trent Holbert, a church planter from Kentucky, sensed a calling to move to the Asheville area to reach that segment. He moved his family to Asheville and began his ministry in December of 2017.

Updates
Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church has become a central campus of Brookstone Church. Johnny Prettyman, who served as the previous pastor of Merrimon Avenue, now serves as the campus pastor of Brookstone Central.

Westwood Baptist has invited Reach Life Church, a multiethnic church plant, to move into a beautifully renovated chapel. Reach Life has now grown significantly as a result of this relocation.

Asheville Deaf Church has now been invited to use the fellowship hall at Long Shoals Baptist Church.

The River Church merged with Edgewood Baptist with Don Hood, former pastor of River Church, becoming pastor of Edgewood.
Since stepping into the former Reed Memorial Baptist Church, Fellowship Asheville has grown by several hundred in worship attendance, now having a permanent home campus.

Missio Dei is now meeting in the fellowship hall at Calvary Baptist and has also grown significantly since settling in there. These are just a few of the many good stories to tell.

**Population Segments**

Unreached population segments in the pockets of lostness are identified as different ethnic, socioeconomic, residential, lifestyle, generational and family structure groups of people. The following examples illustrate some of the ways that God is working through Asheville’s local strategy teams to reach these different groups of people.

There are now more than 60 people regularly gathering at Passion Fellowship under the leadership of Trent Holbert in Black Mountain, reaching the Bohemian population.

Five multihousing units are being engaged.

Reach Life, the multi-ethnic church has grown to more than 170 in average attendance.

Asheville Deaf Church will now have room to grow in their new facilities.

The LGBT community is being engaged weekly through the ministry of Meleah Allard of New Beginning Ministries.

The poor are being reached through Bible studies that are being carried out as part of the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministries and the Western North Carolina Rescue Mission.

People from several European countries are gathering at Audaci church under the leadership of Ukranian pastor, Sergio Fesiuk.

A South Asian Indian Team has been formed to engage Gujarati and Punjabi Indians.

A new Hispanic church will be launched in August at Biltmore Church with more than 130 already part of the launch team.

Chinese restaurant workers are being engaged through the ministry of Kewen Dong.

To God be the glory.

Steve Harris, Blue Ridge Strategy Coordinator

**FAYETTEVILLE/SOUTH COASTAL**

The Fayetteville/South Coastal population center covers the southeastern corner of the state. The communities are different across the area, but the one thing they have in common is that there are more people who do not have personal relationships with God than those who do. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s strategy of impacting lostness through disciple-making seeks to bring directors of missions, pastors and church members...
together to identify and engage the lost around them and assist churches in building a disciple-making culture. Because each community, each congregation and each association is unique, the strategies employed to impact lostness must be contextually appropriate. In the report that follows, you will find a few of many stories revealing what God is doing through N.C. Baptists in these areas.

Chris Schofield, director of the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening, partnered with Randy White and pastors of the New South River Baptist Association, the late C.J. Bordeaux, pastors of the Pee Dee Baptist Association, Roy Smith and pastors of the Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches to develop prayer strategies for impacting lostness through disciple-making. Together, they held prayer bus tours in each of their areas. These tours brought awareness and much prayer to the pockets of lostness throughout each area.

B.J. Clark started planting Kingdom Community Church this past year within pocket of lostness No. 41 in Fayetteville. Clark is presently holding weekly Bible studies in a local recreation center and building relationships through community events in the church's neighborhood.

The Wilmington Baptist Association, under the leadership of Roy Smith, journeyed through a revisioning process this past year. This revisioning brought a new name and mission focus. Now branded as the Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, Smith, the pastors, and the church members are all part of a gospel network, focusing on a culture of prayer that partners together to multiply disciples, multiply leaders and multiply churches. As can be seen, this new vision of partnering, focuses on engaging the lost through building of disciple-making communities.

Theron Hawkins is continuing his church plant in pocket of lostness No. 41 in Fayetteville. But he and his wife, Tina, have their sights set on another new church at the center of pocket of lostness No. 245, in Sampson County. The local director of missions, Richard Weeks, is challenging his pastors and their church members to partner with Hawkins in this church plant. Matthew Barefoot and The Vine Fellowship are already on board, serving as the host location for a weekly Bible study.

One final story is taking place in pocket of lostness No. 40 in Wilmington. Bryan Blackwell, the pastor of Pine Valley Baptist Church, is leading his church to engage the lost through prayer and relationship-building activities. One activity shows much potential as ladies from the church are identifying and connecting with senior adult widows that live nearby. Blackwell is also building a culture of disciple-making, both in his church and as the team leader for multiplying disciples in the Cape Fear Network of Churches.

Impacting lostness through disciple-making across the Fayetteville/South Coastal population center looks different as these few examples have demonstrated. The key is that directors of missions, pastors, and church members are identifying the lostness around them and building a culture of disciple-making within their churches that can reach the lost around them.

Mike Boarts, Fayetteville/South Coastal Strategy Coordinator

GREENVILLE/NORTH COASTAL

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 include Greenville, Rocky Mount, Wilson and Goldsboro, as well as nearly 50 smaller cities and towns scattered throughout the area. Twenty-seven pockets of lostness have been identified in this region. These 27 pockets contain more than 93,000 unreached households.

The North Coastal population center is located in the southeastern coastal region of North Carolina. It includes five counties. The coastal region is home to more than 300,000 residents. The area is noted for its sandy beaches and strong economic development, as well as being the home to multiple military bases. Key cities in the region are Jacksonville and New Bern. Eleven pockets of lostness have been identified in this region containing more than 55,000 unreached households.

Pocket engagement is moving forward by organizing the Greenville and the North Coastal population centers into clusters based on pockets of lostness in a local Baptist association. Associations that have adopted this model include South Roanoke, North Roanoke, Chowan, West Chowan, New River and Atlantic.

In Greenville, one of the pockets of lostness is 75.4 percent unreached. This area also has few active evangelicals. Churches are asking Christ to stir His people for the lost of eastern North Carolina and to help believers encourage one another to come together and to build new ministries, missional communities and congregations for His kingdom.

The South Roanoke Baptist Association (SRBA) is located in the Greenville area. The churches of the SRBA partner together under the leadership of Associational Missionary Scott Setzer. Progress continues through implementation of strategic plans under the leadership of Amy Johnson, leader of the association’s Impacting Lostness Team. This team has taken responsibility for 10 pockets of lostness in the area.

Pocket No. 50 is located in Greenville. This pocket presently has several ongoing home Bible studies in various apartments in and around the pocket. This past year Freedom Church started two new studies and opened a youth center. The team held several key events this past year, utilizing various ministries such as the medical dental bus, sports camps, a senior adult ministry, handyman projects, backyard Bible clubs, prayerwalking and health screening, just to name a few. The events were well attended and supported by various churches in the SRBA. Freedom Church, which is located in the pocket, is doing the follow-up and is seeing some fruit from its efforts.

The North Roanoke Baptist Association (NRBA) is located in the Rocky Mount area. John Hamm serves as the director of missions for the NRBA. The Impacting Lostness Team under the leadership of Robin Fisher continues to meet on a regular basis. They have taken ownership of seven pockets of lostness.

Pocket No. 86 is located in Rocky Mount. This past year the North Roanoke Impacting Lostness Team cosponsored a conference at Word Tabernacle titled “Courageous Conversations: Race, Redemption and Reconciliation.” Robin Fisher said of the conference:

“This conference brought together a very diverse crowd of between 400 and 500 people from Baptist and other evangelical churches to discuss how we can put aside secondary differences and come together under the banner of Christ to get busy in demonstrating and proclaiming the gospel in Rocky Mount and surrounding areas. In a day when we are so divided in so many
ways, the churches were reminded that the gospel is God’s method to bring us together. It was a very challenging day but a productive one as the diversity of the church was on display.”

The Chowan Baptist Association is located in the Elizabeth City area. James Harrington serves as the associational missionary. They are in the process of reaching out to engage two pockets of lostness.

**Pocket No. 171** is located in Elizabeth City. A team has formed this past year with a heart to reach the city for Jesus Christ. Farren Roper from Corinth Baptist Church, along with the Chowan Baptist Association and in concert with more than 40 other local churches, hosted a four-day city wide crusade. William “Duce” Branch, assistant professor of preaching and Bible at the College at Southeastern, was the speaker.

The New River Baptist Association is located in the Jacksonville area. The association, under the leadership of Joe Cappar, has formed a local strategy team and is endeavoring to reach five pockets of lostness.

**Pocket No. 69** is located in Jacksonville. 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 more than 11,000 un outreach households with the love of Jesus Christ. Associational leadership has a heart to help their churches to embrace an Acts 1:8 missional strategy that would serve in connecting churches and changing the world for Christ.

The Atlantic Baptist Association is located in the Havelock area. The association under the leadership of David Phelps is in the process of forming local strategy teams that will engage six pockets of lostness. They are in the process of prioritizing their pockets and raising up key leaders who will lead the work in each pocket.

The West Chowan Baptist Association is located in the Ahoskie area. Terry Stockman, who serves as director of missions for the association, has formed an Impacting Lostness Team, even though they do not have any of the top 250 pockets of lostness. They are applying the disciple-making principles learned in other areas to the cities and towns located within their association. Terry says, “This emphasis has helped focus our churches on lostness and off of ourselves. The key has been impacting lostness through disciple-making, which involves intentional relationships that make disciples that make disciples.”

*Chuck Campbell, Greenville/North Coastal Strategy Coordinator*

**HISPANIC AND IMMIGRATION MINISTRY**

**Hispanic Ministry**
Reaching the Hispanic population of North Carolina is a multiphase process. A contextualized engagement process is being developed for the pockets of lostness across the state that have a large Hispanic presence. Potential partners for this process and specific geographic regions where the plan can be implemented are continuing to be explored.

While the individuals from some people groups are limited to specific pockets of lostness, population centers or regions, the Hispanic population in our state is statewide. This means Hispanics are found within and beyond the individual
pockets of lostness. Therefore, contextualized disciple-making strategies are needed to engage Hispanics from a regional perspective. As a result, it is far more efficient for the consultant to assist churches and associations, as well as collaborate with strategy coordinators, in their respective regions in order to maximize impact and effectiveness.

Because Hispanics come from many different people groups, reflecting unique cultural distinctives, the approach of each individual strategy coordinator may need to be different and unique. North Carolina Baptists must not fall into the trap of viewing all Hispanics the same. Just because an individual is a Spanish speaker does not mean they share the same culture or convictions. There are numerous differences between Anglos from the West Coast of the United States, Anglos from the East Coast of the United States, Anglos from the northern regions of the United States and Anglos from the southern regions of the United States. The same is true, and even more so, for Hispanics from Mexico, the Caribbean, South America and Europe.

Finally, strategic partnerships have been established with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Fruitland Baptist Bible College for the training of Hispanic church leaders. There is a desperate need for our Hispanic churches to develop biblical leaders and for those leaders to have access to higher education from accredited institutions.

Immigration
Considerable advances have been made on the immigration front among our churches across the state. The state convention’s ministries to immigrants, known as Baptist Immigration Services (BIS), continues to develop and expand.

A strategic partnership has been established with the Counsel on Immigrants Relations (CIR) in Raleigh, a nonprofit organization specifically aimed at helping immigrants adjust their status.

Because the largest immigrant people groups in our state are Hispanic, numerous meetings have occurred with key Hispanic leaders related to immigration issues in the eastern and western parts of North Carolina. These events are usually two to three hours in length and give the participants, in some cases not just Hispanics, a panoramic view of their legal immigration options.

Multiple immigration conferences are in the planning stages, as well as several regional events for the coming year where churches can be informed about the need, options and possible responses to the immigration dilemma that is affecting many in our communities.

If you would like more information about Hispanic disciple-making strategies or Baptist Immigration Services, please contact us.

Amaury Santos, Hispanic Strategy Coordinator

METRO CHARLOTTE

The Work is Expanding
North Carolina has 250 identified pockets of lostness. Since 2014, work in the Metro Charlotte area focused on those pockets of lostness found in the top 100. This year, that work expanded to include those pockets found in the next 150. The city and the suburban ring around it only contain pockets between Nos. 1 and 100. This means that the work has moved beyond the previous
geographic limitations and has pushed into the rural communities around Charlotte. Work in these rural communities has already begun in pocket Nos. 129 (Midland), 184 (Albemarle) and 221 (Red Cross). Still, much work needs to be done. As you read this report, consider joining the work in the Metro Charlotte area, urban or rural. You can join the efforts in these new areas or pioneer new work in a pocket so far unengaged.

The Work Needs Prayer
As Ephesians 6:12 states, “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (NIV). Engaging lostness requires prayer warriors who will regularly engage with the battle, pushing back darkness and laboring for those who are lost to be found in Christ. Please pray that:

• New churches would be planted in areas where there are none.
• Existing churches would see, love and serve the lost people around them.
• Christians would bring Christ’s hope and healing to the poor, the marginalized and the overlooked in this region.

Be Informed
Need a way to learn about Metro Charlotte’s pockets of lostness in order to pray effectively and begin your pathway toward engagement? Visit www.ImpactCLTnc.org and check out the collection of maps, articles, tools and more. While there, be sure to subscribe so you will receive notifications of content updates. You can also find updates on the work in Metro Charlotte on Facebook and Twitter.

Celebrating Progress
Since last year, five more pockets have been engaged by local churches. These are pocket Nos. 2, 6, 7, 184 and 221. Four more congregations have partnered with their local schools, and hundreds of Christians have started discovering how to share the gospel among people living in poverty. Additionally, perhaps more churches than ever are calling on the support of their local association and the state convention for help with evangelism training, development of small groups and Sunday School, and pursuing overall church health. These new resources are being directed toward lost families in a fresh wave of community engagement in Jesus’ name.

Facing the great needs of Metro Charlotte, N.C. Baptists must be prayerful, 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 convention, working collaboratively with associations and congregations and calling in the help of skilled specialists, the churches will develop strategies of engagement that will help N.C. Baptists eliminate the lost pockets of Metro Charlotte.

Dan Collison, Metro Charlotte Strategy Coordinator

TRIAD

Over the course of this past year, great progress has been made by God’s grace in the Triad. Churches in the population center, which includes Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem, have mobilized to impact lostness through disciple-making beginning in the area’s 39 pockets of lostness. At
the time of this writing, there is forward momentum in at least 14 of the 21
top 100 pockets and in at least three of the 18 next 150 pockets beyond
the top 100. The strategic focus on pockets has been a great way to build
collaboration between the state convention, local Baptist associations and
local congregations where the spiritual needs are the greatest. Here are a few
highlights of the progress that has been developing over the last year.

Pocket No. 30: Greensboro
In Greensboro’s pocket No. 30, a well-organized team of churches has begun
to build upon the relationships that have been made in immigrant and
refugee apartment communities through meeting physical needs. Now the
team is working with an intentional focus on making disciples among those
who are here from "the ends of the earth." In this pocket, the churches have
responded with great energy and effectiveness to three tragedies — two
apartment fires, one of which claimed the lives of five refugee children, and a
devastating tornado. A new church plant engaging African-Americans in this
urban area is off to an exciting start.

Pocket Nos. 22, 23 and 25: Greensboro
Also in Greensboro, efforts are well underway to impact pocket No. 22 — an area
with great ethnic and socioeconomic diversity. A team of churches has partnered
together to pray and seek the lost in the pocket, and efforts are already underway
to begin intentional disciple-making among the hardest to reach population
segments. Greensboro’s pocket No. 23 has seen several new church plants
started recently which demonstrate strong potential to reach this pocket’s diverse
community and several college campuses. In pocket No. 25, efforts have focused
on gaining entry into the many apartment communities in the pocket. Additional
efforts here involve a new partnership between an existing church and a Pan-
Asian church start. One of the most exciting developments in pocket Nos 22, 23
and 25 has been the launch of a new multisite Hispanic congregation, which
has the potential to engage many among the rapidly growing Spanish-speaking
population in Greensboro and northern High Point.

Pocket Nos. 38 and 58: High Point
In High Point’s pocket No. 38, a new Congolese congregation is already
reaching refugees living in High Point, Jamestown and Greensboro. In pocket
No. 58 an eager group of leaders from several congregations is considering
how they can work together to gain entry by meeting felt needs in the area.

Winston-Salem
In Winston-Salem, through collaboration with the Pilot Mountain Baptist
Association and a parachurch ministry known as Christ Together,
congregations across the city are being revitalized and new churches are
being planted. The association’s model of regional “impact teams” and Christ
Together’s model of “circles of accountability” are combining to create a
synergy around the pockets of lostness there.

In coming days, as efforts continue in the 21 top 100 pockets in the Triad cities,
as well as the rural and suburban areas that surround the Triad, the next 150
lost pockets will receive much attention and effort. The Dan Valley Baptist
Association is already building momentum for the engagement of pocket No.
169 in Reidsville and pocket No. 158 in Eden. Please pray for deeper gospel
impact to be made in these areas as strategic relationships with other area
associations and churches are developed.

Russ Reaves, Triad Strategy Coordinator
TRIANGLE

The Triangle population center encompases the metropolitan area of Greater Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. Of the top 250 pockets of lostness identified throughout North Carolina, there are 25 lost pockets within the metropolitan area of the Triangle, with an additional 18 in nearby towns.

This area is attractive and fast-growing because of technology, research, education, business, infrastructure and much more, leading to a high degree of diversity in socioeconomic status, professions, race, ethnicity, educational achievement and interests. Gentrification is evident in the downtowns and in suburban neighborhoods as the smaller ranch houses are regularly purchased and torn down to be replaced with much larger homes.

Population density is increasing as numerous apartment complexes and subdivisions are constructed each year throughout the Triangle. These are generally populated by well-educated people who have high-paying jobs. People with lower incomes are facing more and more difficulty in securing housing, most often residing in older, run-down apartment complexes.

Some areas within the Triangle have a high percentage of people living below the poverty line, with accompanying social ills including crime, addiction and homelessness. Lostness is rampant and growing, in part because of an influx of newcomers from across the country who have had less exposure to the gospel and who bring liberal ideology. Additionally, the busy lifestyle of Triangle residents leaves less and less room for church.

However, God is at work in the Triangle through a number of healthy churches and the influence of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. It is a pleasure to work collaboratively with these brothers and sisters in kingdom efforts and to celebrate together what God is doing. Below are a few highlights as a testimony of God’s faithfulness.

Pocket No. 13: Raleigh
Trinity Baptist Church sits in the center of this pocket, and many of its members live in the area, so the leadership of this church has a strong sense of ownership for engaging the lost in this pocket. Pastors Jeff Roberts and Lydia Tatum regularly cast vision and challenge the church with the needs and opportunities surrounding them, and they have set up numerous trainings and efforts to impact schools, businesses, neighborhoods, apartment complexes, nursing homes and more. The church leadership wants to collaborate with others, and they have hosted two recent meetings of strategic leaders from Journey Church, The Oaks Church, Imago Dei Church and Creedmoor Road Baptist Church. The Point Church in North Raleigh also is committed to reaching this area. This group is working to identify champions within their churches who can lead intercessory prayer and intentional efforts for further pocket engagement.

Pocket No. 18: Cary
Throughout the year, churches have had a growing understanding of the expanding diversity and expanding needs in their areas. Thankfully, a deeper sense of ownership in attacking lostness in this pocket has developed, as well. Members and leaders of First Baptist Church Cary, Harvest Church, The Point Church and Christ Family Church have all shown commitment for outreach and collaboration. FBC Cary also is hosting a Korean church, a new Vietnamese congregation and a Hispanic congregation in an effort to engage more
peoples in the area. Similarly, The Point Church in Cary hosts a Hispanic church and an international church who are deliberately doing outreach and making disciples among several people groups including Congolese, South Asian Indians, Pakistanis, West Africans, Moroccans and Hispanics.

In addition to joining together to discuss needs, encourage one another, and pray together, leaders of these churches planned collaborative efforts to open doors to the gospel, including prayerwalking and evangelistic outreach in communities, hosting a large immigration forum, organizing a soccer camp for young people from various apartment complexes in the pocket, and helping one another in ministries such as English as a second language, a food pantry and Jobs for Life. These churches plan to continue working together and encouraging one another in large concerts of prayer, joint trainings for disciple-making and in various ministries and outreach efforts.

Pocket No. 19: Raleigh
State convention staff have a good relationship with Justin White, an elder of The Oaks Church and a key leader of the No Place Left disciple-making efforts in the Triangle, and with his team. It is so encouraging to see their deliberate efforts to engage this pocket and to train others throughout the Triangle. They have seen fruit in pocket No. 19 and are leading a number of Bible studies, including some among African-Americans and others among Hispanics. They also draw other churches into the work in the summer through the “Swim to Live” camps that they organize. These have a strong evangelistic component and deliberate follow-up. In addition, the residency that No Place Left offers provides ongoing yearlong training to people from various churches, with significant work in the harvest and training in leading Discovery Bible Studies. Convention staff are collaborating in training initiatives, including among Hispanics, and they hope to see multiplying disciple-makers throughout pocket No. 19 in the coming months.

Pocket No. 24: Apex
Three churches have invested in reaching the people in this area. They are Apex Baptist Church, The Summit Church’s Apex campus and Fairview Baptist Church. All three have strong leadership with an ethos of disciple-making, desiring to challenge their people to be outward-focused. Leaders from these churches have met regularly over the past year to understand various segments and factors within the pocket. They have led members on prayer-walks and evangelistic efforts in the pocket, and have started to identify lay leadership who could lead efforts to reach neighborhoods through prayer-walks and Discovery Bible Studies.

Pocket No. 34: Durham
Faith Baptist Church Durham and members of Imago Dei Church have taken the lead in engaging this pocket of lostness, while the leaders of Durham Memorial Baptist Church, Antioch Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church and Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel all have expressed interest in leading their churches in cooperative efforts for outreach to this area. These churches have had several joint prayer efforts including concerts of prayer and prayer-walking in communities, and they have shared the gospel numerous times. Several Bible studies have begun, and the congregation at Faith Baptist held a large block party at Rochelle Manor, a largely African-American apartment complex, to build relationships for entry into the lives of people in that community. There are ongoing efforts in several apartment complexes, resulting in a lot of goodwill and a few people giving their lives to Christ.
At present, these churches are working with the state convention’s Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening to organize specific trainings on intercessory prayer and prayer-walking, and they plan to involve members from several churches in those efforts. These churches also have started training for engaging the lost by modeling evangelism. Plans are being made to involve Josh Reed, senior consultant for adult evangelism and discipleship, in more evangelism training. There is definitely a strong and growing momentum in these churches for attacking lostness.

In addition, Pastor Andrew Ivester of Faith Baptist and Melissa Childers of Durham Memorial participated in the Bridges Out of Poverty training. Afterward, they met with Dollie Noa, senior consultant for children/family missions mobilization with Baptists on Mission, to discuss effective ways in which their churches might impact people living in poverty in pocket No. 34, while maintaining the centrality of the gospel in all our efforts. All the partners are prayerful that the Spirit will lead in long-term plans to accomplish both the demonstration and proclamation of the gospel.

Pocket Nos. 88 and 92: Johnston Baptist Association
The work in the Triangle has led to collaboration with and encouragement from Kelton Hinton, the director of missions for the Johnston Baptist Association, who has a strong sense of ownership and mission to reach the lost in these pockets. He participated in the Bridges Out of Poverty training, as well as training in apartment outreach offered by the state convention. Hinton has a heart for compassion ministry, and he is a strategic thinker. He has gathered churches in or near each of these pockets in order to cast vision for intentional outreach efforts, highlighting opportunities through apartment ministry and other strategies. He especially has helped several churches engage Hispanics. Convention staff members look forward to continual effective collaboration and cooperation with Hinton and others in the Johnston Baptist Association.

Pocket Nos. 150, 190 and 220: Tar River Baptist Association
In an effort to initiate work in some of the next 150 pockets of lostness outside of the top 100 near the Triangle, convention staff worked with Dougald MacLaurin, director of the missions of the Tar River Baptist Association, to plan a prayer bus tour through these pockets led by Chris Schofield, director of the convention’s Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening. The prayer bus was successful and was attended by representatives from a number of churches. MacLaurin did a good job organizing the tour, and those who participated were encouraged and challenged to hear about needs and opportunities in these pockets. Partnering through this prayer bus tour has helped foster a positive and growing relationship. In addition, trainers from No Place Left have worked with Pastor Jim Robertson of Union Hope Baptist Church to provide training and to lead church members to engage the harvest in this area. Robertson shared an exciting report and a challenge to others during the prayer bus tour.

Strategy Cohorts
The Triangle strategy coordinator has been collaborating with Zac Lyons, senior consultant for Great Commission Partnerships, and Ralph Garay, senior consultant for Asian church planting on the Church Planting Team. Approximately 12-20 participants have gathered monthly in each of the Triangle, Triad and Charlotte metropolitan areas, representing various ethnicities, including men and women who serve as church staff, church planters and lay leaders. It has been helpful in casting a God-sized vision for kingdom efforts and for sharing biblical principles, tools and training using the ASAP framework — Abiding in Christ through prayer and the Word; Seeking the lost through entry and evangelism; Applying...
God’s Word through discipleship and leadership development; and Planting reproducing healthy gospel communities through modeling and equipping.

Participants concentrate on short-term and long-term obedience-based disciple-making that produces new disciple-makers from their churches who are actively engaging the harvest. The urgency of attacking lostness through multiplying disciples is conveyed throughout, with accountability for each participant’s own obedience in sharing the gospel with unbelievers and in equipping the saints. In addition to being practitioners, participants challenge one another with the need to plan strategically and set specific goals to engage pockets of lostness, new neighborhoods and unreached people groups.

Some participants are leaders of legacy churches. They feel encouraged, especially as they have implemented some of the principles and tools in small doses with their congregations. The Holy Spirit is using the ASAP framework to provide the impetus for revitalization, as church members are encouraged to abide in Christ, intercede in prayer for the lost, begin to look outward at the harvest fields, and learn specific tools through training which build confidence and encourage them to engage the harvest.

John Davenport, Triangle Strategy Coordinator

**UNIFOUR/GASTONIA**

The work of the strategy coordinator from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 placed focus on 19 pockets of lostness located in the Greater Hickory/Gastonia areas. Three pockets in the Winston-Salem area are also highlighted because the strategy coordinator has been requested to work with Calvary Baptist, which has adopted pocket Nos. 29, 32 and 52. Emphasis is placed on the formation of strategy teams made up of key pastors serving in or near the pockets. The vision is to eradicate or flip these pockets of lostness from approximately 70 percent unreached to 70 percent reached with the gospel. Various strategies are used to move forward toward the vision depending on the situation of the pocket. However, in most of the pockets there are at least four constant strategic components. These are: prayer, church planting, church revitalization and disciple-making.

A few of the pockets that the strategy coordinator has worked with during this period are listed below. Each pocket is labeled with the following information: engagement phase, churches involved, pastors involved, director of missions of the association, association name, and Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) specialists who have been involved.

**Pocket No. 65: Mooresville**
Pastor Robert Jackson with Peninsula Baptist, has been working with strategy coordinator John Gordy for several months. The two prayer drove through the pocket and discussed other churches that may be potential partners.

Gordy and strategy coordinator Steve Harris met with Mike Madding, senior pastor of The Cove, to discuss demographic information relating to two lost pockets. These lost pockets are located in Mooresville (pocket No. 65), Denver (pocket No. 77) and Conover (pocket No. 97) where The Cove has satellite campuses. After the coordinator shared a presentation, Madding said, “Mission heard and accepted.” The Cove is having a huge impact in pocket Nos. 65, 77 and 97, but it has been difficult to gain the information needed to compile a statistical report.
Gordy has also met with Brad Harrison, pastor of Trinity Church in Mooresville. During their meeting, they discussed pocket No. 65 and how Trinity Church may reach the lost there. Harrison and his wife attended Steve Clark’s "LIFE Community Training" breakout session and is planning to invite Steve and his wife, Connie, to conduct the training at Trinity.

Pocket No. 77: Denver
Three pastors in pocket No. 77 — Chris Griggs of Denver Baptist, Steve Owenby of Westport Baptist, and Ben Rudolph of the Church at Denver — have been working together for several months. These pastors have mapped out the entire pocket and have led their churches to do extensive prayer walks. Together, these congregations have sent out evangelistic flyers to introduce people within the pocket to the gospel and to their churches. They have also conducted joint church services to highlight the pocket needs, sometimes by inviting Gordy, to attend and share further details.

Together, these pastors are currently planning to do an "Explore God" neighborhood Bible study. This six-week series of Bible studies will be held in several homes scattered across the pocket, where members will invite unreached neighbors to a meal. No question or discussion is off the table, and the plan is that a mature Christian in the group will be able to direct the discussion to begin a gospel conversation. The pastors confer with Gordy on a regular basis through phone calls or lunch meetings to learn about progress in reaching this pocket.

Pocket No. 97: Conover
BSCNC Board member Mitch King and Gordy worked together to identify a pocket that the Alexander Baptist Association could engage. They chose to engage pocket No. 97 because it was in the top 100. King and Gordy met with a group of pastors to share more details about pocket No. 97 and its demographics. Later, the group arranged a prayer walk through the pocket and believed that the next step was to plant a church within the area. In the meantime, The Cove in Mooresville opened up a new satellite church campus in the area and began reaching many people. With no one to host a church plant and the fact that The Cove was already serving in the area, the group of pastors decided to focus on pockets in the Alexander association that were among the next 150 pockets of lostness.

Disciple-making Vision
The vision for the Unifour population center is to assist pastors and directors of missions to initiate a disciple-making culture in churches and associations to impact lostness. Currently, these are the men that I am directly ‘disciple-making’, either in triads or one-on-one.

- John Compton, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church (pocket Nos. 60 and 82).
- Scott Butler, investment banker, member of Calvary Baptist in Winston-Salem (pocket No. 32).
- Duane Kuykendall, director of missions for Catawba Valley Baptist Association and Shawn Milburn, pastor of Calvary Baptist in Newton (pocket Nos. 60 and 82).
- Lynn Parson, pastor of Day3 in Granite Falls, and Jay Worsley, pastor of First Baptist Church Granite Falls (pocket No. 84).
- Thane Kendall, director of missions for the Greater Gaston Baptist Association, and Roger Mathis, pastor of Unity Baptist, Gastonia (pocket No. 51).
- Trent Rankin and Brad Lowe, church planters for Salvation Church in Gastonia (pocket No. 51).
• Wavey Williams and Jeremia Williams, church planters in Gastonia (pocket No. 51).
• Billy Beaver and Jeff Chewning, pastors in China Grove (pocket No. 80).

Prayer Bus Tours
A prayer bus tour was held May 24 in Gastonia, and plans are in the works to conduct prayer bus tours in three pockets of lostness in Lenoir.

The Next 150 Pockets of Lostness
Through June 2018, Strategic Coordinators have focused on the top 100 Pockets of Lostness. In 2017, Marcus Redding was contracted to focus on the next 150 pockets outside of the top 100. However, beginning June 2018, the convention Strategic Focus Team strategic coordinators were asked to expand the focus to embrace all 250 pockets of lostness, within their geographic centers. In looking at this expanded demographic, there are 13 associations with 49 pockets under the Unifour/Gastonia strategy coordinator’s purview. These include:

• Greater Gaston: Pockets 46, 51, 75, 81, 89
• Catawba Valley: Pockets 60, 82, 97,107, 131
• South Yadkin: Pockets 65, 104, 108, 144, 155, 161, 164, 217
• South Fork: Pockets 77, 121, 192, 223
• Rowan: Pockets 80, 90, 136, 164
• Caldwell: Pockets 84, 116, 138
• Greater Cleveland: Pockets 109, 124, 133, 180, 188
• Catawba River: Pockets 122, 127, 154, 199
• Alexander: Pockets 145, 238
• Three Forks: Pockets 148, 226
• Surry: Pockets 159, 232
• Brushy Mountain: Pockets 176, 231
• Yadkin: Pockets 209, 239, 250

John Gordy, Unifour Strategy Coordinator

FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Fruitland Baptist Bible College is a ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC). Therefore, the strategy of the convention enumerated as “impacting lostness through disciple-making” is of utmost importance to the leadership of Fruitland. Furthermore, it is our desire to join the convention in the fulfillment of this strategy through the various educational endeavors undertaken on behalf of the convention on our numerous campuses across the state.

In 1 Samuel chapter eight, Samuel faced a leadership crisis. The people of God no longer wanted their current leadership. Instead, they wanted a “king like the other nations.” In his distress over the words of the people, Samuel took their request to God. God told Samuel the people, in reality, were rejecting Him not Samuel. According to God in 1 Samuel, there are clear distinctions between a godly leader and a worldly leader. Fruitland is a ministry which seeks to prepare leaders in disciple-making for the 21st century that are godly servants and leaders. Fruitland teaches students to understand the difference between godly leaders and worldly leaders like the other nations. The administration, faculty and staff at Fruitland are devoted to making disciples of students by giving them a biblical foundation. This foundation prepares students to distinguish between godly leadership and worldly leaders.
Fruitland is owned and operated by the convention and operates out of its main campus located near Hendersonville and enjoys satellite locations in Wilkesboro, Rocky Mount and Monroe. The faculty comprising this unique school are in themselves quite unique. The faculty are practitioners and well versed in their academic assignments. Members of the faculty serve, or previously served, as pastors, staff ministers, associational leaders or state convention leaders in North Carolina and surrounding states. This approach for assembling the faculty ensures that professors are not only teaching from experience from days gone by, but are able to help students apply the timeless truths of Scripture to contemporary ministry challenges as the faculty themselves remain engaged in active roles of ministry.

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

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

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

In recent years, God has sent many young men and women to Fruitland for the purpose of preparing them to lead in ministry areas such as senior pastor, associate pastor, youth ministry, women’s ministries, children’s ministries, missions and ministry in many Christian organizations around the country and the world. God is also sending others to Fruitland who are police officers, business leaders, nurses, school teachers, as well as individuals from other professions and vocations. 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 an authentic and 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 as godly servants like Joseph, Esther and Daniel. Joseph, Esther and Daniel lived godly lives in the midst of pagan societies without compromise. God is calling many men and women who have this desire to serve God faithfully. These men and women are seeking a school to provide them with a Christian worldview based on the
Scriptures. They want to impact the lost by making disciples wherever God places them. These students work in vocational ministry as well as various secular vocations and professions. They desire to let their light shine so the world will see their good works and glorify the God who produced the good works. The most effective way to impact the lost world is to train people to teach others. This is the central focus of Fruitland.

Degree and certificate programs offered through Fruitland include an associate degree in religion along with a certificate program in both English and Spanish. The traditional program offered at Fruitland and recognized by many N.C. Baptists is the associate of religion/Christian ministries degree. The associate of Religion/Christian ministries degree is designed to help those who are called of God to make disciples and teach others to 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. Both in the classroom and in the total experience of preparation for ministry, Fruitland seeks the spiritual development of its students. Fruitland also seeks to impart a growing knowledge based on the Bible that will equip the student for ministry and for any further study that may be in God’s will. A special effort is made to relate the total preparation to the practical concerns of life and ministry. The associate of Religion/Christian ministries degree prepares students who are interested in missions, children’s ministries, youth ministries and pastoral ministries.

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

The intentional prioritization of the Scriptures as the foundation of our communication and ministry classes helps our graduates 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 which goes into the highways and hedges and impacts others with an invitation to “fill the house of God.”

With this foundation upon the Word of God as well as the communication and Christian service classes, Fruitland offers a curriculum designed to produce Christian servants and leaders who demonstrate the character of Jesus Christ in their lives. These students are prepared to echo the message of the gospel and impact the lost by making disciples who, in turn, teach others to seek the kingdom of God first instead of the pragmatic. The enrollment at Fruitland is 389 students. We have 106 Hispanic students in campuses around the state from Wilmington to Sylva. God is using these Hispanic students in North Carolina to disciple Christians and grow New Testament churches around the state. God is also using many of our Hispanic students in Mexico and South America as they travel back home to do ministry.

Fruitland continues to receive numerous requests from churches and ministries for student placement. The school has provided churches with pastors,
associate pastors, youth leaders and children’s ministers in increasing numbers over the last year. Fruitland wishes to thank every church around the state for supporting our ministry and sending us wonderful and godly students.

Fruitland is anticipating an exciting future. In addition to the on-campus experience and online classes, Fruitland has satellite campuses in Rocky Mount and Brunswick, North Carolina which offer the Christian training certificate. This certificate consists of 36 quarter hours in the areas of New Testament survey, spiritual life and study skills, New Testament survey, English grammar and composition, Old Testament survey, doctrine and revelation, Old Testament survey, homiletics, evangelism and discipleship, church history and world religions, introduction to Christian education, apologetics, pastoral ministries and church leadership, church leadership for health and growth, introduction to missions/church planting/church growth, and interpersonal relationships and team building.

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

Fruitland also offers a Christian leadership certificate and a diploma of Christian ministries for Hispanic students. Robert Fernandez is the director of the Hispanic program at 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 ministries, pastoral counseling, and church planting. The Hispanic program is offered on the main campus in Hendersonville as well as satellite campuses in Wilmington, Statesville, and Sylva.

David Horton, President

CONVENTION AUXILIARY

N.C. BAPTIST MEN/BAPTISTS ON MISSION

The Why, How and What of NCBM
What is the why, how and what of N.C. 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 of 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. We exist to help churches/Christians get personally involved in sharing Christ as they are personally involved in missions. The goal of Baptists on Mission is to help North Carolina Baptist churches involve their members (men, women and students) in missions.

**Areas of Work**
Baptists on Mission volunteers serve in 18 ministries that include the following:

**STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROJECTS**

God is changing lives through mission trips sponsored by Baptists on Mission in North Carolina and to places such as Pennsylvania, Hawaii, New England, the Rocky Mountain region, the 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.** North Carolina Baptists on Mission developed the Appalachian coalfields ministry in 2010. The purpose of the coalfields ministry is to minister both physically and spiritually to people in some of the poorest areas of our nation. Mission teams serve in the states of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. Projects include weeklong service in children’s ministry, sports clinics, music, evangelistic outreach and construction, to name a few. Mission opportunities may also include the collection, delivery, and distribution of items such as food, school supplies, clothing and more, which can be done in the course of a few days or over a weekend. Hundreds of teams and thousands of volunteers have served through the Appalachian coalfields ministry through the years. Another major component of the ministry is the annual Appalachian Christmas Outreach. Many in the Appalachian area have difficulty providing the basics of life for their families. They are plagued with cyclic, generational poverty. One of the greatest ministry needs here occurs around Christmastime. The Christmas backpacks may be the only gift that some of these children receive for Christmas. In 2017 North Carolina churches collected, filled and delivered 11,355 Christmas backpacks. Each contained items of warm clothing, toys, food, hygiene items, and a Bible and pamphlet that explains the true meaning of Christmas. We are humbled at how God is using the Appalachian coalfields ministry to reach families and change lives.

Dewey and Kathie Aiken are NCBM on-site coordinators for the Appalachian coalfields ministry. The Aikens live in Brevard, North Carolina, but travel throughout the Appalachian area, learning about the people and encouraging ministry leaders. They combine a deep passion for showing the love of Christ to others with a clear understanding of the needs of mission teams. We are delighted to work with Dewey and Kathie in this ministry. “Only God knows how many people have come to know Christ as volunteers 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 that are owned by local churches and associations and 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 lots of other disaster relief equipment that the Lord has provided.

Lives are being changed. In August 2017, hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria slammed Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively, and affected thousands of families. Since then, N.C. Baptists have provided more than 530,000 hot meals and more than 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. N.C. Baptists are still serving hurting people in Puerto Rico and have already completed more than 100 roofs for people who lost their roofs in Hurricane Maria. In addition, the rebuilding effort from Hurricane Matthew in 2016 will continue for another year or so.

MEDICAL/DENTAL MISSIONS

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

HEALTH SCREENING MINISTRY

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

STUDENT MISSIONS

Deep Impact helps 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.

DI KIDS

One of our newest efforts is Deep Impact Kids (DI Kids), a missions weekend/week for children and their leaders. DI Kids missions weeks, mini weeks, and weekends are pre-packaged mission experiences sponsored by Baptists on Mission that provide elementary-age students and their leaders/parents
with the opportunity to share the love of God with people in North Carolina. The children enjoy a great camp experience with a mission focus. Involving children in missions is a great beginning to developing disciple-making students and adults with a love for missions.

OTHER MINISTRIES

In addition to the ministries described above, other ministries of Baptists on Mission 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, compassion ministry, church renewal, prayer support, sports and recreation, men’s ministry, student missions, and children’s missions.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

The annual missions conference, sponsored by Baptists on Mission, 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. More than 1,600 people attend this conference every year.

REGIONAL MISSIONS RALLIES

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

BAPTISTS ON MISSION MAGAZINE

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

MISSION CAMPS

Every year, an average of 5,000 volunteers respond to needs through the mission camps in both 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 N.C. Baptist Men/Baptists on Mission staff is committed to helping North Carolina Baptist churches involve their members in missions. Your NCBM staff are: Richard Brunson, executive director-treasurer; Mark Abernathy, consultant for partnerships and men’s ministry; Tom Beam, consultant for student missions mobilization; Dollie Noa, consultant for children and family missions; Paul Langston, missions mobilization consultant; Gaylon Moss*, consultant for disaster relief and mobilization; David and Janet Brown, mission camp coordinators in Shelby; Larry and Teresa Osborne, mission camp coordinators in Red Springs; Kailyn Eskridge, events assistant; Kecia Morgan,
financial assistant; Joanne Honeycutt, disaster relief assistant; Lynn Tharrington, executive assistant; Crystal Horton, health screening ministry coordinator; Dewey and Kathie Aiken, Appalachian coalfield field coordinators; Teresa Jones, Roma partnership coordinator; and Rick Trexler, college missions contract worker.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Gaylon Moss became disaster relief director with the Missouri Baptist Convention effective July 1, 2018.

N.C. BAPTIST MEN/BAPTISTS ON MISSION
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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 helping North Carolina Baptists stay informed regarding various issues that affect the local church, which include family issues, life issues, moral issues, citizenship issues and public affairs issues. These are done from a concerted Christian worldview. CLPA maintains support of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s strategy to impact lostness through disciple-making. As well, we hold that 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 2017-2018 has been centered on the topic of immigration, as well as seeking helps related to the opioid addiction crisis. The CLPA committee seeks to introduce churches to the people and resources from our state convention that can best assist them as they wrestle with the complexities of immigration and how our responses should best reflect the love of Jesus with the lost world that has come to our doorstep. In regard to the opioid addiction crisis, the CLPA committee is currently involved in reviewing materials and collecting various resources to help pastors and churches throughout our state effectively minister to individuals and families who are impacted by this expanding crisis.

As the CLPA committee diligently works to obtain and then provide important information and resources to the local church, we covet your prayers. Therefore, together let us continue to move forward in impacting lostness through disciple-making. And as always, we count it a privilege to serve North Carolina Baptists.

Troy Grant, Chairman
CONVENTION RELATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Convention Relations Special Committee of the Board of Directors works to provide effective ways for board members to be involved in the work of the institutions and agencies of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The institutions of the convention are: Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina (BCH), which includes the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM), and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital through the division of Faith and Health Ministries. The agencies of the convention are: the North Carolina Baptist Foundation and the *Biblical Recorder*. Collectively, these four entities are referred to as the convention’s “related entities.”

The past year has been a time of transition for the committee. The duties of the board committee, formerly known as the Christian Social Services Special Committee, were expanded to include the convention’s two agencies — the Baptist Foundation and the *Biblical Recorder*. The new title, Convention Relations Special Committee, better reflects the expanded assignment. It has been an exciting year as we have endeavored to help promote these entities, assisting them in their ministries as we all work together to share Christ and impact lostness through disciple making.

The ministries of the Baptist Children’s Homes continue to grow as they engage hurting families throughout our state. BCH served more than 32,000 individuals this past year and more than 200 adults and children made decisions for Christ. Our committee assisted BCH by distributing notecards for our Baptist churches to write words of encouragement to the residents and staff at BCH. More than 3,000 notes were returned and shared. Committee members also promoted the BCH annual food drive. There was a great response to this endeavor and food poured in by the truckloads. This will go a long way in assisting the more than 700,000 meals and snacks administered by BCH each year.

Members also shared about the convention’s annual Ride to Clyde motorcycle fundraiser. We encouraged Baptists to participate and support this fundraiser and they responded by donating in excess of $50,000 for BCH through the Ride to Clyde event. It is exciting to be able to help promote the various needs and ministries and watch the great things that God is doing.

The North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry continues to expand as our population of aging adults increases in North Carolina. Members were able to approach our churches and associations and to share about the work of NCBAM. “Red Bags” medicine bags, “Ramping Up” ramp building ministry teams, “Aging Well” workshops are just a few of the NCBAM ministries aimed at our senior communities. These ministries are great helps to this community and also afford the opportunity to share the love of Christ.

The North Carolina Baptist Hospital Division of Faith and Health Ministries provides many services as it continues to expand across our state to meet the many physical needs of North Carolina residents. The members of our committee helped in the distribution of resources to promote the annual Mother’s Day Offering to support the ministries of the hospital. Committee members encouraged our churches and associations to present the annual Mother’s Day Offering DVD and encourage our churches to contribute to this offering, which is used to assist patients at N.C. Baptist Hospital who are unable to pay their hospital bills due to financial deficiencies. Baptists
contributed more than $500,000 to this offering in the past year, impacting many lives and affording the opportunity to share in the love of Jesus Christ.

The North Carolina Baptist Foundation provides many services to our churches, such as stewardship promotion and development, church fund management, and many other services. The foundation, in collaboration with our convention, has awarded more than $300,000 in scholarships to students from N.C. Baptist churches. Our members continue to encourage our churches to invite foundation staff to come to their churches and share the many services they provide on behalf of North Carolina Baptists to benefit the missions and ministry efforts we hold dear.

The *Biblical Recorder* is 185 years old and is the only regularly published Baptist newspaper on the East Coast of the United States. Allan Blume, editor and president of the *Recorder*, stated one of his greatest passions is to support the ministry of the pastor. The members of this committee are encouraging our churches to subscribe to the *Recorder* and invite representatives to come and share about the many ways the *Recorder* assists the churches through what is known as the “BR Advantage.” Members of the committee are also encouraging churches to add a link to the *Recorder* to their church website.

The ministries of these entities would not be possible without the generous Cooperative Program giving of N.C. Baptists. Annual offerings to these institutions also help to further expand their ministries as they share the love of Jesus Christ. Presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ and impacting lostness through disciple-making is what we are all about. Thank you, North Carolina Baptists, for making a difference.

*Boyce Porter, Chairman*

**CONVENTION INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES**

**BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA**

Numbers can say so much: 80 percent of the children and families that Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) serves come to us unchurched. In 2017, BCH became home to 74 groups of siblings. These precious brothers and sisters, for their safety, had to be removed from the custody of their parents or family members.

In 2012, just six years ago, BCH cared for 12 sibling groups. Those numbers have risen sharply for many reasons, but opioid use in particular has gripped mothers, fathers and families. It indiscriminately rips families apart. More than ever, our cottage parents and caring staff see the effects daily as children come to us hurt, confused and already weary from life’s struggles.

As a child, it’s heartbreaking when you cannot trust your family to feed you, give you clean clothes that fit, provide you a safe home, or simply give you the love you long for. At BCH, our cottage parents stand waiting in the doors of our caring cottage homes and say “come” to these children who have been neglected and often abused. They become a family to them. And they introduce children to the voice of Jesus Christ who says to them, “Come to me… I will give you rest.”

Again, numbers say so much: 203 lives were forever changed in 2017! Because of North Carolina Baptists, children have hope. Souls are being saved. You impacted a total of 32,576 lives last year! This would not be possible without you.
Every day, more children are coming to us throughout BCH’s 21 statewide locations and our orphanage in Guatemala. Please continue to help us offer places of healing, places of rest – compassionate places where children and families can rise out of brokenness and come into the arms of Jesus.

Thank you for being our partners – our friends – in ministry.

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

Note: Help by encouraging your church to be a part of the 2018 Annual Offering this fall. Schedule a speaker to share the BCH story with your church. Call (336) 474-1209 and visit www.bchoffering.org.

Junior – A Life Changed!

"My cottage parents told me my relationship with Jesus needed to be personal – now it is.” – Junior, who accepted Jesus on June 29, 2017.

Turmoil was normal to Junior and his younger brother. As toddlers, the boys were removed from their mother’s care because of her struggle with drugs. The brothers lived in multiple foster homes until their father came back into their lives. When a run-in with the law led to their father’s imprisonment, Junior was angry and hurt. The trauma he experienced throughout his young life was taking its toll. The boys’ grandmother turned to Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) for help. Living at BCH with their cottage parents and the other boys has given them a caring home. Most of all, it has given them hope. During a youth camp at the church the cottage attends, Junior and the other youth were asked to write on a piece of paper the one question they would ask God. On his paper, Junior says, “I had asked God to save me.” That night, he says his life truly changed.

Numbers of Children in Need Rise in 2017

The needs of North Carolina children remained great this past year as BCH’s statewide homes stayed full or near capacity. Children are now living at BCH for longer periods of time in a trend that has shifted from 2016. A rise in abuse and neglect, often due to the nation’s growing opioid crisis, has resulted in children remaining longer in the safe, stable setting BCH offers. One measurement BCH uses to analyze the need is called “days of care.” A day of care is counted every time a child is safely tucked in bed at night. In 2017, that number reached a staggering 125,889 days.

First-year Ministry Reaches Thousands

Greater Vision Outreach Ministry has quickly impacted the lives of community families throughout the state. In its first year, Greater Vision reached 9,393 individuals across North Carolina. The ministry’s purpose is to strengthen working families, who struggle financially, by meeting essential physical and spiritual needs. Greater Vision works in partnership with other organizations to provide food, resources, education, referral and preventive services. Greater Vision’s statewide headquarters in Thomasville, which can accept large donations, was scheduled to open in the summer of 2018. To donate, volunteer or learn more about services, call (866) 904-0060 or visit www.bchfamily.org/greatervision.

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry’s Influence Recognized

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) received both regional and international attention in 2017. The ministry received the 2017 Outstanding Community Service Award for North Carolina from the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging. This award recognizes an agency
that has made positive contributions in the lives of older people. In June, NCBAM’s director, Sandy Gregory, spoke at the 7th International Conference on Aging and Spirituality in Chicago. NCBAM also added new titles to the workshops it offers to churches and senior centers and now offering more than 40 enrichment workshops that address issues relevant to aging adults. For information or to register for workshops and events, visit www.ncbam.org or call (877) 506-2226.

Career Opportunities – Go on Mission at Baptist Children’s Homes
As local missionaries, everyone at Baptist Children’s Homes strives to care for hurting children and families and share with them God’s unfailing love. BCH is looking for married, Christian couples to serve as cottage parents who will love hurting children and families with the love of Jesus Christ. This is an opportunity to be a paid, full-time local missionary with great benefits. Learn more about career opportunities with BCH at www.bchcareers.org.

BCH President Celebrates Milestones
Michael C. Blackwell celebrated multiple accomplishments in 2017. Blackwell was conferred the honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C., during its summer commencement ceremony on Aug. 5 and presented the message to the graduates in attendance. On Dec. 15, he was also awarded the honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, N.C. Both universities lauded his achievements and his transformational leadership at BCH. In addition, Blackwell was named one of the Triad’s most admired CEOs by the Triad Business Journal. Trustees approved the Emergency Care Cottage at Broyhill Home to be named the Michael C. and Catherine Kanipe Blackwell Cottage. On Aug. 12, Blackwell and his wife, Catherine, celebrated 50 years of marriage. And in 2018, he will mark 35 years as BCH president/CEO, a position held longer than any BCH executive leader.

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina
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www.bchfamily.org

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

BIBLICAL RECORDER

Everyone appreciates an advantage. If you’ve ever been in a situation that placed you at a disadvantage, you know what it feels like. You look for that edge to take away the unfavorable circumstances and give you the advantage you need.

Sometimes in ministry we get the feeling that we are laboring under a disadvantage – especially when social, cultural, financial and political pressures stand against the mission of the church. Pastors and other church leaders search for ways to help the church family face these pressures and grow strong in the faith.

Do you have the BR advantage? The Biblical Recorder may give you the advantages you need.
It’s likely that many of the people in your congregation know very little about the Southern Baptist missionaries and church planters they support through mission offerings and the Cooperative Program. How much do they know about our seminaries, Fruitland Baptist Bible College, disaster relief ministries, children’s homes ministries, Baptist hospitals and the Baptist foundation? If they are not informed, they are not likely to give generously. That puts your church and our Great Commission partnership at a disadvantage.

You need the BR advantage!

The ministry of the *Biblical Recorder* exists to give you an advantage. Our mission is not simply to provide news and information from a Christian worldview, but to help N.C. Baptists know how God is working in Baptist missions and ministry around the world. We exist to help the people in your church face the issues of the day and grow into strong disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You are preaching, teaching and worshipping on Sunday. But, who is influencing your church family from Monday to Saturday? Are they leaning on unreliable news sources that have an unbiblical agenda, or are they getting the *Biblical Recorder*? Is the secular media their only source of news? If so, that needs to change.

If Christians are going to reach a lost culture, we need information that is both inspirational and accurate. Your *Biblical Recorder* staff is serious about equipping our readers to live for Jesus every day of the week.

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, focuses on the Great Commission and glorifies God. That’s what we do!

God is glorified when His church is strong, healthy and living out both the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) 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.

The main tools we use to get the news to you include:

- The *Biblical Recorder* in print is a great value. Individual members can subscribe or the church can provide the *Recorder* for its members at a discounted rate. A copy will be mailed directly to their home or 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 online. 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 18,000 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 device.
- *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. Visit BRnow.org/BRweekly.
- Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We give you breaking news and important information quickly.
Everyone in your church needs the *Biblical Recorder*. The *BR* advantage helps church members give generously and grow stronger as serious disciple-makers.

Does your church have a group subscription plan? If not, please begin a new group plan now. If you have a group plan, will you consider expanding it to all keep all of the church informed and inspired?

Does your church website include a link to the *Biblical Recorder*s popular website, *BRnow.org*?

We want to help your church 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.

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

Please visit *BRnow.org/PromoteBR* to learn how you can inform your church about the many ways the *Biblical Recorder* helps the people in your congregation stay informed.

This year the *Biblical Recorder* celebrates 185 years of service to North Carolina Baptists. Our website is 21 years old and the *BRweekly* celebrates six years of ministry. We are 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 since 1845 and the Cooperative Program since 1925.

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*
205 Convention Drive
Cary, NC 27511
919-847-2127

*Nate Jones, Chairman, Board of Directors*
*K. Allan Blume, Editor/President*

**NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

The North Carolina Baptist Foundation was authorized by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina on Nov. 12, 1919 and was organized as the first state Baptist foundation on Dec. 15, 1919. The first meeting of foundation directors was the following year, Nov. 17, 1920. Therein, the foundation is one year away from entering a year of celebrating this unique ministry among N.C. Baptists.

Still, the mission 100 years later is to serve North Carolina Baptists by “generating an increased awareness of Christian estate stewardship principles as a means of financially undergirding Baptist churches, institutions and mission endeavors on a permanent basis.” Ten years ago our mission was
expanded as we created North Carolina Baptist Financial Services “to serve the needs of N.C. Baptist churches, Baptist institutions and members of N.C. Baptist churches by providing loan and investment services.” Our motto as we approach our 100th birthday is, “Fostering Christ-Like Generosity … Facilitating Kingdom Growth.”

The Lord blessed our ministry in 2017 in the following ways:
• At the end of 2017 the foundation managed more than $162 million.
• Received gifts in 2017 totaling $5.57 million.
• Distributed $7.25 million.
• Managed 2,757 accounts benefitting 677 ministries and charities.
• Awarded 204 scholarships to N.C. Baptist students totaling more than $350,000.
• Currently administer 79 loans totaling $44.3 million.
• Currently have $49.9 million invested in certificates of participation.
• Have distributed more than $188 million since 1919.

The following chart illustrates areas of ministry receiving support from foundation accounts in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Education</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home &amp; Foreign Missions</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Hospital</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist State Convention</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Homes</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Homes</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biblical Recorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td>GuideStone</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The foundation staff is always available to assist N.C. Baptist individuals and churches in “Fostering Christ-like Generosity and Facilitating Kingdom Growth.”

Clay Warf, Executive Director
James Shelly, Chairman of the Board

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL /
WAKE FOREST BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Since the founding of the medical school in 1902 and North Carolina Baptist Hospital in 1923, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center has grown into a nationally recognized academic medical center and health care system, operating as an integrated enterprise of educational and research facilities, hospitals, outpatient clinics, emergency and urgent care centers, diagnostic units, physician practices, and a commercialization division to bring innovative technologies to the bedside.

With more than 14,000 employees, the medical center is the largest employer in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County and one of the largest in the Piedmont Triad.
region. Wake Forest Baptist provides adult and pediatric health care services to the residents of 24 counties in central and northwest North Carolina and southwest Virginia.

The 88-bed hospital opened in 1923, following the vision and financial investment of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), began a legacy to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ that continues to be exhibited today through the core values of expert medical care and compassion for patients and families. Dr. Julie Freischlag, who became the CEO of the medical center in 2017, says of the partnership between the convention and the medical center:

“I’ve had the honor to serve as a surgeon and administrator of some of the great academic medical centers in the world, but this is the first time I’ve experienced the practical blessings of blending spirit and science in such a systematic way at such large scale. I simply don’t know of another partnership like this anywhere, and I am grateful for the way it extends beyond our walls into the neighborhoods and communities of your thousands of congregations. I have come to know and be amazed at the extraordinary quality of medicine and technology the people of North Carolina have long come to expect. You have much to be proud of. But what I value most is the way patients and families trust us, partly because they trust you.

“We are in a time of radical uncertainty in health care, but I am confident that the communities we both serve together will continue to trust that you and the medical center you established will never look away.”

Today, in addition to the main campus in Winston-Salem, the medical center system includes Wake Forest Baptist Health – Lexington Medical Center; Wake Forest Baptist Health – Davie Medical Center; Wake Forest Baptist Health – Wilkes Medical Center. Clinics, diagnostic centers, outpatient surgery centers and other primary and specialty care facilities serve our 24-county area. Wake Forest Baptist Health includes North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Brenner Children’s Hospital, Wake Forest Innovations and Wake Forest Innovation Quarter.

We continue to be profoundly grateful for our long standing partnership with the convention, our founding partner of the hospital. This nearly 100-year-old partnership between the convention and the hospital is unlike any other between founding state Baptist conventions and hospitals.

The convention is our creative partner in providing medical service and health care to the very poor and most vulnerable people in our state. The mission for the hospital given to us by the convention is woven into the fabric of the FaithHealth movement and helps us weave together multiple networks of caring.

Our work in FaithHealth rests on the broader points of “touch” and aligns with the original vision of the convention to begin North Carolina Baptist Hospital. M.S. Kesler, chair of the Hospital Commission appointed by the convention to lead the effort to establish a Baptist hospital in North Carolina, told the convention’s messengers in 1921:

“Again, this form of Christian service must not be removed too far from the churches. As we establish and maintain a hospital system, it must not lead churches and Christians to relegate all responsibility and personal interest to the hospital. A proper conception of this mission of the hospital will put the
local church in close touch with the community, in ministering to the afflicted and also extend its interest to the institution as well."

**FaithHealthNC – A Partnership of Compassion**

FaithHealthNC has been a grateful recipient of Cooperative Program funds to support our ongoing work among N.C. Baptists and our growing partnership with the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina.

This partnership with the general Baptist convention is a crucial part of our ministry as we develop ways to work with the Divinity School at Shaw University, co-sponsor our annual John Hatch FaithHealth Lecture Series, and work together to help churches address the emerging developments in health care, particularly to the most vulnerable.

FaithHealthNC has 40 connectors serving across the state. These connectors are local, trusted individuals who relate well to churches, medical providers and community resources to improve health in their communities. They work closely with volunteer caregivers from churches to assist individuals before, during and after hospitalization. The connectors are a vital part of our ministry to help persons find the right door for health care at the right time helping them to be ready to be treated and assuring them that they are not alone.

FaithHealthNC appreciates the ministries of local Baptist associations and their impact on their communities. They are a vital partner in the FaithHealth movement and strategically placed to impact health in their communities. We will be working closely with associations and placing connectors in associations in the hospital’s catchment area.

FaithHealthNC supports the convention’s strategy of “impacting lostness through disciple-making” as we work with churches to improve health in their communities that touch the spiritual, behavioral, social and physical needs of individuals. New commitments are developing as we anticipate the 100th anniversary of the hospital and our long-standing partnership with the state convention.

**The Mother’s Day Offering – A Source of Hope**

The theme for the 2018 Mother’s Day Offering was, “And so, as those who have been chosen by God…put on a heart of compassion” based on Colossians 3:12. North Carolina Baptists have been putting on a heart of compassion for patients who face financial burdens due to hospitalization since 1924. These gifts make a life-changing difference in the lives of patients and their families as they experience the generosity of North Carolina Baptists in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Patients like Holly Beasley, who was struggling to breathe while most high school seniors were enjoying those last few weeks before graduation. What had happened only two or three times in her life as a person with cystic fibrosis was now happening two or three times a year – hospitalization for recurrent lung infections. It was a difficult time for her family as the hospital bills increased and she was preparing to go to college. Holly explains that she felt bad that it was because of her that the family was spending all their money. Then she and her family received the good news that the Mother’s Day Offering was going to help them.

Holly’s mother, Vickie, said, “Paying off that bill was huge. We felt defeated as parents. We felt so thankful when we got the call. Today Holly is in college and focused on her studies. Sometimes when you have a chronic illness, you can feel alone. This made me feel people are there for me.”
Thank you for giving to the Mother’s Day Offering in the name of Jesus Christ to change lives like Holly’s. Please visit www.mothersdayoffering.org to see her full story and those of other recipients.

CareNet, Inc. — Lifting Spirits. Holding Hope.
Since 1972, the state convention has pioneered a unique partnership with a mental health ministry that reaches across 80 counties in North Carolina. Since its beginning, it is estimated that more than 250,000 individuals and families have been impacted by this ministry of hope, growth, and healing. 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 witness to the extraordinary vision of the attend to the whole life of the disciples of Jesus.

The following is a snapshot of this past fiscal year and the unique work being done by CareNet counselors supported by the generosity of the convention. It highlights how this shared ministry continues to innovate and go where we think healthcare is going:

**Greenville Region** - We are partnering with a nonprofit school and a community center in two of Greenville’s most vulnerable neighborhoods by placing a counselor in both the school and center 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 Region** - The CareNet center in Fayetteville (Fayetteville Family Life Center) began in 1974 and is the oldest CareNet network center outside of Winston-Salem. Since its inception, it has had a supporting relationship with the New South River Baptist Association. In 2017, the Fayetteville CareNet center offered 686 pastoral counseling sessions to 33 local Southern Baptist churches. Of all of the Fayetteville center’s clients, 30 percent are military families, so CareNet gets the added privilege of serving those who have made such great sacrifices for our country. The Fayetteville center has a strong ministerial outreach also, as it cares for many Southern Baptist pastors and their families (through free group and individual pastoral counseling sessions). Southern Baptist ministers and their families come to the CareNet center in Fayetteville from all over southeastern North Carolina.

**Lumberton Region** - The CareNet center of Robeson County has always had a strong relationship with the Robeson Baptist Association. The associational office has helped CareNet tremendously by letting the community know of its services through its monthly newsletter. In 2017, the Robeson CareNet center offered 191 pastoral counseling sessions to 27 Southern Baptist churches from the Robeson County community. The CareNet center in Robeson County has continued to strive to reach out to families stuck in the trauma of the flooding from Hurricane Matthew.

**Harnett County** - CareNet of Harnett County has had a strong connection with the Little River Baptist Association since its beginnings. The Little River Baptist Association graciously features CareNet’s services on its website. In 2017, the CareNet Harnett center served 19 Southern Baptist churches, offering a total of 252 pastoral counseling sessions. The CareNet Harnett center also offered outreach to the community by partnering with a local funeral home to care for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

**Winston-Salem Region** - Our largest region spans Mount Airy, Kernersville, Mocksville, Winston-Salem and the counties surrounding those locations.
This growing region locates counselors in pediatric and primary care clinics, as well as in two churches. Within the last two years, this area conducted several “Soul Shops,” an education program for faith communities focused on suicidal desperation and education. This is a growing problem for many age groups in all of the communities served. Partnerships with local churches and businesses allowed this region to hold an educational panel discussion about opioid misuse this year titled “Amazing Grace.” The goal was to educate faith leaders and laypersons on the facts behind this burgeoning crisis in order to offer grace, mercy and support to all who have been affected.

Wilkes County Region – The newest Wake Forest Baptist hospital is located in North Wilkesboro, and this center is ground zero for trauma associated with substance use in North Carolina. We have a counselor in a free health care clinic providing integrated care, are working with local primary care physicians providing shared medical appointments, and have plans to further integrate counselors in local primary care offices along with a closer alignment with the local hospital that is now part of our family. We have trained more than 300 persons in Mental Health First Aid, and in the fall we will begin training persons in resiliency.

Mooresville Region – CareNet of Lake Norman and Statesville provides more than 4,500 counseling hours per year to the families in Iredell County. We work closely with the churches in our area. First Baptist Church in Mooresville provides space for our office, rent free. They and several other churches in our county provide financial support to the CareNet budget. We continue to be an outreach of pastoral counseling to those struggling or grieving. Our employee assistance programs for the Iredell Memorial Hospital and two large medical group systems have seen increased utilization this past year. Our newest clinician is a staff psychologist who works with many families who have children with disruptive behavioral concerns. We see individuals, couples and families at CareNet.

Marion Region – Since the opening of our Marion center, we have served more than 204 individual adults, adolescents and families from McDowell, Avery, Buncombe, Burke and Rutherford counties with more than 50 percent of these recipients of spiritually integrated counseling care demonstrating some form of financial need. Nearly 50 percent of our clients who identified as persons of faith in 2017 claimed a Baptist church as their worship home. In addition, our strong partnership with First Baptist Church of Marion and Clinchfield Baptist Church has been especially invaluable in nurturing the conditions for hope and healing in our community. Outside of the counseling office, we have partnered with these churches to facilitate Wednesday night classes on Soulful Wellness, to host a Mental Health First Aid Training in First Baptist Church’s family ministry center, and to learn alongside older adults about therapeutic lifestyle changes that can support neurobiological resilience.

Wilmington Region – Our Wilmington Region has offices hosted by three southeastern North Carolina Baptist associations. The main Wilmington CareNet location has been in the Wilmington Baptist Association, (now the Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches) building for more than 25 years, while the Brunswick Baptist Resource Center has hosted a CareNet site for about 20 years. 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 their lives in service of our country.

In a turbulent policy environment where behavioral health is already reimbursed well below its cost, the partnership with the 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 to reclaim life, love and hope through sensitive and compassionate care in 35 CareNet locations.

Chaplaincy and Clinical Ministries – Combining Ministry with Education
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 it offers a variety of programs, including some in community-based settings.

Additional Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Highlights:

Wake Forest Baptist holds the coveted Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission, and in 2017 was ranked nationally in six adult medical and surgical specialties by U.S. News & World Report. Wake Forest Baptist also was ranked as “High Performing” in four other categories by the magazine.

The medical center is the region’s only Level I trauma center, renowned for handling the region’s most complex medical cases.

Wake Forest Baptist continues to be a major research and innovation center, making important contributions to biomedical and health science research nationally and internationally.

Wake Forest Baptist is the first hospital in the southeast and just the second in the world to own a device that allows operating room staff and medical students to see in 4K (ultra-high-definition) 3D.

Brenner Children’s Hospital has once again been listed among the best children’s hospitals in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Each year, Brenner Children’s Hospital has about 5,000 admissions, 57,000 outpatient clinic visits and 36,000 pediatric emergency department visits.

Thank you North Carolina Baptists for partnering with us since 1920 to carry out the health care mission envisioned in the minds of those who believed there should be a Baptist hospital to extend the healing ministry of Jesus in North Carolina. We are blessed by you and grateful for your financial and prayerful support.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the hospital a key component of that event and celebration will be recognizing the significant impact of our partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. This partnership has contributed to not only our care for patients, but also the broader impact of extending ministry to the most vulnerable and needy in the same communities where the congregations of the convention are located.

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

The Rev. Leland A. Kerr
Baptist Healthcare Liaison,
FaithHealthNC
Wake Forest Baptist Health
CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

Campbell University continued to enjoy unprecedented growth during the 2017-2018 academic year, celebrating historic graduating classes, new ventures into the world of rural health and breaking ground on a new student union that will transform the Buies Creek, North Carolina, campus for decades to come.

National Leaders in Rural Health
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded Campbell a $730,248 grant in 2017 to fund an 18-month national exploration — the Rural Philanthropic Analysis (RPA) — designed to create, identify and enhance new ideas and insights to improve the practice and impact of charitable organizations when it comes to supporting healthy, equitable rural communities. The RPA had an office and staff on Campbell’s campus in Buies Creek by the fall.

“I think the foundation saw in us a growing university in rural Harnett County producing professionals in all sorts of fields — from health care to law, business to the ministry — and sending these professionals all across this state and this nation to the small towns and rural communities that need them most,” Vice President for Institutional Advancement Britt Davis said. “Campbell was just a very good fit for what they were looking for. We just fit the profile.”

While the RPA is new to Campbell, Davis says rural philanthropy has been a part of the university’s mission since day one, back when founder J.A. Campbell started Buies Creek Academy 131 years ago with the idea that everybody deserves an education, regardless of finances or social standing. The 1900 graduating class of Buies Creek Academy included at least 21 young men and women who went on to become teachers in rural Harnett County’s public school system. Their education begat the next generation of educated residents.

The RPA takes Campbell’s 131 years of rural-based education and — through the partnership and support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation — puts it in a national spotlight.

“It’s been tremendously validating for Campbell University,” Davis said. “It brings all these things into view that we have consciously or unconsciously been practicing for over a century. Schools like Campbell don’t often receive these foundation grants. Our peers in this state and in the nation now see that the largest private health care funder is putting some of its resources into us, and that’s significant for not only our university as a whole, but for our reputation in the marketplace.

“It shows that we are, indeed, doing things to help make life better for our rural communities in this state and beyond.”

Construction Begins on ‘Transformative’ Student Union
Campbell administration, trustees, alumni, faculty and students celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for a new 110,000-square-foot student union in April. Once completed, the student union will become a “transformative” addition to the campus, providing a much-needed center of activity for the Campbell community.

The building’s many possibilities and uses proved to be the theme of the ceremony. During his time at the podium, Vice President for Business and Treasurer Jim Roberts led his audience on a mental walk-through of the
building, starting with the new cafeteria on the first floor (Gaylord’s Kitchen, as named by the students) as well as other dining options, a new Campbell apparel and spirit shop, student offices and the first floor of a new two-story fitness center. He then led them up the stairs — an LED-lit stairwell that will change colors for special events (like orange for a Campbell win in sports) — and into the large conference hall and ballroom, more areas where students can meet or study and a 200-seat movie theater.

When completed, the student union will be larger than the convocation center, which turns 10 this year. This fact alone has become a selling point for Assistant Vice President for Admissions Jason Hall, one of 10 speakers on the hour-long program.

“When I talk to prospective students about this building, it’s hard to relay to them just how massive this will be — something you don’t see by looking at dirt or a few renderings in a magazine,” said Hall. “That’s why today is so very special. It marks a beginning. Soon, a foundation will form, and a skeleton will rise to outline the progress. When I tell them this will be larger than the convocation center, I’m usually met with raised eyebrows, a smile and maybe the occasional ‘whoa.’”

Campbell Celebrates First Graduating Class of Nurses

The Catherine W. Wood School of Nursing graduated 44 students on May 11, 2018, during the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences graduation ceremony. The school’s first commencement came nearly two years after the program accepted its first group of juniors at the new Tracey F. Smith Hall of Nursing & Health Sciences in fall 2016. Unlike most majors within a university system, Campbell’s nursing program does not enroll students until they are juniors or have met all the program requirements and fulfilled all program prerequisites.

Getting the general curriculum out of the way allows the students to focus on the rigorous nursing curriculum that involves patient care and clinical experiences during their junior and senior years. According to School of Nursing Dean Nancy Duffy, 46 students started the program in 2016 — only one student left the program and another will graduate at a later date. She called the Campbell nursing program’s first retention rate “remarkable.”

“It’s a testament to our faculty working with the students continually,” Duffy said.

Support for First-Generation College Students

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an infrastructure that supports the needs of first-generation college students, Campbell University announced in February that it will launch a one-year pilot mentoring program designed to provide mentor relationships for first-generation students with university faculty, staff and alumni who were also the first in their families to earn a degree.

Michelle Perez, assistant vice president for student success and herself a first-generation student, is leading the initiative with hopes of making the college experience for these students better and more successful.

“The feedback I received throughout the campus from students, faculty and staff alike has been so positive and filled with optimism about this initiative,” Perez says. “Campbell is working hard to increase student success, and the first-generation student mentor program is one initiative to that end.”
The Office of Student Success has begun recruiting students into the program during summer freshman orientations and will begin the mentor matching process prior to the fall semester.

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

CHOWAN UNIVERSITY

Chowan Celebrates 170 Years
Chowan proudly kicked off 2018 with the 170th anniversary of the university’s founding. Much has changed throughout the years as Chowan was opened as Chowan Baptist Female Institute with only 50 students in 1848. Now, boasting the largest enrollment ever, Chowan serves a diverse student body and remains a beacon of Christian higher education in the region.

Presidential Transition
On Feb. 15, 2018, the Chowan University Board of Trustees announced the selection of Dr. Kirk E. Peterson as the 23rd president of Chowan University. On June 1, 2018, Dr. Peterson succeeded Dr. M. Christopher White who transitioned to chancellor. Peterson said:

"My family and I are thrilled to return to Murfreesboro and Chowan University. We are eager to become reacquainted with members of the Chowan community, faculty and staff, and to become acquainted with those members we have yet to meet. Our family is blessed beyond measure to serve a remarkable university, its talented faculty, its dedicated staff and its most important constituents: the students.

"I am eager to begin work with a devoted staff, expert faculty, talented senior team and remarkable Board of Trustees. As Luke 12:48 states, "To whom much is given, much will be required." As a university community, we will always be reminded that we have been given a tremendous opportunity in educating and mentoring our students. Also, we are expected to assist in the intellectual, physical, mental, social, and most importantly, spiritual development and maturation of students. So as you can see, we have been given much and much is expected of us."

Chowan Christian Service Association
Over the course of 12 years, the Chowan Christian Service Association (CCSA) raised more than $1.87 million dollars in scholarships for ministerial students and mission experiences.

The Chowan Christian Service Association provides students with an opportunity to learn and serve in Jesus’ name. It does so by providing tuition scholarships for students called to the ministry and mission trip scholarships for students serving on a Chowan mission team.

Assisting Ministers with Education Opportunities
Through a long-held commitment to the ministers in our area, the Ordained Ministers Grant allows ordained ministers who do not have a bachelor’s degree to receive an education. For $150 a semester, an ordained minister can take up to three classes (nine credit hours). These students are also eligible to apply for the Chowan Christian Service Association scholarship for book assistance.
Campus Ministry
Led by Mari Wiles, minister to the university, and Drew Phillips, associate minister, Chowan Campus Ministry is extremely active. Every day of the week there is a student-led ministry that meets on campus.

A priority of Chowan’s campus ministry is to introduce students to missions locally and globally. During Christmas break, Chowan took a team of 19 to the Red Springs Mission Camp as part of N.C. Baptists on Mission’s “Here & Now” weekend. Students spread Christmas joy through participation in the Robeson association’s toy store, making and delivering Christmas decorations to those displaced by Hurricane Matthew and preparing meals for people experiencing homelessness.

For spring break, Chowan Campus Ministry led a team to Cuba to work with Cuban Baptists in Santa Clara. Students shared their strength by laying the foundation for the region’s first seminary. Also during the week, students shared their spirit by leading worship and preaching in churches. Junior, Amber Cunningham was moved to tears over the 17 baptisms she witnessed in Cuba, sharing, “I cried because my brothers and sisters in Christ were so excited about Christ in a country that oppresses those who proclaim the very name of Christ.”

In June, Campus Ministry sent a team of 14 to Portland, Maine, to serve with Preble Street, an organization that works with people experiencing homelessness. Mission team member Evelyn Walker said, “After graduating from Chowan this past May, I knew that my heart was left at Chowan and now after this mission trip to Portland, Maine, I know my soul is in Maine. I got to see my God, my Savior and His Spirit a bit differently through this trip. God whispered in every encounter and at every location and with every member.”

Academics
The 170th anniversary commencement ceremony was held in the Helms Center on May 5. A total of 234 graduates walked across the stage to receive their diploma, making this the largest class to graduate in the history of Chowan.

Graphic Communication students had exceptional success in competition at the Printing Industry of the Carolinas (PICA). Shelby Barlowe of Nebo, North Carolina, and Gabby Wilson of Suffolk, Virginia, were announced as the NAPCO “Best of Show Student Award” winners in the 2017 PICA Awards Collegiate Print Competition.

The students worked under the guidance of Dr. Mitchell Henke, associate professor of graphic communications, in the advanced packaging course. Their entry, “Moment Subscription Box,” won the Best of Category in the “Miscellaneous, Specialty or Novelty” division. The annual PICA student awards competition offers students the opportunity to enter their graphic communications work in one of 23 distinct print and packaging categories. From each category, a Best of Category selection is made. From those 23 selections, a Best of Show is designated.

The entry was selected from all the Best of Category division winners, which compromised entries from six colleges and universities from across the Carolinas.

The PICA Awards competition is one of the largest printing contests in the nation. A panel of judges with extensive experience in printing and print production was brought in to examine the work. Each entry was judged on its own merit in a category with similar printed pieces.
Eight other students in Chowan's communication arts programs received awards in the collegiate competition.

The Chowan University Ethics Bowl team placed second at the annual Ethics Bowl hosted by North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU). One hundred and twenty-seven students from 24 schools across North Carolina competed on Feb. 16 and 17 at the North Carolina Legislative Complex in Raleigh. The topic this year was "Ethics and the Future of Community."

After four rounds of competition, the four teams with the most wins, Barton College, Chowan University, Gardner-Webb University and Salem College, competed in two semifinal rounds. The topic focused on cyber communities and how to exercise personal responsibility to ensure ethical standards and practices in social media. Chowan University advanced to the final round for the first time in the school's history, along with Salem College.

**Athletics**

The Chowan University athletic department celebrated a successful 2017-18 academic year and athletic season. An estimated 400 student-athletes participated in 18 sports and cheerleading. One hundred and eleven athletes are members of honor societies, 90 are on the dean’s list, 69 are on the president’s list, 66 are part of the honors college and 11 were honored with outstanding student awards.

The Hawks put the exclamation point on the season with two Conference Carolinas Championships as the men’s and women’s tennis teams captured their first titles in the new league. The women’s tennis team also captured the regular season championship. The volleyball and softball teams garnered the CIAA Northern Division title.

Looking ahead for athletics, Chowan’s 19-sport athletic department will realign with the Conference Carolinas as a full member. An associate relationship with the CIAA for both football and women’s bowling will be maintained.

Additionally, athletics looks forward to the addition of men’s swimming as the Hawks’ 19th NCAA sport for the 2018-2019 academic year to compete alongside the women’s program.

**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. Stay current with the latest Chowan happenings at www.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.

*Kirk E. Peterson, President  
M. Christopher White, Chancellor  
W. Frank Rose Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

**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. Gardner-Webb is dedicated to higher education that engages scholarship with Christian life by fostering intellectual development, critical reflection and spiritual formation. Because we are concerned about the needs of others 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**

During the 2017 fall break, a team of seven Gardner-Webb University students traveled to Clay County in the Greater Jacksonville, Florida, area to help residents whose homes were damaged during Hurricane Irma. Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president of the Office of Christian Life and Services, served as the team’s leader. Partnering with Island View Baptist Church in Orange Park, they worked to remove mud, debris, and damaged furniture from flooded homes.

“It was a tough time for the residents, but they were so appreciative of all the help they received,” Elizabeth Phillips of Mooresboro, North Carolina, said. “Most of the people we were helping were either elderly or simply without help.”

According to the Clay County Emergency Operations Center, 1,200 homes were flooded during Hurricane Irma in September 2017. Upon arriving in Florida, the needs of this community were immediately evident to those on the Gardner-Webb team. “Although all of the physical work was challenging, the most challenging part was seeing the look of hopelessness in the eyes of the residents,” Phillips said. “Seeing their homes and possessions destroyed by water wrecked their world.”

Many of the residents whose homes suffered extensive damage had to make a tough decision. After receiving a letter from the Clay County Building Division, these residents were given three choices for their home: elevate it, tear it down or appeal the division’s evaluation that the home suffered “substantial damage.” Jessup shared the experience of working with one woman who had lived in the same home for 50 years and faced this difficult decision. “As we helped her remove interior and exterior debris, furniture, personal belongings, and document damages, we often paused to comfort her as tears would well up in her eyes,” Jessup said.

Although they were surrounded by devastation, Zoe Greeley of Bessemer City, North Carolina, another student on the team, recognized the opportunity for God to work through them. “The team’s ‘one body’ mindset taught me that disaster frequently brings unity,” she said.

As these students worked to help Clay County residents, they also experienced the benefits of service, growing as a group and as individuals. “We went to show Jesus to the world,” Phillips said, “but the world showed us Jesus.”

A group of 16 students from Gardner-Webb traveled to New York City on their fall break for a trip that combined sightseeing and service. Led by staff members from the GWU Division of Student Development, the team visited landmarks and volunteered in the Big Apple.

“The students were able to see different ways in which they can serve,” said Brian Arnold, director of Student Activities, Campus Recreation and New Student Orientation. “We were able to take time to put the needs of others before ourselves.”

While helping the West Side YMCA manage its Fit for All 5K in Riverside Park, students worked as race marshals, manned water stations or the play area,
and helped with event tear down. They also spent a day at the Bowery Mission serving meals for the homeless, organizing the pantry, unloading food trucks and working in the clothes closet. Established in 1879, the organization is the oldest homeless/transitional ministry in the country. Some of the places the group visited were the Empire State Building, the 9/11 Museum and Memorial, Times Square, Central Park, Statue of Liberty and Rockefeller Center.

Serving at the Bowery was a favorite part of the trip for Austin Childress of Mocksville, North Carolina. He separated fruit and worked to get the pantry ready for Thanksgiving. “While I did not work directly with the people we were serving,” Childress said, “I learned a new perspective of service and a new respect for the behind-the-scenes work.”

Sleeping on the floor, listening to a blind man’s story and sampling kangaroo burgers. Students in the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University participated in these immersion experiences while traveling in Asia. Dr. Hebert Palomino, professor of pastoral care and counseling, led a group that focused on pastoral care, and students who traveled with Dr. Terry Casioño, professor of missiology, learned how to function, live, and work in different cultures.

The first week Palomino’s group stayed at a refugee camp in Mae La, Thailand. They slept on the floor and had no air-conditioning. “I learned how to adapt and be content in different environments, even when it wasn’t the most ideal situation,” said team member Cynthia Long. She and the other students, Pamela Gilliam, Bonnie Talford, Kyle Hamlin and Dennis Costner, listened to testimonies from a blind man and a man with no limbs. The men didn’t complain as they shared about their lives. “I was amazed at the hope and joy people have in the situations they are living in,” Hamlin said. “It made me realize how Jesus can overcome the worst situations in our lives. They had hope because they had Jesus.”

From Mae La, the group traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, to provide training and work with a human trafficking rescue group. Next, they spent six days in Cambodia working with an organization in Phnom Penh that has several ministries, including a medical outreach to children. The group also visited Phnom Penh Bible College, which was started by Korean churches. “We were able to minister and be ministered to in spite of cultural differences,” Talford said. “It was a time to learn, listen and take part in others’ joy, pain and brokenness.”

Casioño’s team joined Palomino’s group in Phnom Penh to visit the killing fields, a historical site where more than 1 million people were killed by the communist government from 1975 to 1979. Jaime Fitzgerald, a student traveling with Casioño, is still affected by her memories of standing in the prison cells of executed men, women and children. “Touring Tuol Sleng, the school turned prison, literally made me feel nauseous while feeling and touching the prison cells of innocent Cambodians,” she recalled.

“My worldview was widened, and my respect for cultures other than my own was deepened,” Fitzgerald continued. “I was challenged to rethink long-held beliefs of varying capacities and nudged toward sharpening and defining what I believe in regards to faith, ethics and missions. Study abroad/mission immersion trips shape and form us as students in various ways and to differing degrees. It’s awesome to me how a group of Gardner-Webb students from many different backgrounds, ages and life experiences can travel together and grow and shape one another in ways deeper than words can explain.”
The Gardner-Webb Honors Student Association (HSA) participated in its annual Big Sweep camping retreat last fall. For almost three decades, students in the honors program have cleaned a section of the New River in West Jefferson, North Carolina. “We found less waste than the last few years, and I think that’s a good thing,” said Dr. Tom Jones, professor of biology and associate dean of the honors program.

When GWU first participated in Big Sweep in 1989, it was a joint effort between the honors program and the Department of Natural Sciences. “When we first came, there were about 27 students and faculty attending,” Jones said. “This year there were 158 volunteers and 72 students and faculty from GWU.”

He said one of the benefits is the bonding that occurs on the trip and another is service learning. “We have gotten so large that we have four University 111 classes, so a lot of [the students] get to meet each other here,” Jones said. “[Big Sweep] is also a very good introduction to Pro Deo et Humanitate (for God and humanity) — and it’s not thankless. They appreciate what volunteers do. I think that service learning is important. It’s good for students to see how student leadership develops and you want to see what skills they have and how they can be utilized.”

Students and alumni pointed out other qualities they have enjoyed through their participation in Big Sweep. GWU Alumni Chelsea Cutler (’12) and Amy Snyder (’13), both visited the campsite where the HSA was stationed.

“Big Sweep is about learning how to get out of [your] comfort zone, how to rely on other people, how to work as a team and to just try something new,” Cutler said. “I think every year there are more and more people who have never camped, never made campsite burritos, and [those] things are just becoming lost with how much we stay inside.”

Snyder added, “I think the relationships that you build are very important. You get to know a person really well when you are all sharing a tent together, or when you flip them out of the canoe accidentally.” The new generation of honors students shared the same sentiments. Austin Hughes said, “I feel like every chance that I get to participate, there is more of a chance for me to learn and grow as a person.” Although the HSA did not receive an exact weight of what was cleared from the river, the group found several large pieces. They picked up 13 tires — including a tractor tire — a tarp, a gutter, and several bottles, cans and other waste.

**Awards, Accolades, and Distinctions**

Gardner-Webb University’s Godbold School of Business recently earned national recognition for having one of the “25 Best Bachelor’s in Healthcare Administration Online” degrees in the country.

The list is compiled each year by TheBestColleges.org, a Seattle-based company that provides information on quality educational programs around the nation. Gardner-Webb ranked No. 16 out of 25 programs across the United States.

“This national recognition of our online degree in healthcare management affirms our persistent quest for excellence,” shared Mischia Taylor, dean of the Godbold School of Business. “We offer a range of great programs, and rankings like this one help us attract and retain outstanding students in a variety of disciplines.”
Institutions were ranked based on institution types, accreditation, affiliations, faculty strength and ratio, admission rate, average net price of the college, and other information gathered from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

With healthcare making up nearly 16 percent of the gross national product as a $1.7 trillion industry in America, it's no surprise that one of the fastest growing sectors is healthcare administration. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 70,000 health management and administrative positions will be created by 2022.

Gardner-Webb’s healthcare management degree is designed to prepare students to obtain management positions in emerging healthcare fields. Faculty members offer expertise in a variety of disciplines, interests and industries. Small classroom settings offer one-on-one access to mentorship. Healthcare management objectives include ethical perspectives across the curriculum, quantitative technique application, human relations management, organizational operations, critical thinking and problem solving.

Gardner-Webb University’s online Master of Arts in English degree has been named among the best in the nation by an education information website, a distinguished honor for GWU’s recently-revamped English master’s degree program.

OnlineU, an online source for college and career information, honored Gardner-Webb as No. 4 in the U.S. on its “2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master’s in English” list, a resource produced to help current and future students make smart choices about advancing their education and careers. The ranking earned GWU a placement among schools like Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga., and Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

“Our decision to use an online delivery format reflected our desire to provide in-depth graduate study to students whose careers and geography may prohibit their participation in a seated program,” shared Jennifer Buckner, associate professor of English and chair of the Department of English Language and Literature. “We are thrilled to be recognized among the most affordable options — but we are more proud that the program we provide is of high quality and value.”

Schools chosen for the list offered an online master’s in English and were ranked on program cost and academic strength. To be considered, institutions must be regionally accredited and must offer at least one fully-online degree in a given subject for the degree level that was required. Gardner-Webb’s online programs have received multiple honors for quality and affordability in recent years, but this marks the first distinction for the university’s Master of Arts in English program.

“Students who enter our program often express surprise and delight that our online program is so interactive,” Buckner shared. “I think it challenges assumptions many make about online learning being void of human interaction. We’ve found a way to bring the personalization and community of a private, liberal arts university into an online format. While in the program, students develop their scholarly and professional skills, preparing them for a lifetime of critical, informed thinking about a wide range of topics related to English studies.”
Officials at Gardner-Webb University thanked supporters for their part in the record-breaking success of “Double Dawg Day,” the university’s annual day of giving to support student scholarships and financial aid.

This year’s “Double Dawg Day” raised $90,310 — exceeding last year’s total. A generous 221 donors gave, including current students, who shattered last year’s student total with a 1,300 percent increase.

“Thanks to these donors, more students can now have outstanding college experiences and pursue their goals at Gardner-Webb,” said GWU President 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 annual giving, “Double Dawg Day” 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 said. “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.

“We are overwhelmed by every single member of the Gardner-Webb community who once again rallied to make this fundraiser so successful,” McCall said. “These contributions to the GWU annual fund help meet students’ needs and keep them on track for graduation.”

Gardner-Webb University announced a new partnership with WinShape Camps, established in 1985 by Chick-fil-A founder, S. Truett Cathy, that will allow the organization to expand its overnight camp offerings into the Carolinas.

In June 2019, Gardner-Webb will become the fifth location to host overnight WinShape Camps and is the first location for overnight camps outside the state of Georgia.

Founded on principles of service, hospitality, family-friendliness and excellence, WinShape Camps — a ministry of WinShape Foundation — aims to provide a camp experience that enables campers to sharpen their character, deepen their Christian faith and grow in their relationships with others.

“We fully believe in the mission of WinShape Camps,” said GWU President Frank Bonner. “From sunup to sundown, the campers will be immersed in an environment that sets them up for fun and adventure. We can’t wait to bring their ‘Summer of a Lifetime’ experience to the Carolinas.”

According to Ken Thomas, senior director of WinShape Camps, Gardner-Webb’s location in Boiling Springs, N.C., is ideal for serving campers across the Carolinas given its proximity to Charlotte, Asheville and Greenville/Spartanburg.

“Each year, thousands of campers come to WinShape Camps to experience life-changing, memory-making, adventure-taking awesomeness that will impact their lives forever,” Thomas said. “We’re excited to be able to offer these experiences to overnight campers from the Carolinas a little closer to home starting in 2019.”
Impact, Alumni Outcomes and Student Success

Gardner-Webb saw three student-athletes honored with the 2018 Big South Conference Christenberry Award, the league's highest academic honor.

The George A. Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence is given annually to the male and female student-athlete with the highest GPA during their undergraduate collegiate careers. A record nine student-athletes from the conference were honored, including a league-best three from Gardner-Webb – women's track & field distance runner Gabrielle Cortese (4.00, exercise science), women's soccer standout Jessica Ferguson (4.00 in chemistry/Spanish), and men's track & field runner Keaton Poole (4.00 in business administration).

Cortese, of Palm Bay, Fla., was the 2017 Big South women's cross country scholar-athlete of the year, and was GWU's top cross country performer throughout 2017. She set the school record in the 2-mile run at 12:00.44, and posted top 10 career times in indoor track competition in the 1,000-meter run (3:20:34), 3,000-meter run (10:38.38), 1-mile run (5:20.83), and the 5,000-meter run (18:39.08). Cortese also ranks in the top 10 in the following outdoor events: 1,500-meter run (4:59.31), 3,000-meter run (11:02.65), and the 5,000-meter run (18:32.06).

Ferguson, of Lawrence, Kansas, appeared in 16 matches with five starts in 2017. She took nine shots with four on goal in 834 minutes played during her senior season. For her career, she played in 70 contests with 18 starts and scored nine goals with six assists for 24 points.

Poole, of Spindale, N.C., was voted Big South men's cross country scholar-athlete of the year as a junior and senior, and was GWU's top cross country performer in 2017. He set personal records this past season in the 5K at 16:08 and the 8K at 26:26, which ranked as the eighth-fastest time in that event in GWU history. Poole ranks in Gardner-Webb's top 10 in the 3,000-meter run (9:08.98), 5,000-meter run (15:40.81) and 1-mile run (4:29.60) in indoor track competition, as well as the outdoor 5,000 meter run (15:57.80).

The 2017-2018 honorees marked the fourth consecutive year Gardner-Webb student-athletes have earned the award.

GWU alumna Major Terri Lopez Homestead (‘07) has never been one to shy away from adventure. In fact, for most of her life, she has engaged in what can only be described as unusual, exciting, and even hazardous activities. Her philosophy is “to take advantage of every opportunity that is given” — especially when the road ahead seems difficult.

She is currently stationed at Fort Greely, Alaska, and is the first female crew leader for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of the Alaska National Guard. Her daily mission as a National Guard officer is to defend the United States against intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) attacks.

The work, she says, is very rewarding. “The saying is, ‘We are the 300 defending the 300 million,’” Homestead said. “Our crews are able to track, intercept, and destroy the nuclear weapon warhead of an incoming ICBM in its mid-course flight, outside the earth’s atmosphere. This is a 24-7, 365-days-a-year mission.”

Adventure has always been a way of life for Homestead. As a child, her family immigrated to the United States from Mexico. After settling in San Diego, Calif., she learned to speak English and excelled in sports — specifically in track and field. She started pole vaulting in high school and competed in junior college as well.
She has always enjoyed helping people and planned to pursue physician assistant (PA) studies. While at GWU, she majored in health and wellness and minored in military science. She earned her bachelor’s degree in 2007 and, instead of going to PA school, became a medical operations officer in the National Guard. She traveled the globe, serving U.S.-led humanitarian efforts in Central America and Europe.

“I deployed to Iraq in 2009 as an evacuation and treatment platoon leader in the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team,” said Homestead. “A few years later, I went to El Salvador as a medical planner for Beyond the Horizons, and upon my return, I was selected for an opportunity in Germany.”

Beyond the Horizons-El Salvador was a U.S. Army South-led humanitarian and civic assistance mission deploying U.S. military engineers and medical professionals to El Salvador for training and to provide humanitarian services. After transitioning to Stuttgart, Germany, to serve at the European Command as an operations officer, Homestead met her husband, who was from Alaska. In 2014, the couple decided to move to Anchorage to be near his daughter.

“I had my first child in February 2017 — around the same time I was selected to come to Fort Greely, Alaska, to become the senior tactical director for Echo Crew at the 49th Missile Defense Battalion,” Homestead said. “As the first female tactical director at Fort Greely, my rigorous training is validated on a continuous basis through both scheduled and no-notice evaluations with scenarios that emphasize operational realism.” She hopes to complete another 10 years in the military and then retire from service.

She hopes the next generation will dig deep, push hard, and reap the rewards that only perseverance and dedication can bring.

“It may be difficult to see the positive in some of the opportunities you may be given,” Homestead said, “but at the end of the day, those difficult roads may lead you to the best opportunity of your life. Don’t get comfortable. Always push to be a better version of yourself.”

With each stroke through the 64-degree waters of the English Channel, Heather Roka, a 2008 Gardner-Webb University alumna, thought about all the people in her life who inspire her. Roka started her solo swim Aug. 24 and finished Aug. 25, 2017, in 12 hours, 13 minutes and 53 seconds, making her the fifth-fastest swimmer of 29 successful crossings this year. The 31-year-old first talked about crossing the channel when she was a member of the GWU swim team. She has trained since 2012 to tackle a feat accomplished by more than 1,600 people, according to the Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation.

About 300 meters off the French coast, a changed tide with a strong rip current came between Roka and her dream. “The last 90 minutes of the swim nearly broke me mentally,” she said. “When I finally pulled myself up the rocks, it was mainly just an overwhelming sense of relief and a little disbelief that I was standing on France. It took about 24 hours for it to sink in that it had actually happened and now I smile every time I think about it. Thankfully, I had trained enough that I was physically able to keep going and I can’t wait for the next challenge.”

In the months leading up to the swim, Roka felt blessed because of everything that happened to make the attempt possible. She has an ideal job as a travel physical therapist and randomly met two channel experts, one lives 10 miles from her, Marcy MacDonald, who has completed the channel swim a
record 15 times. “MacDonald helped with my training, has provided unending support, and then helped guide and reassure me while I was in England,” Roka said. “I have been so overwhelmed and blessed by the huge amount of support from so many of my GWU classmates and friends.”

Gardner-Webb swim coach Mike Simpson is not surprised that Roka has reached her goal to swim the channel. “Heather has always been a tough cookie,” he said. “She is tough physically. She is tougher mentally. Heather has always had an incredible work ethic.”

Simpson has built a winning program with student-athletes who are also honored for their academic excellence. “We decided from the beginning to find great fits for Gardner-Webb,” Simpson said. “Athletes who get this place, Value the education. Desire to get better athletically, but most importantly, have character and integrity. Heather definitely had all three. She fell in love with this place, and we knew she was a fantastic fit for Gardner-Webb.”

For the English Channel swim, Roka’s toughest challenges were the cold water and swimming about five hours in the dark. Her crew — sister Lyndsey, friend Isabel (both GWU swimmers) and Isabel’s husband, Dean — gave her warm soup and drinks. To maintain her mental focus, she thought about her patients: teens with spinal cord injuries, adults recovering from strokes, and a 70-year-old amputee.

“All of these people have undergone a traumatic situation that has forever changed their life, and yet it is inspiring how many embrace all the challenges I can throw at them,” Roka said. “They work so hard, pushing past sweat, tears, frustration and pain. Without saying anything, these people encourage me to do more and try harder things because no matter what challenge I take on, they are working even harder.”

Roka said swimming at GWU taught her the basics, like pacing and focusing on techniques, but also instilled something more. “The team taught me how to learn to love a challenge, and the wonderful lifetime friendships formed during hours of training, bus rides and meets still impact my life on a daily basis,” she said. “The only reason I attempted this swim is because of the love of swimming and all the positive memories. Upon graduation, I found myself unable to walk away from the swimming world. No words will ever describe how grateful I am that Coach Simpson decided I could be a valuable part of the GWU team and family.”

Ebony Stowe, a 2017 graduate of Gardner-Webb University, could have completed her internship in healthcare management anywhere, but she felt led to work at a hospital in Zambia, Africa. Her intuition was confirmed when she received a check a few weeks before she left that paid for all costs associated with the trip. “The Lord made a way for me to pursue this opportunity, so I hopped on the flight in obedience,” Stowe said.

The internship was coordinated through Serving in Missions (SIM), an international mission organization with more than 4,000 workers placed in more than 70 countries. While in Zambia, Stowe applied skills she learned in her GWU business classes and became more familiar with the computer programs she will use in her career. “I had the opportunity to train an employee in Microsoft Excel and other basic computer skills,” said Stowe, a native of Lake Wylie, S.C. “I helped her improve typing speeds and locate different applications on the computer. This will help me in my future career as I may have to train a fellow employee in the program.”
Stowe’s internship supervisor also asked her to help with the budgeting process and to create a flyer for the promotion of Mukinge Mission Hospital’s latest project: a new operating room and intensive care unit. “Although I am no expert in this area, I was able to create something simple for the hospital to send to its donors in the U.S.,” Stowe said. “I used the skills I learned in the marketing and computer information systems courses at Gardner-Webb.”

As she experienced Zambian customs, Stowe recalled cultural sensitivity discussions from her American Sign Language (ASL) courses. “Because Zambian culture is so different from the U.S., it required a major adjustment for me,” Stowe said. “But I was quickly reminded of how to treat others who are different than I am, whether they speak a different language, are critically ill, lack proper nutrition or lack education.”

Ever wonder what it would be like to work for the mastermind behind the soundtrack for The Lion King or Pirates of the Caribbean? Gardner-Webb University alum, Christian Jessup, got the opportunity to do just that prior to his final year in college. He traveled to California to work for the acclaimed film composer Hans Zimmer.

A native of Boiling Springs, N.C., Jessup earned a degree in music composition and communication studies and was named most outstanding male graduate. Since he was about 13 years old, Jessup had dreams of going to California to work for Zimmer. When he was a college freshman, Jessup spoke with someone who had previously interned at Zimmer’s studio, who encouraged him to apply to the program. Later, Jessup was offered a position as the studio’s intern.

Zimmer’s studio, Remote Control Productions, Inc. (RCP) is a film score company located in Santa Monica, Calif., and Jessup was ecstatic when he realized he would get to work there under the advisement of his favorite composer. “For me, Zimmer is the standard for music in Hollywood right now, and I believe Remote Control Productions is an important part of the future of film music,” Jessup said. “As cliché as it may sound, the opportunity to work for RCP and Zimmer was a dream come true.”

At the studio, Jessup got a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to compose a film score. Along with administrative work, Jessup was able to “sit-in” on composers, mixers and arrangers each week in order to watch them create music. At the front desk as well as at the sit-ins, Jessup got the opportunity to communicate first-hand with the artists and employees at the studio. Some composers working at RCP currently are Henry Jackman, Geoff Zanelli, Lorne Balfe, Rupert Gregson-Williams, and of course, Zimmer. Jessup had a number of priceless experiences while at the studio. For example, he got to attend a class held by one of the composers, where he learned about the artist’s life and preview scenes from an upcoming film that the composer had scored. Jessup also watched a professional recording session in the studio after receiving his own personal copy of the score.

Through observing other renowned composers, Jessup learned a lot about his own work. “It was incredibly insightful to see [each composer’s] equipment and methods, and it really taught me a lot, as well as showed me what I need to spend more time on in my own composition,” Jessup said.

In the future, Jessup would like to work in the film music industry. The internship has provided him with valuable job experience at a reputable studio as well as invaluable knowledge that will be beneficial in his future endeavors as a composer.
“It was eye-opening to see how these [artists] work, and it definitely showed me which skills I need to work on,” Jessup said. “Their efficiency in writing music is unbelievable because of their knowledge of the software they use, and I’d love to learn those computer programs inside and out so that I can work just as efficiently.”

New Programs, Research, Academics and Administration
Gardner-Webb University has finalized plans to provide education majors with a new degree option. The School of Education recently developed a Bachelor of Science in birth to kindergarten (BK) education degree program, pending accreditation approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

“Research has proven that strong early childhood programs can have a positive lifelong impact on a child’s academic, social, cognitive and communication abilities,” said Jason Parker, GWU associate dean for the School of Education. “Children who participate in early childhood programs have the ability to create a strong foundation that can be built upon throughout childhood. This program will equip candidates with the knowledge and skills needed to help young children reduce or eliminate learning gaps so they can enter school ready to excel.”

Built on the foundation of other undergraduate programs within the GWU School of Education, the progression of coursework will allow candidates to undergird their learning in a cohesive manner. “We have intentionally embedded tiered, clinical experiences to allow all candidates ample opportunities to apply theory to practice,” Parker said.

The 128-credit-hour program will be offered on the Boiling Springs campus as well as in distance and online formats. The cohort model will include a track for licensure, which will allow candidates to teach in pre-K, Head Start and kindergarten classrooms. A non-licensure, administrative track will also be available to offer individuals an opportunity to learn management and supervisory techniques in preparation for service as an early-childhood program administrator. Students will complete a minor in professional education and a semester of student teaching (for licensure candidates) or an administrative seminar (for non-licensure candidates) to expand their existing knowledge of teaching by participating in varied clinical experiences in which theory is integrated with practice.

“The importance of quality early-childcare programs is being recognized at a range of governmental levels,” Parker said. “Funding sources are being directed at various early childhood initiatives. Recently, the state of North Carolina took steps that will result in a significant reduction in the N.C. Pre-K waitlist. Because of this change, the School of Education wanted to expand our program offerings in order to help prepare teacher candidates who can make a positive impact in the early childhood sector.”

In addition to clinical experiences in local schools and early childhood education classrooms, the School of Education has received funds from the Cleveland County Partnership for Children in Shelby, N.C. The agency provided a $12,000 grant to establish a model pre-K classroom on the Gardner-Webb campus.

“The addition of the birth-kindergarten curriculum has expanded partnerships with community supporters. The Cleveland County Partnership for Children has been an instrumental stakeholder throughout the development of the program,”
said Parker. “Tuition remittance will also be offered to select candidates in the program through Child Care Services Association’s Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Early Childhood Scholarship Program.”

Child Care Services Association created the TEACH scholarship to address the issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the early childhood workforce. TEACH provides educational scholarships to early-care professionals and those who perform specialized functions in the early-care system.

Gardner-Webb announced a leadership gift by the Gardner Foundation to establish a new student-focused program at the university.

On behalf of the Gardner Foundation, O. Max Gardner III, grandson of institutional namesakes O. Max Gardner and Fay Webb Gardner, has committed a generous, three-year gift to the university to launch the “Fay Webb Gardner Master Mentorship Program.” The program includes the creation of a new endowed chair to center exclusively on mentorship as a means of enriching the undergraduate experience of students who demonstrate superior academic potential.

Gardner-Webb University President Frank Bonner said the Gardner Foundation gift was the latest example of the family’s great tradition of providing visionary support to the university. “Without question, the Gardner and Webb families have had a profound influence on the fortunes of this University,” Bonner said. “It is fitting and proper that the new Master Mentorship program to advance undergraduate research will bear the name of Fay Webb Gardner. She loved Gardner-Webb, generously investing her time, resources and great intellect to help us pursue excellence. We are deeply grateful to the Gardner Foundation and family for their continuing friendship and dedication to Gardner-Webb.”

The gift coincided with the 75th anniversary of the name “Gardner-Webb College” replacing “Boiling Springs Junior College” in 1942. Fay Webb Gardner was the wife of O. Max Gardner, governor of North Carolina from 1929-1933. One of her husband’s most trusted advisors, Mrs. Gardner was also widely respected for her own political and business leadership in the state. She served on the GWU Board of Trustees and was committed to transforming Gardner-Webb into a school of distinction.

“The O. Max Gardner Foundation wants to honor Fay Webb Gardner’s memory and recognize the fact that but for her dedication to and support of Gardner-Webb University after the death of Gov. Gardner, we would not be sitting here today at this place and at this university,” said O. Max Gardner III. “She was truly a ‘national woman’ who was decades ahead of her time. The ‘Webb’ in Gardner-Webb University is attributed to her, and her family and the foundation want her essential role in the history and life of this great university recognized and preserved.”

The Fay Webb Gardner Master Mentorship Program will be one of the few mentorship programs of its kind in U.S. higher education. A key feature of the program will be the naming of a faculty member to serve as the Fay Webb Gardner Chair of Student Success. The chair will be an established professor at GWU with a proven track record of extraordinary investment in students, leading to consistently-successful outcomes. In this role, the professor would be relieved of half of his/her teaching load responsibilities in order to provide individualized attention towards student research and internship projects, fellowship applications and career guidance.
“The Gardner Foundation has been bold in allowing us to venture into this area and explore how we can expand student mentoring in a way that few other colleges in America are trying to do,” said Joseph Moore, special assistant to the provost for academic enhancement and assistant professor of history. “The model at most universities in the country is to place researchers in the most prestigious positions and support their own research. Our program makes the prestigious positions the ones that support student research. GWU is already better than most schools in the nation at mentoring undergraduate students. Through this program, we want to create an even more intentional focus on what we are passionate about.”

A longtime English professor has assumed a new role, after being named the inaugural Fay Webb Gardner Chair of Student Success. June Hobbs, a 24-year veteran of the GWU Department of English Language and Literature with a proven track record of extraordinary investment in students, begins her new role in the fall 2018 semester.

The Gardner Foundation committed a generous, three-year gift to the university to launch the “Fay Webb Gardner Master Mentorship Program.” The program includes the creation of a new endowed chair — the Fay Webb Gardner Chair of Student Success — to center exclusively on mentorship as a means of enriching the undergraduate experience of students who demonstrate superior academic potential. In this role, Hobbs will provide individualized attention toward student research and internship projects, fellowship applications, and career guidance.

“Given her extensive experience in promoting achievement and academic excellence among our students, Dr. Hobbs is ideally prepared to serve as the first of what is hoped will become many ‘Lead Mentors’ across campus,” said Ben Leslie, GWU provost and executive vice president.

In addition to her extensive teaching experience, Hobbs also serves as the GWU Director of Undergraduate Research and is the faculty sponsor to the university’s chapter of Alpha Chi, a national collegiate honor society.

“I am excited to assume this new responsibility, which will allow me to develop some in-depth ways to mentor students in the English department,” Hobbs explained. “We refer to English as ‘the all-purpose degree’ because it can lead to a wide variety of career paths. I plan to expand the mentoring I already do with my own advisees and with students across campus as director of undergraduate research and as Alpha Chi sponsor. I will encourage our students to engage in undergraduate research projects that will make them attractive to graduate schools, test potential career paths and develop the critical-thinking skills crucial for all kinds of careers in the 21st century.”

Hobbs is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. She holds an Master of Arts from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Ky., and a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

The University has finalized plans for a new online degree program through the School of Education. A Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership (BAOL) will be offered through GOAL – the degree completion program.

University officials are excited about the addition and believe the changes will help Gardner-Webb provide quality leadership education that will address the needs of a wide range of modern professionals.
“This curriculum will provide students with a liberal arts understanding of leadership in today’s complex organizations in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors,” said Jeff Hamilton, program director. “We believe students will enjoy developing the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes that are in high demand by employers and are hallmarks of effective leaders.”

The degree is modeled after the university’s doctor of education in organizational leadership degree. In addition to other program goals, students will learn how to analyze problems to develop solutions; evaluate logic, reason, evidence and research to make informed organizational decisions; effectively lead teams, groups, and organizations; generate organizational strategy; design leadership development programs; understand team and group dynamics; lead change initiatives; provide feedback, manage expectations, and delegate effectively; and establish personal credibility.

“This addition to our GOAL offerings is a logical extension of the university’s commitment to cultivating transformational leaders in communities, schools, law enforcement and businesses,” Hamilton said. “This degree program may be new, but the vision behind it and the expertise it harnesses are part of the legacy of excellence and innovation at Gardner-Webb.”

Courses offered through the major include organizational theory, leadership development, theory and practice of leadership, organizational communication, introduction to human resources management, ethical leadership, digital culture and society, and more.

According to reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for vocations in organizational leadership indicates an annual growth of 14 percent. Employment fields vary from sectors including human resources, social and community services, medical and healthcare managers, and corporate management.

The Godbold School of Business at Gardner-Webb University is now offering a doctor of business administration (DBA) degree. Courses in the new program will be held online and at the GWU Charlotte Campus, with required residencies of four to five days per semester.

“We are all thrilled to begin the DBA program,” said Mischia Taylor, dean and instructor of business. “The curriculum will include courses taught by faculty from all over the world.”

The 60 course hours required to earn the doctorate will include 24 hours of foundational classes, 24 in the selected major and 12 for the dissertation. Four concentrations will be offered: accounting, finance, international business and marketing. Consistent with the academic and Christian mission of Gardner-Webb and the Godbold School of Business, the DBA is an applied, multidisciplinary terminal degree. The course of study is designed to provide students with effective solutions — rooted in Christian ethics and values — for today’s business challenges.

The program will be led by Sandra Mankins, assistant professor of accounting. “Having recently completed a DBA program myself, I am excited and passionate about this opportunity for our students and our university,” Mankins said. “Our faculty is anxious to get started and looking forward to this new adventure.”

While many college students spend their summers lying by the beach under a shady umbrella, 13 Gardner-Webb students chose 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,” said 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. Six years later, the endeavor has rapidly expanded from only one researcher the first summer it was introduced to 13 researchers in the summer 2018 terms. 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 Gardner-Webb’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," said Hobbs. "It enhances their student experience and professional development as well as the reputation of GWU."

Gardner-Webb University’s 12th President, Frank Bonner, has announced his plans to retire in January 2019. At that time, he will have served Gardner-Webb for more than three decades in total and as president for nearly 14 years.

“It will be very difficult for me to cease doing what I love,” Bonner said. “However, my wife, Flossie, and I look forward to more time together, more travel, and more time with six wonderful grandchildren who are growing up before our eyes.”

Bonner joined Gardner-Webb in 1987 as vice president for academic affairs. His role later evolved into vice president for academic and student affairs and then provost and senior vice president. In May, 2005, he was named president and took office on July 1. Prior to GWU, he was a faculty member and associate dean for special programs at Anderson College in Anderson, S.C. A 1969 graduate of Furman University in Greenville, S.C., with a bachelor’s degree in English, Bonner earned his master’s degree from the University of Georgia in 1971 and his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977.

In his inaugural address in 2006, Bonner identified his goals for the university, including improving academic quality, committing to a Christian foundation, striving to be student centered, strengthening athletic programs, and continuing to foster campus life and community.
Bonner envisioned Gardner-Webb “as a highly respected leader in Christian higher education and even widely regarded as one of the finest Christian universities in the nation. Our graduates must be people who are fulfilled as persons; they will be people who exemplify genuine caring and citizenship, respect diversity, relate effectively to persons of all backgrounds, are at peace with themselves, at peace with their maker, and thus face successfully the challenges of life.”

Some highlights of his tenure include leading the university’s largest-ever capital campaign raising $46 million, receiving major gifts for the Hunt School of Nursing and Godbold School of Business, starting new doctoral programs in education and nursing, launching a Physician Assistant Studies Program, building the 110,000-square-foot Tucker Student Center, purchasing and renovating the former Crawley Hospital for the College of Health Sciences, adding a science lab annex facility and joining the Big South Conference as a full member for athletics. Bonner was also instrumental in developing several programs of academic enhancement and building state-of-the-art athletic facilities.

Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees Chair Frank Stewart praised Bonner’s tenure and impact. “During his time as president, the university has experienced tremendous growth in infrastructure, faculty enhancements, student research and engagement. Working with Dr. Bonner has been amazing; he is a godly man with great love for the university and the students.”

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

New Leadership
A new era of leadership is underway at Mars Hill University. In March, the university's board of trustees announced John Anthony "Tony" Floyd, J.D., as the institution's 22nd president, effective June 1. He succeeded Dan G. Lunsford, who retired at the end of the 2017-18 academic year following more than 16 years at the helm. Floyd came to Mars Hill from Coker College in South Carolina, where he most recently had been the executive vice president.

“I’ve come [to Mars Hill] to transform lives,” Floyd says. “I’ve come here to do that, and I’m determined to do that, and whatever mountains we’ve got to move to do that, we’re going to do that.”

Some of the most immediate mountains, he says, are embracing the university’s leadership in the region and maintaining a healthy sense of stewardship, while making sound investments in areas like athletics and digital education. The university must embrace its role in the region as both a financial driver and as a thought leader. That includes pursuing interactive
relationships with the local business community, in which the university and the town "dream together" for the best possible future. Finally, financial stewardship is an always-present mountain for Mars Hill and other small private institutions.

“One of the mountains we’ve got to clear is that people across this part of the country would see that we are good stewards, that we are going to provide these young people with academic skills and life skills that will help them get good jobs, help them have a good life of service, and help them be good solid citizens,” Floyd says. “I don’t think that people across the country really believe that colleges and universities are really delivering that product like they should. I’m determined that we are going to do that. We are going to be accountable for how we do that to our alums, our donors and to the greater community who are watching what we are doing.”

All that, he said, comes back to his central mission, because it will require uniting people, both on- and off-campus, around the central cause of educating and transforming young lives.

“I’ve moved four hours away from where I’ve lived for 50 years because I really believe in this place,” Floyd says. “I believe in the fabric of this institution, and I can see the ingredients here that can make a difference in the world. We can be a catalyst in this part of the state, and in this part of the southeast, to make lives better and to help young people. That is a noble mission.”

**Commencement Milestones**

Spring commencement 2018 at Mars Hill University was a day of endings and beginnings. It was Dan Lunsford’s last commencement as the university’s president. It also was the day of the first graduates from the master of management (MM) program and the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) program. MM students begin the program in the spring semester of their senior undergraduate year, and can complete the master’s degree requirements with just one additional year of classes. The five MM graduates began the program when it launched in spring of 2017.

Twenty-seven nursing students received degrees, including the first 16 graduates of the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in nursing program and the third cohort of registered nurse to Bachelor of Science in nursing (RN to BSN) graduates.

The university presented an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Brenda Nash of Asheville. Nash is a member of the Mars Hill graduating class of 1966, a member of the board of trustees and chair of the Building Our University capital campaign.

At the December 2017 commencement ceremony, the university presented an honorary doctorate to Michael Blackwell, the longest-tenured leader of the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina. Blackwell will mark his 35th anniversary of the organization in 2018. Blackwell told the audience that receiving the honorary doctorate “is truly one of the great honors of my life. I do not take it lightly. I will do all I can to live up to the trust given to me.”

**Honors and Recognitions**

The gospel choir from Mars Hill University performed as the special musical guests for Asheville’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast. The gospel choir is a student-led ensemble which presents music at campus events, area churches and other local events. Keynote speaker for the breakfast was Mars
Hill alumna Oralene Graves Simmons, the first student of color to attend Mars Hill and the founder of the prayer breakfast in 1982.

The university presented awards to four members of the campus and local community, acknowledging the important work they do to make the community a better place, during the university's annual Convocation and Celebration of Community Engagement.

Andrea Garber of Richmond, Georgia, received the G. McLeod Bryan Caring Award for students, in recognition of her service work while a Mars Hill student, particular to communities both in the United States and internationally which are facing economic and social hardship. Education professor Deb Morris received the award for faculty and staff for her commitment to social justice as beginning in the classroom and extending to service fields abroad. The Bryan Caring Awards are given annually in honor of the late G. McLeod “Mac” Bryan, a member of the Mars Hill class of 1939 and a professor at Wake Forest University.

Mars Hill University student Storm Cash of Charlotte received the Michael Emory Award for Outstanding Christian Servant Leadership.

The I. Ruth Martin Award for Christian Service went to Mars Hill resident Larry Burda.

Outgoing President Lunsford was presented a special award recognizing his "deep commitment to the Mars Hill University mission of character development, service, and responsible citizenship."

**Facilities and Program Enhancements**

Mars Hill University held a ceremonial groundbreaking for a major new addition to its athletics facilities following the homecoming football game in October. The Jo Ellen Ammons Athletic Field House is named in memory of Jo Ellen Ammons of Raleigh, a longtime supporter of Mars Hill University and its student-athletes, thanks to a generous lead gift from her husband, Jud, a former university trustee. The Ammonses also are the benefactors and namesakes of the Jud and Jo Ellen Ammons Family Athletic Center, which encompasses the entire stadium facility, and was dedicated in 2007. The 14,500 square foot field house will support all football operations, women's soccer, and men's and women's tennis, with coaches' offices, weight room, and locker rooms. The field house also will include an expanded athletic training area for all sports. Future expansion will provide space for men’s and women’s lacrosse and men’s soccer.

Mars Hill University was awarded a federal grant of up to $2 million over the next four years to help train western North Carolina nurses. The Nursing Workforce Diversity grant provided $500,000 for Mars Hill in fiscal year 2017-18, and is expected to be renewed for three more years. The goal of the Nursing Workforce Diversity program, administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is to increase access to nursing education for students from backgrounds that are underrepresented among the current nursing workforce. For Mars Hill, that dovetails perfectly with the very reason the university began its nursing programs. The university established the Judge-McRae School of Nursing to serve the local western North Carolina region and disadvantaged regions throughout North Carolina. The grant gives Mars Hill an opportunity to increase the number of nursing graduates who are diverse, representative of their communities, and skilled in serving disadvantaged communities with cultural sensitivity and compassionate care.

Wayne Higgins, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Tony Floyd, President
WINGATE UNIVERSITY

Wingate University’s 122nd academic year since its founding in 1896 was highlighted by an enrollment of 3,621 students (a 13 percent increase over the year before) of whom 2,593 were undergraduate students (a 24 percent increase over the year before) and 1,028 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.

International students numbered 116 individuals from 41 countries around the globe.

The university serves its 3,621 students principally on the main 525-acre campus in Wingate but also on campuses in Charlotte and Hendersonville. During the year, the university’s acreage in the Town of Wingate increased 31 percent as President Rhett Brown and the Board of Trustees took strategic steps for the university to benefit from the opening of the Monroe Expressway on Nov. 27, 2018. Almost 80 percent of 2,593 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 53 percent in six years from 2,373 students to 3,621 students. All indicators suggest the unprecedented enrollment expansion will continue to become a sustainable enrollment surge in the foreseeable future. The number of first-time freshman students and transfer students enrolled at Wingate in fall 2017 represented a 48 percent increase over fall 2016. The fall 2018 cohort will again exceed 1,000 first-time students.

Forty percent of Wingate University undergraduate students are first-generation whose parents did not graduate from college. Seventy-six percent are North Carolina residents. Sixty percent are female, and 40 percent male. 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.

We believe diversity is moral, true to our Christian heritage and important for the university’s sustainability. Thirty percent of students are ethnic minority. 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.

The Wingate University Bulldogs won the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) Echols Athletic Excellence Award for the 12th consecutive year.

The university is committed to become a Laboratory of Difference Making for the citizens of the Town of Wingate, Union County and the region, creating strategic partnerships that impact and leverage positive change benefiting people who live and work in the university’s footprint of service and influence. These intersections of student service, faculty expertise and community
leadership will transform the lives of citizens particularly those less fortunate and underserved.

We enjoyed one of our most successful civic engagement years in recent memory. Wingate students, faculty and staff, church fellowships, and community members worked together to provide more than 15,000 hours of in-kind services throughout the region. During One Day One Dog Day of Service on April 12, 2018, 700 individuals participated in 15 community projects.

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.

President Brown and members of the Faith Development Council hosted the university’s first Faith Summit, June 28-29. The summit endorsed nine recommendations addressing the significance of faith as one of the university’s core values along with knowledge and service.

Hundreds of Wingate students are involved throughout each year in campus ministry and mission activities sponsored by the university and by off-campus Christian nonprofit organizations such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Wingate University stands committed to its historic values of faith, knowledge and service and salutes the many North Carolina Baptists who serve 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.

Charles A. Howard, II, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Rhett Brown, President

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

“Missions: not just a project. It’s a way of life.”

Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU NC) is committed to providing missions discipleship and involvement opportunities for women and men, girls and boys so that missions becomes a way of life. This is accomplished by the six objectives of WMU: learning about missions, praying for missions, developing spiritually toward a missions lifestyle, supporting missions, participating in the work of the church and denomination, and engaging in mission action and witnessing.

Representatives of WMU NC are always enthusiastic and available to assist churches in their efforts to flourish and grow their missions organizations and to provide missions outreach. The 2018 theme of the Week of Prayer for the Heck-Jones Offering is “Fan the Flame” based on 2 Timothy 1:3-7. As Lois and Eunice passed the teachings of our faith into Timothy’s life, we too must continue to pour into the next generation. Staff, executive board members, and other missions advocates spoke in more than 60 churches during the months of
February and March. Focus on WMU was celebrated throughout the entire year as speakers spread across the state for Sunday services or weekday meetings. The Heck-Jones Offering supports the missions and ministries of WMU NC. This offering was named to honor Miss Fannie E.S. Heck (president) and Mrs. Sally Bailey Jones (corresponding secretary) who organized WMU NC in 1886.

The national WMU theme “By All Means” has been the focus of missions materials, leadership development and personal growth for the 2016-2018 biennium. The apostle Paul’s words in our focal Scripture, 1 Corinthians 9:22b-23, have challenged us to follow Christ’s example, step into the world around us, cultivate relationships and create opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ.

WMU NC Staff
Current WMU NC staff include: Amy Pardue Boone, executive director/treasurer; Cheryl Daniel, accountant/human resources; Margaret Harding, adult consultant; Michelle Jarvis, receptionist/administrative assistant; Julie Keith, student, collegiate and young women consultant; Sara Lamkin, preschool and children consultant; Linda Hollingsworth, Camp Mundo Vista administrative assistant; Kelly Brame, year-round program/summer camp director; Amanda Martinsen, leadership development consultant and resource coordinator; Bob Navey, resident facilities manager, Camp Mundo Vista; and Jenn B, communications coordinator.

Ministry to Preschool and Children
Missions Friends is the age-level organization for children birth through kindergarten. Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action include children in first through fifth grades. Under the direction of Preschool and Children Ministry Consultant Sara Lamkin, special events were held at Camp Mundo Vista. On Oct. 14, more than 200 children, leaders, and volunteers participated in Children in Action Day. Missionary Olivia Dina shared her work with the Muslim population in different parts of the world. A missions offering provided new toys for the Tar River Baptist Association’s Christmas toy store. Children in Action Day and GA Day were held on March 10 and March 17, respectively, with approximately 300 in attendance. Anna and LaCount Anderson shared their experiences working with the poverty-stricken in Conetoe, N.C. The mission project provided healthy cereal bars for the missionaries’ after-school programs. Several churches arrived the evening before each of these events to enjoy Camp Mundo Vista evening activities. Additional children’s events were held across the state throughout the year.

At the WMU NC Annual Meeting and Missions Extravaganza in April, Lamkin was honored by Claudia Johnson from national WMU for completing certification in all 10 online courses in the area of Mission Friends and Children. Johnson is the missions resource center leadership consultant and oversees the Christian Women’s Leadership Center.

Ministry to Youth, College and Young Women (SHINE NC)
WMU NC works with students and leaders who desire to engage in missional discipleship. Student organizations include Acteens for girls in seventh to 12th grade, Challengers for boys in seventh to 12th grade, and Youth on Mission for youth in seventh to 12th grade. WMU provides curriculum that guides students to be challenged to live out their faith every day as well as embrace the truth of the gospel.

WMU NC has the privilege of working with many Acteens panelists who have a heart for missions because of the leaders and fellow Acteens who have
impacted their lives. The panelists help plan events and assist churches in establishing organizations for middle and high school students. The 2017-18 Acteens panelists are: Erin Blue, Ephesus Church, Sandhills Association; Maddy Davis, Polkton Church, Anson Association; Sierra Lee, Mount Vernon Church, Robeson Association; McKenzie Penninger, Jersey Church, Liberty Association. Each of these teen girls shares how being in Acteens offers them ways to fellowship, bond with each other, pray, learn about missions and share Christ in her school, community and state.

Layne Harrison of University Hills Church in Charlotte, and Sierra Lee, of Mount Vernon Church in Fayetteville, were selected to serve as 2017 National WMU Acteens Panelists. They received a $1,000 scholarship from the WMU Foundation that may be used for college or other educational experiences. They were featured at the WMU Missions Celebration and annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, and also wrote articles for The Mag, the Acteens magazine, and blogs for WMU’s website, www.wmu.com/acteens.

Carolina Girls is a biennial event for North Carolina and South Carolina teen girls and their leaders. The next Carolina Girls will be at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro, on Oct. 19-21, 2018. The focus will be on “Loving the Nations, Starting in Your Community” with an emphasis on Leviticus 19:34a. The focus will be on working with refugees and internationals in Greensboro. For more information, visit www.wmunc.org.

WMU works with college students by partnering with Baptists on Mission and colleges. The theme of the 2018 International Student and Scholar Conference held at Fort Caswell on April 13-15 was “Safe Harbors.” College students represented eight different colleges and universities. The students shared stories through word, conversation, fellowship, exploring at the beach, forts and going to Wilmington. WMU NC Program Staff Consultant Julie Keith had the privilege of sharing with several female college students about “safe harbors” and how God works in our lives. We also support the Baptists on Mission “Here & Now” event.

WMU is committed to engaging with young women through our SHINE organization for young women ages 18 to 34. This age-group is known as myMISSION on the national level. We encourage seasoned women to build relationships with young women and to discover together how important it is to “Listen, Learn, (engage in) Life, and Love.” It is important that today’s five generations work hard to understand each other. WMU NC held a SHINE: Day of Renewal at Camp Mundo Vista. Young women were able to bring their children as we provided childcare and included the children in our worship times. One participant shared, “It was nice to slow down and come together with like-minded women and admit life is crazy-hectic at times. I needed to be able slow down and worship. I needed to go to breakout sessions and bond with other ladies around North Carolina. I enjoyed talking about the different generations and how each one is geared differently and how to reach those people.”

WMU NC hosted the National WMU myMISSION trip for 27 young women on May 25-28, 2018. This would provide opportunities to partner with churches and agencies that are committed to engaging with Karin, Burmese, Nepal, Congolese, Syrian and other refugees in Greensboro. Participants partook in a refugee simulation that helped us to see how challenging it is to come to a new country as a refugee. The Piedmont Baptist Association graciously offered to house the young women as well as have Bible clubs with crafts, music, games, and balloon animals. Lunch was provided for children and their families. Epoch Church and the international ministry at Friendly Avenue
Baptist Church provided ways to engage with children, teens and families as we shared God’s love. We went to an apartment complex and worked with the refugee children and families as we shared God’s love. We were able to worship with cell groups, Karin and Vietnamese churches, and prayer walk at the international market.

Each year, WMU NC awards the Edna P. Harris Memorial Scholarship to a student who has a clear sense of call to Christian ministry with preference given to an applicant whose vocational goals are focused on missions. Amber Bowen, doctoral student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the 2018 recipient. She plans to continue teaching in missions settings in Italy.

**Missions and Ministry Opportunities for Women/Adults**

WMU NC’s desire is for all adults to be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission. WMU materials are available for Women on Mission or Adults on Mission organizations. In July, Adult Consultant Margaret Harding assisted Paul Langston from N.C. Baptist Men in facilitating the adult track at World Missions Week at Caswell. Along with Betsy McSwain, she shared WMU NC missions opportunities at the Ministers’ Wives Retreat at Caraway.

The current Project HELP emphasis is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Materials, as well as events throughout the year, offered help in this area. In August, a Military Wives Retreat was held at Camp Mundo Vista. This was a time of rest and renewal, physically and spiritually. One participant shared, “I almost did not come due to this is a very difficult time of year for me. This is the anniversary of my husband’s first suicide attempt. He was spiraling out of control and could not handle his PTSD, TBI, and life in general. I remember that day like it was yesterday ... this retreat has been such a blessing to me.”

Prison Outreach is a longtime ministry of WMU NC. In September, approximately 95 incarcerated women, prison staff and WMU NC volunteers joined together in a three-day retreat at Camp Mundo Vista. Women enjoyed Bible study, music and worship, crafts, recreation, devotions, delicious food and fellowship. One inmate wrote, “Before being put in prison I was already a prisoner. A prisoner held in bondage that I struggled against every day ... It took me coming to prison and then to this retreat to really see I needed God – not drugs – to fill that void...”

In November, WMU members from across the state provided supplies for approximately 1,700 Red Boxes for women incarcerated in N.C. prisons. These items include shampoos, lotion, toiletries and other personal items. This ministry is an exciting networking of individuals and associations who collect items and deliver them to a central location for packing and preparation for delivery. Many personal testimonies share the significance of this project.

North Carolina and South Carolina WMU came together in October for Carolina Women held at Caswell. This was the second Carolina Women event and had record attendance. Sandra Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of national WMU was the keynote speaker. In addition to breakout conference leaders, author Kimberly Sowell, Phyllis Foy, Renea Henderson, CrossWalk, and worship leader Ashley Adams were program personalities.

**Mission Trips**

Many women of WMU NC travel with their churches and associations all over the United States and in other nations to fulfill the Great Commission. In addition to the many WMU NC participants in N.C. Disaster Relief, N.C. Baptists
on Mission opportunities, and efforts through local churches, this year’s WMU NC-sponsored mission trips included:

- July: Four ladies to Cardiff, Wales, to assist Pastor Phylip Rees in his ministry to women refugees, new believers from Muslim faith (Jeanette Walters, team leader)
- July: 16 ladies to Barre, Vermont, to work with church planters’ wives and churches, under the leadership of Chris and Becca Autry (Deborah Taylor, team leader)
- August: Five ladies to Yerevan, Armenia, to continue partnership with Armenian women (Barbara Hill, team leader)
- October: 12 ladies to the north central part of Pennsylvania to encourage church planters’ wives under the leadership of missionary Julianne Nerger. (Kathie Aiken, team leader)
- May: 13 ladies to central Pennsylvania for prayer walking and ministry with church planters’ wives (Joyce Rogers, team leader)

**Baptist Nursing Fellowship (NCBNF)**

NCBNF celebrated its 35th Annual Meeting at Camp Mundo Vista in February. NCBNF members participate in mission trips stateside and abroad and also volunteer at Camp Mundo Vista each week of summer camp.

**Christian Women’s Job Corps (CWJC)**

CWJC NC currently has 13 sites in North Carolina and multiple sites in Southern Africa, as well as additional sites in development. Cara Lynn Vogel is the state coordinator; Deborah Taylor is president of the board. In April, CWJC NC was notified that Akevia Wilson, a graduate of the Roanoke-Chowan site, was selected for the Sybil Bentley Dove Award. This award, in the amount of $2,500, is given to one person annually.

**Hispanic WMU (UFM)**

The Hispanic WMU (UFM in Spanish) continues to be strong across our state. One of three major events this past year was the observance of the World Day of Prayer on Nov. 4. Ladies met at Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church to pray for the evangelization of the world, and especially the plight and suffering of many women worldwide. On Feb. 17, they held a True Love Waits conference for mothers and daughters at Daystar Church in Greensboro. On May 4-6, 185 ladies and children attended the UMF Annual Retreat held at Camp Mundo Vista. The main speaker was Libo Krieg, conference leader and author from Texas WMU. Their theme was “By All Means: Shine Jesus.” At this meeting, they elected the new officers for the coming year and planned a training event for August. WMU NC is thankful for the partnership with these many wonderful ladies and the impact it is making in our churches.

**Sisters Who Care**

WMU NC is excited to welcome Lisa D. Jacobs of Wake Forest as the new volunteer coordinator for Sisters Who Care, a ministry of WMU NC. Lisa is a speaker, vision board strategist, and certified Christian life coach. Sisters Who Care is the Women on Mission organization for our African-American sisters.

**Leadership Development**

WMU NC welcomed new staff member Amanda Martinsen, leadership development consultant and resource coordinator. Training and encouragement for leaders is crucial, and WMU NC strives to provide a variety of training opportunities throughout the year. Three training opportunities were offered throughout the state in the summer of 2017. This included the “As You Go” West of Asheville training in Hendersonville, the “Come to the Table”
training at Camp Mundo Vista, and the region three rally in Clinton, N.C. More than 300 women attended the trainings and were equipped to serve through learning about new age-level curriculum, spiritual development 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.

WMU NC also saw the growth of new organizations and groups across the state. Many of the children and youth age-level programming like Children in Action and Mission Friends saw tremendous growth over the last year. WMU NC assisted churches in the start-up of these groups and helped leaders with resources and training in these areas.

Sixteen new WMU age-level organizations were begun in 25 associations during this time frame.

**Heritage Award**
Sandra Dunlap James, past president of WMU NC, was the 2018 recipient of the Heritage Award given by the N.C. Baptist Foundation each year. Sandra is a former member of the Executive Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and has affected many lives through her service in North Carolina and in her missions travels. Sandra has “mothered” hundreds of internationals as they have come to the United States to work in restaurants owned by her and husband, Leo.

**2018 Annual Meeting and Missions Extravaganza**
Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem was the host of the 2018 Missions Extravaganza and 127th WMU NC Annual Meeting. The theme was “Defining Moments: Redeemed, Restored, and Released.” Send Relief missionaries Taylor and Susan Field of Graffiti Church in New York City, were the guest speakers. Taylor has authored several books including The Wayward Way and The Upside Down Series. Taylor and Susan challenged attendees to think outside the box in terms of service and leadership and inspired them to serve their communities in new ways. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a variety of conference breakout sessions. Topics included Scripture journaling, living like a missionary, leadership training, reaching the generations and many more. Many sessions featured a spotlight on missionaries and their ministries.

Also present were Claudia Johnson, leadership consultant from national WMU, and well-known author, Rosalie Hunt, who led breakout sessions and encouraged us to look forward to the upcoming 2019 reveal of The Fannie Heck House (which is being renovated by the N.C. Association of Realtors) and her new book which highlights the life of Fannie Heck. There were two ministry projects. One was collecting items for the Ronald McDonald House; and the other, a hands-on conference, was packaging bandanas for Operation Bandanas. WMU NC gifted each participant with a bookmark made by WorldCraft artisans in Bangladesh to challenge them to be a light to the nations. Other highlights included the parade of nations featuring flags from many countries, inspiring music by Ardmore’s talented musicians and personal testimonies.

More than 450 women and men attended the weekend event, and WMU NC is looking forward to the 2019 Missions Extravaganza which will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

WMU NC officers elected during the annual meeting were: Denise “Dee Dee” Moody, president (Faith); Deborah Taylor, vice president (Lumberton); Barbara Hill, vice president for development (Statesville); Beth McDonald, recording secretary (Rockingham), and Allison Markwood, assistant recording secretary (High Point).
Mundo Vista Camp and Conference Center
The past year has seen many changes and updates at Camp Mundo Vista (CMV). We have hired new staff, including Linda Hollingsworth as part-time administrative assistant and Jason Breland as kitchen manager. Many renovations have also been made within the last year, including the completion of bath house renovations resulting in the Dorothy Barham Cottage and Kim Brown House. These are one-bedroom apartments with bath, kitchen and laundry facilities. Parking/paving and tree clearing/maintenance/cleanup along with creating a new fire pit was completed in unit one. The guest lodge received new siding, veneer stone, a gas water heater, inside lighting, and an updated interior makeover. The outdoor chapel path was paved and trees removed to finish grading for an expanded parking lot. New bunk beds have been installed in 12 cabins, much made possible by generous donors. A new zip line is scheduled to be constructed in early July. Much has also been accomplished by John Rogers as chair of a Camp Focus Team, the Camp Committee, and their establishment of a Volunteer Implementation Team.

Due to changes in camping trends and church and parental preferences, we have begun the new transition to coed programming for two weeks of summer camp. We expect summer camp numbers to begin climbing in a positive trend next summer.

With the help of Mundo Vista alumni career marketers, we are beginning to develop a marketing plan to improve promotions and advertising for Mundo Vista and WMU. This is good timing as we are preparing for a Mundo Vista 50th Anniversary Celebration on June 1, 2019. The goal of creating a conference center and camp experience which will be appealing to various groups in non-summer camp weeks is becoming a reality as a number of 2018-2019 weekends are filled.

Always, our focus at CMV is to show Christ to a broken world, share His mission to all and disciple Christ-followers.

National WMU
National WMU continues to produce many outstanding holistic discipleship resources for churches across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, featuring stories from our International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries, as well as encouraging all to live a missional lifestyle. WMU is very much attuned to the changing trends and demographics in our churches, making many of their resources available in digital form. They continue to produce more online courses through a program called DEVELOP, which trains mission organization leaders. Additional courses through the Christian Women’s Leadership Center (CWLC) are more extensive and provide discipleship and growth for leaders in WMU. They have expanded their resources in all age groups, but especially for children, and produce more bilingual (Spanish/English) items.

Tell the Story: Bible Storying for Kids is a new resource kit which contains 40 Bible story sessions which accompany the storytelling cloth produced by IMB years ago. This is an excellent resource for schools, backyard Bible clubs and mission trips. Missions in a Box, a comprehensive resource for home schooling, individual study or group missions activities, now includes kits for Thailand and Peru. In the box is everything needed to teach about a specific mission field — the story, activities, craft supplies, memory verse activities and the badge.
A highlight of this past year has been the partnership WMU has with the Mulli Children’s Family. Charles Mulli is a Kenyan man who worked his way out of poverty into a life of great wealth, only to be called by God to return to poverty. His family has rescued and given hope to more than 12,000 orphans. WMU’s partnership began with the organization of a WorldCraft artisan group and expanded to a complete devotional series and movie which is available for churches.

Many lives are changed by the thousands of dollars provided by the WMU Foundation for water filters and wells through the ministry Pure Water Pure Love. The foundation also provides scholarships for missionaries’ children and others anticipating a future vocation in missions.

The Great Commission
Recent figures shared by the Barna Research Group show that only 17 percent of all churchgoers in the United States know what is meant by the Great Commission. WMU NC is challenged by this finding to strive even more to fulfill our purpose:

“Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina 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.”

Amy Pardue Boone, Executive Director-Treasurer
Dee Dee Moody, President
Business Services

JOHN BUTLER
EXECUTIVE LEADER
The staff of the BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP is committed to using our knowledge, expertise and resources to fulfill the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSCNC) stated mission: “to assist churches in their divinely appointed mission.” The Business Services Group has the dual assignment of assisting churches as well as assisting the convention staff who, in turn, assists churches. As churches in North Carolina change and diversify, the work of the Business Services Group reviews and revises is systems and processes in order to more effectively assist the churches and convention staff. The reports that follow provide a snapshot of how this was carried out in 2018 through the Business Service Group.

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

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 Compensation and Benefits Services (CABS) office is able to
provide answers to general questions regarding retirement, insurance and other financial needs of our churches. Our goal is to keep 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 qualified 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 still fall far short of the goal of having every church providing protection benefits for their staff members through participating in a GuideStone Retirement Plan.

**Tax and Health Insurance Laws**
Healthcare 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 2018 Southern Baptist Compensation Study are available online by visiting compstudy.lifeway.com. Much of the year has been spent educating churches on the potential adverse 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. You can also 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 disciple-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 BSCNC 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 2017, churches focused on sharing the gospel to more than 128,000 people in their efforts to share not only bread and water, but the Bread of Life and the Living Water. Our statistics indicate that 134 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 more than 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, fathers and sons, mothers and sons, and fathers and daughters. 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 2018, we celebrated our 68th 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.

An important part of our ministry here is to maintain and improve our facilities for the benefit of our guests and as good stewards of all that God has provided. 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 rebuild and repair of the pier that was damaged during Hurricane Matthew are now complete. 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 and vital training events for senior adults, youth, women and men 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 66th 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.

*Kenny Adcock, Camp Director*
Church Planting & Missions Partnerships

CHUCK REGISTER
EXECUTIVE LEADER
During 2017-2018, the CPMP Group worked faithfully to assist with the implementation of the statewide strategy of “impacting lostness through disciple-making.” As a group, our ministry consultants are focused on assisting North Carolina Baptist churches in: engaging 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 more than 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

- During the same year, we celebrated more than 7,122 professions of faith through the ministries of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) funded church plants and received more than $130,000 in Cooperative Program gifts from these new churches. New church plants also contributed more than $88,000 to local Baptist associations/networks and an additional $113,276 to the North Carolina Missions Offering.
- BSCNC church planting consultants worked with peoples...
from 69 different language groups.

- In 2014, the convention identified 250 “pockets of lostness” within North Carolina. To date, N.C. Baptists have planted 147 new churches within those lost pockets.
- In the spring of 2018, N.C. Baptist churches were leading reproducing gospel ministries on 48 college and university campuses.
- The Office of Great Commission Partnerships has mapped 162 different unreached people groups living in North Carolina. To date, N.C. Baptists have engaged 86 of these people groups with the gospel.
- In conjunction with the International Mission Board (IMB), the North American Mission Board (NAMB), Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and other state conventions, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships hosted the “Reaching the Nations in North America Summit,” a national training event for engaging ethnic peoples in North America.
- Facilitated the creation of two new Global Impact Networks, which are clusters of N.C. Baptist churches working with IMB personnel to fulfill the Great Commission – one focused on Russia and one focused globally on Tibetan peoples.
- Continued our focus on multifamily housing ministry by facilitating the engagement of 21 new multifamily housing communities, bringing the total number of communities engaged to 84.
- Worked with North Carolina Baptist associations to develop strategies for evangelism and church planting.
- Developed and hosted multiple training events for associational leaders.

Chuck Register, Executive Leader
Savannah Parks, Executive Leader Assistant

ASSOCIATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Associational Missions Strategists (AMSs), also known as directors of missions (DOMs) or 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 and replanting of existing congregations. For this reason, Associational Partnerships continues to offer opportunities, training and resources to help associational leaders enter the field with a fresh, intentional and deliberate approach. We are so grateful for the crucial strategic ministry partnerships with the associational leaders representing 77 associations across the state. Our staff is thankful for these leaders, their servant hearts and faithfulness toward impacting lostness through creating a disciple-making culture in their churches, communities and beyond.

Associational Partnerships and the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference formed a joint planning team consisting of the associational missions officers and Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) staff that collaborate to enhance our relationship and plan the annual meeting of the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference. During this year’s three-day training event in April we offered a full day devoted to potential and new associational leadership training, a track for spouses, a track for church and community ministries personnel, and a full agenda of education, training and fellowship for associational leaders.

The conference theme was “Redeeming the Time: Reclaiming the Glory: Seizing Every Opportunity to Restore His Church.” Our guest presenter was
Mark Clifton, senior director of replanting at the North American Mission Board. The emphasis was focused on the implementation of a framework and strategy related to church revitalization and church replanting. The goal of the conference was to help AMSs understand the patience, love and dependence on the Holy Spirit necessary to lead and coach their pastors and churches towards revitalization, replanting and disciple-making.

A conference for potential AMSs was offered at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Alabama, in January. The theme was “The Associational Journey ... Is it for You?” with keynote presenters Chris Schofield, Josh Ellis and Jimmy Blanton.

Associational Partnerships assists associations with filling vacant associational ministry positions through associational search committee training along with a database of possible candidates. Associational Partnerships continues to develop and connect potential AMS candidates, new AMSs and experienced AMSs with training and orientation opportunities offered by the state convention and other entities that resource associational missionaries such as the Southern States Associational Missions Conference, the Network of Baptist Associations and the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders. Premier training is available during these opportunities for sharpening skills and developing competencies for future associational challenges.

The Strategic Partnership Requests (SPRs) allow local associational partners to receive assistance with resourcing outreach opportunities including 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 during the process, delivery to the appropriate state convention ministry group, communication of the status of the request, and final approval, flows through Associational Partnerships.

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. The following selected reports are not an exhaustive list of how NCMO funds are used by all the associations in North Carolina but give an idea about how the funds are used to address a variety of mission endeavors.

**Dave Heller, Columbus Baptist Association**

“...We received $500 for an outdoor movie trailer. We used this money with other monies and purchased a trailer, 16x16 inflatable screen, projection system and sound system, along with a popcorn machine. This trailer will be used by our churches to hold events in their communities, showing evangelistic films. A requirement is that at every showing, the gospel must be presented. We already have it booked for over a dozen nights, beginning in June. Thanks to the NCMO for helping us to reach our communities for Christ with this equipment as another tool in our toolbox!”

**Jerome Cash, Anson Baptist Association**

“...We used the NCMO to help promote our Greater Anson Youth Crusade with Mike Satterfield. The crusade was awesome! Our five-night attendance was just over 4,200. Our special offerings to help four ministries in the Anson County area was just over $6,400. We had 112 salvations, as well as a number of recommitments...”
and prayer needs met. The gymnasium floor was full each night at the invitation. Thanks for coming alongside with the NCMO. It was a great help!"

Dennis Shaw, Yadkin Baptist Association
“The Yadkin Baptist Association uses the funds to give financial support to individuals who are planning on going on their very first international mission trip with their church. This helps with the cost for a visa or passport. We believe that once someone goes on a mission trip, they will encourage others to go!”

Garland Honeycutt, Avery and Three Forks Baptist Associations
“The churches of the Three Forks Baptist Association have affirmed the calling of a church mobilization catalyst (CMC). This specialized field worker, who will equip and mobilize local churches to impact lostness and make disciples, was affirmed during the association’s spring meeting on April 24. We are so excited to offer this strategic resource, as a means for strengthening our churches. The CMC will provide our association the means to intentionally focus on mobilizing churches to engage lostness in the High Country for the next 24 months. Utilizing a strategic partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and monies received from the North Carolina Missions Offering, TFBA developed a two-year contract for this specialized field worker.”

James Harrington, Chowan Baptist Association
“We created a line item to assist struggling churches in our association. If a church has a need for funds to accomplish something evangelistic or ministry related in their community, they can apply to us and we will consider up to $500 in a grant to that church. We have already assisted one church who reported that the gift was greatly appreciated and was used for two outreach efforts. As a result two new families are now attending the church. This is an attempt to assist in revitalization efforts of some of our struggling churches.”

Keith Hollar, South Fork Baptist Association
“South Fork Association has utilized the NCMO funds returned to us in support of the following: A missions van that is used by our churches for mission trips locally and other North Carolina destinations. Block party trailers maintenance and supplies for evangelism and outreach. Scholarships for pastors and laity to attend the Intentional Evangelistic Church Strategy Seminar. We are grateful to have these funds to use for ministry.”

Bob Lowman, Metrolina Baptist Association
“Metrolina Association used the NCMO funds to pay for neighborhood missions projects and disciple-making training events. Those resources also helped us with numerous summer missions projects including World Changers Charlotte. Each year, these dollars from the NCMO help us fulfill our call to encourage and equip our family of churches to do the Great Commission together. Thank you, N.C. Baptists for supporting associational missions efforts through the NCMO!”

Kelton Hinton, Johnston Baptist Association
“We used the NCMO funds in these ways: We paid the rental fees for our church plants on our evangelistic block party trailer usage, making it free for them. We used some of the money to pay for 200 backpacks and 200 Bibles as a part of our Appalachian Christmas Outreach. We bought Spanish Bibles for our migrant ministry in the summer. We bought Spanish Bibles for one of our Spanish missions. We paid the subscription for a year of Sampson Resources (video training) for all of our Johnston Baptist Association churches.”

Mike Miller, Transylvania Baptist Association
“The Transylvania Baptist Association has used funds to help churches
experience revival and revitalization. Approximately 15 people have been saved with the assistance of the funds, and three churches are experiencing revitalization. To God be the glory!"

Lon Chenowith, Sandy Run Baptist Association
“We will use our funds to provide Bibles, gospel tracts and gospel coins in 30 evangelistic venues in three efforts of saturation evangelism across two counties, in 11 small cities and townships with 41 of our 61 churches participating for three weeks this summer as well as other community events where we do evangelistic outreach. Thanks North Carolina Baptists! We’re taking the gospel to the streets, homes and in places where we can tell our world about the saving grace found in Christ alone.”

Joe Cappar, New River Baptist Association
“New River Baptist Association received $1,458.08. Forty-five percent of those funds have been designated for a summer ministry project. We will fund a project with one of our churches. We will utilize Mission Insite resources to help the local church identify potential mission and ministry opportunities. Fifty-five percent of those funds have been designated for a summertime associational mission effort. Two teams will serve a church in West Virginia. One team will conduct a Vacation Bible School, and a second team will construct a structure for weather-proofing a newly installed basketball court/recreational surface.”

Tom Lamkin, Sandhills Baptist Association
“We used the NCMO funds to provide grants to churches who were participating with evangelistic goals in community festivals and similar events.”

John Hamm, North Roanoke Baptist Association
“The North Roanoke Association used NCMO funds to sponsor a conference called ‘Courageous Conversations: Race, Redemption and Reconciliation.’ Nationally known speakers and a variety of breakout sessions addressed the importance of breaking down racial barriers and working together to more effectively develop an approach to ministry which combines a practical demonstration of the gospel and a clear proclamation of the gospel. This multiracial and multidenominational event had 450 in attendance representing more than 50 churches.”

Perry Brindley, Buncombe Baptist Association
“The Buncombe Baptist Association used the NCMO funds to assist in partnership missions opportunities in the Vermont mission partnership, Appalachian mission partnership, Western North Carolina Fair Ministry, church health projects assisting in areas of revitalization, and the Ministers Conference Roundtable. Funds were also used for multiethnic church plant advancement, which assists in planting Hispanic, Romanian, Moldovan and Korean ministries.”

Roy Smith, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches
“We are very appreciative of the portion of the NCMO returned to associations. The Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches is using our portion of the 2017 offering to employ a summer intern to survey managers/owners/agents of the many multifamily housing communities in this region. We are finding many ministry opportunities that we are in turn sharing with nearby churches for action.”

Lester Evans, Team Leader
Lydia Warpoole, Team Leader Assistant
The Bible tells us in the Book of Acts that as persecution broke out against the early church in Jerusalem, believers "were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria" taking the gospel with them everywhere they went (Acts 8:1). Such is the heart of church planting, taking the gospel of Jesus Christ “around the world and across the street.” As people hear the gospel and become disciples of Jesus, these new believers are gathered together into biblical communities that we call New Testament churches. This movement of God is the way the early church spread centuries ago and continues to do so in the present.

Today, disciples in Great Commission churches are carrying the gospel to their neighbors, friends, coworkers and to whoever needs the gospel. New churches are being formed in communities across North Carolina where only 21 percent of the people are in any church on a given weekend. More than 5.8 million are lost without Christ in the state. The need for new churches focused on fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord through evangelism and disciple-making is great. Over the past four years, 31 percent of new churches planted in North Carolina have been located in a pocket of lostness. While we rejoice in the progress being made, there is still much work to be done.

Trent Holbert is a good example of a planter with a heart to reach the unreached with the gospel in a pocket of lostness. He and his musically talented wife planted a church in Kentucky several years ago but felt God calling them to begin a new church in western North Carolina. Their burden grew to focus on the Black Mountain/Ridgecrest area just east of Asheville, pocket of lostness No. 174. The area has become known for its Bohemian culture and Eastern religions. There is interest in spirituality among the unreached there, which Holbert utilizes as a bridge. He brings to the community the message of the one true God of the gospel, the Lord Jesus Christ.

With the focus on “impacting lostness through disciple-making,” new churches are able to channel their resources and energies into reaching the unreached. By understanding the community and context into which God has called them, they are able to fish for men and women in these communities in a culturally appropriate and effective way. In the past 12 months, new churches reported 108,774 evangelistic contacts and 7,122 professions of faith. New churches are able to devote more energy to “fishing” for men and women, in contrast to existing churches that face the challenges of buildings, budgets and ministries. Thus, this tends to guide a new church plant to be highly effective at reaching new people for Jesus at a faster pace.

In Greensboro, King’s Cross Church is being planted by Clint Darst. He has a great vision for a strong multi-ethnic church among the lost population clusters near the center of Greensboro. God gave him a vision for starting a church that meets as close to “the tracks” as possible in order to intentionally take the gospel to both sides. He affectionately calls it “church on the tracks.” In six months, King’s Cross Church has already baptized 10 people from different ethnicities, backgrounds and generations. Next month, they will be baptizing a 40-year-old man from Mexico. The gospel is being proclaimed and people are coming to Jesus through the faithful mission work of King’s Cross Church in Greensboro.

North Carolina Baptists celebrated the addition of 101 new churches in 2017. Of these, 71 were new church plants receiving training, coaching and
financial assistance through the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) and the Cooperative Program. A total of 30 new churches, most new mission points, joined our Baptist family by affiliation and received resources other than financial assistance, such as coaching, partnership and training.

A total of 82 percent of these new churches are identified as non-Anglo. This is significant, since there are more than 336 languages spoken in the state. Of the new churches, 26 were Hispanic and 10 were Asian. Churches who self-identified as African-American totaled 12 new church plants, and 34 designated themselves as multi-ethnic or “other.” Presently, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina churches, associations, and networks work with 69 language groups in the state.

People are coming to the Triangle from all around the world. Several thousand have come from the African Republic of Congo. God has called Zacharie Ngemba to reach them with the gospel, gathering them as a new church in west Raleigh. While Zacharie speaks several languages including English, he chooses to preach in French, a predominant language among the Congolese. His daughter translates the missionary planter’s message into English. Already 75 have made a profession of faith in this new church plant. We are grateful to God for continuing to send planters from all around the world into the harvest.

Javier Herrera is reaching unreached Hispanics in Greensboro with the gospel. He is making disciples by gathering in clusters throughout the city, targeting pockets of lostness Nos. 22, 23, 25 and 58. Since the church started in March, they have already started a network of six Hispanic churches and recorded 16 professions of faith. His church is called, “La Red,” which means “The Net.” With 1 million Hispanics in North Carolina, which is about 10 percent of the population, the need for new Hispanic churches is great. Presently, 150 Hispanic churches are a part of the North Carolina Baptist family. With visionary leaders like Javier, the future is bright for evangelistic, reproducing Hispanic churches.

Equipping new missionary church planters for kingdom impact continues to be a priority of the work of the Church Planting Team. A total of 2,281 Asians were involved in leadership develop through our Asian people groups planter training in the past year, including both laymen and pastors, casting vision for church multiplication. The School of International Leaders for Church Multiplication graduated 36 of our Asian partners last year. Another planter training program is the intensive Multiply Training strategy that involves regional cohorts of six or seven people meeting over the course of six to 12 months. In the past year, 28 leaders completed the training. In another effort to equip Asian church planters 273 individuals completed Leadership Development Training, and 105 graduated from Evangelism Training.

To prepare Hispanic church planters, 11 Hispanic Church Planting Training Centers (HCPTC) have been started across the state. This effort includes a six-month curriculum with leaders attending once a month. Already, 281 Hispanics are enrolled in this training preparing to be a part of the church multiplication strategy. Also, three church multiplication meetings, Hispanic Congresses, were held. In these meetings, vision casting for church multiplication has been the focus. In the past 12 months combined attendance at these events was more than 780, with an average of 260 at each. God continues to call new leaders from these vision-casting events.
With the African-American population in North Carolina at a little more than 2 million and only approximately 160 African-American churches in affiliation with the state convention, the need is great for African-American church planters. Successful church planting missionaries and other leaders are brought together by BSCNC church planting consultants to share their best practices, followed by conversations and application contextualized to each planter’s unique context. Consultants are helping by hosting specific workshops across the state on varying, practical topics.

The more traditional approach to equipping new missionary planters in English is North Carolina Church Planter Training (NCCPT) This is a four-day event that runs Monday through Thursday and was held two times over the past 12 months. Many experienced church planters and leaders with varying areas of expertise come and equip the new missionaries. Total combined attendance at these two events for new missionary planters, wives, and partners totaled 38.

God called Billy Roy to reach people with the gospel and to start a new church in Whiteville, North Carolina. The new work is called Crossroads Church. They meet in an elementary school near the downtown area. The church is located in an area that is 62 percent unreached. In the first 19 weeks, the church baptized 21 new believers. What a great start! To God be the glory!

Joining together to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord is a value of the work of church multiplication. Funded new churches commit to tithe to missions once public worship has begun. These churches give at least 5 percent to the Cooperative Program, 3 percent to the association or network with which they partner and 2 percent to other new church plants of their choice. “What you want at the end, do at the beginning.” The goal is to guide the new church to tithe to missions from its inception, in hopes the value of doing missions cooperatively will continue for years to come. In the past 12 months, new churches have contributed more than $130,000 to the Cooperative Program and more than $88,000 to local associations/networks.

One of the new churches supported by these and other Baptist mission giving is led by a person we will call William Smith. We use the pseudonym because this missionary planter is seeking to reach Asian-Indian Muslims located in the Triangle area with the gospel. William and his family have moved into a community where Muslims live in order to make new Asian-Indian friends, and looking for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Muslims tend to see Jesus as a prophet at best, but not as the Savior that we know. William hopes to make new disciples in the Triangle among Asian-Indians who will go and make other new disciples.

Every week in our new churches in North Carolina, more than 4,200 gather to worship the Lord Jesus. They are culturally diverse, speak multiple languages, and represent numerous countries of origin. Their music is beautifully unique, their mode of worship contextual and the love they have for the lost unbounded. They are committed to be on mission with Jesus to impact lostness through disciple-making. Together, the Church Planting Team counts it a privilege to serve North Carolina Baptist churches, associations, networks and their leaders in fulfilling the commission to which God has called us.

Mark Gray, Team Leader
Tiffany Ramos, Team Leader Assistant
COLLEGIATE PARTNERSHIPS

Churches Making Disciples
A first-year student named Alli at Western Carolina University found herself surrounded by other collegians from Webster Baptist Church. Alli came from a non-believing family background that she identified as atheist. In getting involved with these Christian students from Webster, she eventually gave her life to Jesus and committed to follow Him as the Lord of her life.

After her first year at Western, she was forced to return home for reasons she could not control. While Webster Baptist hated to see her go home so early in her college career, they knew that God had already worked through the ministry of Webster, and she was returning home as a disciple of Jesus. They were further encouraged when she contacted them to make sure they knew that she became a believer because of how the church taught the gospel and loved her. She went on to describe how they were sending her home as a missionary to her family and that she would now be taking that message to her lost family!

Webster’s story is beautiful, but it is not unique. Sure, the circumstances around her life might be unique, but the story of a church loving a lost college student, sharing the gospel with that student, and discipling that student into the mission of God is not unique. It’s happening all over the great state of North Carolina.

The Collegiate Partnerships Team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) has been increasingly helping N.C. Baptist churches fill college campuses with missionaries. As a result, more students are involved in collegiate ministry, more students are actively serving in our churches, more students are being saved, more students are being discipled in small groups, more students are being trained to share the gospel, more students are being developed as leaders, and more students are being sent as summer missionaries.

A Growing Mission Field
While all of these things are worth celebrating, it is also important to remember that the collegiate footprint in North Carolina is growing. When the Collegiate Partnerships Team was created back in 2014, the intensive research of the collegiate landscape revealed 155 college and university campuses across the state, including public universities, private colleges and universities, and a growing number of community colleges.

Churches have responded by engaging campuses with the gospel, and we have seen the greatest growth from ministries started at community college campuses. Pointing to the growing need and the explosive growth of the community college landscape, however, the research conducted by the Collegiate Partnerships Team in 2018 led to the startling realization that the number of campuses in North Carolina, in just four short years, grew from 155 to 185. That’s an increase of 30 campuses, and all of that growth can be contributed to the expansion of the community college system.

These community colleges that began as a way to contextualize education to the needs of the immediate community and reduce the cost of education have begun to aggressively add campuses that are specifically designed to serve even smaller segments of populations in North Carolina. No longer do many community college administrations see sufficiency in one campus per county (or sometimes two or three counties); instead, some community colleges now have as many as eight campuses. This growth highlights the increased need for more churches to get involved.
Stats on Progress in NC’s Collegiate Engagement

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<td>981</td>
<td>617</td>
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Highlights from Collegiate Partnerships

- Completed a statewide research project that located, profiled, and assessed every campus in North Carolina based on engagement from N.C. Baptist churches.
- Completed a statewide research project that mapped the groups of international students studying at North Carolina colleges and universities.
- Hired Yana Conner as the fourth consultant with the Collegiate Partnerships Team.
- Developed of a cohort of churches learning together how to better make disciples at historically black colleges and universities.
- Started 11 new reproducing gospel presences through N.C. Baptist churches as of June 2018. A reproducing gospel presence on a college campus is defined by the following four criteria: 1. It is under the authority of the local church; 2. It is a group (large group, small group, network of small groups) actively reaching college students on a particular campus (or campuses); 3. It is doctrinally sound; and 4. It is multiplying by the reproduction of disciples.
- Created training for churches wherein we both equip campus missionaries to raise and maintain their own funding (when they are required to raise their own support) and equipped the church to effectively execute the funding stream and continually coach those missionaries through the process.
- Currently working with churches on an additional 14 campuses to establish a new reproducing gospel presence.

Making Disciples on All Types of Campuses

Christ Community Church in Huntersville started a brand new collegiate ministry targeting students at Davidson College in nearby Davidson and the Merancas Campus of Central Piedmont Community College in nearby Cornelius. The Merancas Campus has proven to be a difficult campus, having remained on the list of “20 Most Strategic Campuses in North Carolina” since its inception in 2015.

Early in the establishment of this new ministry, Christ Community met a student named Matt and challenged him to start praying for someone he knew to become a Christian. Matt thought of Jake, and started praying. Jake was also living a sinful lifestyle but had grown up in the church and heard the gospel from a young age. The more Jake grappled with his sinful lifestyle and the lordship of Christ, the more he grew in his faith until he rededicated his life to Christ.

Then, in March, Jake began inviting a young man named Eli who was a student at the Merancas Campus. Eli was quick to begin serving, quick to attend every event held and quick to ask how else he could get involved in college ministry. By all accounts, he was a model student. Shortly after he started attending, a leader from Christ Community sat down with him over a
cup of coffee to have a gospel conversation, something they do with every single student they meet.

Eli revealed that even though he enjoyed serving, Jesus played no real role in his spiritual life. The leader from Christ Community shared the gospel with him — pointing to the hope that we have because of the completed work of Christ on the cross. Through a series of events involving several young men whose lives God has changed in their ministry, Christ Community Church has now seen their first salvation in Eli. This is what it looks like to make disciples on a college campus, and thanks to the work God is doing in churches all over North Carolina, it is taking place on the public universities like Western Carolina University, at private colleges like Davidson, and at community colleges like Central Piedmont Community College.

Jonathan Yarbora, Team Leader
Alex Hugo, Team Leader Assistant

GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERSHIPS

The Office of Great Commission Partnerships exists to mobilize and empower North Carolina Baptist churches to make disciples among unreached people groups and in least-reached places in North Carolina, throughout North America and around the world. We do this in North Carolina by empowering churches to impact lostness through disciple-making among the unreached peoples next door and least-reached multifamily housing communities. We do this globally by mobilizing our churches to impact lostness through disciple-making through partnership missions with churches, planters and missionaries in least-reached places and among unreached people groups throughout North America and around the world. Our great hope is to help the church to fulfill its God-given commission to make disciples among all nations until there is no place or people left without the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peoples Next Door in North Carolina

In 2014, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships began the process of researching the eight major metropolitan areas throughout our state to discover which unreached peoples from around the world have taken up residence in these areas. In the first year, we did initial discovery work in the Metro Charlotte, the Triad and Triangle areas. In the second year, we did initial discovery in the Blue Ridge, Greenville, Fayetteville, and Unifour population centers. By the beginning of 2017, we had finished initial discovery in the coastal region finalizing the mapping of all eight major population centers. In each area, we developed a top-10 list of the highest priority people groups.

The Office of Great Commission Partnerships has continued to leverage the return of our missionaries who have served with the International Mission Board by contracting with them to serve as catalysts on a Peoples Next Door focused team. Their focus is to equip churches and believers throughout our state to discover, engage and make disciples of the unreached peoples who are now living among us and empower those churches to engage the same or similar peoples globally. Currently, we have contracted with four individuals. James Cooper is primarily focused on catalyzing disciple-making among Hindu peoples. Chuck Baker is primarily focused on catalyzing disciple-making efforts among Muslim peoples from every affinity in which they are found. Jonathan Derbyshire and Tanner Marquis are primarily focused on catalyzing disciple-making among Buddhist peoples.
Over the last few years, our team has developed several helpful resources that are regularly used to equip churches and individual believers in their efforts to discover, engage and make disciples among the unreached peoples who are now our neighbors. One such resource is the “Mission of God” series, designed to help believers discern how they fit into the mission of God. Another such resource is the “30 Days, 30 Peoples” prayer guide, designed to guide you and/or your church through 30 days of prayer prompts for 30 different unreached people groups who have been discovered in North Carolina. Partnering with Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina, we will hold another statewide prayer emphasis using this resource in January 2019. Our team has also finished a report on the people groups for each of the top 100 pockets of lostness throughout the state. Finally, we regularly utilize a resource titled “A Manual for Discovery and Engagement” to help 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.

Our team has adopted the vision of seeing every person from an unreached people group in North Carolina have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. In addition, we will work with other teams within the state convention to see a reproducing healthy church for every unreached people group community of 1,000 or more in any given region. Of the 80 priority people groups (the top 10 in the eight population centers combined), we have seen a total of 25 engaged with a disciple-making strategy. Of the 80, six others are in the progress of being engaged. We now know of 162 total people groups in North Carolina with a population large enough to easily discover, engage and make disciples among them. Of these 162 people groups, 86 have been engaged by an ethnic church, a church planting team or a church’s focused cross-cultural effort.

Multifamily Housing Ministry in North Carolina
North Carolina’s multifamily housing community is both large and growing. As of 2015 in North Carolina, 33.7 percent of all occupied homes are considered multifamily housing, making up nearly 1.3 million of the more than 3.7 million occupied homes in the state. Of the more than 10.2 million residents of North Carolina, it is estimated that at least 3.3 million people live in multifamily housing contexts. Missiologists tell us that in North America, on average, 95 percent of the residents living in multifamily 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 multifamily housing communities across our state are not connected with a local church.

We have adopted the vision of seeing a reproducing gospel presence for every multifamily housing community in the state. We define a reproducing gospel presence as a group that is doctrinally sound, under the authority of a local church and is making disciples. We initiated contracts in June 2017, with three individuals to serve as multihousing engagement catalysts. Each of these individuals has been assigned a primary area of responsibility, Kao Grissett in the Triangle, Joe Maye in the Triad and Brian Norris in Metro Charlotte. While their primary responsibility is to catalyze gospel engagement of the multifamily housing communities within their three population centers, 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 multifamily housing communities within identified pockets of lostness.
We categorize their progress of engagement based on a simple plan, using the acrostic PEOPLE, which stands for pray fervently, engage people, open your mouth and the word to share the gospel, prepare key leaders, launch a sustainable ministry, and exit with care. Of those 86 engaged communities, 11 are at fervent prayer. Thirty-one have begun to engage the people who live in these communities through events and activities. Thirty have begun to share the gospel and start Bible studies for seekers. Five are identifying and equipping key leaders. Seven have launched sustainable ministry alongside of key leaders they have developed. Two are in the process of exiting with care, and one of those has multiplied to a second community.

Over the last year, we have discovered or catalyzed the engagement of 86 multifamily housing communities throughout North Carolina. Of the 86 communities, 35 are located within a pocket of lostness. In 2017 and 2018, we were able to catalyze 42 of the 86 engaged communities. The other 44 communities we simply discovered work which had been taking place for months or years prior, catalyzed through local churches or parachurch organizations, such as Dwell, Apartment Life or local associations.

**SENT: Students on Mission**

In 2017-2018, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships collaborated with the Collegiate Partnerships Team to redesign and pilot a student missions mobilization program that was based in North Carolina Baptist churches through the North American and global partnerships of those churches. We called the program SENT: Students on Mission, which allowed students to leverage the partnerships of their church to engage unreached peoples and/or least-reached places in North America, internationally and within North Carolina all in one summer. The program also allows students to re-apply a second and third year as an intern and student team leader, consecutively.

Our vision for the redesign was to build a simple structure that was local-church driven, reproducible and scalable. Our ultimate hope was to see students developed as leaders so they are prepared to either be sent as a missionary for the glory of Christ among the unreached or help mobilize, train and equip others to go. In this first year, we began with five churches who had committed to recruit and send students. Six additional churches have expressed serious interest in participating in this student sending approach in the summer of 2019.

**North American Partnerships**

Through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, North Carolina Baptists have developed close partnerships in five North American areas Baltimore/Washington, D.C., Boston, New York City, Toronto, and Quebec. However, these locations are not the only areas our churches are working throughout North America.

We have seen Boston go from around 40 Southern Baptist churches in 2013 to 74 churches in 2017, now averaging 400-450 baptisms each year. Still, Boston is only 3.7 percent evangelical. Baltimore has seen 39 new churches planted in the last three years. In the last few years, we have seen 27 new churches started in Toronto, now averaging 200-plus baptisms a year. North Carolina Baptists have supported 15 church plants in New York City through a church planting center coordinated by the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA), a group that saw 1,238 baptisms last year. In the last 10 years, we have seen New York City go from 3 percent to 5 percent evangelical. Praise the Father, but there is much work yet to be done!

In November and December, Coats for the City impacted New York City and North Carolina in incredible ways. In the greater Greensboro-High Point
distribution, nearly 1,700 coats along with gospel literature were distributed by 14 churches. North Carolina Baptists sent 130 volunteers from 16 churches to partner alongside 14 New York City planters and missionaries to hand out nearly 4,000 coats and share the gospel with people from a variety of cultural, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds.

As of this year, North Carolina Baptist churches have developed 272 partnerships with churches in 28 of the North American Mission Board’s 32 Send cities. We know of 40 of our churches who are partnering in New York City. As many as 39 of our churches are partnering for the spread of the gospel through church planting in Baltimore. There are 26 of our churches and two associations partnering with 31 planters in Toronto. We have 16 of our churches who have established partnerships with planters in Boston. We have 15 churches partnered in Portland, Oregon, 14 in Washington, D.C., 12 in Atlanta, 10 in Calgary, 10 in Montreal, and 88 partnerships in a variety of other cities throughout North America.

**International Partnerships**

Over the years, North Carolina Baptists have developed partnerships in several strategic areas of the world through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships. One of the partnership opportunities is in East Asia. Tibetans constitute 6.4 million people in this region of which 96 percent are unreached. Another is in South Asia where more than 1.7 billion people totaling one-fourth of the world’s population live. In South Asia, more than 96 percent of the entire affinity has no gospel witness. Another is in Moldova, which has been named the poorest country in Europe and includes a population of less than 4 percent evangelical. Other opportunities are in Southeast Asia, a region that is home to more than 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.

Though we are still gathering information regarding strategic partnerships through our North Carolina Baptist churches, we know of 76 global partnerships. We have 10 North Carolina Baptist churches and a local association that are committed to partnership in Moldova. There are eight churches and an association that are partnering for the spread of the gospel among Tibetans in East Asia. There are 24 of our churches who are laboring in partnerships in Southeast Asia. In South Asia, we have 19 churches partnering for the spread of the gospel, disciple-making and church planting. In North Africa and Middle East, there are seven North Carolina churches partnered. Central Asia has three North Carolina churches partnered. One of our churches is committed to a partnership among deaf peoples around the globe. Two North Carolina Baptist churches are working among sub-Saharan African peoples. We are still documenting the existence of partnerships North Carolina churches have developed around the world, intentionally making adjustments to these lists as we gather more information.

Please contact Zac Lyons, senior consultant for the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, by email at zlyons@ncbaptist.org or phone at (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 among unreached peoples here, there and everywhere.

Zac Lyons, Senior Consultant
Lauren McCall, Ministry Assistant
Evangelism & Discipleship

LYNN SASSER
EXECUTIVE LEADER
Disciple-making is an overarching term for the process of evangelism and discipleship. It is the essence of Jesus’ words spoken to Peter and Andrew in Matthew 4:19: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” As we come to faith in Christ (evangelism), we are made by Him (discipleship) to become fishers of men (being an evangelist). Jesus makes it clear that a disciple is someone who follows Him and whose heart is being molded by Him through the work of the Holy Spirit to become a disciple who makes more disciples.

A disciple-making culture is one that is never content to stop with conversion alone. This culture provides an environment for the recently converted to grow in their faith to the point that they ultimately share Christ with other people and help them become disciples. This is a culture in which it is natural, normative and expected that disciples are regularly reproduced in obedience to our Lord’s Great Commission to “make disciples.”

A disciple-making culture is dependent upon the health and vitality of the church. Toward that end, we continue to direct significant energy and resources toward church health and revitalization efforts across our state. Additionally, we believe that a significant factor regarding the health of the church is the health of the family unit. This year we have provided additional resources to strengthen families in the churches of our convention, and we are committed to continuing this moving forward.

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
Patti Cardwell, Executive Leader Assistant, Evangelism and Discipleship Group

THE DISCIPLE-MAKING TEAM

The Disciple-Making Team has the responsibility to activate North Carolina Baptist disciple-makers in all age groups and life stages. Ministries on the team include the areas...
of childhood, youth, family, adult, Sunday School and small groups, women, and church health and revitalization.

**Disciple-Making Conference**
In addition to work in individual ministry areas, noted below, the team hosts the annual Disciple-Making Conference. The 2018 conference was held on Feb. 27 at Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons, N.C. Attended by approximately 600 people, the conference focused on best practices and methods for reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ and discipling them toward the mission of God. The keynote speaker was Pastor Matt Carter of The Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas. More than 40 equipping sessions were hosted, providing practical application to a vast array of evangelism and discipleship issues faced by the local church.

*Brian Upshaw, Team Leader, Disciple-Making Team*
*Terri Howell, Team Leader Assistant, Disciple-Making Team*

**EMBRACE AND WOMEN’S EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP**

Embrace continues to equip women to make disciples in order to impact lostness. At the 2018 Disciple-Making Conference, Embrace hosted four equipping sessions to help women’s ministry leaders and church members make disciples. Practitioners in their respective areas led breakout sessions. Mary Wallace Wilson, director of women’s discipleship at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, led equipping sessions on “Disciple-Making and Women in the Church” to help ladies structure women’s ministries around disciple-making. Tabatha Frost, pastor’s wife from Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, led a breakout session on “The Home: A Strategic Platform for Discipleship,” which taught women how to make disciples in their homes and families. Sarah Davenport, former International Mission Board (IMB) missionary and member of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, led “Disciple-Making and the World.” Sarah shared how to engage women from other cultures with the gospel. Ashley Allen, senior consultant of Embrace at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, led “Speaking the Truth,” which taught women not only why it is important to view all of life as an opportunity for disciple-making but also how to begin gospel conversations in their daily lives.

**Roundtables**
In the spring of 2018, Embrace hosted seven roundtable events in Statesville, Cary, New Bern, Monroe, High Point, Dobson and Rocky Mount. Attendees received “4-1-1 Gospel Conversation Training” from No Place Left International. 4-1-1 represents four questions for sharing the gospel: Why share? With whom do I share? What do I share? When do I share? on one sheet of paper, in one hour. Additionally, women learned how to use The 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide and “Six Words” to share the gospel, call for a decision and begin a
gospel conversation. As part of the training, women identified lost people in their circles of influence. They further identified people in extended networks of those in their respective circles of influence. In response, one woman exclaimed, “We can reach them, and then they can reach others!”

N.C. Baptist Women’s Retreat
On Oct. 27-28, 2017, Embrace hosted the 2017 N.C. Baptist Women’s Retreat. The theme was “Anchored” based on Psalm 1:3, “He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.” Katie Orr, well-known Bible study author whose ministry focuses on helping women study Scripture for themselves, was the main speaker. Additionally, Esther Burroughs, of Esther Burroughs Ministries, joined the plenary sessions to share her testimony of a life lived anchored to God’s Word. Kimberly Merida, from Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, led worship, accompanied by Tasha Via from Journey Church in Raleigh. During the main sessions, women learned the necessity of and principles for studying God’s Word. Participants also were able to attend four of 13 available breakout sessions. The retreat placed a strong emphasis on prayer, both corporate and individual.

Embrace Leadership Network
The Embrace Leadership Network (ELN) continued to grow in its second year. This yearlong intensive training includes four full Saturdays of discussion and hands-on learning activities, designed to equip participants to be well-rounded women’s ministry leaders or influencers in their local churches or associations. ELN participants were required to read books and articles in preparation for Saturday discussions that were theologically sound and intellectually challenging. The twofold goal of ELN is to equip women holistically for kingdom service in their local churches or associations and to introduce them to other like-minded women’s ministry leaders from across the state. One ELN participant commented, “A lot of nuggets have been planted and/or are being worked on with me personally and how my local congregation can be impacted.”

Missions Involvement
Embrace hosted “Embracing Boston,” a four-day mission trip to Boston, Massachusetts, from Sept. 14-17, 2017. This mission team worked alongside Beacon Community Church, launched by pastor Dane Helsing at the end of September 2015 in Belmont, a community of approximately 25,000 residents located just outside of Boston. The 2015 Embrace mission team served with Beacon two weeks prior to their launch as a church plant. Women who were on both the 2015 and 2017 teams were amazed by how much the church has grown. “We were there two years ago and helped spread the word about the launching of Beacon,” said Donna Elmore, a member of Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro. “To come back two years later and see they have about 50 adults and 30 children is amazing.” For Paula Rogalski, a member of Second Baptist Church in Rutherfordton, it was her fourth trip with Embrace. She remarked, “Each trip to the Northeast reveals to me the spiritual need that
is there, as well as the partnership needs that smaller churches have." Rogalski went on to say, "Each time I go on one of these trips the Lord impresses on me how much He wants to reach our world with such a wonderful message of His love. I wish every member of our local church would participate in one of these trips."

*Ashley Allen, Senior Consultant, Embrace and Women’s Evangelism and Discipleship*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUPS**

In the fall of 2017, more than 500 leaders from dozens of North Carolina churches attended Inside-Out Sunday School training events that were held in seven locations. In addition to more Inside-Out conferences, the Sunday School and Small Groups Ministry added Upside-Down Small Group training and Side-by-Side training for churches who want to create small groups alongside of Sunday School. Here’s what one Sunday School teacher had to say about Side-by-Side training:

Jim Sovine, First Baptist Church, Cary, wrote:

"Whether you lead Bible study in Sunday School or a small group, several components are necessary to make disciples. It takes a balance of Christian education, service and fellowship. As leaders, we need to help our brothers and sisters in Christ grow in spiritual maturity as well as build leaders who can multiply disciples."

A pastor who attended Upside-Down small group training at Durham Memorial Baptist Church reported: "We were encouraged and exhorted by speakers and the message they brought."

Another pastor who attended the same training said, "A lot of what was said on Saturday got incorporated into the Sunday morning sermon."

Both the Brunswick and New South River Baptist associations worked with local churches to promote and host large Sunday School conferences. Robert Ivey, associate director of missions for the New South River Baptist Association, commented, "In this training, Sunday School leaders not only learn, but also get a chance to practice teaching the Word of God, caring for those inside the class and sharing with those outside of the class — practical tips they can take back to their churches to make disciples in Sunday School and impact lostness in our state and beyond."

*Rick Hughes, Senior Consultant, Sunday School and Small Groups*
CHILDHOOD EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

The psalmist in Psalm 71:17-18 (CSB) writes: “God, you have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim your wondrous works. Even while I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me, while I proclaim your power to another generation, your strength to all who are to come.”

Our purpose and prayer in Childhood Ministry is that children will be able to hold this Scripture as truth in their lives, that they will be both discipled well and able to disciple the generation to come. One way, mandated by God, that children are to be discipled is through the words and examples of parents. The Scorecard family ministry conference continues to share this message with family champions throughout our state. Leaders are trained to develop a vision for equipping and resourcing parents to be the primary disciple-makers in the lives of their children. New dates and locations are set for the remainder of 2018 and 2019.

There are churches that recognize the need to reach children who are not being discipled with the gospel by developing bus ministries to bring these children to their churches. Often there are unanticipated situations that occur in the process. Childhood Ministry has created an online resource for churches considering creating a bus ministry to think through possible situations before they occur so this ministry can flourish. Access the resource by visiting, www.ncbaptist.org/fileadmin/ministries/children/resources/2018/18.129_Bus_Ministry_Resource_.pdf

Several years ago, Childhood Ministry developed a resource titled “Disciple-Making at Home.” Since then, a supporting training resource has also been developed for church leaders to train parents on the material in this booklet, which is available online on the Childhood Ministry web page.

Childhood Ministry continues to partner with other state convention staff to provide childhood ministry training in a broader context. Inside-Out Sunday School training, chaperone training at BeDoTell summer camps, writing devotional materials for Camp Caraway summer camps, counselor training for Camp Caraway summer staff, partnering with The Summit Church to provide leadership training and other opportunities are ways we seek to assist leaders in their efforts to “proclaim your power to another generation, your strength to all who are to come.”

Vacation Bible School
Vacation Bible School (VBS) continues to be one of the greatest opportunities to present the gospel in our state. Last year, LifeWay Christian Research reported that 2.5 million children attended VBS in their community, with more than 70,000 salvations reported nationally. If a church offers Vacation Bible School for 15 hours in one week, the amount of discipleship provided to each child is equivalent to seven months of weekly ministry, according to the LifeWay findings. (Read more at https://vbs.lifeway.com/2018/02/21/its-worth-it/).
Children today are confronted with an enormous bias against choosing a biblical lifestyle. This year’s VBS theme, “Game On,” assured children that Jesus is the way to a life filled with God’s blessings and direction. The theme verse, 2 Peter 1:3, reminds children that Jesus is enough for all that life throws their way: “His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (CSB).

Does your church see VBS as part of an overall strategy for outreach, discipleship and growth? When VBS is placed in the children’s ministry silo and only considered part of what kids do, opportunities for building relationships with parents and growth in adult small groups or Sunday School classes are missed. There are a multitude of ways that churches can leverage VBS for year-round ministry. For example, plans for prayer teams before and after VBS, teams for following up with guests, ongoing parent training and enlistment into new Sunday School classes are a few of the ways churches can envision VBS as part of an overall ministry strategy. Don’t miss out — it’s time to get your “Game On!” Don’t miss being part of God’s great team!

Cheryl Markland, Senior Consultant, Childhood Ministry

Church Weekday Education
The 2017 Church Weekday Education (CWE) Summer Conference, titled “Jesus Knows Me, This I Love,” took place Aug. 11-12. At the conference, church weekday directors were able to take the Clifton StrengthsFinder Assessment and discover their top five talents and develop these talents into strengths. God made us in His image to show what He is like. Only one in every 33 million people have the same top five strengths in sequential order. Tom Howe, executive director of Unleashed by Design, led the discussion during Friday’s session to help 31 directors understand, embrace and develop their unique gifts God has given them. The feedback was unanimously positive. When we understand how we are gifted, we can use those talents to form stronger, more effective teams as we minister to children and their families.

On day two of the conference, Stephen Wagoner, catalytic missionary for Unleashed by Design, continued the theme of unwrapping our gifts and seeing what God’s desire is for us based on Scripture. He challenged the 180-plus attendees to represent God and be a blessing to those under our care. He reminded us that God gave us marvelous gifts to show off His grace. Throughout the rest of the day, attendees were able to attend breakout sessions. These sessions provided encouragement as well as new ideas to use in the weekday setting to teach preschoolers and disciple them to become followers of Christ. With 31 centers from across the state of North Carolina represented, the 2017 CWE Summer Conference helped encourage, refocus and challenge weekday staff to use their God-given talents to reach others for Him.

Mary Sweat, Consultant, Church Weekday Education
Bible Drill

Bible Drill changes lives. In 2018, we had more than 527 children, youth and high school students who participated in Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament. We had 10 nine-year winners. That’s 213 verses memorized, 30 key passages located and 18 key passages memorized. North Carolina came in second place at the National Invitational Tournament for Speakers, which was held in June of 2017. Kirby Thigpen of Parkwood Baptist in Concord brought home the second place trophy from nationals.

The following is a testimony from our 2018 State Speaker’s Tournament winner, Emma Parson: “My name is Emma Parson, and I am representing our state in the Speaker’s Tournament at nationals for 2018. Here is my testimony on how Bible Drill has impacted me. In third grade, my brother was participating in Bible Drill, and I told my mom I wanted to do it, too. When she told me I had to wait until I was in fourth grade, I wouldn’t take no for an answer, and I began going to practices and studying the verses and practicing finding books in my Bible, even though I knew I couldn’t drill. I just couldn’t wait to start learning God’s Word inside and out. Ever since then, I have absolutely been in love. The number of verses I have learned and the passages I have read and the knowledge I have gained is beyond anything I could have ever achieved without Bible Drill. I have been able to witness on so many occasions using verses I knew by heart because of it, and I am more confident in my faith and my ability to share the gospel with others because of all I have learned. My Bible Drill years have given me opportunities to make a difference. I take pride in all that I am capable of thanks to my many years of practice. I thank the Lord for a program that allows children and youth to learn God’s Word so in depth, and pray that it will all stay with me for years and years to come.”

As you can see, learning God’s Word will not come back void. It’s a life-changing experience. If you would like to start a Bible Drill ministry in your church, we would love to help you. You do not have to participate in the actual drill to have a Bible Drill ministry. For more information, contact Deborah Robson at drobson@ncbledrill.org or visit www.ncbledrill.org.

Deborah Robson, Consultant, Bible Drill

ADULT EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

In the fall of 2017, Chase Gardner, pastor of Emmaus Church, Asheville, was trained in basic gospel conversations. He then trained more than 40 members of his church, added some accountability in their small groups to the mission and began conversations with local associational leaders to multiply training in their areas. Chase went on to train more than 200 people at a partnering church in Chapel Hill. As a result, there are more gospel conversations occurring in Asheville, there is a plan to train other churches in the Buncombe County area, and one of the leaders of the Chapel Hill church
led his daughter to Christ through the tools Chase used to train him. Gospel conversations training is helping churches across North Carolina recapture the “priesthood of all believers.”

In April 2018, Adult Evangelism and Discipleship hosted the Maintenance to Multiplication Conference in two locations at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh and Christ Community Church in Huntersville. The conference was designed to help churches and leaders think critically about how to make disciples. More than 175 participants from 104 churches received practical tools and resources to take next steps in the disciple-making process. As a result, we are beginning to gather teams from each of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s 10 geographic regions of the state to put these things into regular practice.

Josh Reed, Senior Consultant, Adult Evangelism and Discipleship

CAROLINA FAITH RIDERS

In the past year, the Carolina Faith Riders motorcycle ministry has continued to build relationships and witness for Christ. We had booths at Capitol City Bike Festival in Raleigh, Thunder in the Smokies in Maggie Valley and our last but biggest event of the spring bike season, Smokeout in Rockingham. After years of attending this event, people are starting to rely on our services, such as phone charging stations, the air compressor and a cold bottle of water. Attendees are also sharing problems from their lives, so we have a chance to pray with them and offer them the love of Christ. This has only come from diligent persistence and presence in these communities. The owner of the Wheels of Time Museum in Maggie Valley shared about a serious medical diagnosis, so we had the opportunity to pray with him. Afterward, we sent him cards to let him know he is in our thoughts and prayers. I know Christ is going to bless our efforts. The people we serve are beginning to trust us and come a little closer, while watching to see what it is that is so different about us. It’s just Jesus!

Rick Hughes, Senior Consultant, Sunday School and Small Groups

FAMILY EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHP

The Family Evangelism and Discipleship Ministry, also known as Faith at Home, is continuing to work alongside pastors and staff to integrate family ministry into every ministry of their churches. More than 75 North Carolina churches have contacted the Faith at Home ministry to help equip congregations to be disciple-makers in their homes.

We have developed several tools to help churches train parents and grandparents to disciple their children and grandchildren. The Faith at Home Starter Kit was created to give pastors and staff simple tools to help moms,
dads and grandparents leverage the natural rhythms of their daily lives to make disciples in their homes. Even in the busy seasons of life, parents and grandparents can have deep and meaningful conversations about the Lord as they go about their daily lives. This kit contains:

- “Faith at Home: Equipping Families to Make Disciples” book: This book equips parents and grandparents to be eager learners of the Bible, authentic doers of His commands and intentional teachers of Scripture to children and grandchildren.
- Praying for Your Family: This resource helps parents pray God’s Word for every member of their family.
- 15-Day Family Easter Devotion: This booklet contains a 15-day reading plan, discussion questions to help foster conversation, prayer prompts and suggested activities. There are optional activities families can use to make the Easter season more meaningful. Last Easter, approximately 1,000 copies were sold to North Carolina Baptists.
- Family Summer Guide: Summertime is every student’s favorite time of the year, but it can be challenging for parents. This resource helps families be intentional disciple-makers of their children in the natural rhythm of the summer months.
- Faith Talk Cards: These strategically designed cards give parents and grandparents simple ways to have natural faith conversations about the Lord with their children and grandchildren.
- Grandparent letter writing stationery: Deuteronomy 4:9 helps us see that God still calls grandparents to be disciple-makers. Encouraged by the video “It Starts with a Letter,” this simple resource challenges grandparents to take generational disciple-making seriously by writing letters to their grandchildren. (Watch the video at https://vimeo.com/222663298.)
- Praying for Your Grandchildren bookmark: This bookmark helps grandparents be intentional about praying God’s Word for their grandchildren in every stage of their grandkids’ lives.

It is our sincere prayer that the families of your church would be intentional with their time and use these resources to establish or maintain a lifestyle saturated with conversations about the Lord. If families were to establish these rhythms, the cultural landscape could potentially change within one generation.

Mark Smith, Senior Consultant, Family Evangelism and Discipleship

YOUTH EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Summer Youth Weeks
Summer Youth Weeks 2017 consisted of seven weeks of camp at Fort Caswell. These weeks combined worship, small and large group studies, special interest tracks, church group devotions, an afternoon opportunity called Youth Ministry University and many other fun activities.
The theme was “Way, Truth, Life,” based on John 14:6. “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (NIV). Campers looked at the life of Christ from His birth to His death, burial and resurrection. They started the week by celebrating Christmas and finished the week with a celebration of Christ’s victory over death. Speakers for the summer were Trevor Atwood, Tony Merida, Eddie Briery, Stuart Hall, Wes Hamilton and Mike Satterfield.

After celebrating 1.5 million meals packaged by campers over the previous six summers, we continued this mission effort for Haiti through collecting offerings and packaging meals in 2017. 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, and $67,048.84 was received. Go God! Attendance for the 2017 camps was 6,326, representing 263 churches. Total decisions reflected the greater things God was doing at camp, including 321 first-time professions of faith, more than 1,200 recommitments and 103 called to full-time Christian ministry.

Chaperones who attended Youth Weeks camp were invited to attend four days of youth minister training. Chaperones play a huge part in student ministry, not only at camp, but also back home where many serve as volunteers in their church’s youth ministry. Subjects included characteristics of millennials, adolescent brain development, parent ministry and discipleship at home.

During the summer of 2018, we sponsored seven weeks of youth camp for teenagers at Fort Caswell. The theme for our 2018 camps was “Re-imagine,” based on Psalm 78:1-2. Students took an in-depth look at the parables of Christ that challenge us to re-imagine the kingdom of God. As of June 1, 2018, 6,733 attendees representing 276 churches were registered.

**Fall Youth Retreats**

The purpose of Fall Youth Retreat 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 both to withstand pressure and not be influenced by it.

The 2017 fall retreats took place Oct. 20-22 and Nov. 10-12 at Fort Caswell. Featured speakers Jody Jennings and David Sons led students in the theme “Assurance” to take a closer look at salvation, repentance and trust in Jesus Christ and what He did through His death and resurrection. Total attendance for both retreats was 1,005, representing 46 churches. There were 36 first-time professions of faith and 300 recommitments.

The 2018 fall retreats will be Oct. 19-21 and Nov. 9-11 at Fort Caswell with featured speaker Garrett Wagoner.
Scorecard
Scorecard is a training program for leaders in ministry to the next generation. The last several Scorecard events of 2017 were held Oct. 3 at Spencer Baptist Church in Spindale, Oct. 5 at Front Street Baptist Church in Statesville and Oct. 19 at Enon Baptist Church in Oxford. Approximately 50 leaders attended. The spring 2018 events took place Feb. 24 at Fairview Baptist Church in Statesville and April 12 at Friendly Avenue Baptist Church in Greensboro. About 89 childhood, youth and family leaders attended.

Scorecard focuses on changing how we measure success in youth ministry, which is so much more than simply attendance. It includes the level of student involvement, what they need to know before they graduate high school and how to plan for success in the life of a church from the nursery through high school graduation. We surveyed over 5,000 North Carolina Baptist teenagers involved in our summer camp and discovered we are not teaching for biblical literacy in the local church. In far too many places, youth ministry may be more about 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 2018 in Waynesville, Mooresville and Fayetteville and others in the spring of 2019.

In addition to these specific events, we offered training at individual churches and associations throughout the year, which allowed us to impact the ministries of 250 youth leaders across the state. Including the training we offered at the summer youth weeks, more than 1,000 youth ministers and leaders were trained in 2017 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. 25-27, 2018, at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Youth ministers and workers who attended experienced authentic worship, relevant training, honest conversation and personal encouragement. Featured speakers were Brent Crowe, Russell Moore, Jimmy Scroggins and Josh Griffin.

Ski Retreat
The Student Ministry Ski Retreat took place Feb. 2-4, 2018, at Winterplace Ski Resort in Beckley, West Virginia. The retreat included all-day skiing and other winter activities. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, speaker Eddie Briery and the BeDoTell team led worship services. 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. Almost 500 people from 21 different churches participated. There were 10 professions of faith, and 32 rededicated their lives to Christ. The 2019 Ski Retreat will be held Feb. 1-3.

Merrie Johnson, Senior Consultant, Youth Evangelism and Discipleship
Two years ago, BSCNC Executive Director-Treasurer Milton Hollifield presented to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that the Executive Committee had created a focused ministry for Church Health and Revitalization. When we began this work of helping churches experience healthy missional growth, we knew the brutal facts about the condition of many churches in North Carolina. We recognized by our reporting through the Annual Church Profile that 80 to 82 percent of North Carolina Baptist churches were plateaued or declining. We also saw a relationship between the state of lostness in North Carolina and the deficit of healthy disciple-making churches.

In the last two years, our team of revitalization specialists has had hundreds of conversations with associations, pastors and churches in an effort to help them assess their current realities, envision a future for making disciples and build strategies to impact their communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Along the way, we have continually asked the question, “What is working in church revitalization?” The keys we are seeing are these:

1. An outpouring of God’s Spirit through prayer and study of His Word.
2. Repentance and a return to a love for Jesus Christ.
3. Leaders unleashed to shepherd the church toward mission.
4. Disciples who are multiplying by making disciples.
5. Communities transformed by the power of God expressed through the ministry of the local church.

The interest and need for revitalization continues to flourish in North Carolina. We have consulted with several individual churches and have several associations involved in or making plans to begin revitalization cohorts in the near future. On May 23, 38 pastors gathered at Village Baptist Church in Fayetteville for a preview of ReFocus, a six-session revitalization cohort led by Rob Peters, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. This partnership between the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and New South River Baptist Association is a perfect example of the convention and local associations working together to revitalize churches for the purpose of making disciples across our state.

Sandy Marks, Senior Consultant, Church Health and Revitalization

**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)

The Church Strengthening Team exists to prepare, train, equip and resource North Carolina Baptist churches in our God-given mission to make disciples of all nations, starting in North Carolina. We believe our initial call to a relationship
with Christ is also a call to be on mission with Him. We believe by following the vision and strategy set forth by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina of “impacting lostness through disciple-making,” that together as partners in the gospel, we will help create something far greater than ourselves.

God has brought people in your community and nations to Himself. He wants to use your life and church in the process. When you align your lives to God, He will accomplish His purposes through you. The diversity that makes up North Carolina Baptists and your community creates a beautiful mosaic of God’s kingdom people. We also know that to align with Christ’s mission is not always easy. It requires us to adjust our lives to God so He will do through us what He wants to accomplish for His glory and for His eternal kingdom; therefore, when God reveals to a church the needs and the hurting around them, it requires major adjustments for obedience to take place.

Cultural Mastery
During the last year, God has been dealing with the Church Strengthening Team in the area of diversity, the lack of diversity and the acceptance of all people groups in our North Carolina Baptist churches. To this end, our focus for the next two years will be to prepare, train, equip and resource North Carolina Baptists to create loving relationships both internally and externally to those who are different from yourself.

In April 2018, a diverse team of North Carolina Baptist leaders was assembled, trained and certified in the Six Stages of Cultural Mastery, by Ricardo Gonzalez, founder and CEO of Bilingual America and The Six Stages of Cultural Mastery. This eight-week, online training and weekly coaching calls with Ricardo began in May and concluded in June. Certification took place in August.

Those trained and certified included:

- Kenneth Tan, senior consultant for leadership development, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Cary
- Marty Childers, director of missions, Yates Baptist Association, Durham
- Leo Guerrero, associate pastor/Hispanic pastor, Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church
- Anthony Eaton, pastor, Kingdom Mission Church, Raleigh
- Joe Maye, pastor, Rise Church, Winston-Salem
- Betsy Divers-Gómez, lay leader, Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel, Durham
- Neal Eller, Church Strengthening team leader, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Cary
- David Duarte, pastor, Daystar En Español, Greensboro
- Andrew Ivester, pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Durham
- Sammy Joo, senior consultant for Asian Ministries, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Cary
- Sherry Lawson, music assistant, Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, Greensboro
- Jae Richardson, African-American Ministries contract worker, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Concord
In 2019, the North Carolina Baptist Cultural Mastery Team will hold Cultural Mastery Awareness meetings across North Carolina to discover pastors and other church leaders who resonate with the following beliefs and desires to go deeper in training and possibly receive certification.

- We believe a critical element missing in the life of a disciple and in the body of Christ necessary for disciple-making and impacting lostness is found in the second commandment of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:35-40): “Love your neighbor as yourself.” In short, loving others relationships.
- We believe a critical element missing in the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is making disciples of all people groups. In short, loving relationships with people different from me.
- We believe an outcome of cultural mastery is an internal transformation resulting in people confronting their own prejudices, biases and racism leading to confession and repentance. (Spiritual formation and discipleship)
- We believe Ephesians 4:12-13 is the path to strengthen the body of Christ. “To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ…” (Church strengthening)
- We believe new and/or maximizing existing ministries in a plateaued or declining church or in a church plant will breathe new life, energize and strengthen the body of Christ. (Revitalization)
- We believe equipping ministry leaders to effectively connect, create and collaborate with people of diverse cultures in their efforts to evangelize and make disciples of all people groups will produce greater results than without this important skill. Furthermore, when ministers become true cultural masters, they exponentially increase their influence. (Multiplication)
- We believe ministry leaders will insulate themselves from unnecessarily doing or saying things that could potentially offend others of diverse cultures, which would limit their ability to reach people. (Leadership)

“We cannot lead people to the highest levels until we know them at the deepest levels.” — Ricardo Gonzalez

The Church Strengthening Team desires to work with you. It doesn’t matter how large or small your church, in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We all contribute to the larger God story unfolding in our lives through our church. For we believe together as partners in the gospel, we will help create something far greater than ourselves.

Your Church Strengthening Team serves Hispanics from more than 25 countries, Asians from 40 countries, African-Americans, children and adults with special needs, deaf, blind, the illiterate, people who do not speak English, hurting and terminated pastors, churches in transition, military, police, sheriffs, highway patrol
officers, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, firefighters, first responders, deacons, worship leaders, musicians within the church, church leaders, and stewardship leaders. As examples of God’s kingdom at work in North Carolina, read the following God stories and reports submitted by the Church Strengthening Team.

**STEWARDSHIP**

“I have read numerous stewardship books, and I am convinced that Solomon is right, ‘there is nothing new under the sun.’” — Ecclesiastes 1:9 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

In the summer of 2017, I received Art Rainer’s newest book, *The Money Challenge*. I looked upon it with skeptical eyes, a suspicious attitude and then heaved it upon my stack of unread books. Yet, there was something drawing me to pick up the book and give it a chance. In the opening pages of the book, I discovered this amazing statement, “God designed us not to be hoarders but to be conduits through which His generosity flows” (p. 16). Now hooked, I read the book within a few days.

What I believe separates Rainer’s book from other financial stewardship books is that the formula and path he proposes are counterintuitive to most stewardship books I have read. Just as the kingdom of God is counterintuitive to our broken world, Jesus’ teachings are counterintuitive to the religious leaders’ teachings. In addition, God’s economy is counterintuitive to our western, free-market, business-minded economy. Jesus’ way of living and being is counterintuitive to our narcissist, self-centered, selfish, consumer and materialistic lifestyle. Rainer’s book starts and ends with Jesus and others in mind.

Since Rainer lived and worked close by, we arranged to meet. From this conversation, four Money Challenge Lunch and Learns took place in the fall of 2017 and in 2018. To date, the two-hour Money Challenge Lunch and Learns that took place in Charlotte, Union Cross, Raleigh and Ahoskie trained a total of 75 participants, with 47 churches represented.

Two other partnerships offering quality stewardship resources for North Carolina Baptists have resulted in Envelope3 resources and the Stewardship Development Association resources becoming more readily accessible to our churches. First, a partnership with Art Rainer, which began in June 2018 in the Stewardship Office, is offering free one-year subscriptions to North Carolina Baptist churches to an online church budgeting analysis tool called Envelope3. Envelope3 tracks the alignment of a church’s budget to its mission and measures how monies are spent. For more information, contact Neal Eller.

The second partnership provides every North Carolina Baptist church free digital resources available from the Stewardship Development Association of the Southern Baptist Convention. To access the stewardship resources, campaigns
and leadership materials, visit www.ncbaptist.org/stewardship. Click on the Stewardship Development Association icon where you will be redirected to the North Carolina Baptist portal of the Stewardship Development Association. Once you land on this page, register your name and establish a password. Once you have completed these steps, you will be free to download any digital resource free of charge.

“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**

“In Mark 9:35, after the disciples have talked among themselves about which of them was the greatest, Jesus says, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’ That’s what servant leadership is about.” — Mark Floyd, “Servant Leadership: What Does It Mean?” from the book, Servant Leadership in Action (p. 375)

The Tar Heel Leadership Network exists to develop humble shepherd leaders willing to love and serve their flock. Each year, 20-25 pastors and/or church staff commit to a yearlong leadership development program of teaching, coaching and mentoring under the leadership of Steve Corts, pastor of Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons, and highly experienced and capable faculty. Faculty include:

- Steve Corts, pastor, Center Grove Baptist Church, Clemmons
- David Horner, executive director, Equipped for Life, Raleigh
- Ryan Pack, pastor, Riverland Hills Baptist Church, Irmo, S.C.
- Jack Homesley, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Charlotte
- John Compton, pastor, Mountain View Baptist Church, Hickory
- Mike Sparks, coach, Tarheel Leadership Network
- Tom Howe, executive director/CEO, Unleashed by Design

The following pastors and church staff made up the 2018 Tar Heel Leadership Network group:

- Jonathan Blaylock, pastor, West Canton Baptist, Canton
- Avery Dalton, pastor, High View Baptist, Roxboro
- Ryan Doty, pastor of youth, Calvary Baptist, Charlotte
- Matthew Eades, senior pastor, Oakdale Baptist, Statesville
- Hal Greene, pastor, Little Rock Baptist, Boomer
- Keith Hudson, senior pastor, Oakhurst Baptist, Asheboro
- Jason Lawson, associate pastor, Pleasant Ridge Baptist, State Road
• John Malek, pastor, Dillon Road Baptist, Jamestown
• Turner Matthews, senior pastor, South Erwin Baptist, Erwin
• Jared McNeill, senior pastor, Cameron Baptist, Cameron
• Jason Miller, pastor, Dutch Cove Missionary, Canton
• Paul (Toby) Neal, pastor, Hillcrest Baptist, Raeford
• Richard Peck, associate pastor, Baptist Home Church, North Wilkesboro
• Jason Poe, senior pastor, Carolina Memorial, Thomasville
• David Richardson, associate pastor, Creedmoor First, Creedmoor
• Trent Santos, student pastor, Rich Fork Church, Thomasville
• Nathan Silver, senior pastor, Grassy Creek Baptist, Spruce Pine
• Mitch Smith, senior pastor, Pleasant Ridge Baptist, State Road
• David Sparks, pastor, Liberty Grove Baptist, North Wilkesboro
• Jason Speier, lead pastor, Woodland Baptist, Waynesville
• Joseph Tucker, student ministries, Center Grove Baptist, Clemmons
• Thomas Watson, military chaplain, Indian Trail First, Indian Trail
• Ben Whitmire, pastor, Locust Grove, Weaverville
• Van Williams, pastor, Macedonia Baptist, Alexander

For more information regarding the Tar Heel Leadership Network, call Neal Eller at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Neal Eller, Team Leader, Church Strengthening Team and Stewardship Senior Consultant
Brandy Barkley, Team Leader Assistant, Church Strengthening Team

HISPANIC MINISTRIES

The Lord is bringing the world to North Carolina with more than 1 million Hispanics now residing within our state. Hispanics living in North Carolina come from more than 25 Spanish-speaking countries, reflecting their diversity in values, culture, language, generations and lifestyle. We are privileged to collaborate cross culturally for the purpose of impacting lostness through disciple-making among all people groups and 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.

According to the Pew Research Center, the Hispanic population has reached a new high in the United States with nearly 58 million in 2016 and has been the principal driver of U.S. demographic growth, accounting for half of national population growth since 2000. In 2016, Hispanics accounted for 18 percent of the nation’s population and were the second-largest racial or ethnic group behind whites. With a median age of 28 in 2015, U.S. Hispanics are the youngest of the nation’s largest racial and ethnic groups.

Hispanics are also the nation’s second fastest growing racial or ethnic group with a 2 percent growth rate between 2015 and 2016. The U.S. Hispanic
population is drawn from an increasingly diverse mix of countries. Hispanics of Mexican origin accounted for 63.3 percent (36 million) of the nation’s Hispanic population in 2015. The Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin are the second-largest origin group with 5.4 million in 2015 without including the 3.4 million people living in Puerto Rico. Five other Hispanic origin groups have populations of more than 1 million — Salvadorans, Cubans, Dominicans, Guatemalans and Colombians.

The number of U.S. Hispanics who speak Spanish at home is at an all-time high, with a record 37 million Hispanics ages 5 and older, up from 25 million in 2000. At the same time, a record 35 million Hispanics ages 5 and older say they are proficient in English, up from 19 million in 2000. Among this group, 14 million Hispanics spoke only English at home in 2015.

The Hispanic Ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina strives to provide consultations and resources 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 across the United States and around the world for the expansion 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 ways of collaboration toward a more effective Hispanic disciple-making through church strengthening and revitalization.

Since July 2017, 32 meetings have engaged and equipped 2,715 people to impact the North Carolina Hispanic communities and more. The emphases of these meetings includes kingdom prayer, spiritual renewal, worship rallies, Sunday School/small life groups, home cell groups, children’s ministries, Vacation Bible Schools, church administration, theological education, pastoral retirement preparation, soccer events, English as a second language, marriage renewal, stewardship, and Bible and tract distribution.

As a result of these meetings, families are being reached and striving to become disciple-makers as a way of life. In addition, some churches have started a revitalization process to overcome their dying or declining trends, while others have initiated a conflict resolution process. Such efforts are being made 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 Southern Baptist
Convention (SBC) Executive Communication Committee continues to strengthen the development of a global network among Hispanic-Americans for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the United States and beyond. The growing network engages key leaders of Hispanic associations, fellowships, conventions, alliances and SBC agencies for contextualized disciple-making strategies for reproducing gospel lives in others. Guillermo Soriano, senior consultant for Hispanic Ministries with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, has served as network facilitator since 2014.

Strategic meetings were held in Atlanta on Aug. 18-19, at Ridgecrest on Dec. 4-6 during the LifeWay Partners Summit, in New Orleans on Dec. 8, and in Dallas on June 9-13 as part of the 2018 SBC Crossover meetings.

Hispanic Ministries Strategy Development
Pastors and Wives Enrichment and Planning Retreats: Two strategic regional retreats engaged pastors and their wives. The retreats included a 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 of these retreats, pastors and their wives have expressed a better understanding and a greater desire to collaborate with the North Carolina Baptist ministries.

Two strategic retreats were held in 2017 with a total of 104 participants from 40 congregations. The first retreat was held at Fort Caswell on Oct. 20-21, and the second retreat was held in Hickory on Oct. 27-28.

The attendees’ written evaluations expressed a strong desire to return in 2018. The following excerpts from their testimonies describe how the regional retreats equipped them to multiply disciple-makers:

East: Caswell
• “I have made a firm decision to teach and practice disciple-making.”
• “It has spoken to our life, useful tools in our ministry, we are strengthened to see our leaders and to know that we are not alone.”
• “It is an opportunity to charge our emotional and spiritual batteries/ strength to follow the Lord.”
• “Work together in our marriage in making disciples of each other, disciple our children, disciple our family circle and everyone else in our community.”
• “There has been a vision renewal that encourages us to continue working in the ministry of our King.”

West: Hickory
• “I have learned how to value my wife better for the importance of making disciples.”
• “Our marriage has experienced a renewal in love and relationships to grow stronger in doing the Great Commission.”
• “I have been renewed and refreshed while learning and enjoying being with leaders who live our same challenges.”
"To be intentional always in our relationships, especially with the lost to carry out the ongoing vision of making disciples."

"I must take care of my marital relationship and to make a balance in the ministry."

Hispanic Ministries Consultations

Relationship-driven consultations continue to be the most effective tool to assist pastors, church leadership, 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.

This year, 665 relationship-driven consultations were conducted throughout the state. Some of these meetings included cultivating relationships for potential convention affiliation. Other consultations were related to pastoral leadership, pastoral family and marriage, conflict resolutions, church organization, pastoral retirement, leadership team effectiveness, relational models of Anglo churches and Hispanic ministries/congregations, theological formation, pastoral ordinations, premarital counseling, resourcing churches without a pastor, church building and grounds, new pastors adjustments, and churches seeking potential pastors.

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.

Cross-cultural networks continue to be strengthened among pastors, lay leaders and associational leadership. Five active Hispanic networks assist pastors and other leaders in planning and implementing culturally relevant workshops and conferences according to the context of their needs, while engaging more with the North Carolina Baptist family. They provide various opportunities to pray for spiritual awakening and intentional multiplication of leadership in order to reproduce gospel lives in others toward the edification of God’s kingdom through cross-cultural disciple making. These leaders are able to operate within their own culture and language and among other people groups.

Last year, 53 workshops involved 770 participants to focus on a relational disciple-making lifestyle among their family members, friends and neighbors. These workshops have equipped families to recapture their God-given potential at home 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 891 youth and young adults from Hispanic congregations in eight conferences, retreats and regional rallies held at Caswell, Hendersonville, Greenville, Lumberton, Newton, Washington, Wilson and Winston-Salem. Through the Caswell Hispanic Young Adult Conference and Youth Retreat, the Lord blessed with 105 various registered decisions for Christ. Some of these decisions have led lay people to engage in spiritual renewals, disciple-making ministries and theological education in North Carolina and Texas.

**Hispanic Youth Retreat**
The statewide Hispanic Youth Retreat is designed to reach and disciple youth ages 12-18. The 2017 retreat was held during Labor Day weekend and was a great blessing for all. The Lord blessed with 311 in attendance from more than 30 congregations and a total of 78 registered decisions for Christ, including 28 professions of faith, 29 rededications and four decisions for vocational ministry.

The 2017 theme was “My Identity,” based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (New Living Translation). The schedule was focused on how God wants to transform our lives. This transformation results in a new identity in Christ in order to live with Him daily as disciple-makers for His eternal kingdom.

The workshops addressed issues to discover the new identity in Christ, such as what is this new identity, examples of this identity, starting a new life, leading our friends to Christ and new steps to grow in the new identity in this challenging disciple-making journey. In addition, 59 church counselors/leaders engaged in six hours of strategic training on how to develop a youth disciple-making team that understands and fulfills its new identity in the local church and beyond.

The following excerpts from the 2017 attendees’ testimonies describe how this retreat equipped them to understand and follow their new identity in the Lord.

- “I have been equipped to follow Christ through His Word, as chosen by God and to have an identity in Jesus.”
- “I learned how to be a stronger Christian in this world and how to follow the purpose that God has for me.”
- “I have been equipped with information and strategies for the evangelization of God's kingdom.”
- “It made me realize that I have to show my real identity, and that God is a huge creator who is an amazing God.”
- “By helping me find my identity, live a better Christian life and make disciples of others.”

The 2018 youth retreat will be at Caswell on Aug. 31 to Sept. 3 with the theme "Hydrate" based on John 4:14.
Hispanic Young Adult Conference

This statewide conference is designed to reach single and married young adults between the ages of 18-35. The 2018 conference was held June 1-3. Disciple-making workshops engaged married and single adults to become disciple multipliers in daily living. The Lord blessed with 238 participants from 27 congregations and 27 registered decisions of faith, including two saved, 17 reconciled and four surrendering to vocational ministry. The Lord provided wonderful weather, environment and collaboration from everyone, including the participation from churches in Virginia and South Carolina.

The theme, “Connected,” was based on John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (New Living Translation). It led everyone to focus on how to live each day “Connected” in Christ while being transformed as disciple multipliers of His eternal kingdom with our family, neighbors, friends and everyone else.

The interactive workshops engaged everyone in how disciples make disciples to follow God’s own heart in building gospel conversations with others. The married participants were challenged to make disciples by working together in growing a godly marriage. Meanwhile, the single adults focused on developing a lifestyle of disciple multiplication through such workshops as the true purpose in life, a transforming love, living out God’s Word and good news for all.

Some of the following excerpts from the 2017 testimonies describe how this conference equipped them to follow Christ.

• “I received Christ as my Savior, learned new things and met people of different countries.”
• “Reconnected with God as the true vine to connect others to Christ in spite of ages.”
• “My faith in Christ has been strengthened, and I have reconnected with Him.”
• “How to be more connected with God through prayer and with my spouse through better communication.”
• “I have learned to understand and value my wife and family that God has given me in a relation of true commitment.”

Next year’s conference will be held May 31 to June 2 with the theme, “Molding,” based on Isaiah 64:8. The written conferees’ testimonies express a strong desire to return for the 2019 conference with more people.

Guillermo Soriano, Senior Consultant, Hispanic Ministries
WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This year has seen a focus on increasing the number of ways that we can deliver training to North Carolina Baptist worship leaders, particularly through the extensive development of online methods of training. Our primary training for worship leaders is through one of the Worship Leader Boot Camp experiences. We now offer a variety of possibilities, depending upon how deep worship leaders want to go and how much time they can allot to learning experiences.

We now offer five varieties of Worship Leader Boot Camps. They include:

**Worship Leader Boot Camp BASIC**
This option is great for everyone on the worship team to come and catch the vision for renewed worship in your church. This Boot Camp covers the material in an eight-hour conference on a Saturday. Corporate worship times are led with virtual worship bands and tracks rather than a full band experience.

**Worship Leader Boot Camp PLUS**
This option covers the same core material, plus there is a full band to lead more extended times of corporate worship. Due to the added worship times, this one begins on a Friday night and runs through Saturday morning and afternoon. It provides a great experience for your entire team.

**Worship Leader Boot Camp EXTREME**
As our Worship Leader Boot Camp covers a great amount of material, many have expressed a desire to go deeper in making direct application to their lives and ministries. Worship Leader Boot Camp EXTREME begins with the Worship Leader Boot Camp material, combines strong elements of a new training, A Week in the Life of a Worship Leader, and then focuses on practically working through the concepts. This retreat begins Thursday at noon and runs through mid-afternoon Saturday at Caraway Conference Center and is limited to 12 participants each time.

**Worship Leader Boot Camp ONLINE**
A new, self-paced, fully online version of the Worship Leader Boot Camp was just launched this year. This course includes 29 videos with 6.5 hours of instruction recorded at a recent boot camp. One should expect to spend a minimum of 10 hours with this class. While this lacks the excitement and inspiration of gathering with people in a live event, it covers the material thoroughly on one’s own timetable. The participant can take time to digest the material in a slower fashion than the live event. There is no contact with the instructor in this course.

**Worship Leader Boot Camp BEYOND EXTREME**
This takes all the material described above for the Worship Leader Boot Camp EXTREME and expands it to a 12-week online class with weekly video class meetings. A small group selected to participate in these classes works through online video teaching, resources, projects and forums to learn the
material thoroughly. The group meets each week with the instructor in a video conference to discuss the material. Additionally, there is much interaction online with the instructor and classmates. Two weeks are devoted to completing a final project for the class. Participants must be committed to the entire 12 weeks. Successful completion of this class grants college credit toward any degree at Fruitland Baptist Bible College. Also, all who complete the course satisfactorily will be granted a Basic Certificate in Worship Leadership by Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

Renewing Worship Blog
The Renewing Worship blog (RenewingWorshipNC.org) is completing eight years of service and continues to see tremendous traffic. Church leaders find many resources to help them in leading worship, finding worship leaders, renewing their times of corporate worship and much more.

Worship Summits
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. We offer Worship Summits 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. We have led many churches in their own Worship Summit experiences. In these, we present the biblical and missional views of worship, and through discussion around tables, help people 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, 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.

Music Festivals and Other Events
North Carolina Baptists continue to benefit by participating in various music festivals and choral groups throughout the year in equipping our churches to make their praise of God 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 North Carolina Baptist churches in this coming year.

Kenny Lamm, Senior Consultant, Worship and Music
With the average Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) pastor staying at their church just three years, change is a common occurrence in our North Carolina Baptist churches. A new ministry vacancy happens somewhere every week. Because of this, Pastoral Ministries 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 calling 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 569 ministers and 407 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 the 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 churches two important types of help. We are regularly involved with churches across the state at various stages in the search process for new pastors, and we also help churches become as healthy as possible prior to calling new pastors.

Our newest training is called the Interim Pastor Institute (IPI). This training is designed to equip interim pastors to work with churches in times of transition between pastors. This institute is six days of live, interactive training held at various times throughout the year. If your congregation currently is without a pastor, contact the Pastoral Ministries office to see if an IPI trained interim may be helpful to your congregation.

Eddie Thompson, Senior Consultant, Pastoral Ministries
AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The African-American Ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina enjoys strengthening the African-American churches across the state as we continue to train pastors and church leaders. The Pastor Fellowship Communities have made a tremendous impact with the pastors and their churches. We are equipping and providing tools to the churches and their leaders to find ways to impact lostness through workshops. This year we introduced a Pastors Growth and Empowerment Summit, which was a big hit. Our purpose is to serve the pastors and their churches through building strong relationships, assisting and encouraging them with discipleship, leadership training development, mentoring, coaching and other needs as they arise.

We have also received several new churches into the convention. We are excited about the work God is doing in the midst of the churches across the state and seeing growth and development through those lives that are being touched. We are in the process of putting together a plan to begin prayer communities with pastors across the state. I’m looking, hoping and expecting God to do something great, something awesome.

Jae Richardson, Contract Worker, African-American Ministries

ASIAN MINISTRIES

In North Carolina, there are 130 Asian churches and ministries. Compared to other southern states, North Carolina has more Asian churches, however, there is still much to be done to reach 300,000 Asians in North Carolina. Asian Ministries seeks to help Asian churches in North Carolina impact lostness through disciple-making among Asian communities dispersed throughout the state. There are four ways we aim to help Asian churches: A, B, C and D.

- A stands for “advancing gospel proclamation.” It is designed to train pastors, Sunday School teachers and leaders to preach and teach gospel-centered messages in their pulpits and classrooms.
- B stands for “building a disciple-making strategy.” This will help Asian churches develop strategies to make more disciple-makers for Christ.
- C stands for “connecting immigrants and their children for the Great Commission.” There is a cultural division between first-generation immigrants and the next generation in the church and their homes. The goal is to help Asian churches see the Great Commission as the common mission.
- D stands for “developing a leadership pipeline.” Many Asian churches suffer from lack of leadership. It is vital to help Asian churches develop their leadership pipeline for next generation leaders.
Retreats and Conferences

Korean Pastors Retreat: July 24-26, 2017
The North Carolina Korean Baptist Association hosted the annual Pastors’ Family Retreat at Fort Caswell. A total of 60 people (lead pastors, wives and children) from 17 Korean churches participated in the retreat. The Rev. Byung Choi from Semihan Church in Dallas, Texas, was a keynote speaker. Choi shared his testimony and experience of how God grew his church from 15 to 1,500 members in the last 15 years. He also challenged pastors to love the church and to be faithful to their ministries regardless of hardships.

Japanese Retreat: Sept. 10, 2017
The Japanese Christians in North Carolina celebrated the 28th annual Japanese Retreat at Caraway Conference Center. Pastor Yasushi and Yuko Nemoto at the New River Baptist Association coordinated the retreat. Pastor Masashi Sugita, the president of the Japanese Fellowship and the general secretary of the National Asian-American Fellowship, was the keynote speaker. There were nearly 160 people, including 20 young children representing several Japanese churches and ministries in North Carolina and the southeast region. Among 10 non-believers who attended the retreat, one person professed faith in Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord. Please continue to pray for the new believer to grow in Christ.

North Carolina Youth Camp: Dec. 26-29, 2017
The annual North Carolina Youth Camp (NCYC) was held in Denton. We are celebrating nine years of serving Korean-American churches through this camp. There were 250 youth (sixth to 12th grade) from 15 different churches who participated in this event. Sam Won, the keynote speaker, taught on holiness using Leviticus 11:45. Students were asked to refrain from using electronic devices during their time at camp so they could focus more on spiritual growth. They were divided into 26 small groups, according to grade and gender, as they listened to seminars led by various pastors and leaders. Various topics were addressed, such as identity, Christianity and homosexuality, the internet, gaming and more. An invitation to follow Christ was given at each of the six worship services. More than 100 students responded to the message and committed or re-dedicated their lives to Jesus. On the last night of worship, all students came forward to pray for one another for more than an hour.

Asian Field Coordinators Retreat: March 9-10, 2018
Nine Asian field coordinators and their spouses met for the first coordinators retreat at the Drury Inn & Suites in Greensboro. Each coordinator represented unique ethnic and language churches in North Carolina. These coordinators oversee ministries of Korean, Japanese, Lahu, Thai, Karen, Hmong, Montagnard, Burmese, Laotian and Urdu speaking churches, as well as second-generation ministries. The coordinators are all lead pastors of local churches. The purpose of the retreat was to form a fellowship between coordinators by sharing their lives and ministries, to understand Asian Ministries strategy and their role as a coordinator, and to discuss strategy to help Asian churches become disciple-
making churches. Coordinators learned about the A, B, C and D strategy to help Asian churches, as well as the current status of North Carolina Asian churches’ giving to the Cooperative Program. The Asian Ministries consultant encouraged the coordinators to influence their language churches to participate in the work of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Southern Baptists by giving and growing.

W.O.R.D. Conference: June 2, 2018
The fourth annual conference for second generation Asian-American leaders was held at the Piedmont Baptist Association in Greensboro. More than 140 Asian-American leaders from 27 churches participated in the conference. The conference theme was “All Out,” based on Matthew 28:18-20, with the vision for Asian-Americans to be out all over the world as ambassadors for Christ. The main session was interactive and included real-time polling and whiteboard sessions to assess individual identity in cultural assimilation and spirituality. The whiteboard session also included time for churches to develop a strategy to be “All Out” in the four areas: Worship, Outreach, Resource and Discipleship. Seven breakout sessions were offered in the afternoon. Breakout session leaders gave practical tools to engage the community with the gospel of Christ. Through the conference, four people made professions of faith in Christ, 22 people renewed their lives as disciples of Christ and four people responded to a call to vocational ministry.

Trainings
Montagnard: Nov. 4, 2017
A group of students and their spouses, who are trained weekly by Montagnard coordinator K’Them, gathered at Rankin Baptist Church to celebrate Thanksgiving. More than 100 people from 16 Montagnard and Vietnamese churches participated. K’Them trains 37 students in the Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro and Asheboro areas weekly. These students are being trained to fulfill the mission of “equipping Montagnard and other ethnic minorities to be disciple makers.”

Korean: Nov. 15, 2017
Caden Lee, the Korean coordinator, introduced Pastor Daniel Lee, from Global Mission Church in South Korea, to lead a six-hour seminar on Baptist identity at First Korean Baptist Church in Raleigh. Thirty-five pastors and leaders from 16 Korean churches participated. Pastor Lee also spoke at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary’s chapel on Nov. 14. The training material Lee wrote was simple and useful. The seminar covered several topics, such as primacy of Scripture, the need of conversion and faith in Christ’s Lordship, eternal security of believers, priesthood of believers, separation of state and church, the Great Commission, and the importance of the Cooperative Program.

Laotian: Jan. 20, 2018
Under the leadership of Bounyong Vongsa, the Laotian coordinator, Laotian Baptist pastors and leaders celebrated the graduation of the International School of Leadership. The ceremony was held at Lao Thai Baptist Church
in Charlotte, led by the Rev. Bounthavone Sombatsaphay. The graduation included 63 students from eight churches. The churches represented at graduation were Khmu Green Street Baptist Church, Khmu Oakview Baptist Church, The Mission Church, Lao Mission of Rockingham, Lao New Hope of Gold Hill, Homestead Baptist Church of Kannapolis, Lao Baptist Church of Salisbury and Lao-Thai Baptist Church of Charlotte. The International School of Leadership was set to resume in July 2018 using the book *Abide in Christ* translated into Laotian.

**Hmong: April 27-28, 2018**

Hmong Baptist National Association (HBNA) hosted “Arise,” the Christian leadership conference for Hmong Baptist churches in the east region (North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia). The event was held at Northside Baptist Church in Charlotte. The first day of training was for Hmong pastors and leaders. There were 53 pastors and leaders from eight Hmong churches participating in the event. Various topics, such as preaching, stewardship and integrity, were addressed to equip spiritual leadership. The second day of training was open to lay leaders and congregations, with more than 200 Hmong believers participating.

**Coordinators’ Training Certificates**

Three Asian field coordinators successfully finished coordinators’ training for preaching and spiritual leadership and received certificates. They were:

- Mark Meeseree, the Lahu/Karen/Thai coordinator, received the certificate at Lahu Baptist Church in Newton on May 6.
- Bounyong Vongsa, the Laotian coordinator, received the certificate at Lao Baptist Church in Gold Hill on May 13.
- Naw Bawk Kinraw, the Burmese coordinator, received the certificate at Life Community Myanmar Church in Jamestown on May 27.

It was an honorable time for the congregations to celebrate together and to support their coordinators’ ministries. These coordinators can officially use the training material in their own languages to train their network of pastors and leaders to advance God’s proclamation and to develop leaders for God’s glory.

**Outreach**

**Pakistani: Nov. 4, 2017**

Tamran, the Urdu ministry coordinator, led the coat distribution at Crossover Community Church for refugees in the High Point area. More than 500 refugees came and received coats and the love of Christ. Several churches, along with a team from New York, also helped and joined this effort in collaboration to reach the nations for Christ. Around Christmastime, Tamran led an outreach team of 15 churches to reach Muslim communities in the High Point area through caroling visits over a period of five nights. The team visited 85 people from 25 Muslim families. One Muslim father shared that his family had never been visited by Americans in the 22 years of living in the United States. He also shared that the caroling visit was a blessing. Tamran traveled to Pakistan to lead gospel
crusades May 14-23, 2018. He and his team led the crusades reaching more than 50,000 people with the gospel of Christ. Thousands of Muslims came to Christ through the event. Tamran’s team distributed more than 500 Bibles. They visited communities and their leaders to bless them in the name of Jesus.

**Burmese: Dec. 10, 2017**

We have been praying for God to provide Burmese Bibles and He provided 80 Burmese Bibles. Pastor Bawk, the Burmese coordinator, coordinated a Christmas outreach event on Dec. 10 to reach Buddhists and Muslims among the Burmese community in the High Point and Chapel Hill areas with carols and distribution of the Burmese Bibles.

**Resources**

**Podcast**

The North Carolina Asian-American Ministries podcast was launched in May 2017 with the purpose of highlighting the life and ministry of next generation Asian-American leaders in North Carolina. As of June 2018, 61 episodes have been produced. Interview subjects have included 13 Asian-American leaders representing 10 churches in North Carolina and one in Tennessee, as well as several participants at the W.O.R.D. Conference and the North Carolina Youth Camp event. There have been 1,732 downloads, including downloads from 18 different countries.

**Videos**

Since September 2017, six videos on “Christ-centered preaching” and six videos on “spiritual leadership” were produced. Asian field coordinators received this video training first, and three coordinators successfully completed the training certificate course. Asian Ministries also produced three-minute, daily, verse-by-verse exposition videos for pastors and leaders. In the fall of 2017, 104 videos on the Book of 1 John were made, and in the spring of 2018, 87 videos on the Book of Psalms, chapters 1, 2, 19, 22, 23 and 51, were produced. These daily videos are currently sent to 10 Asian field coordinators and 25 other pastors and leaders representing 30 churches.

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**

Military Chaplaincy is responding to the overwhelming needs of our military and veteran community. Our frontlines are populated with God-called missionaries who don the uniform and proclaim the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to the 1 percent who protect and defend this great nation.
We have continued to network with our military chaplains in the Marines, Army, Air Force, Army National Guard, Navy and Coast Guard. Many churches, associations, nonprofits, and other individuals and groups around the state are sharing the love of Christ as we continue to provide spiritual guidance, mentorship and training.

Some of the fruit of our efforts are visible in:

- New partnerships with our Partners-in-Care program, a joint effort between North Carolina Baptists and the North Carolina National Guard to bring churches alongside community armories to fill necessary gaps in ministry.
- More and more directors of missions, pastors and local church leaders embracing the call to minister to our warriors both at home and abroad.
- We continue to make frequent contact with officials from local Army National Guard, North Carolina Air National Guard, active duty components such as the 82nd Airborne All-Americans (AA), and other military organizations around the state, advising them of our willingness to provide spiritual care to our military members.

What to expect in the coming months:

- Developing and growing small, local affinity groups for veterans in our local congregations.
- Churches filing needs in their own congregations for families of deployed military members.
- Local churches and associations identifying and empowering military and veteran leaders to spread the gospel through their own DNA, unique strengths and God-given talents.

Many thanks to the Sandhills and Cabarrus Baptist associations and First Baptist Church Mooresville for their willingness to partner with North Carolina Baptists in order to reach our military and veterans for Christ.

_Thomas Watson, Contract Worker, Military and Chaplaincy_

**EMERGENCY CHAPLAINCY**

Is your church considering different ways to engage your neighbors and the changing culture that is rising in North Carolina? Have you experimented with different programs and projects only to find little or no response?

Churches across our state are looking for new and fresh ideas to help them engage their neighbors with the gospel. Evangelism training is the essential tool for knowing how to share the gospel, but what many leaders fail to teach is how to develop an effective platform for delivery of the good news of Jesus Christ.
That’s where community and public safety chaplaincy can help. In 2019, we are dedicating our full attention to teaching North Carolina Baptists how to develop a sustainable platform for evangelism in their own communities.

Jesus modeled this type of ministry for us throughout the Gospels. As Jesus is traveling and preaching, He seems to ‘intentionally’ run into people who are in crisis. Over and over, we see the Lord meeting physical needs by feeding and healing people. We also see the Lord meeting the emotional needs of many by simply listening to them and loving them right where they are. Then, He will turn the conversation toward spiritual matters.

There is no way to know for certain, but it is estimated that 80 percent of people who come to faith in Christ as adults, do so during a time of personal crisis. Doesn’t it make sense to intentionally go to people in crisis? Chaplaincy can be the platform for meeting those in crisis, and the places that chaplaincy can be applied is endless. You can be the chaplain for the fire department, a baseball team, a local restaurant, a nursing home or even on your street or at your workplace.

The mission of a community chaplain is: “to build caring relationships with the hope of gaining permission to share the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ in a non-threatening manner.” If that sounds like something you are interested in, please contact Ralph Thompson today at (919) 280-8908 or Ralph@EChap.org.

Ralph Thompson, Contract Worker, Emergency Chaplaincy

**SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

Special Ministries does not well convey the ministry that happens in this area of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina life. I have people ask me all the time, “What is Special Ministries?” In North Carolina we use this term to refer to a collection of ministries that target people with exceptional kinds of needs. Special Ministries includes people who are deaf, blind, or have developmental disabilities. It includes ministry to those who have language and learning needs, like recent immigrants who need English as a second language education, at-risk students who need tutoring help, and non-reading and writing English speakers. In Special Ministries, we meet people at the point of their need and seek to make disciples among these people groups. The convention recognizes that if we are to reach all people groups with the gospel, we cannot overlook people groups who are outside of the usual ethnic linguistic groups we typically target.

**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. For four decades, Neal Peyton helped Potter work to multiply ministries.
They invested in many churches by training interpreters and church leaders. Donnie Wiltshire began in 1999 to continue the work begun by these men.

A major emphasis for deaf ministry always has been training new leaders. In 1994, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina partnered with the Georgia and South Carolina conventions and the Boyce Bible School to found the TriState Deaf School of Theology. Today this training program still partners with those other two conventions, along with Gardner-Webb University and Brewton-Parker College in Georgia to provide college-level instruction for deaf men and women who are leaders in their churches.

Since its founding, TriState has had about 150 people come through its program. These men and women are leading deaf churches and deaf ministries all over the convention, mostly in the east and southeast. This past year, students attending our Ridgecrest center took classes on Christian history and biblical backgrounds. Students attending our Snellville, Georgia, center took a class on the Gospel of John.

Since it is very difficult for deaf leaders to find theological education and ministry equipping classes offered in American Sign Language, TriState has become a major education location for deaf church leaders. We are very grateful for the teachers who have helped us. They include: Mary High; Rick McClain; Donnie Wiltshire; Becky Walker; Chip Penland; Elaine Ozment; and Jerry Seale. Through the years, many others have taught, but these have been our teachers in recent years.

This has been a hard year for our deaf congregations. It seems that this is the time for leadership turnover. Fayetteville Deaf Church, Wilson Deaf Mission, Charlotte Deaf Mission, the deaf congregation connected to Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, and the Hickory Deaf Church have lost their pastors in recent times. All of these groups are seeking new pastoral leadership, but various factors have delayed finding a new leader.

Asheville Deaf Church, Morganton Deaf Congregation and Parkwood Deaf Congregation continue to have pastors and continue to give us leadership in the state. In addition to these deaf churches with pastoral leaders, about 100 churches across North Carolina provide interpreted ministries. Many of these are quite strong. Please pray that our deaf ministries, missions and churches will be able to find new pastoral leaders. The witness of Christ in the deaf world needs these deaf churches to give us leadership.

The deaf community in North Carolina continues to be largely unreached for Christ, so we offer several opportunities through the year to reach deaf people in statewide efforts. The Together in Christ Conference trained 55 church interpreters this past year. The North Carolina Baptist Conference of the Deaf gathered about 150 deaf people for worship and learning.
The Deaf Youth Retreat had 25 campers this year. The decline in the residential deaf schools in Morganton and Wilson largely account for the decrease in attendance. Still, the campers had a terrific experience learning how to follow Jesus. One of our campers made a decision to follow Christ, and several campers made decisions to rededicate their lives to Christ.

The Deaf Youth Retreat is a major evangelism tool for deaf students. This year we provided every camper with a video made by Kevin Clark, describing seven steps for growing faith. Since many of our campers do not come from Christian homes and do not have easy access to church, it is important that we take extra steps to help them know how to grow in their faith.

We are trusting the future of deaf ministry in North Carolina into the hands of the next generation. People like Jerry Potter, Neal Peyton and Donnie Wiltshire have led in many ways, but a new generation of deaf leaders is rising. In the near future, they will be the ones seeking God’s power to bring deaf people to Christ. While talking about the future, it is right for me to mention that this past year Jerry Potter passed away. Jerry came to North Carolina to work for the state convention in 1952. He did more than any other person to bring Christ to the deaf people of our state. Jerry trained interpreters, won deaf people to Christ, shared the gospel with deaf people on television (WRAL) for decades, started the deaf program at Gardner-Webb University and mentored hundreds of deaf leaders. We will miss him terribly.

Blind Ministry
There are many churches with blind individuals attending, but no churches are actively and intentionally seeking to minister to blind people or reach them as a people group. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina resources churches to minister to their blind and visually impaired members. The convention’s major outreach program is the Blind Retreat held annually at Caraway Conference Center. This year we had 36 people in attendance. This is not the largest retreat we have ever had, but it is one of the larger retreats. Keith Jefferson, African-American Church Planting consultant for the state convention, was our speaker. He helped us “Look to the Future” by exploring the Book of James.

Every year we are able to refer churches to resources for blind individuals. We also have a small number of braille resources that we provide to people who can read braille. Most notable, we have two copies of *Experiencing God* that were given to us by Claude King, which we were able to loan to several people this year.

Special Needs
We know of about 180 churches across North Carolina that have intentional ministries to people with developmental disabilities. This is a great number. The problem is, there are people with special needs in every community in our state. A large number of churches provide some kind of watch care on Sunday morning so members can attend Sunday School and church, but not
nearly enough churches have organized to meet the needs of families in their communities who have special needs family members.

Some churches have recognized that families with a member with special needs is a people group that needs to be reached for Christ, so churches like Fairplains Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro have undertaken to reach these families for Christ. Fairplains built a special accessible playground for special needs children on their church campus and opened the playground to the entire community.

Churches like Rich Fork Baptist Church in Thomasville provide such a needed ministry to their community that the local Arc — the nation’s largest community based organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities — has provided funds to build a safe play area for the church so children attending the church can be safe.

Churches like First Baptist Church in Sanford have grown large adult ministries where special needs members can both receive ministry and provide ministry to the whole church body and to their community.

A few churches, like Mount Carmel in Matthews, have hosted communitywide Joy Proms. This is a night when people with special needs can gather for a special prom. Because of their success, Mount Carmel now partners with Joni and Friends and Tim Tebow to multiply this ministry. Other churches have caught this idea, and it is spreading. Maybe your church will be the next.

Happiness Retreats continue to be a major focus of our ministry with people with special needs. Each year we host five camps lasting three days each. This year we had 750 people involved in our camps. One camp is always held at Truett Camp in Hayesville. Four camps are held at Caraway Conference Center. The 10 days we hold camp at Caraway becomes the largest event Caraway hosts each year. A typical three-day retreat includes: two worship services; one huge talent show; 15 hours of Vacation Bible School-style class sessions; an afternoon of appropriate activities like hand bells, creative movement and puppets; a trip to the pool; and a great big party with a live band.

Hosting Happiness Retreat requires a large amount of people and financial resources. We are very grateful to the faithful men, women and youth who staff our five retreats each year, and we are very grateful to the many churches that faithfully bring their special needs campers for the most significant weekend of their year. Without the resources of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the endowment fund “Friends of Happiness Retreat,” we could not provide this wonderful camp.

Literacy Missions
Literacy Missions is somewhat different from our other Special Ministries because it is not related to a handicapping condition. It is a ministry that
responds to exceptional needs, and it certainly reaches people for Christ at the point of their need.

Immigration is a hot political topic in America right now, but for Christians, there is no question that we are to share Christ with those who are among us. The number of internationals continues to rise in our state. We are now a state of more than 10 million people. Of that number, 71 percent are of majority culture and 29 percent are of minority cultures.

Of the minority, 2.9 percent have an Asian background, and 9.2 percent have a Hispanic background. In 1980, there were only four languages in North Carolina other than English spoken by more than 5,000 in their homes. According the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, today there are at least 300 languages spoken in our state.

Approximately 11.3 percent of our state population ages 5 and older speak a language other than English at home. Most of these people who have moved into our state and do not speak English also do not know Christ. English as a second language (ESL) is a great tool to help them at the point of their need and to introduce them to Christ. We use a great variety of curriculum tools to bring Jesus and the gospel into our ESL teaching. In the past year, we have had more than 1,706 students in ESL, Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY) and Adult Reading and Writing (ARW) combined and more than 440 volunteers serving as teachers and tutors for these students. Out of the approximately 48 church-based literacy missions ministries that we track, there were 46 professions of faith. Most of those came out of ESL ministries.

A major piece for us at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is equipping people to do these ministries. Last year we held 11, 14-hour workshops across the state to equip men and women to do these ministries. Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh, Central Baptist Church in Henderson, and the Metrolina, Raleigh and Yates Baptist associations provided ESL training to reach immigrants with the gospel. We are grateful to people like Glenda Reece, and Tom and Carla Pless who led these workshops.

We are especially pleased that God opens international mission doors through English as a Foreign Language (EFL). EFL is like ESL in many ways, but when one takes ESL international, it has some different approaches. EFL teams went to Brazil, Wales, China and Columbia. Some of the leaders were Krystal Weeks, Jeanette Walters, Becky Wuerzer, Matt Garret and Phil Stone. One great partnership happened between North Carolina Baptists and International Mission Board personnel in Greece using EFL to reach Syrian refugees in Thessaloniki, Greece.

God is so good, and we are so grateful. We look forward to next year when even greater things than these will happen in the kingdom.

Donnie Wiltshire, Senior Consultant, Special Ministries
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This has been another exciting year of developing spiritual leaders who lead like Jesus. Leading like Jesus is not just a cliché but is indeed the goal of everyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus to exemplify what it truly means to be fully surrendered to the will and Spirit of God. In Ephesians 4:12, Paul shared the important role of every spiritual leader in the church, which is “to equip His people for the works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (New International Version). We are so blessed to have so many pastors, churches and associational leaders who are committed to the role that God has given them of equipping the saints.

We added four more spiritual leadership equipping tracks this year in the areas of character, capacity, context and competence. These are the new training modules that were added to a growing list of trainings with trainers/facilitators located all over North Carolina. Trainings can be requested through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and our Baptist associations. Following is a summary of the equipping tracks.

Character: The Nuts and Bolts of Deacon Ministry
This training was conducted by Keith Dixon and Alice Cullinan. Both served in Baptist entities in North Carolina and wrote the book, The Nuts and Bolts of Deacon Ministry, released last year. This training can help you understand how to have an effective deacon ministry in your church, balancing spiritual qualifications of leaders with practical, hands-on ministry and administrative skills. This training provides the tools to evaluate the spiritual health of a church and its leaders. We thank God for the ways this training is transforming the local church to know how to listen to God and follow His will, to use our spiritual gifts and personality types to benefit the church, to minister effectively to the elderly, sick and grieving, and how to prevent or handle church conflict.

Book resource: The Nuts and Bolts of Deacon Ministry by Keith Dixon and Alice Cullinan

Capacity: Prescription for Life
This training addressed the need to be physically well in order to be more effective in ministry and have a platform to share the gospel. Dr. Richard Furman and Dale Fisher, both from North Carolina, conducted the training. They emphasized the three areas of diet, exercise and maintaining an ideal weight to make the most of our years in service to the Lord and enjoy life to the fullest. This training included discussion on how pastors and church leaders can serve God longer and be more active in serving Him by taking care of their health.

Book resource: Prescription for Life by Richard Furman

Pastor Ronnie McLean of Freedom Baptist Church in Rockingham, wrote: “I simply praise the Lord for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina putting on the Prescription for Life class. Going through the class and meeting Dr. Richard Furman has changed my life. It was definitely a wake-up call for me. I was weighing 311 pounds and today I weigh 275 pounds. I have completely changed my eating habits, and I am walking 30 minutes a day four to five times a week.”
days a week. As soon as I came home from our class I immediately ordered 10 books and gave them out to my family and friends. I spoke to my church and asked them to be open to getting healthy with me. Many people are curious of what I am doing to lose weight. I just tell them I am experiencing a life change. I have started a group-me app for Prescription for Life, and we correspond with many people each week. We have a class planned with the Pee Dee Baptist (Association) pastors and churches in August. I am very excited to share with them my life-changing story. I am so thankful for Ken Tan and the ongoing training that the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is doing. Simply thank you.”

**Context: Chess not Checkers**

This training was presented by John Warnock, executive pastor of Dogwood Church in Georgia. He provided timely insights into how to make decisions concerning situations, either in a reactive or strategic way. It is the kind of training that will help you discover leadership lessons that will transform a struggling organization into one that is thriving. It is a sequel to the training we offered a year ago called “The Secret of Teams,” that focused on how to train the next generation of leaders. 

*Book resource: Chess not Checkers by Mark Miller*

Dougald W. McLaurin Jr., associational missionary of the Tar River Baptist Association (TRBA), wrote: “I cannot thank the North Carolina Baptist state convention enough for investing in our churches by offering the quality spiritual leadership tracks under the leadership of Ken Tan. Tar River benefits greatly as we have made it a top priority to have church leaders in every session. We ask those leaders to come back to their church and facilitate the training and invite area churches. The end result has been development of a leadership network equipped to lead in all the spiritual leadership development tracks offered. Each of these leadership tracts has been tremendously helpful and has provided a balanced approach, addressing the “Four Cs” — character, competence, capacity and context. Therefore, we embed these “4 Cs” in a strategic approach to strengthening the local church. Among the most practical and instantly helpful sessions to TRBA has been ‘Chess Not Checkers.’”

**Competence: Conflict Coaching and Mediation**

This training with Eddie Thompson provided a much needed tool to effectively resolve conflicts through mediation and coaching that leads to biblical reconciliation. So many of those who attended expressed appreciation for the training they received but also wish that they had it earlier so they could resolve conflicts before they became a crisis. This training was a follow-up to “Peacemakers,” which showed how to resolve conflicts in a biblical manner. The book used for this training was *Redeeming Church Conflicts: Turning Crisis into Compassion and Care* by Tara Klena Barthel and David V. Edling.

*Book resource: Redeeming Church Conflicts by Tara Klena Barthel and David V. Edling*
Burt Wilbur, director of missions for the Brushy Mountain Baptist Association, wrote: "I have made use of the material in true church conflicts within our association, and I am very grateful for the added insight this training provided. One of our churches restored their pastor to his position after being forced to resign by two deacons. The church lost two families [and] the deacons, but is growing and seeing a new vision without the turmoil that had plagued the church. The second was a conflict over the sale of a parsonage. Although the parsonage’s fate is still unknown, the parties are talking in a calm, ministry-focused way. So grateful for this training as we seek to glorify God by partnering with churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ.”

We thank God for all the pastors, church leaders and association leaders who took the time to be trained and are now training others in their own context of ministry. They have made themselves available to train others to know who they are in Christ and how they can discover God’s unique design for their life. You can see the list of training and trainers available to assist you online at ncbaptist.org/leadershipdev. Thank you, North Carolina Baptists, for partnering with us in providing these trainings to the churches.

Kenneth Tan, Senior Consultant, Leadership Development
CONVENTION COMMITTEES exist to fulfill very specific functions on behalf of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. There are four convention committees. They are: the Committee on Nominations; the Committee on Convention Meetings; the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials; and the Historical Committee.

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 individuals to serve 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.
CONVENTION COMMITTEES 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 Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), the committees of the convention and the boards of the related entities (North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Biblical Recorder, Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina and 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. 6 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 2019 Committee on Nominations. Please continue to submit your recommendations at ncbaptist.org/recommend. 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.

Robin Fisher, Chair

2018 Committee on Nominations Members

Charles Brust, Bladenboro
Robin Fisher, chair, Rocky Mount
Kenn Hucks, Monroe
David Jones, North Wilkesboro
Jonas Perez, Concord
Beth Wooten, Beulaville
Ben Curfman, Clyde
Michael Davis, Charlotte
Mark Golden, Waynesville

David Helms, Pendleton
James Keku, Browns Summit
Jennifer Thoppil, Mount Airy
Carolyn Fowler, Murfreesboro
Sam Harvin Jr., Spring Lake
Connie Millsaps, Franklin
Josh Pruitt, Rutherfordton
Jason Wilkinson, Wake Forest
Mark Brady, Moyock

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 Board, the members of the boards of trustees and directors to be elected by the Convention of the Related Entities, 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, and the boards of trustees and directors of the Related Entities 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.” For the purposes of this report, “occupation” is indicated by “minister” or “lay person.”

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA**

*NOTE: Board of Directors terms that begin in 2019 are staggered based on action taken by the messengers at the 2017 Annual Meeting in order to restore balance to the rotation of board members.*

**Region 1**

- **Kevin Buzzard**, 2019-2019 term, Sawyer’s Creek (U), Elizabeth City, Chowan, Minister, Male
- **Wanda Guest**, 2019-2021 term, Conway (U), Conway, West Chowan, Lay Person, Female
- **James Harrington**, 2019-2022 term, Fellowship (U), Elizabeth City, Chowan, Minister, Male

**Region 2**

- **Willie Porter**, 2019-2022 term, Englewood (O), Wilson, North Roanoke, Lay Person, Male
- **Jordon Willard**, 2019-2022 term, Trinity (U), Tarboro, South Roanoke, Minister, Male

**Region 3**

- **Jeff Blackburn**, 2019-2022 term, Hyde Park (O), Lumberton, Robeson, Minister, Male
- **Timmy Chavis**, 2019 unexpired term of J.R. Hopson, Bear Swamp (U), Maxton, Burnt Swamp, Minister, Male
- **Joey Dockery**, 2019-2021 term, Mount Calvary (U), Dublin, New South River, Minister, Male
- **Pat Hash**, 2020 unexpired term of Nathan Morton, St. Pauls First (U), St. Pauls, Robeson, Minister, Male

**Region 4**

- **David Baker**, 2019-2021 term, Green Level (U), Apex, Raleigh, Minister, Male
Timmy Blair, 2019-2022 term, Piney Grove Chapel (O), Lillington, Little River, Minister, Male
Earl Echols Jr., 2019-2021 term, Ebenezer (O), Durham, Yates, Minister, Male
Drew Grumbles, 2019-2022 term, Brassfield (U), Creedmoor, Flat River, Minister, Male
Pat Kilby, 2019-2021 term, Cary First (O), Cary, Raleigh, Minister, Male
Linda McLaurin, 2019-2022 term, Ephesus Baptist Church of Spring Hope (U), Nashville, Tar River, Lay Person, Female
John Ryman, 2019-2021 term, Hillcrest (U), Raleigh, Raleigh, Minister, Male
Billy Stines, 2019-2022 term, Buies Creek First (U), Erwin, Little River, Minister, Male

Region 5
Jim Cohn, 2019-2019 term, Walnut Cove First (U), Advance, Pilot Mountain, Minister, Male
Mark Collins, 2019-2022 term, Reidsville First (O), Reidsville, Dan Valley, Lay Person, Male
Scott Faw, 2019-2022 term, Calvary (U), Landis, Rowan, Minister, Male
Brenda Hicks, 2019-2022 term, Oak View (O), Kernersville, Piedmont, Lay Person, Female
Andrew Hopper, 2019-2021 term, Mercy Hill (O), Summerfield, Piedmont, Minister, Male
Charlie Martin, 2019-2021 term, Cornerstone (U), Winston-Salem, Pilot Mountain, Minister, Male
Ryan McMillian, 2019-2022 term, Osborne (O), Eden, Dan Valley, Minister, Male
Walter Overman, 2019-2019 term, Main Street (U), Kernersville, Pilot Mountain, Minister, Male
Rick Speas, 2019-2022 term, Old Town (O), Winston-Salem, Pilot Mountain, Minister, Male
Ruth Warner, 2019-2019 term, Saint Paul (U), Greensboro, Piedmont, Lay Person, Female
Steve Wilson, 2019-2021 term, Trading Ford (O), Salisbury, Rowan, Minister, Male

Region 6
David (Dac) Croasmun, 2019 unexpired term of Karen Walters, Trinity (U), Monroe, Union, Minister, Male
Jonathan Homesley, 2019-2022 term, Lake Wylie (U), Charlotte, Metrolina, Minister, Male
Kenn Hucks, 2019-2021 term, Sardis (O), Monroe, Union, Minister, Male
Timothy Madaris, 2019-2022 term, Union (U), Monroe, Union, Minister, Male
Phil McRae, 2019-2021 term, New Home (U), Peachland, Anson, Minister, Male

Region 7
Carrie Afanador, 2019-2022 term, Perkinsville (U), Boone, Three Forks, Lay Person, Female
David Jones, 2019-2022 term, Baptist Home (O), North Wilkesboro, Stone Mountain, Minister, Male
Len Moore, 2019-2021 term, Hinshaw Street (U), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, Lay Person, Male
Travis Suits, 2019-2022 term, Laurel Springs (O), Deep Gap, Three Forks, Minister, Male
Kevin York, 2019-2019 term, Friendly Grove (U), West Jefferson, Ashe, Minister, Male

Region 8
Chris Alford, 2019-2022 term, Freedom (U), Gastonia, South Fork, Minister, Male
Phil Bailey, 2019-2022 term, Campfield (U), Ellenboro, Sandy Run, Minister, Male
David Bame, 2019-2022 term, Mill Spring First (U), Mill Spring, Polk, Minister, Male
Shawn Berryhill, 2019-2019 term, Montford Cove (U), Union Mills, Green River, Minister, Male
Shanon Brower, 2019-2022 term, Liberty (U), Forest City, Sandy Run, Lay Person, Female
Walter Creighton, 2019-2021 term, Sandy Ridge (U), Conover, Catawba Valley, Lay Person, Male
Nick King, 2019-2021 term, Penelope (U), Hickory, Catawba Valley, Minister, Male
Sally Matheny, 2019 unexpired term of Todd Rudisill, New Bethel (U), Forest City, Sandy Run, Lay Person, Female
Matt Mills, 2019-2019 term, Mount Pleasant (U), Forest City, Sandy Run, Minister, Male
Anton Roos, 2019-2021 term, Lake Lure (U), Lake Lure, Green River, Minister, Male
Paul Scott, 2019-2021 term, Big Springs (O), Ellenboro, Sandy Run, Minister, Male
Keith Stephenson, 2019-2019 term, 2nd Baptist (O), Rutherfordton, Green River, Minister, Male

Region 9
Johnny Byrd, 2019-2022 term, North Point (U), Weaverville, Buncombe, Minister, Male
Steve Frazier, 2019-2019 term, Riverside (O), Waynesville, Haywood, Minister, Male
Clark Henderson, 2019-2022 term, Newbridge (O), Weaverville, Buncombe, Minister, Male
Steve Honeycutt, 2019-2021 term, Long Branch (U), Leicester, French Broad, Minister, Male
Jason Miller, 2019-2022 term, Dutch Cove (O), Canton, Haywood, Minister, Male

Region 10
Noah Crowe, 2019-2022 term, Robbinsville (U), Robbinsville, Graham, Minister, Male
Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina
Bobby Boyd, Woodlawn (O), Conover, Catawba Valley, Lay Person, Male
John Lee, Wilson First (O), Nashville, South Roanoke, Lay Person, Male
Cameron McGill, The Lake Church (U), White Lake, Bladen, Minister, Male
Lyndell Pate, Rockwell First (O), Rockwell, Rowan SBC, Lay Person, Male
Marian Phillips, Oakley (U), Siler City, Sandy Creek, Lay Person, Female
Gary Stanley, Salem Fork (U), Dobson, Surry, Lay Person, Male
Eric Vernon, Sanford First (O), Sanford, Sandy Creek, Lay Person, Male
Sterling Wall, Lexington First (O), Lexington, Liberty, Lay Person, Male
Jay Westmoreland, Charlotte First (O), Fort Mill, S.C., Metrolina, Lay Person, Male

Biblical Recorder
Kelly Bullard, Temple (O), Wade, New South River, Minister, Male
Chris Hefner, Wilkesboro (O), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, Minister, Male
Lesley Hildreth, The Summit (O), Wake Forest, Yates, Lay Person, Female
Larry Whichard, Kennebec (O), Fuquay-Varina, Little River, Minister, Male
Bartley Wooten, Beulaville (U), Beulaville, Eastern, Minister, Male

North Carolina Baptist Foundation
Geron Gambill, Snyder Memorial (O), Fayetteville, New South River, Minister, Male
Hal Koger, Calvary (U), McLeansville, Piedmont, Lay Person, Male
Marion Krege, 2020 unexpired term of Roy Krege, Mt. Calvary (U), Banner Elk, Three Forks, Lay Person, Female
Harvey Montague, Macedonia (O), Raleigh, Raleigh, Lay Person, Male
Matt Thomas, Access Point (U), Hertford, Chowan, Minister, Male
David Webb, Crestview (O), Boiling Springs, Greater Cleveland, Minister, Male

North Carolina Baptist Hospital
No Vacancies

Committee on Convention Meetings
Miriam Acevedo, Calvary — Hispanic Congregation (U), Cherryville, South Fork, Lay Person, Female
Tim Ameen, Immanuel (O), Clinton, Eastern, Minister, Male
Jeff Stephens, Vietnamese (U), Whitsett, Piedmont, Minister, Male
Chris Canuel, Beulaville (U), Beulaville, Eastern, Lay Person, Female
Nathaniel Williams, Cedar Rock First (U), Castalia, Tar River, Minister, Male
Larry Burns, Chair, Mulberry (O), Charlotte, Metrolina, Minister, Male
Resolution in Appreciation for the Life of Billy Graham

WHEREAS, Billy Graham was born on November 7, 1918, in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham, often called “America’s Pastor,” exuded a Christlike witness in American culture that spanned seven decades; and

WHEREAS, The life and ministry of Billy Graham is a testament of God’s promise to His church to raise up evangelists for the sake of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to every tribe, people, language and nation (Ephesians 4:11; Revelation 7:9); and

WHEREAS, In his lifetime, Billy Graham traveled to 185 countries on six different continents proclaiming the gospel to an estimated 215 million people, and he ministered to countless government and world leaders; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham was an innovator in the advancement of the gospel through new technological mediums of his time; such as a radio ministry, television ministry, and internet ministry; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham’s relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention was one of affection, cooperation, and church membership; and
WHEREAS, Billy Graham founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which is based in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham saw a vision for a training and retreat center for lay Christians and pastors become a reality at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham’s life modeled integrity, modesty, lifelong fidelity to one’s spouse, and humility despite worldwide acclaim; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, November 5-6, 2018, grieve the passing of Billy Graham on February 21, 2018, while also celebrating, honoring, and commemorating his life and ministry as a beloved Southern Baptist who traveled the world sharing the good news of Jesus Christ; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That we extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Billy Graham; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, That we desire to celebrate Billy Graham’s legacy by committing ourselves to sharing the gospel, living lives of personal holiness, and finding joy through an eternal peace with God accomplished by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Memorials and Dedication
The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials met on July 24, 2018 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 2017 to June 2018. In appreciation and honor, the committee presents the following persons to whom we dedicate this 2018 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual:

Elmer Junior Caldwell
Elmer Junior Caldwell, 85, a faithful servant of God, passed away on Aug. 27, 2017 surrounded by his family. He was born in Haywood County to the late Arvil and Iola Rhodarmer Caldwell. He was a lifelong resident of Haywood County. He retired from Dayco following 40 years of service. His joy was preaching and teaching the Word of God. He also enjoyed his cattle, farming and gathering with his friends at local restaurants. He was a wonderful father, papaw and a friend to many. He will be greatly missed. In addition to his parents, Elmer was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Ruth A. Caldwell; daughter, Kathy Owens; granddaughter, Heidi Caldwell; brothers, Harold, Donald and Eddie Caldwell; and sister, Phyllis Shuler. Elmer is survived by a daughter, Patricia Campbell and her husband, Jack; a son, Pastor Mark Caldwell and his wife, Lynn; son-in-law, Tommy Owens; Whitley Wilson, whom he has raised; grandchildren, Angela Campbell-Clontz, Shannon and Shawn Owens, Faith and Cameron Caldwell; eight great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Jerry Potter
Jerry Potter gave 42 years of service to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The domino effect of the lives he touched are only now being measured by a gathering of souls in the place he longed to live, eternally in heaven. For many years to come he will stand at that entrance and welcome all those who came to know a Savior he loved and served because of his work. Forty-two years only marked the end of his paid career. His love for spreading the news of amazing grace continued until Sept. 13, 2017. As his children, we are keenly aware that his service meant sacrifice. He often was unable to worship with us as a family. Time away left Mom with sole parenting responsibilities, but her dedication both to Dad and God meant doing so with joy and love, and we later understood why daddy wasn’t home. The last five months in North Carolina were joyful in many ways, enabling Dad to reconnect with kids, grandkids, great-grandkids and friends. He planted and tended a garden, one of his joys in life. He fished in a local pond with some spectacular catches. He was welcomed every morning and sent to bed every evening, by loving family.

Greg Charles Wood
Missionary Greg Wood, who spent 11 years sharing the gospel in an indigenous village with his family in Mexico, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017, from aggressive brain cancer. He was 48. “Greg was unswerving in his love for the Lord, his family and for the unreached people of northern Mexico,” said colleague Charles Clark, the International Mission Board’s (IMB) affinity group leader for the American peoples. “In the midst of serving with his wife Missy and family in some of the most
dangerous areas of Mexico, his passion and joy in sharing Jesus never wavered. His passion for the unreached was contagious as he walked alongside and mentored national believers to continue the missionary task.” Simply put, Greg loved Jesus and wanted all he came in contact with to know Him. “It could be said of Greg, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master,’” Clark said. The Woods were appointed missionaries to Mexico on Jan. 25, 2005, supported by their home church, Biltmore Church in Arden, N.C. They took their three children and lived in an indigenous village in Mexico for 11 years. While there, Wood strived to learn the Purepecha language and shared Bible stories with all who would listen. God allowed them to start several churches and see many people baptized. IMB President David Platt said, “After hearing the news that Greg had gone to be with the Lord, I received a message from one of his colleagues saying that Greg was the most loving, peacemaking, dedicated missionary he had ever worked with. I praise God for His grace in Greg, his wife Missy and their incredible children. Greg's life was spent for God's glory in ways far beyond what we could ever measure in this world.” In addition to his wife, Wood is survived by three children, Jerod, Alex and Annie; his mother, Charlene Wood, and father, Boyce Wood. "Greg will be greatly missed," said John Brady, IMB vice president for global engagement. "He was a dedicated and effective missionary who loved the people he was seeking to reach with the good news of Christ. Our hearts go out to his family in these days."

Mary Jo Bumgarner Starnes
Mary Jo Bumgarner Starnes, 82, died Dec. 25, 2017. A native of Haywood County, she was born on Nov. 23, 1935 to the late William Stokes and Roena Singleton Bumgarner of Bethel. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, the Rev. Hugh Bumgarner and Earl Bumgarner. Mary Jo grew up in Candler and graduated from Candler Hill School. She studied two-and-a-half years at Western Carolina University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Pembroke State University in 1959. After teaching one year at Covington Street School in Laurinburg, N.C., she and her husband were appointed as missionaries to The Republic of Korea in 1960 by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. After they served in the Republic of Korea for 30 years, they retired in 1991. They served as missionaries in residence for two years at Charleston Southern University in Charleston and Summerville Baptist Church. In 1993, they moved to Waynesville where she taught at Crabtree Elementary School for one year followed by 20 years working with Lee Starnes State Farm Insurance in Waynesville. Mary Jo has been active in women’s and children’s missionary organization in the First Baptist and Encouraging Word Baptist Churches in Waynesville as well as singing in choirs. Mary Jo is survived by her husband of 61 years, the Rev. Cloyes Starnes; daughter, Maria Huelsman, and her husband, Steven, of Warner Robbins, Ga.; son, David Russell Starnes, and his wife, Lorraine, of Port Orange, Fla.; sisters, Lynn Eargle, of Lexington, S.C., and Eula Williams, of Spartanburg, S.C.; brother Ed Bumgarner, of Cherryville, N.C.; six grandchildren, Michael, Spencer, and Samantha Starnes, Taylor Tucker, Zach and Kendall Huelsman.

George Raiford Troutman
George Raiford Troutman, 92, passed away peacefully in his home on Jan. 13, 2018. He was born Aug. 24, 1925 in Concord, N.C., to the late Clyde A. Troutman
and Mary S. Troutman. A biography of Raiford Troutman was recently written by Michael Eury in a book titled *The Raiford Troutman Story: From Sharecropper to Millionaire with Faith and Family*. Determined to be successful in building a business providing services for others, Raiford, with the help of his devoted wife and family, built Troutman Enterprises, which includes real estate, automobiles and restaurants. He never wavered from his work ethic, continuing to go to his office even at the age of 92. Feeling the need to build unity among automobile dealers, Raiford set out to form a strong organization for car dealers. He and Margene traveled across the United States as president of CIADA and NIADA. He was awarded the distinction of being named Quality Dealer of the Year along with other honors. Having a strong faith in God, he was a charter member of Crosspointe Baptist Church where he served in the leadership positions. He also served as president of Concord-Kannapolis Chapter of Gideon’s International, Salvation Army advisory board chairman, honored with lifetime memberships to the Salvation Army Board, N.C. Christian Action League, founder and chairman of the Serenity House, trustee for Baptist Children’s Homes, N.C. Baptist General Board (including, chairman of the University and College Study Committee and chairman of Baptist Assemblies Committee), Fruitland Baptist Bible College Board of Directors, president of N.C. Baptist Men, the N.C. Baptist Men’s disaster relief team and trustee for Gardner-Webb University. Raiford loved Concord and was involved in many community service projects including sponsorship for youth sports teams, the Red Cross advisory board, Citizens National Bank/First Charter Board of Directors, N.C. Boy Scout council member and the Cabarrus County Democrat Party vice chairman. Troutman was honored with many awards for his unselfish service including the Governor’s Award of the Order of the Longleaf Pine. He was named one of “The Most Influential People in the Last 100 Years.” He was presented a “Key to the City” in 2017, and Wingate University recently dedicated the Troutman Baseball Clubhouse to Raiford and Margene.

**C.J. Bordeaux**

The Rev. Dr. C.J. Bordeaux Sr., 64, of Rockingham, N.C., went to be with his Lord and Savior on April 25, 2018, at Moore Regional Medical Center. Bordeaux is survived by his loving wife Donna Davis Bordeaux; his children: Jeremy Dollar and Jackson Bordeaux II; his grandchildren: Conley Bordeaux III, Miss Chloe Ann Bordeaux; a very special daughter-in-law, Melissa Bordeaux (Yow); his brother: Daryl Bordeaux, and his wife, Terri; and two nieces: Rebecca Bordeaux and Leah Bryant. He was predeceased by his mother and father, James Garland Bordeaux and Pauline Bordeaux. Bordeaux was a graduate of Campbell University and a U.S. Army veteran, serving in Germany as a military policeman. After leaving the military, Bordeaux felt the Lord’s call to serve as a pastor. Over many years, Bordeaux served as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and also served on the Executive Committee for the Southern Baptist Convention. He later left the pastorate to serve as the director of missions for Richmond and Scotland counties. Bordeaux was a man of integrity with a devout love for his Lord. He also held a special place in his heart for the local small church. His passion for serving Christ was felt by many and was a true testament to his character. Bordeaux always sought direction from the Bible. Whether it was popular or not, he stood on the inerrant and infallible Word of God as his direction.
IN MEMORIAM

Robert Lee Anderson  Troy
C.J. Bordeaux  Rockingham
Larry Preston Bostian  Huntersville
Fred Thurston Bowman  Thomasville
Elmer Junior Caldwell  Waynesville
Robert Cantwell  Lincolnton
Donald Rudolph Coley  Elizabethtown
Clarence Millard Crumpler  Raleigh
Otis James Goins  Albemarle
William “Billy” Graham  Montreat
David John Hesselgrave  Rockford, Ill.
Marvin A. Honeycutt  Concord
Donald Ray Hughes  Wilmington
Baxter Joseph Leigh  Lumberton
Sandra Mae Phillips Pollard  Winston-Salem
Jerry Potter  Supply
John C. “Johnny” Sasser  Dudley
Sylvia Pollard Simpson  Tarboro
Mary Jo Bumgarner Starnes  Waynesville
Bobby Raymond Tharrington  Louisburg
George Raiford Troutman  Concord
JoAnn Smith Walton  Morton, Miss.
George Duane Wilmore  Hertford
Greg Charles Wood  Arden

2018 Committee on Resolutions and Memorials
Jonathan Blaylock, chair, Canton
Calvin Bobo, Andrews
Everett Coates, Clayton
Buddy Cutshaw, Indian Trail
Kris Estep, Waynesville
Kenny Gooden, Yadkinville
Aime Kidimbu, Raleigh
Jared Parks, Statesville
Zachary Williams, Waynesville
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 2018 historical writing competition is “Carpenters for Christ: A Personal Reflection of How God Has Worked Through the Wheelchair Ramp Ministry.” The author, Bert Alabaster, will receive an award during the Monday evening session of the convention.

The Historical Committee is also pleased to offer a trip to tour the Wake Forest University Baptist Collection this year on Monday afternoon. The N.C. Baptist Historical Collection contains materials on Southern Baptist, Missionary Baptist, Primitive Baptist, African-American Baptist, Union Baptist, and Alliance of Baptist churches, including:

- More than 16,000 books, periodicals, association annuals and other printed materials.
- Church records.
- Association minutes.
- Church vertical files.
- More than 1,000 biographical folders containing information on and photographs of Baptist pastors and Wake Forest alumni.

The North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection’s church records collection is comprised of original records (some dating back to the 1700s), photocopies of records and microfilmed records. They have digitized the paper finding aids and lists to assist researchers interested in Baptist church records. You can search by church name, association or county.

Dale Robertson, Chair

2018 Historical Committee Members

Dale Robertson, chair, Salisbury
Chris Furl, Marble
Brent Highfil, Clayton
Ralph Justice, Raleigh
Peter McDonald, Columbus
Howard McNeil, Seagrove

Allan Murray, Lake Toxaway
Brandon Powell, Wendell
Billy Rice, Albemarle
Tim Sydnor, Cary
Amy Whitfield, Wake Forest