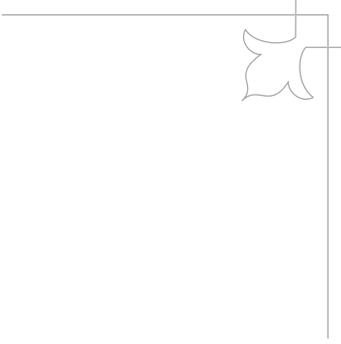
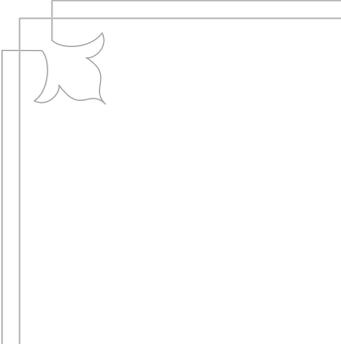


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**GREAT**

WORK

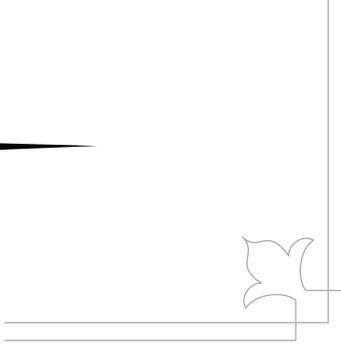
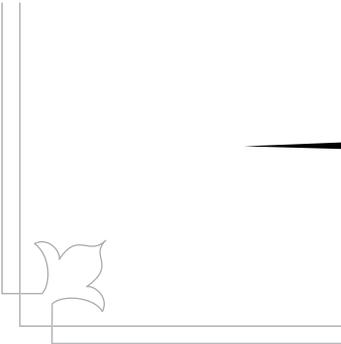
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— GOD'S —  
**GREAT**

— WORK —



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# WELCOME



**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TREASURER**

**Welcome to the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. I am delighted that you have joined us here in Greensboro this year to celebrate “God’s Great Work,” which is the theme of this year’s meeting.**

As we gather for the 189th Annual Meeting in our state convention’s history, we rejoice over how God has worked in and through North Carolina Baptists to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. By focusing on these two aspects of “God’s Great Work,” I pray that as we unite together we would be encouraged, challenged and equipped to love God, love others and make disciples.

We have a full agenda this year that includes some special activities. Monday evening’s opening session will feature a church planting commissioning service that will celebrate how God is working all across our state through church planting. During this service, we’ll also hear a sermon from our state convention President Steve Scoggins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville.

Tuesday morning and afternoon will include a variety of ministry reports and business items. Some of the highlights will include hearing an update on the “Impacting Lostness through Disciple-making” strategy, approving a Cooperative Program budget for the coming year, electing state convention officers and more. Several ministries will also share reports throughout the day on Tuesday. You can read more about the information contained in these reports, as well as read reports from other ministries, throughout this publication and on the N.C. Baptist mobile app.

On Tuesday night, we’ll gather for a special worship service related to the “Who’s Your One?” evangelistic initiative that’s been taking place across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) this past year. I’m delighted that Dr. Ronnie Floyd, the new president and CEO of the SBC executive committee, will be with us during this service to challenge and inspire us with a message from God’s Word related to reaching those who are spiritually lost around us with the life changing message of the gospel.

Also be sure to check out the exhibit hall and take the time to attend one or more of the many breakout sessions that will be offered at different times throughout the meeting. I am looking forward to the times of worship, preaching, presentations, fellowship and more that we will experience together here in Greensboro. I pray that God would speak to us in fresh ways while we are gathered together. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel, and thank you for all you do as North Carolina Baptists to celebrate and advance “God’s Great Work” in our state, nation and world.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milton A. Hollifield Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Milton A. Hollifield Jr.**  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## — REPORT —



**MELANIE WALLACE**  
**PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors 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 its actions and recommendations to the board and the convention. The Executive Committee met six times since September 2018. 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.

This report includes actions taken by the board and Executive Committee since the conclusion of the September 2018 board meeting.

**The Board of Directors elected the following officers for 2019:**

President: *Clay Smith* (resigned July 16, 2019).  
Vice President: *Melanie Wallace*.  
Board Secretary: *Kathy Bennett*.

**The Board of Directors elected the following at-large members to serve on the Executive Committee for 2019:**

*Noah Crowe, Troy Grant, James Harrington and Keith Stephenson*.

**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: *James Harrington* (2022 term), Fellowship Baptist Church, Moyock.  
Non-board: *Rit Variale* (2022 term), Elizabeth Baptist Church, Shelby.  
*Donald Goforth* was appointed as chairperson.

**Budget Special Committee**

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

Board: *Rick Speas* (2022 term), Old Town Baptist Church, Winston-Salem.  
Non-board: *Curtis Hughes* (2022 term), First Baptist Church, Matthews.  
*Rick Speas* was appointed as chairperson.

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

*Lee Davis* (2019 term), Mebane Bible Church, Mebane.  
*Matthias "Matty" Ponce-de-Leon* (2022 term), Arlington First, Arlington.

**Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee:**

Three members of the Executive Committee: *Noah Crowe*, chairperson, *Tracy Smith, Keith Stephenson*.

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

*Ben Francis* (2022 term), Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia.  
*Delores Thomas* (2022 term), representing the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina.

**Committee on Nominations**

Six new members of the Committee on Nominations were nominated by convention officers Steve Scoggins, president; Micheal Pardue, first vice president; and Matt Ledbetter, second vice president. During the January 2019 meeting, the board elected these individuals to serve:

*David Duarte* (2021 term), associate pastor, Daystar Church, Greensboro.  
*Robin Fisher* (2021 term), pastor, Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, Rocky Mount.  
*Amy Harrison* (2021 term), lay person, Trinity Baptist Church, Mooresville.  
*Pao Ly* (2021 term), pastor, First Hmong Baptist Church, Morganton.  
*Dustin Mace* (2021 term), pastor, Blackburn Baptist Church, Hickory.  
*Gene Roberts* (2021 term), pastor, Newfound Baptist Church, Leicester.  
*Robin Fisher* was elected as chairperson.

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 2020 were elected at the September 2019 Board of Directors meeting. Four at-large members of the Executive Committee will be elected in January.

**The Board of Directors elected the following officers for 2020:**

President: *Melanie Wallace.*

Vice President: *Matt Capps.*

Board Secretary: *Kathy Bennett.*

**The Board of Directors committees and special committees elected the following chairpersons for 2020:**

Business Services Special Committee: *Timmy Blair.*

Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee:  
*Bob Jordan.*

Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee:  
*Al James.*

Communications Committee: *Jon Morris.*

Convention Relations Special Committee: *Keith Stephenson.*

Evangelism and Discipleship Committee: *Tracy Smith.*

**The Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee to fill the 2023 terms on the Fruitland Board representing the:**

Convention Board of Directors: *Anton Roos*, pastor, Lake Lure Baptist Church, Lake Lure.

Alumni: *Perry Brindley*, member, Pole Creek Baptist Church, Candler.

At-large: *Ken Jones*, interim pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Jefferson.

**“Impacting Lostness through Disciple-making” Strategy Update:**

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

Hollifield’s report to the board in January 2019 said a significant task in 2019 would involve evaluating the state convention’s strategy of “impacting lostness through disciple-making.” The strategy evaluation included electronic surveys, personal interviews and a series of public forums to be held across the state.

During the September 2019 meeting of the board, Hollifield recognized Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer, to present the results of the strategy evaluation process. In his presentation, Davis presented the following:

**General Observations Regarding the Survey**

1. Overall, the survey responses were generally positive; 70% of the evaluation questions received a response of “Agree” to “Strongly Agree.”
2. There is an understanding of the key terms utilized in the strategy.
3. There is a disconnect between understanding the strategy and engaging in the strategy.
4. Participants are grasping disciple-making language and the imperative of the Great Commission, but they are less confident in the disciple-making results within their ministries.
5. There is a realistic view of the convention’s effectiveness in the implementation of the strategy.
6. Due to the limited scope of the survey, the data can inform the board and our staff. However, the survey data should not be used to make organization-wide changes to the strategy.
7. Caution – care should be taken not to use data to pit any one group against another.
8. In light of the caution above, there are some shades of difference in the responses between each group. While there is value in asking “why” questions, the search for an explanation will require more research as the data from the survey is too limited to make broad conclusions.
9. The data from the survey, combined with the feedback gathered in the public forums and personal interviews, provides a measure of valuable information for staff as we consider the clarification and expansion of the current strategy. As noted above, these combined data points may be informational but not necessarily directional in their application.

10. The convention should continue to move forward with the current strategy because participants have a positive view of the strategy.

### General Observations Regarding the Public Forums

The participation at the public forums cannot be considered robust, or representative of broader convention sentiment, as only 36 individuals representing 16 churches participated; but we dare not discount the feedback provided from those N.C. Baptists that chose to participate.

We value the time participants gave to the public forums and respect the perspectives shared through the participants' interaction with the seven questions presented at each forum. Some of the responses spoke directly to the question, whether the comments be negative or positive, and those comments are greatly valued.

### General Observations Regarding the Personal Interviews

Davis conducted interviews with the 10 associational mission strategists located in the eight population centers where the top 100 pockets of lostness are located. While not all of the feedback provided was positive, all of the feedback provided was constructive. There remains much work to do to facilitate strong relationships, clear communication and strategic engagement of associations in the convention's effort to assist the churches to impact lostness through disciple-making.

### Next Steps

1. The board is encouraged to affirm the progress made thus far in the strategy, specifically in the areas of communication and education. However, the board is challenged to acknowledge that the strategy is far from full implementation and is encouraged to support the continuation of the strategy for the next five years.
2. The board is encouraged to use its voice to call North Carolina Baptists to utilize the numerous resources of the convention to assist the churches in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, which is the focus of the strategy.
3. The board is encouraged to work through its Budget Special Committee to prioritize proposed budget allocations that fund as fully as possible the strategic efforts necessary to assist the churches in their disciple-making efforts, thereby fulfilling the Great Commission.
4. Utilizing their analysis of the survey data, the convention staff is working to identify the following:
  - a. Individually – each staff member is identifying the “one thing” he or she will start doing or stop doing to better assist the churches in the church's fulfillment of the Great Commission as outlined in the strategy.
  - b. Collectively – staff teams are identifying their “one thing” its members will start doing or stop doing to better assist the churches in the church's fulfillment of the Great Commission as outlined in the strategy.

- c. Collaboratively – staff groups are identifying their “one thing” its members will start doing or stop doing to better assist the churches in the church's fulfillment of the Great Commission as outlined in the strategy.
- d. Corporately, the Board of Directors, and its staff (i.e., convention staff), are called upon to clarify that the strategy is the effort of the convention (its board, committees, staff, et al.) to assist the churches in the church's fulfillment of the Great Commission in order that the churches might more effectively impact lostness through disciple-making.

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

#### Articles and Bylaws Special Committee

In July 2019, the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee presented to the Executive Committee proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for consideration. Following approval by the Executive Committee, the amendments were presented in September 2019 to the Board of Directors. The board approved the proposed bylaw changes for the messengers to consider at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The amendments were condensed into two motions for consideration. The two proposed amendments, along with supporting rationale, can be found in the special edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, made available to the messengers in their messenger packet.

#### Budget Special Committee

The Board of Directors:

- Adopted the 2020 Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$30.5 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the budget for consideration to the convention at the 2019 Annual Meeting.
- Adopted the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) goal of \$2.1 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and presents the following 2020 allocations for consideration to the convention at its 2019 Annual Meeting:

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

- Adopted that any amount received over the budget for 2020 will be dispersed with 50% to go to the Southern Baptist Convention, 25% to North Carolina institutions and agencies, and 25% to the convention ministry groups

and presents this recommendation for consideration to the convention at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:

- Approved the 2020 Cooperative Program budget of \$30.5 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.
- Approved that any amount received over the budget for 2020 will be dispersed with 50% to go to the Southern Baptist Convention, 25% to North Carolina institutions and agencies, and 25% to the convention ministry groups.

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

The Board of Directors:

Authorized the construction of two new cottages at Fort Caswell using existing funds from the Caswell reserve and Caswell fund balance not to exceed \$1.7 million and authorized Fort Caswell Director Brian Hemphill to sign the necessary contracts related to the construction project with the approval of John Butler, executive leader for Business Services.

### **Business Matters**

The Board of Directors:

- Approved the Executive Committee to develop a policy that would permit the removal of a board member if circumstances warranted such a decision.
- Accepted the proposed bylaw changes and recommended the changes to the messengers for their approval at the annual meeting in November.
- Affirmed the five next steps shared from the strategy evaluation report by Brian Davis at the September Board of Directors meeting.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:

- Approved Heath Lloyd to serve on the Committee on Nominations due to the resignation of Ben Curfman.
- Endorsed the “SBC State Conventions: Statement of Principles on Abuse” which includes three overarching principles to help “churches and ministries in our states to become safe for survivors and safe from abuse.” The three principles are:
  - To educate affiliate churches and ministries to understand abuse.
  - To equip churches and ministries to care for abuse survivors.
  - To support churches and ministries to prepare to prevent abuse.

- Assigned to the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee the task of drafting proposed amendments to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s bylaws as well as an accompanying policy that would allow for the removal of individuals serving in leadership positions with the state convention due to a moral failure.
- Accepted the proposed bylaw changes and recommended to the Board of Directors the approval of the proposed amendments in order that the messengers to the annual meeting in November may consider these amendments.

### **Financial Matters**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:

- Approved a 1% of annual salary year-end gift for convention staff in November 2018. Funds for this gift were generated from interest income.
- Approved merit bonus gifts for a limited number of convention staff. These bonuses were given at the executive director-treasurer’s discretion, in consultation with the executive leaders, for outstanding performance in 2018. Funding for these bonuses also came from interest income.
- Approved the transfer of \$250,000 to the North Carolina Baptist Scholarship Fund at the North Carolina Baptist Foundation for 2019.

### **Personnel Matters**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:

- Gave approval for John Butler, executive leader for Business Services, to approve the 2019 housing allowance requests for the convention’s ordained staff.
- Approved one policy update to the 2019 convention employee handbook: Pregnancy and Childbirth as it relates to Short-Term Disability (Policy No. 145).
- Approved the hiring of Mike Pittman to be the Church Planting Team Leader for the convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Melanie Wallace, President*

*Kathy Bennett, Secretary*



2020

# COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MISSIONS BUDGET

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES (SBC)

**\$12,810,000 (42.0%)**

	2019	2020
International Mission Board	\$6,485,247	\$6,457,521
North American Mission Board	\$2,931,933	\$2,919,399
SBC Seminaries	\$2,850,884	\$2,838,696
Other Ministries & Administration	\$596,936	\$594,384

## NC MINISTRIES

**\$12,505,000 (41.0%)**

	2019	2020
Convention and Board Operations	\$2,709,800	\$2,694,800
Convention Ministry Groups		
Administration & Convention Relations	\$3,310,200	\$3,274,150
Business Services	\$1,470,000	\$1,450,000
Church Planting & Mission Partnerships	\$2,700,000	\$2,522,040
Evangelism & Discipleship	\$2,575,000	\$2,564,010
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,055,200</b>	<b>\$9,810,200</b>

**TOTAL \$30,500,000**

## INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES

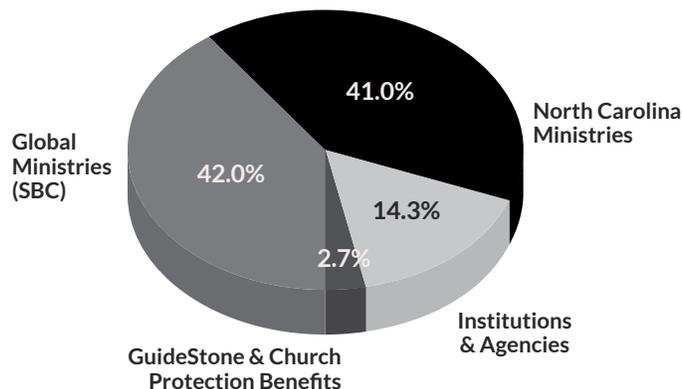
\$ 4,360,000 (14.3%)

	2019	2020
<b>Christian Social Services</b>		
Baptist Children's Homes of NC	\$1,695,000	\$1,655,000
Baptist Children's Homes, DDM Program	\$360,000	\$340,000
NC Baptist Aging Ministries	\$760,000	\$720,000
NC Baptist Hospitals (Faith Health Division)	\$510,000	\$490,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,325,000</b>	<b>\$3,205,000</b>
<b>Agencies</b>		
The Biblical Recorder	\$425,000	\$375,000
North Carolina Baptist Foundation	\$45,000	\$80,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$470,000</b>	<b>\$455,000</b>
Fruitland Baptist Bible College	\$725,000	\$700,000

## GUIDESTONE & CHURCH PROTECTION BENEFITS

\$825,000 (2.7%)

	2019	2020
Retirement and Protection Benefits For NC Baptist Church Staff	\$825,000	\$800,000
Ministers' Emergency Reserve	\$25,000	\$25,000



# IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH DISCIPLE-MAKING

## — STRATEGY —

### OUR VISION

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

### OUR MISSION

“To assist the churches in their divinely appointed mission.”

### OUR CORE VALUES

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

The 7 Pillars are:

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

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

### STRATEGY STATEMENT

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

### Explanation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Convention will assist Legacy churches as they consider their investment in assisting church plants to target

unreached people and in assessing options including church re-starting, church revitalization and church multiplication. Legacy churches are strategic partners in their prayer support, volunteering, worship space and providing financial assistance, all critical components to a church plant effectively impacting lostness.

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

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

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

Research conducted by the Intercultural Institute for Contextual Ministry has identified the top 100 areas of lostness in North Carolina. Of these 100, the Convention has found that 97 are located within the top eight population centers of the state. Population centers include the cities and surrounding areas of Charlotte, the Research Triangle (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill), the Triad (Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point), Fayetteville, Wilmington, Hickory, Blue Ridge (Asheville) and Greenville. The population in North Carolina increased 18.46% from 2000 to 2010. During this same period, the population in these eight areas increased by 22.33% comprising nearly 75% of the population of the state.<sup>3</sup>

The Convention must collaborate with local leadership to develop a strategy for a population center and seek to foster and instill local ownership of the initiative. All leaders involved in each population center must be heard and valued. In addition, the roles of all partners must be clearly defined. Success will have been achieved when the existing area churches and new church plants partner in the execution of

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

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

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 <sup>4</sup>
- Annual Church Profile data for existing churches within the focus area
- “Operation Reach” <sup>5</sup>
- Field discovery
- Community perceptions
- Identify gaps in understanding (using discovery questions) and determine sources of needed information.
- Identify and test assumptions, and adapt the approach as needed.
- Assess current strengths and needs of existing churches and associations within the population center area.
- Engage existing churches in reaching the lost within the population center area through:
  - Prayer for the lost and laborers to reach the lost
  - “Discovery” of the lost
  - Ministry revitalization of evangelism/disciple-making to reach the lost
  - Commitment to intentionally present the gospel in word and deed
  - Commitment to partnership with others in reaching the lost
- Institute regional concerts of prayer.
- Initiate communication plans to all constituencies including:
  - “Discoveries” to date
  - Partners involved
  - Invitation to potential partners
  - Identification of resource needs
  - Request prayer for the population center

### Develop

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

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

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

- Ascertain required resources for each strategy and identify potential sources.
- Sequence strategies and assign responsibility for execution.
- Continue prayer initiatives and efforts toward networking population center pastors and churches.
- Continue with communication plans to all constituencies:
  - Strategies to be employed
  - Additional “discovery” updates
  - Updates on partners
  - Continued invitation to potential partners
  - Updated list of needed resources
  - Request prayer for the harvest in the population center

### Deliver

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

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

### Conclusion

The mission of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is to “assist the churches in their divinely appointed mission.” Utilizing this strategy, it is the prayerful expectation that, “By God’s grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

### GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**People group:** The largest group through which the gospel can flow without encountering a significant barrier of understanding or acceptance. “People Groups” <http://peoplegroups.org/> Internet. Date Accessed: March 7, 2013. This understanding guides the work of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, please read, Orville Jenkins, “What is a People Group - Gospel Strategy” <http://public.imb.org/globalresearch/Pages/PeopleGroup.aspx> Internet. Date Accessed: March 8, 2013.

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ADMINISTRATION & CONVENTION RELATIONS

## — REPORT —



**BRIAN K. DAVIS**  
**ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-  
TREASURER**

**ADMINISTRATION AND CONVENTION RELATIONS fulfills a variety of responsibilities on behalf of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BCSNC) in service of the convention's churches.**

The Executive Director-Treasurer's Office (EDT), led by Milton A. Hollifield Jr., provides leadership and direction for the entire convention staff. It is the responsibility of the EDT to assist the BCSNC 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 all institutions and agencies of the convention. Specifically, the related entities of the convention are the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, the North Carolina Baptist Hospital, 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.

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 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSCNC) Communications Team serves the convention staff and ministry teams by creating resources and developing communications strategies that are clear, effective, creative, professional and Christ-honoring. The team creates and utilizes a variety of communications tools and tactics, which include print, online, electronic and digital resources involving editorial content, graphic design and videography.

All of the team's efforts align with the BSCNC's mission to "assist the churches in their divinely appointed mission" and strategy to "impact lostness through disciple-making." Following is an overview of some of the team's significant ministry accomplishments and milestones from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

### Communications Survey Results

Results of the N.C. Baptist communications survey conducted last year were presented to the board of directors at its September 2018 meeting. The Communications Committee of the board worked with convention staff to develop the survey that sought to evaluate the convention's current communications efforts and make strategic decisions for the future.

The survey was open to all N.C. Baptists for six weeks from April 2 to May 18, 2018. Respondents had the option of taking the survey online or submitting it by mail. A printed copy of the survey was mailed to every N.C. Baptist church. The survey was promoted through the convention website, social media, email, as well as the *Biblical Recorder's* print edition, electronic edition and social media account.

A total of 759 individuals completed the survey, with 420 (55.3 percent) completing it online and 339 (44.7 percent) completing it by mail. Responses came from 93 of North Carolina's 100 counties. Approximately 72 percent of respondents were male, 28 percent were female and 79 percent indicated that they currently serve in a ministry role. More than half of respondents (58 percent) said they have been accessing convention content for 10 years or more.

The survey included questions related to how familiar respondents were with the convention's mission and strategy. Among all respondents, 92 percent ranked the convention as fulfilling its mission of "assisting the churches in their divinely appointed mission" somewhat to extremely well. Additionally, 75 percent indicated they were either somewhat to extremely familiar with the convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making."

The convention's last widespread communications survey was conducted in 2010. Since much has changed in the way news and information is disseminated and consumed since that time, the survey explored how people are currently receiving and utilizing convention content and how they would prefer to receive and utilize content in the future.

Survey results seemed to indicate a preference for digital and electronic communication. However, a significant number of respondents indicated that they either currently receive or would prefer to receive information and resources through print and other means. The convention is using this data to inform how it produces and delivers content and resources.

Additionally, the survey asked respondents to rank which topics they would like to see the convention address through its content and resources. Respondents could choose from a number of categories, but the following topics ranked as the top five: discipleship/Christian living; missions; evangelism; church revitalization; and prayer. Based on this data, the Communications Team has been working with BSCNC ministry teams to develop content and resources in these and other areas.

While the survey provided useful data for insight and analysis, convention leaders are also using the data to explore additional items. For example, the survey data indicated that a large majority of respondents were individuals who are already familiar with the convention. We want to continue to explore ways that we can introduce new individuals to the work of the convention and engage younger leaders.

### Redesigned Website Launched

A redesign of the BSCNC website (*ncbaptist.org*) launched on Nov. 1, 2018. The new site features an updated design, improved navigation, and new resources and features aimed at giving users an enhanced online experience with an emphasis on accessibility and ease of use.

Some highlights of the new site include:

- Responsive design that optimizes the site for viewing on computers, tablets, smartphones and mobile devices.
- Reorganized site navigation that includes a streamlined and modern user interface.
- A new online classroom that offers free, high-quality training videos and resources.

### **Social Media Growth**

The Communications Team manages the BSCNC's primary social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with each platform showing an increase in followers during the past year. Facebook followers grew from 8,347 to 10,537, an increase of 26.2 percent. Twitter followers grew from 3,072 to 3,179, an increase of 3.5 percent. Instagram followers grew from 944 to 1,368, an increase of 44.9 percent. The Communications Team also provided social media training to convention ministry teams and to a local Baptist association. Follow the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the handle @ncbaptist.

### **Email Newsletters**

The Communications Team worked with four convention ministry teams to develop and launch new email newsletters in the past year. Ten BSCNC ministry teams distribute email newsletters on a regular basis which contain articles, resources, videos, event listings and more. In addition, the Communications Team distributes a monthly newsletter and an events email which highlight a variety of BSCNC missions and ministry activities, as well as training opportunities. Sign up to receive BSCNC news and information via email by visiting [ncbaptist.org/signup](http://ncbaptist.org/signup).

*Kathryn Carson, Team Leader*

*Trent Anthony, Team Leader Assistant*

### **COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

The Cooperative Program is the most effective tool to fulfill the Great Commission. We challenge Baptists across North Carolina to join in the effort to support the \$31 million budget approved by messengers to fuel missions and ministry in North Carolina and around the world.

After decades of faithful and fruitful service to Southern Baptists through the International Mission Board and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), Mike Creswell has retired. His work to promote generous giving to missions through the Cooperative Program has impacted countless lives for the gospel.

The work to promote the Cooperative Program has been assigned to the Communications Team within the Administration and Convention Relations group of the BSCNC. Will Taylor assumed this responsibility last year. Taylor works with churches that wish to join the Baptist state convention as member churches.

We celebrate that over the past 13 years, N.C. Baptists have given more to support Southern Baptist Convention missions through both the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong special offerings than any other state convention. In the years to come, we hope to encourage Baptists across North Carolina

to give generously to missions through the Cooperative Program in a way that is consistent with our core Baptist convictions – that God's people are to obey God's Word in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The "52 Sundays" resource is available to prayerfully inform your congregation about how the Cooperative Program is fueling missions and ministry around the world. For 2020, the "52 Sundays" resource will feature a wider breadth of ministry and missions efforts that are supported through the Cooperative Program. The 2019 resource is offered in English, Spanish and Korean, and it may be accessed at [ncbaptist.org/52sundays](http://ncbaptist.org/52sundays).

*Will Taylor, Cooperative Program and Communications Specialist*

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

The Information Technology/Information Systems (IT/IS) Team provides first-rate equipment, services and support to the convention staff so they will have the best technology to serve in their capacities of impacting lostness through disciple-making. The IT/IS Team works hard to keep systems and infrastructure running smoothly. We also provide desktops, laptops, cell phones and printers. Our infrastructure support includes network support, Wi-Fi, desktop phone service, email accounts and other services to provide security and convenience.

Ron Rasberry, our network administrator, has the primary assignment of all the infrastructure at the Baptist Building in Cary and keeps the infrastructure secure with software and hardware. He also works with other facilities like Camp Truett, Caraway Conference Center and Camp, Fort Caswell, Fruitland Baptist Bible College and some local Baptist associations to assist them in their effort to keep Wi-Fi and phone services running properly. All software and hardware must be updated, sometimes weekly, and Rasberry keeps those activities going as needed. Rasberry also manages internet and phone services, in addition to the cell phones that staff use in their ministries.

Russell Schwab, our systems administrator, has the primary assignment of the Annual Church Profile (ACP) process to keep the records of the convention and denomination up to date. This data is used to create mailing and email lists as well as valuable reports of what is going on in our organization. Every staff member who receives a laptop, desktop or software works with Schwab to configure the equipment for their ministry needs. He is also the IT/IS staff person responsible for the printers and copiers in the building as well as a support individual for the [MinistryMatchNC.org](http://MinistryMatchNC.org), formerly known as the Sharing System. This website gets a lot of traffic from churches searching for ministers and ministers searching for opportunities for service.

Lai Salmonson, our webmaster, oversees more than 32 websites and trains staff on how to manage web content. On Nov. 1, 2018, we helped the Communications Team launch the newly redesigned *ncbaptist.org*. This new site is responsive whether accessed by cell phone, tablet or desktop. Salmonson also keeps various websites up-to-date and secure. He also works to stay ahead of the technology curve by learning new software and operating systems. Salmonson also manages our online store software and the newly developed training site software to help the convention offer convenient training for its constituents.

The IT/IS Team serves the convention and assists churches in a variety of ways in their efforts in impacting lostness through disciple-making. It is our hope and prayer that we are helping others use technology for the good of the kingdom of God.

*John D. Jones, Team Leader*

## OFFICE OF PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

### Introduction

It is such a great joy to serve the Lord and North Carolina Baptists through the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening. The Office of Prayer exists to serve, resource and partner with N.C. Baptist congregations, associations, institutions and ministries in mobilizing prayer toward revival, spiritual awakening and impacting lostness through disciple-making. God is truly working in a heightened way in North Carolina and beyond by calling pastors, ministry leaders, associational leaders and individual believers to seek Him for an outpouring of God's manifest holy presence through revival and spiritual awakening. This is not pervasive, yet it is taking place gradually in certain churches, associations and areas all across our state. Below are some of the ways the Office of Prayer has sought to join the Lord and fan the flames of God's prayer activity over the past year.

### 'Awaken' Prayer Gathering

The 2019 "Awaken" Prayer Gathering was held at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church on March 8-9. Richard Owen Roberts, founder and president of International Awakening Ministries in Wheaton, Ill., was the keynote speaker on Friday night and Saturday morning. He also participated in a dialogue and prayer session with pastors, church staff and prayer leaders on Friday afternoon prior to the start of the prayer gathering. Steven Buys, campus pastor and prayer leader for The Lake Hills Church in Candler; David Cox, pastor of Beaver Island Baptist Church in Mayodan; and Jimmy Hammonds, pastor of Bethel Hill Baptist Church in Lumberton also shared prayer testimonies.

Saturday morning featured a "Broken Before the Throne" concert of prayer. Different prayer leaders, pastors and associational leaders from across the state read Scripture, facilitated directed prayer times and led in prayer. Prayer facilitators included: Bob Lowman of the Metrolina Baptist Association; Bud Parrish of New Bessemer Baptist Church; Michael Barrett of the Piedmont Baptist Association; Charlie Martin of Cornerstone Baptist Church; Robert Hefner of Pleasant Garden Baptist Church; and J. Chris Schofield, of the BSCNC Office of Prayer. The prayer gathering provided a ripe environment for God's Holy Spirit to speak and work in people's lives. Attendees came from all over North Carolina and other states like Virginia, South Carolina and Mississippi. The 2020 "Awaken" Prayer Gathering is scheduled for March 13-14 at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church.

### Pray for 30 Days

The "Pray for 30 Days" emphasis calls on North Carolina Baptists to unite in prayer for God to send revival and spiritual awakening to our state, nation and world during the month of October prior to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Annual Meeting in November. The 2018 theme was "Who is My Neighbor?" based on Luke 10:29. Every year a new devotional prayer guide with prayer prompts and videos is developed and made available online as a free download or for purchase for \$2 each. Participants can also register to receive daily prayer prompts by text messages (text pray30days to 313131) or by email during the October emphasis. Churches and individuals can access the resources related to each year's "Pray for 30 Days" emphasis by visiting [prayfor30days.org](http://prayfor30days.org) or [praync.org](http://praync.org). Since all the resources are not tied to a specific month or year, they can be used throughout the year to pray for 30 days toward revival and spiritual awakening.

### Local Prayer Events

Over the past year, local church and areawide prayer summits, revivals and gatherings were held in partnership with associations and churches all across North Carolina. The purpose of these gatherings was twofold — to seek the Lord for His mercy in revival and spiritual awakening and to foster an atmosphere where believers, pastors, ministry leaders, churches and associations would be challenged to unite in concerted prayer toward revival, spiritual awakening and the Great Commission. Some of these gatherings were held in conjunction with existing areawide emphases and prayer gatherings and often lasted from one to four days in length.

Churches and associations where these gatherings took place include: Midway Baptist Church; Mission Home Baptist Church; Ashe Baptist Association; Mountain View Baptist Church; Yadkin Baptist Association; Union Baptist Church; Brier Creek Baptist Association; Pilgrim Baptist Church; Brushy Mountain Baptist Association; Polk Baptist Association; Tarboro Baptist Church; South Roanoke Baptist Association;

Bethel Hill Baptist Church; Burnt Swamp Association; Mount Olive Baptist Church; Old Town Baptist Church; Pilot Mountain Baptist Association; Richland Creek Church; Raleigh Baptist Association; Dudley Shoals Baptist Church; Caldwell Baptist Association; Grace Baptist Church; Dan Valley Baptist Association; Brookdale Baptist Church; Fellowship Baptist Church; Sandy Creek Baptist Association; Sandy Run Baptist Association; Haywood Baptist Association; and various other churches and associations across the state.

### **Pastor Prayer Initiative Team**

A team of pastors and associational leaders meet on a regular basis to pray, plan and seek the Lord concerning prayer initiatives and ways to support the multiplication of pastor prayer efforts for revival and spiritual awakening across North Carolina. The Office of Prayer hosted and facilitated a prayer retreat at Fort Caswell for this group Feb. 11-12, 2019. The group is planning future gatherings for pastors, prayer leaders and associational leaders.

### **Prayer Vision Bus Tours**

The Office of Prayer partnered with the Strategic Focus Team to conduct prayer vision bus tours in the Metrolina Baptist Association and the Briar Creek Baptist Association in the spring of 2019. The prayer bus tours are designed to unite believers and ministry leaders together in prayer and to help believers, pastors, ministry leaders and churches to see lostness and the need for revival and spiritual awakening in their area from God's perspective. On the Briar Creek bus tour one seasoned pastor wept over the lostness in his area and said, "God has broken my heart and put it back together over the lostness while on the prayer bus tour." Another pastor also wept when he saw a church that had shut its doors and was for sale. For more information on future prayer bus tours, contact the Office of Prayer.

### **Prayer Weekends & Prayer Walking Training**

Throughout 2019, the Office of Prayer partnered with associations, churches and BSCNC ministries to provide kingdom-focused prayer weekends and prayer walking training. The sessions focused on biblical prayer training and efforts that mobilize believers to pray on-site and more effectively toward the mission and impacting lostness through disciple-making. Some locations where events were held include: Oak Hills Baptist Church; Liberty Baptist Association; North Brook Baptist Church; South Fork Baptist Association; Dudley Shoals Baptist Church; Caldwell Baptist Association; North Kannapolis Baptist Church; South Rowan Baptist Association; Grace Baptist Church; Dan Valley Baptist Association; Faith Baptist Church; and the Yates Baptist Association.

### **BSCNC Prayer Room & National Day of Prayer**

The on-site prayer room at the Baptist building in Cary is a place where intercession and personal or group prayer experiences

can take place. The prayer room is available for convention leaders, staff and various association and local church prayer teams or ministries for times of focused prayer. The prayer room is focused on kingdom prayer efforts, and Jeremiah 33:3 is displayed throughout the room in seven different languages. If your association or local church group is interested in visiting, touring or using the room for a season of prayer, call the Office of Prayer at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5513. The Office of Prayer also facilitates the National Day of Prayer gathering at the Baptist building each year on the first Thursday of May. The staff prays for revival and awakening in America. The 2019 theme was "Love One Another" based on John 13:34.

### **Prayer Resources**

Strategic prayer resources and other materials to assist believers in prayer for revival, spiritual awakening and the mission are available through the Office of Prayer. These include: the "Prayerwalking Made Simple" booklet, "Biblical Prayer Prompts for Revival and Spiritual Awakening," "Praying Toward His Passion," "Awaken Me, Oh God" and previous editions of the 30-day devotional prayer guides. These resources, along with downloadable PowerPoint presentations, training videos and other items, are available at [PrayNC.org](http://PrayNC.org) or by calling the Office of Prayer at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5513. Resources can also be ordered online at [store.ncbaptist.org/product-category/resources/prayer](http://store.ncbaptist.org/product-category/resources/prayer).

*J. Chris Schofield, Director, Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening*  
*Fatima Roma, Ministry Assistant*

### **STRATEGIC FOCUS TEAM**

The Strategic Focus Team assists churches in taking a missionary approach to North Carolina's pockets of lostness. In 2011, the Baptist State Convention commissioned a study to better understand the current state of lostness in North Carolina. This study found 250 small geographic areas scattered across the state where the lost population is growing unusually fast. We call these small geographic areas pockets of lostness. Many of these pockets cluster around the state's major cities like Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh, but most of these pockets dot the landscape of smaller cities and towns like Beaufort, Taylorsville and Sylva. The population in these pockets is growing, changing and filled with groups of people not easily attracted to our churches. Since few of these people will come to us, we must go to them.

That realization compelled messengers attending the 2013 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Annual Meeting to affirm the strategy adopted by the board of directors to assist local churches to impact lostness through disciple-making across North Carolina starting in the most concentrated

areas of lostness. Since 2014, strategy coordinators from the Strategic Focus Team have worked with local associations to help the churches take a missionary approach to these pockets of lostness. Each strategy coordinator primarily works in and around one of North Carolina's major population centers. The following reports offer a sample of their work, illustrate the importance of cooperation and give testimony to the enduring power of the gospel.

*Cris Alley, Team Leader*

*Kailyn Eskridge, Team Leader Assistant*

### **BLUE RIDGE**

The Blue Ridge population center is anchored in the greater Asheville area but has an impact that stretches from Murphy to Morganton, a four-hour drive from one end to the other. In this population center, there are 26 pockets of lostness in which the percentage of unchurched people is 70 percent or more. There are many groups of people that are unreached, contributing to such a high percentage of lostness. These groups include people from more than 20 different nations, as well as different economic levels and lifestyles.

Good progress has been made in penetrating at least 10 of these pockets of lostness. During the past year, there have been some major victories that have demonstrated significant progress in both revitalization and church planting. In collaboration with Sandy Marks, senior consultant for church health and revitalization, two cohorts of pastors have been established with a dual goal of church revitalization and aggressive planning and implementation of Great Commission strategies for evangelism and discipleship.

The Macon Baptist Association is home to pocket No. 215 in Franklin. Associational Mission Strategist (AMS) Gary Holland has been hosting a revitalization cohort of pastors led by Strategy Coordinator Steve Harris and Pastor Jonathan Blaylock. Together, they are working with pastors in and around that pocket of lostness to facilitate church revitalization and processes for evangelism and discipleship. Pastors are experiencing both personal and churchwide vitality, in addition to taking steps to initiate intentional Great Commission processes.

Pocket No. 234 in Tryon is located in the Polk Baptist Association. Phil Bailey, AMS for the Polk association, is also hosting a revitalization cohort that mirrors what is happening in the Macon association. The International Equestrian Center, which hosted the 2018 International Equestrian Federation (FEI) World Equestrian Games, has had a significant impact on the demographics of this area. The pastors are continually looking for ways to impact lostness through disciple-making with new residents moving to the area to take advantage of open land for horse farms.

Ron Greene, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Newland, has led the church to develop an intentional process of evangelism and discipleship, which is impacting lostness in pocket No. 218 in Avery County. Several churches in that area are adopting the "Four Fields" strategy — a disciple-making model often used by International Mission Board missionaries — of building multiplying disciples of Christ.

The Blue Ridge population center has also seen significant strides in successful church planting projects. A significant impact in the Bohemian population segment, located in pocket No. 174 near Black Mountain, has taken place through The Ridge Church, which is led by Pastor Trent Holbert. Instead of positioning for transfer growth, Holbert has been reaching out through relationships in evangelism and has seen more than 30 new believers baptized. His story was featured in the 2019 North Carolina Missions Offering video.

It is exciting to see the impact that a focused attention on pockets of lostness can bring to an area where people desperately need Jesus. Plans are being made to open up new revitalization cohorts and new church planting enterprises. Work in the Blue Ridge population center will continue to focus on church planting and church revitalization by helping them engage the lost through intentional disciple-making efforts in the area's pockets of lostness.

*Steve Harris, Blue Ridge Strategy Coordinator*

### **FAYETTEVILLE/SOUTH COASTAL**

The Fayetteville and South Coastal population centers cover the southeastern corner of North Carolina. This area stretches along I-95 from just south of Benson to the South Carolina state line, from Angier to Sunset Beach, from Robbins to Wilmington, from Rockingham to Surf City and everywhere in between. The Fayetteville population center includes 14 counties and 12 Baptist associations. With all the diversity across the region, one key fact remains consistent — almost 7 out of 10 people are lost. Here are a few highlights from across the area where churches are impacting lostness through disciple-making.

The New South River Baptist Association and the Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches each have started identifying local champions for the top 10 people groups in each area. These champions are working to build relationships within each people group through the partnerships and efforts of different believers from various churches. Additionally, every association across the area has been impacted by hurricanes Florence and Michael which has provided opportunities to serve and build gospel relationships.

In Harnett County, three church plants with vastly different stories have partnered with the Baptist state convention to

reach the population center in different ways. Spout Springs, an established church plant, is developing a ministry to engage those who lack resources in the greater Johnsonville area. The Lakes, a merged church plant, has a strategy of serving the community through the local schools and recreation activities around the town of Barbecue. The Point Church in Fort Bragg is a new church plant that is focusing on creating gospel community within the military community by building relationships in places like community clubhouses and local coffee shops.

In the Pee Dee Baptist Association, pastors from Faith, McDonald, Cartledge Creek and Freedom Baptist churches have formed a local cohort to focus on disciple-making. These pastors have been meeting regularly to develop and implement their disciple-making visions.

In the coming year a continued effort will focus on helping churches develop and implement a two-pronged strategy. The first involves engaging lostness by helping churches see how God is calling them to serve and build relationships in the community. The second involves creating a disciple-making culture that will focus on obedience to God's call to make disciples. The execution of these strategies will intertwine with each other into one fluid movement.

These are just a few of the stories of where God is at work across the region. But believers in the Fayetteville population center must not forget that only three out of 10 people living in this area have a personal relationship with God. Much more focus on impacting lostness through disciple-making is needed. The Great Commission calls all believers to be personal disciple-makers. With the great majority of those who live around each believer in this area lacking a relationship with God, there is a great opportunity to make disciples as churches apply the words of Jesus in their changing contexts: "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few'" (Matthew 9:37, HCSB).

*Michael 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 influences more than 20 eastern counties. Several major cities make up the landscape, including Greenville, Rocky Mount, Wilson and Goldsboro. Nearly 50 smaller cities and towns are also scattered throughout the region. In this area, we have identified 27 pockets of lostness, and the total number of unreached households in this population center is more than 93,000.

Additionally, the North Coastal population center covers the southeastern coastal region of North Carolina. It includes five

counties. The area is known for its sandy beaches, strong economic development and being the home to multiple military bases. Key cities in the region are Jacksonville, New Bern and Havelock. Eleven pockets of lostness have been identified in this region. This area includes more than 55,000 unreached households.

In pocket No. 240 located in the Tarboro area, Lamont Hemminger, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tarboro; Jordan Willard, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church; Scott Setzer, AMS for the South Roanoke Baptist Association; and the strategy coordinator formed a local strategy team to partner in reaching the pocket. They began by focusing on disciple-making and understanding their community. First Baptist Church Tarboro formed a partnership with the local elementary school and is continuing to follow-up from the summer's community outreach events. Pastor John Rosal recently translated G3, a simple discipling tool, into Spanish to help make disciples that make disciples in the Hispanic community. Also, the South Roanoke Baptist Association hosted a training event in pocket No. 240. One of the breakout sessions was "Understanding Your Neighborhood." This is a tool for peeling back the layers of a community, city, or pocket to provide clear and understandable pathways for ministry development, gospel engagement and making multiplying disciples in the various groups of people found in these areas.

Pocket No. 242 is located in a sparsely populated area in Halifax County just south of Roanoke Rapids. Bear Swamp, Turkey Branch, Antioch, Darlington, Community Center and Halifax are small historic churches, each with an average attendance of 22 people any given Sunday. However, each congregation is blessed to have a faithful bivocational or retired pastor. The pastors and their spouses have been meeting together quarterly since September of 2018 to find ways to build relationships, pray, encourage one another and work together. John Hamm, AMS for the North Roanoke Baptist Association said, "Individual churches have begun the process of prayer driving their local communities with the goal of praying for every household within the pocket. We are looking forward to the ways that the Lord will use this spirit of cooperation in the future."

The West Chowan Baptist Association is located in the Ahoskie area. Over the past year, West Chowan's AMS Terry Stockman has personally worked with approximately 15 of the pastors he serves. Together they have journeyed through the commands of Jesus in the Gospels in order to discover what a disciple of Jesus truly looks like and what Jesus meant when He said, "Go and make disciples." Terry said, "Those who are prioritizing disciple-making are seeing real generational growth in their ministries. Hopefully we have created a place of continued growth in the most important of responsibilities we believers have of making disciples!"

It is the hope that in each of the associations cohorts will form in every pocket with an intentional emphasis on disciple-making and pocket engagement that will lead to impacting lostness through disciple-making.

*Chuck Campbell, Greenville/North Coastal Strategy Coordinator*

## **METRO CHARLOTTE**

Advancement of the gospel in the lost pockets of Metro Charlotte faces many barriers, some resource-based, some systemic and some spiritual. These barriers often serve to harden people's hearts against the hope of Jesus or confirm their incorrect belief that salvation is all about heaven. The need for the good news of Christ is massive when you consider that:

- 11 of the top 12 pockets of lostness statewide are located within the Charlotte city limits, covering 28 percent of the city's geography and encompassing 43 percent of its population.
- Poverty and gentrification cause a loss of hope, often resulting in treatment of the poor as disposable.
- Racism continues to foster a false, but strongly-held belief that some human beings are superior to others.
- Growing religiosity lulls many into a posture of complacency. In Metro Charlotte 60 percent of the population identify as "Christian" but only 35 percent call themselves "active," which reflects an 11 percent drop in the past 10 years.

The work of eliminating pockets of lostness in the Metro Charlotte population center needs many prayers and partners. With both urban and rural settings, there are plenty of opportunities for any established church or church plant to include Metro Charlotte in an Acts 1:8 missions strategy. Any North Carolina Baptist congregation can join the efforts already underway in a pocket of lostness or pioneer new work in a pocket that is unengaged.

Engagement is well underway in pocket Nos. 2 (Charlotte Center City), 3 (Charlotte Eastway), 4 (Charlotte Independence Boulevard), 5 (Charlotte South Park), 6 (Charlotte North Davidson), 7 (Charlotte South Boulevard), 11 (Charlotte University City), 43 (Huntersville), 44 (Concord), 55 (Kannapolis), 103 (Monroe) and 184 (Albemarle). Regular contact with church leaders engaging these pockets helps them better understand the people that live in these pockets and discover ways in which Christians can meaningfully engage them with the gospel. Collaboration between congregations and sacrificial partnership are the next phases of engagement.

Building on relational consultations, pastors and churches are connecting with each other through intentional prayer and

planning for gospel impact. As champions and local strategists are identified, they take part in local strategy teams that are focused on lostness within a pocket. This disciple-making approach is currently used in the Metrolina, Union and Cabarrus Baptist associations. Bob Lowman, Eric Cook, the Rev. Jimmy Barrett and the Rev. Steve Davis have proven invaluable in keeping lostness as a central priority in these associations.

Helpful partnerships extend beyond Metro Charlotte to include the North American Mission Board (especially Mark Hobafcovich and Sam Dula) and various state convention ministries, including Baptists on Mission and the Church Planting, Collegiate Partnerships, and Evangelism and Discipleship teams. One of the best examples of collaboration is the new Charlotte think tank, a partnership driven by local priorities and opportunities as identified by local pastors and the Metrolina association with support by state convention specialists. The think tank's purpose is to identify and implement a general process for maximizing kingdom resources for gospel impact, particularly through the strategic use of underused church facilities.

Facing the aforementioned barriers requires prayer, strategy, contextualization, intentionality and missional determination. Disciple-makers 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 the resources made available through the state convention (like MissionInsite), working collaboratively with other congregations that are connected to lost pockets or on mission in other areas, and calling in the help of skilled specialists, strategies of engagement are being developed that will move toward eliminating the lost pockets of Metro Charlotte.

A collection of maps, articles, tools and more designed to inform prayer efforts and begin a pathway toward engaging lost pockets in Metro Charlotte is available at [ImpactCLTnc.org](http://ImpactCLTnc.org).

*Dan Collison, Metro Charlotte Strategy Coordinator*

## **TRIAD**

The Triad population center encompasses the metro areas of Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point, and extends to suburban and rural communities in Forsyth, Guilford, Rockingham, Surry, Stokes, Yadkin, Randolph, Davidson and Alleghany counties. Though this area is home to more than 500 North Carolina Baptist churches and many other evangelical congregations, the percentage of people who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in these areas is significant and rapidly growing.

The area is home to several college and university campuses, and has become home to refugees and immigrants from all over the world. Many of these represent some of the world's

most unreached people groups. Across the area, two of every three people are completely unchurched, and lostness is estimated at about 60 percent. In the 40 pockets of lostness in these counties, the percentage of lostness is significantly higher, registering at up to 70 percent or more in some pockets.

Pocket No. 159 in Mount Airy evokes nostalgic ideas of Mayberry and iconic small-town America. As church leaders in the Surry Baptist Association have become aware of the overwhelming degree of lostness in their community, many are taking action to advance the gospel. A prayerwalk consisting of 70 participants from eight churches led one pastor to realize that his church could make a gospel-impact by relocating their Vacation Bible School to the grounds of a local public school, which is situated near a large multifamily housing community.

Walnut Cove functions as a bedroom community for many who live and work in Winston-Salem and Greensboro. The area is also home to many who are poor, addicted, victims of domestic abuse or depressed to the point of hopelessness. Stokes County ranks high in the state and nation in suicide statistics. One church is seeking to develop a partnership with FaithHealthNC and CareNet , ministries of North Carolina Baptist Hospital, to launch a free mental health clinic in pocket No. 214 that would provide opportunities to build relationships that would lead to gospel conversations and disciple-making so that those who are hopeless can find everlasting hope in Jesus Christ.

In several of the pockets of lostness in the Triad that rank among the top 100 in the state, the population of documented Hispanic immigrants numbers almost one-third of all residents. In a few of these areas, undocumented immigrants are estimated to outnumber the documented immigrants by two-to-one. To reach this enormous and growing population, several Greensboro churches, in partnership with the Piedmont Baptist Association, have banded together to start and support a church planting movement that has already multiplied to several church campuses and home-based discipleship groups in pocket Nos. 22, 25 and 58. Plans are in place to multiply these groups into several other Triad pockets of lostness.

Immigration issues are a high priority in future plans for the Triad, as a collective of several churches has been formed to develop ministries such as English as a second language, citizenship classes and immigration clinics. Through these initiatives, the churches hope to catalyze relationships for sharing the gospel and making disciples.

In partnership with the Baptist state convention's Church Planting and Great Commission Partnerships teams, the Strategic Focus Team has assisted in training three cohorts

of Triad church leaders in missional strategies to engage unreached people groups and least-reached places with the gospel. Each of these leaders has been equipped not only to develop and implement contextualized disciple-making strategies, but also to multiply efforts by training and equipping leaders of other churches to do the same.

*Russ Reaves, Triad Strategy Coordinator*

## **TRIANGLE**

The Triangle region, which includes Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, exercises significant influence throughout North Carolina as a leader in government, education and technology. The area is fast-growing and diverse, with population density increasing and outlying towns becoming bedroom communities for those working in the Triangle. Of the top 250 pockets of lostness identified throughout North Carolina, 26 are located within the metropolitan area of the Triangle, with 20 more located in nearby towns. Following are a few testimonial highlights of God's faithfulness during the past year.

The Triangle strategy coordinator has continued casting vision to churches, encouraging outreach and disciple-making efforts, and working with a variety of partners to engage pockets of lostness. For example, in pocket No. 18 in Cary, the pastors of First Baptist Church of Cary, The Point Church, Harvest Church and Christ Family Church all have rallied their members and organized various trainings and prayer efforts. Some of these churches also have planted or supported churches to intentionally serve and reach Hispanics, Vietnamese, Congolese, South Asians and other internationals. Pocket No. 34 in Durham presents significant challenges due to the social ills accompanying the urban poverty of that area. However, God is working powerfully in and through Faith Baptist Church of Durham in outreach in this pocket and mobilizing other churches to work with them.

Efforts are underway to catalyze work in a number of other pockets. The strategy coordinator has been working with AMSs in the greater Triangle population center to help churches identify pockets of lostness near them. Good relationships have been established with Kelton Hinton (Johnston Baptist Association), Dougald MacLaurin (Tar River Baptist Association), Marty Childers (Yates Baptist Association), Roger Nix (Raleigh Baptist Association), Garry Gates (Mount Zion Baptist Association) and Eric Davidson (Sandy Creek Baptist Association). The strategy coordinator and AMSs have worked together with churches to understand the demographics of the pockets, look for points of engagement, and encourage church leaders to challenge and train their people to reach the lost. It is exciting to work collaboratively on these efforts, resulting in new work among 10 pockets over the past year.

In addition, the strategy coordinator collaborated with other state convention staff to form four missional strategy cohorts in the Triangle. These cohorts develop church leaders from various ethnic groups and from multiple churches. Participants concentrate on short-term and long-term 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 make strategic plans and set specific goals to engage pockets of lostness, new neighborhoods and unreached people groups. The cohorts have multiplied with participants now helping to lead new cohorts.

Much more is happening in the Triangle through faithful brothers and sisters working for God's glory. The strategy coordinator has close working relationships with the No Place Left network for multiplying disciples and planting churches, the Carolina Movement church planting network, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and various groups that minister to the needs of others, including refugees and the poor. The high degree of diversity in the Triangle gives the church the challenge and opportunity to engage people in many different ways to impact lostness through disciple-making.

*John Davenport, Triangle Strategy Coordinator*

#### **UNIFOUR**

The Unifour population center is situated in the western Piedmont area of North Carolina and includes cities and towns from Gastonia to Wilkesboro and Morganton to Statesville. Work in this area takes place in 12 different Baptist associations. The Unifour is home to more pockets of lostness than any other population center in North Carolina. Over the past year, work in the Unifour's pockets of lostness has accelerated.

Keith Hollar, AMS for the South Mountain Baptist Association; Duane Kuykendall, AMS for the Catawba Valley Baptist Association; and the Unifour strategy coordinator saw the need for a new Hispanic church plant in several pockets of lostness between Lincolnton and Hickory. They worked with several specialists from the state convention to discover options for a new Hispanic church plant. Convention specialists connected these men to a church planter from Cuba. This church planter and his wife, Miguel and Silvia Lopez, now live in the Newton area and partnered with several local churches. Miguel has planted three small Hispanic churches and opened a training center for potential church planters. This training center will allow them to multiply Hispanic church plants and reach more Hispanics living in the Unifour population center.

Pocket No. 121 is located in Lincolnton. Five churches from the South Fork Baptist Association continue to work with renewed intentionality to reach the residents living within this pocket. Churches have taken part in a Saturday prayer drive that helped them identify under-reached areas and groups of people. These churches now meet monthly to plan outreach and follow up. Outreach has included planning for a free community dinner, engaging an area of apartments and organizing a communitywide concert.

Pocket Nos. 84, 116 and 138 are located between Granite Falls and Lenoir. These three pockets are home to more than 10,000 lost people. Dale Fisher, AMS for the Caldwell Baptist Association, worked with the Unifour strategy coordinator and local church leaders to develop strategies to reach those living in these pockets of lostness. These plans included a special emphasis on prayer, evangelism training and special events to help churches meet their neighbors. Through these efforts, a 90-year-old man gave his life to Christ.

In March 2019, the Unifour strategy coordinator and his wife began to sense a call back to Africa, a place where they had served as International Mission Board missionaries years earlier. In June 2019, they were appointed as missionaries to Africa at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala. On June 19, the Baptist state convention announced that Chuck Campbell, strategy coordinator for the Greenville population center, would serve as the new Unifour strategy coordinator. Chuck began his work in the Unifour on July 15.

*John Gordy, Unifour Strategy Coordinator*

#### **HISPANIC**

Reaching the Hispanic population of North Carolina is one of the top priorities of the state convention. To accomplish this goal, a contextualized engagement process has been developed for the Hispanic pockets of lostness across the state. Potential partners for this process and specific geographical regions where the plan can be implemented are continuing to be explored.

Since Hispanic churches are geographically separated, it is important to talk in terms of regions and not just individual pockets. It is more efficient for the Hispanic strategy coordinator to assist the other strategy coordinators in each one of their respective regions to maximize impact and effectiveness. North Carolina Baptists will see the results of this regional approach in the strategy coordinator reports for their respective population centers. Because every geographic area is different and because the context and approach of each strategy coordinator is different, approaches to reaching the Hispanic population are also different in each region.

Finally, through partnerships with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Fruitland Baptist Bible College, Hispanic leaders are being trained across the state. Hispanic churches have a desperate need to develop biblically sound leaders and for those leaders to have access to higher education from accredited institutions in their native tongue.

### **On Immigration**

Considerable advances have been made in the state convention's immigrant ministry strategies among our churches across the state. The past year has witnessed an increase in knowledge and experience in immigration laws. The convention now has two accredited immigration representatives working in the state.

The convention has developed partnerships with key leaders and institutions such as the Council on Immigrants Relations in Raleigh, a nonprofit organization specifically aimed at helping legal immigrants to adjust their legal status. By partnering with local Baptist associations, regional immigration trainings are being provided across the state. Also, the convention, in partnership with the local Baptist association and local churches, opened an immigration center in Lincolnton on Jan. 27, 2019.

Numerous meetings have been held with key Hispanic leaders about immigration-related issues in eastern and western North Carolina. These events lasted between two and three hours and gave the participants, who were not just Hispanic, a better understanding of the convention's immigrant ministries strategies.

Multiple immigration conferences and several regional events are being planned for the coming year. These events will provide opportunities for churches to be informed about the need, options and possible responses to immigration issues in our communities.

*Amaury Santos, Hispanic Strategy Coordinator*

## **FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**

The purpose of Fruitland Baptist Bible College in its associate degree and certificate programs is to glorify God, serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission by developing Christian leaders who think biblically, communicate the gospel effectively, and serve in Christ's kingdom with Godly character, competence and commitment.

Based on this purpose statement, the curriculum is designed around the three practical areas of biblical studies, language and communication, and ministry. Fruitland seeks to develop the spiritual life of students in order to help them become

spiritual leaders in North Carolina and around the world.

Fruitland seeks to grow each student in biblical knowledge to prepare them for effective service in any ministry position or work atmosphere. Biblical studies are foundational in the program at Fruitland. An emphasis on the Bible is the only true foundation for practical ministry. Relating the whole Bible to the practical concerns of life and ministry is a major objective of each faculty member.

Fruitland graduates are faithfully ministering as leaders and servants in various 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 continues into the 21st century, the college's devotion to mentoring leaders in discipleship is unwavering. Our president, David Horton, is singularly committed to training young men and women to live the Great Commission. For the last 70 years, Fruitland has trained servants who spread the gospel around the world. Many opportunities for ministry are available to those God has called. Vocational ministry, bivocational ministry, or living as salt and light in a particular profession or job are all areas Fruitland helps equip students to serve.

Many men and women of all ages come to Fruitland for preparation 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 around the world. Law enforcement officers, business professionals, nurses, school teachers, and members of other vocations come to Fruitland for foundational studies in the Bible, language and communication, and service. These students are coming to Fruitland because the school has a reputation of teaching the Bible and helping train students in practical ministry in their communities.

Fruitland experienced an exciting year in 2019. Our students, administration, faculty and staff were involved in various events and ministry opportunities. Some of our students were involved in a mission trip to New York. While in New York, students distributed coats to those who needed them and presented the gospel. Students and staff also participated in mission trips to West Virginia.

At the end of December 2018 and the beginning of January 2019, President Horton led a group of students, professors, alumni and guests on a trip to Israel. The trip was a blessing to those who participated and was of great educational value to our students. Students were also able to share the gospel on the trip.

In May, Fruitland hosted the annual Founders Day celebration. Herb Revis and Don McCutcheon were the guest speakers. Many alumni and guests enjoyed this day of worship and preaching along with a wonderful meal in the cafeteria to end the day's festivities.

Steven Blanton, president of the Fruitland Baptist Bible College alumni association, along with the alumni association officers planned a wonderful alumni day celebration for Oct. 8, 2019. Mac Brunson and David Allen were scheduled to speak. The alumni association works hard to make our alumni day special each year.

Fruitland held two graduation ceremonies this past academic year, one in December and the other in June. A total of 39 students graduated. A significant number of these students are continuing their education in various colleges and universities throughout the United States. Some of our graduates are serving as youth leaders, pastors, and missionaries in North Carolina, across the United States and around the world.

Fruitland has placed a substantial number of students in local churches over the last year. These students are playing a significant role in the revitalization of these churches. Other students have participated in church plants in North Carolina and South Carolina. Some of our students are serving in local churches in western North Carolina as interns. We are thankful for churches that allow our students the opportunity to gain valuable ministry experience in the local church.

Scripture Awakening, a ministry that trains men and women to read through the Bible in 100 days and then trains them to train others to do the same, has offered our students a scholarship to work with them over the next year. Some of our students are already serving with Scripture Awakening as interns and are receiving a great blessing.

In 2019, Fruitland established a campus that will offer the associate degree for Montagnard people of Vietnam. The program is offered in the Vietnamese language. Our school is blessed to have the special opportunity to work with the various people groups which are in North Carolina. The Hispanic program is also growing. Fruitland is planning to offer an associate degree in Spanish along with the certificates already offered.

Fruitland hosted Baptists on Mission's Deep Impact camp in June 2019. Students from sixth through 12th grade participated in this weeklong camp. Many lives were changed through this wonderful ministry. The fruits of this special mission will continue to bless North Carolina and the world for many years to come.

Fruitland is committed to making theological education affordable for students. For approximately \$16,000, students can earn a two-year associate degree in religion/Christian ministries. This price includes meals, a dorm room and tuition. Fruitland looks forward to many more years of developing the spiritual life of students to help them become spiritual leaders in North Carolina and around the world.

*David Horton, President*

*Jim Kilby, President, Board of Directors*

## **CONVENTION AUXILIARY**

### **BAPTISTS ON MISSION / N.C. BAPTIST MEN (NCBM)**

Volunteers with Baptists on Mission, also known as N.C. Baptist Men (NCBM), serve in 18 ministries that include the following:

### **MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS**

God is changing lives through mission trips sponsored by Baptists on Mission in North Carolina through mission camps, Impact NC, disaster rebuilds, and more, and to places such as Pennsylvania, Hawaii, New England, the Rocky Mountain region, the Appalachian coalfields, Alaska, 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 started our Roma partnership in 2008 to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the Hungarian-speaking Roma (Gypsy) people in western Ukraine. The Roma, who originated in Northern India, are marginalized and persecuted people who have never had a place to call home. Large populations live in Eastern Europe remaining in a cycle of poverty and under intense discrimination.

Each year, 12-14 North Carolina Baptist teams have the opportunity to minister to the Roma during 10-day trips to Hungary, Romania or Ukraine. Teams serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in Roma churches and villages as they provide medical and dental clinics, evangelistic outreach, women's and men's ministry and children's programs.

Construction teams are helping to build much needed church buildings in Romania. A uniqueness to this partnership is the opportunity for teams to provide a weeklong day camp for children, from preschool through high school, in the public schools in Hungary using a provided gospel-centered curriculum. This opportunity opened up in 2012 as our partner organization, Hungarian Baptist Aid, began operating some of the public schools in poor areas of Hungary with

high populations of Roma children. The gospel message is integrated among six classes teaching the Bible, English, American culture, sports, crafts and music. Since 2014, North Carolina churches have partnered with these schools and hundreds of school children, along with principals and teachers, have heard the gospel message for the first time. Lives are being changed, and whole communities are being impacted by the gospel.

Alicia Jones is the on-site coordinator for the Roma partnership, and she lives in Nagyhalász, Hungary. She has become fluent in Hungarian and serves both the teams and our in-country partners. Jones is a missionary to the Roma in Hungary, Romania and Ukraine, and a liaison with Hungarian Baptist Aid, local Roma leadership and the administration of the 10 schools in which we serve.

### **DISASTER RELIEF**

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

**Lives are being changed:** In September 2018, Hurricane Florence slammed our state and impacted thousands of families. Since then, N.C. Baptists have provided more than 1 million hot meals and more than 50,000 volunteer days of labor to hurting people. The rebuilding from Hurricane Florence will last another three years. Our goal is to help 2,000 families get back in their homes and to do this in Jesus' name. People in great need are hearing and seeing the love of Christ, and many people are coming to commit or recommit their lives to Jesus. As N.C. Baptists, we are still serving hurting people in Puerto Rico and have already completed more than 260 roofs for those impacted by Hurricane Maria.

### **MEDICAL/DENTAL MISSIONS**

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

### **HEALTH SCREENING MINISTRY**

One of the newest ministries in which we are involved is health screening with a mobile health screening bus. This

ministry provides basic health screening, as well as spiritual assessments and counseling. We are seeking to reach a vast population which includes the uninsured, minorities, the elderly, migrant workers, rescue missions, and homeless shelters. Our hope is that by meeting a physical need, a spiritual door will be opened and the love of Jesus can be shared. Health screening tests offered on the unit include: Hemoglobin A1C for diabetes, finger stick glucose, Cholestech LDX for total cholesterol and HDL results, body mass index calculations, depression, and vital signs assessments. A new mobile health screening unit will be ready for use by the end of this year.

### **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 and parents with the opportunity to share the love of God with people in North Carolina. The children enjoy a great camp experience with a missions focus. Involving children in missions is a great beginning to developing students and adults who make disciples and have a love for missions.

### **OTHER MINISTRIES**

In addition to the ministries described above, other NCBM ministries 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, missions fair exhibits, volunteer suppers and more. The desired result is for participants to be spiritually renewed and 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 regions of our state. These meetings are

designed to challenge North Carolina Baptists across the state to greater missions involvement and to promote the September North Carolina Missions Offering. The rallies are open for all men, women and youth interested in missions.

### **BAPTISTS ON MISSION MAGAZINE**

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

### **MISSION CAMPS**

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

### **STAFF**

The NCBM staff is committed to helping North Carolina Baptist churches involve their members in missions. They are: Richard Brunson, executive director-treasurer; 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; Jack Frazier, consultant for disaster relief and mobilization; David and Janet Brown, Shelby Mission Camp coordinators; Larry and Teresa Osborne, Red Springs Mission Camp coordinators; Tracey Ford, events assistant; Kecia Morgan, financial assistant; Joanne Honeycutt, disaster relief assistant; Lynn Tharrington, executive assistant; Julie Dolinger, mobile dental ministry coordinator; Crystal Horton, health screening ministry coordinator; Dewey and Kathie Aiken, Appalachian coalfield field coordinator; Teresa Jones, Roma partnership coordinator; Bill Martin, Florence rebuild coordinator; and Rick Trexler, college missions contract worker.

Baptists on Mission/NCBM  
P.O. Box 1107  
Cary, NC 27512  
800.395.5102, ext. 5599  
*baptistsonmission.org*

*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.

We consider it our duty to draw attention to issues within our state that affect all of its citizens, especially when those issues relate to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's current strategy to impact lostness through disciple-making. We likewise seek to find a way for the gospel to motivate Christians to impact their communities and seek to change the climate of sinfulness in the area of public policy.

The CLPA committee's focus for 2018-2019 has been to keep a close watch on issues already discussed by the committee. The first is the need for immigration support within our state. We are celebrating the opening of the Immigrant Hospitality Center in Lincolnton and the possibility of opening more centers.

We have also kept a close watch on legislation signed into law on June 30, 2017 that seems to promote alcoholism by the repeal of beverage control. The law allows retail outlets and restaurants to start selling alcohol at 10 a.m. on Sundays instead of noon. We encourage each local church member to seek to understand the impact of this law on their community.

In addition, we are keeping an eye on issues of gender identity and how they affect our churches and faith-based organizations.

However, the primary issue we sought to engage over the past year is the opioid poisoning epidemic. Our first assignment was to understand the problem in our own community and its impact on our churches. The dramatic rise in synthetic drug use over the past three years suggests that the worst is yet to occur in our state. It seems that the prescription drug deaths have leveled off at the present time with the cooperation of the medical establishment.

However, nonprescription synthetic drugs are doing the most damage due to a lack of quality control in their manufacturing. Fentanyl seems to be the most-used synthetic drug at the present time and is often mixed with heroin. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reports that just two milligrams of fentanyl — equivalent to just a few individual grains of sand or table salt — is a lethal dose for most people. We are continually asking local church representatives to become aware of the problem and develop a way to help their congregations engage addicts and their families.

Our second assignment was to collect and share sermons with pastors across our state so they can offer a redemptive word from the Word about the issues of addiction. We have not only sought sermons from CLPA committee members, but also from pastors, Sunday School teachers and educators

throughout the state. We believe that proclaimers of the gospel need to creatively look at this issue and provide biblical support and guidance. We will have a website available to anyone who wants to scroll through our sermons and select those that best speak to their own congregation. We hope that many of you have participated in this project, and we plan to keep adding new sermons for some time into the future.

Our third assignment is to discover the resources in our local communities and surrounding areas. Most pastors are not aware of the available resources to which they can refer members of their congregation. We plan to have this information available and accessible online.

We are thankful for the support of the Baptist state convention and the *Biblical Recorder* in helping raise awareness of these sermons and resources. We count it a privilege to serve North Carolina Baptists and with North Carolina Baptists.

*Robert E. Jordan, Chair*

#### **CONVENTION RELATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

The Convention Relations Special Committee serves as a liaison between the Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) and specific institutions and agencies cooperating with the convention, which are also known as related entities.

In September 2018, the committee elected Chris Hughes as its new chairman and honored outgoing chairman Boyce Porter, who served the committee with great distinction for three years. The committee reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 convention budget, which included recommended cuts to each of the related entities, as well as state convention ministry groups. The committee voted to support the recommendation of the Budget Committee to make the cuts and increase funding to the Cooperative Program. The committee asked the chair to voice its support to the Budget Committee and asked the chair to request that once the Cooperative Program goals were met that the Budget Committee prayerfully consider reinstating full funding in the future, if possible.

The Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) experienced significant damage at several campuses as a result of Hurricane Florence. The committee joined BCH in expressing thanks to Baptists on Mission for helping reconstruct damaged buildings. In 2018-19, BCH served more than 100,000 children. There has been a significant increase in the need to find foster homes, and BCH is working diligently to engage Christian families to meet this need. BCH has developed a program to prepare families within convention churches to become foster homes.

The N.C. Baptist Foundation continues to make loans available to churches who meet their requirements. The foundation also seeks to find Baptists who will utilize the foundation's tools and resources in their personal financial planning. The foundation will celebrate its centennial anniversary in the coming year and is thankful for its 100-year partnership with the state convention.

North Carolina Baptist Hospital, now part of Wake Forest Baptist Health, is the home to FaithHealthNC. Churches and other community organizations partner through FaithHealthNC to address population health issues and pockets of health care disparity and bring the gospel to bear upon both. In response to the growing needs for mental health care across the state, the hospital has expanded its counseling services for North Carolina Baptist pastors through CareNet. The hospital continues to train a growing network of chaplains who are placed in hospitals across the state and beyond. The integrated faith program is being modeled by many hospitals across the nation.

The hospital is also planning its centennial celebration in two years. The centennial celebration of the foundation, noted above, and the hospital are directly connected. The convention's action to establish the hospital led N.C. Baptists to make financial gifts which necessitated the establishment of the foundation. Those early gifts to the foundation made the hospital a reality in just a few years time.

The *Biblical Recorder* continues to serve as a leading source of news among Baptists. In May, longtime editor Allan Blume retired and was honored by the committee. Seth Brown was named the *Recorder's* new editor of on June 1, 2019. The *Recorder* recently upgraded its software in order to offer better service through its current online news and frequent email updates to subscribers. The committee encourages all North Carolina Baptists to subscribe to both the *Biblical Recorder's* print and online editions, which provide relevant news highlighting the impact of the Cooperative Program.

*Chris Hughes, Chair*

## CONVENTION RELATED ENTITIES

### BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA

My heart is full. In fact, like the Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) heart, it's overflowing.

The joy I feel cannot help but spill over as I see the myriad of ministries that comprise the BCH heart. I've witnessed it grow fuller throughout the ministry's 133-year history. BCH was founded in the small community of Thomasville rising from a dream to establish an orphanage that North Carolina Baptists could call their own.

BCH's heart began to beat on Nov. 11, 1885, when 9-year-old Mary Presson became the first child to enter the orphanage's care. From there, the heartbeat only became stronger.

Today, we have grown to include ministries to special needs adults, aging adults, single mothers, college students and entire families. You don't have to look very hard to discover the reason why we provide ministry and outreach to people of every age. The answer is found at the center of the BCH heart —the cross.

Jesus' sacrifice on that rugged tree was a gift to us all, and it is our desire to see the gospel shared with everyone who turns to us in search of help and hope. After all, it is God's unconditional love that mends the most broken of hearts.

In 2018, BCH impacted more than 94,000 individuals. The needs of vulnerable children are greater than ever. The needs of our neighbors around us are greater than ever. The need to offer them the unfailing love of Christ is greater than ever.

We are Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. We are many ministries beating with one heart — the heartbeat of Jesus.

*Michael C. Blackwell, president/CEO*

**Note:** Help by encouraging your church to be a part of the 2019 Annual Offering this fall. Schedule a speaker to share the BCH story with your church. Call 336-474-1209 and visit [bchoffering.org](http://bchoffering.org).

#### **Ciara: A Life Changed**

"You learn how God wants a relationship with you. It's mind blowing." — *Ciara, accepted Jesus in October 2014*

Ciara never knew her birth father. Her mother was 16 years old when she moved to Tennessee where Ciara was born. She was strong and determined to care for Ciara and her younger sister.

"My sister and I felt loved," Ciara remembers. "I know she made bad choices, but it was the drug addiction that destroyed our mom and our family."

Their mother overdosed and died on July 3, 2013. In November, the girls came to Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Mills Home in Thomasville. BCH has locations in 21 North Carolina communities as well as an affiliate orphanage in Guatemala.

"Mom always placed a priority on our school work. We went to school and she had expectations that we do well," Ciara recalls. "And we did."

Ciara graduated high school in June. Out of 162 students, she was valedictorian.

"When I first arrived at Mills Home, I couldn't help but feel that I had done something wrong," she confides. "It took a while for me to realize that what had happened to me wasn't my fault. I began to understand that God had a plan for my life."

In October 2014, Ciara said, "It clicked." She had watched her Christian cottage parents. She had listened closely to Mills Home Baptist Church pastor Randy Stewart's words. She knew she wanted Jesus in her life.

"I'm part of that BCH statistic that says 80 percent of the children who come into care are unchurched," she says. "I went from attending church occasionally, to attending church every Sunday and Wednesday. There are cottage devotions."

Ciara began her freshman year at UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall. She plans to major in physics.

"I'm going to college," Ciara says. "It's weird and I'm a little scared. But I'm ready. My family at Mills Homes is there for me, encouraging me, giving me a place to call home. And I'm trusting God to guide my every step."

#### **Foster Care: Families and Churches Partnering with BCH**

The number 16,796 catches people's attention quickly. It is the number of N.C. children removed from their families in 2018 and placed in the foster care system.

It is why Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) is actively partnering with families and churches to meet the need through its growing family foster care ministry. BCH provides the training and vital support needed for a family to become a successful, licensed foster home or for a church wanting to be their own foster care ministry.

"It is an exciting step for us because we are partnering with families who have felt God's call to open their homes, and their hearts, to children desperate for hope," says BCH

president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell. “We are able to offer both our traditional cottage home care as well as family foster care. Both options allow us to better serve more children and ones we would not have been able to care for previously.”

BCH has trained 37 married couples, and 36 children are living in those licensed BCH family foster homes. A number of those families are members of North Carolina Baptist churches who have partnered with BCH and begun foster care ministries as part of their missions efforts.

Two of those churches, Providence Baptist Church in Harrisburg and Salem Baptist Church in Dobson, have couples in their congregations who have come forward and become foster families through BCH’s training and licensing process.

David Powell, senior pastor at Salem Baptist, sees the church’s role and commitment as a means of sharing the gospel with the children.

“This is a gospel opportunity as we show the children they are valued,” Powell said. “It is an applicable way the church can share God’s love with them.”

BCH Chief Operating Officer Keith Henry closely monitors the increasing needs and sees an overwhelmed state child welfare system.

“There’s not enough staff, resources and, most of all, safe placement options for the children in the system,” Henry said. “God is opening doors for BCH and North Carolina Baptists to serve children and families together in a way that no one else can.”

For more information, visit [bchfostercare.org](http://bchfostercare.org) or call 800-476-3669.

**North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry Outreach Increases**  
North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) launched eight new educational workshops, three new programs (disaster preparedness, Home Safe Home, and The Heart of the Caregiver), and added a third title to its CareAble curriculum – Servant Volunteers in Action.

The NCBAM call center experienced a 27 percent increase in calls and a 44 percent increase in needs met. Seventy hurricane-related calls were handled during hurricanes Florence and Michael. With \$10,000 from Fancy Finds proceeds, NCBAM helped 40 churches increase their ramp outreach during Rampin’ Up 2018.

Four senior adult leadership events and three Aging Well Conferences were held across the state. In addition, programming for Caswell and Caraway senior adult retreats

was expanded to address more issues relevant to health, safety and independence.

For more information, visit [ncbam.org](http://ncbam.org) or call 877-506-2226.

**Community Impact Increases Through Greater Vision**  
In 2017, the Tucker Greater Vision Outreach Ministry (GVOM) began making a difference across the state before the new ministry’s permanent location was even constructed. Many of the 9,393 lives helped in GVOM’s three months of operation experienced loss due to Hurricane Matthew.

Today, GVOM, whose purpose is to offer resources to N.C. families searching for support and stability, is fully operational at its Thomasville headquarters and has created a network of corporate and nonprofit partnerships to meet the variety of community needs.

In 2018, its first full year, GVOM impacted 64,040 lives through the following ways:

- 48,314 meals served.
- 14,471 pieces of clothing and 10 items of furniture distributed.
- 681 visits (pastors, nonprofits, community groups, etc.) made to increase awareness.
- 138 people received gifts for their children through GVOM volunteer efforts at Christmas Toy Store through Memorial United Methodist Church.
- 418 people reached through outreach events (Feeding at the Gazebo, MLK event, etc.).

To donate, volunteer or learn more about services, call 866-904-0060 or visit [bchfamily.org/greatervision](http://bchfamily.org/greatervision).

**BCH President Celebrates Milestones**  
Michael C. Blackwell, Baptist Children’s Homes’ (BCH) longest-tenured leader, was recognized for his 35 years of service in 2018. During the Family Gathering: Special Edition on June 19, a day of fellowship and worship uniting everyone from BCH’s statewide locations, Blackwell was recognized on stage by staff members. He received a custom piece of artwork depicting BCH’s many ministries that was specifically created in his honor.

Trustees hosted a celebration on Oct. 23, 2018, surprising him with the establishment of Blackwell Grove, a commitment by the board to plant 35 maturing legacy maple trees at BCH locations across the state.

At the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) on Nov. 5, Blackwell led approximately 150 children, adults and staff during BCH’s presentation, titled “One Heart,” to messengers. Applause

and praises filled the room as children and adults shared their stories of hope through testimony and song. Later, BSCNC Executive Director-Treasurer Milton Hollifield recognized Blackwell and his wife, Catherine. Hollifield presented Blackwell with a commemorative plaque and a bouquet of red roses to Catherine to celebrate her service as well as her birthday which was also that day.

For more information or to refer someone in need of the Baptist Children's Homes ministry, visit [bchfamily.org](http://bchfamily.org) or call 800-476-3669.

*Jerry Jordan, Chair, Board of Trustees*  
*Michael C. Blackwell, President*

## **BIBLICAL RECORDER**

News moves faster than ever. It is hard to know who you can trust. Trying to keep up can be exhausting. North Carolina Baptists need a reliable news source on their side. That's why the *Biblical Recorder* exists.

Our task is vital to the health of N.C. Baptist missions and ministries. We foster partnership and Cooperative Program support among our churches by providing reliable information. Journalism is our process, but our real product is trust.

The past year represented a season of transition for the *Biblical Recorder*. We celebrated the legacy of Allan Blume as he retired May 31. Blume had served as editor and president since 2011. With gratitude for the biblical commitment and Great Commission focus that Blume championed, we began to look toward the future and envision how our staff can continue to build on that foundation.

Like most traditional news outlets, we are facing significant cultural, technological and financial obstacles. Despite the challenges, our team is committed to pioneering creative strategies that will ensure churches in this state continue to be informed and inspired for years to come.

Our staffing structure has been retooled for efficiency and alignment with a digital-first content strategy. We are developing new ways of telling the same story – the wonderful tale of how N.C. Baptists are taking the gospel to their communities, state, nation and world.

The *Biblical Recorder's* print edition continues to be an essential part of what we do. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina conducted a survey last year to discover how pastors and churchgoers receive information. In the results, 72 percent of respondents said they currently get news about the state convention through the *Biblical Recorder's* print edition.

We are reimagining how traditional services like classified advertisements can serve N.C. Baptist churches in the best ways possible. Plus, our digital reach is expanding with new developments related to our website, [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org), and the addition of new social media tools that enable live video coverage of events.

Our goal is for all products – digital and print – to be the best they've ever been. We pray N.C. Baptists will continue to read, subscribe and support the work of the *Biblical Recorder* as we labor diligently to serve our churches for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Nate Jones, Chair, Board of Directors*  
*Seth Brown, Executive Editor*

## **N.C. BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

North Carolina Baptists felt the need to create the N.C. Baptist Foundation when a \$1,000 gift was made in 1919 to help with the establishment of North Carolina Baptist Hospital. These Baptist leaders also envisioned the potential for kingdom causes being supported in perpetuity by encouraging Christian estate planning and asking N.C. Baptists to leave legacy gifts to support ministries they had loved and supported throughout life.

Today their vision and actions have resulted in the N.C. Baptist Foundation managing 2,778 endowments, charitable trusts and accounts for churches benefitting 710 ministries and charities. While the foundation today manages more than \$162.5 million, throughout its nearly 100-year history it has distributed more than \$192.5 million to ministry causes. Still today our mission remains to serve N.C. Baptists by “generating an increased awareness of Christian estate planning 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 the N.C. Baptist churches by providing loan and investment services.” During these past 10 years, financial services has granted some 149 loans totaling some \$83 million. Our motto today is “Fostering Generosity... Facilitating Kingdom Growth.”

The Lord blessed our ministry in 2018 in the following ways:

- The opportunity to make 167 presentations in Baptist churches, associations and institutions and agencies across our state.
- Establishing 21 new accounts and having total receipts of \$4.4 million.

- Distributing \$7.8 million. (see chart below)
- Awarding 188 scholarships to N.C. Baptist students totaling more than \$332,700 in cooperation with the Baptist state convention.
- Closing 13 new loans totaling \$7 million.
- Having a total of 617 investments in certificates of participation totaling \$52 million.
- Having 84 loans outstanding to N.C. Baptist churches totaling \$44 million.

The following chart illustrates areas of ministry receiving support from foundation accounts in 2018:

Churches	39%
Christian Education	16%
Baptist State Convention (includes Baptist Men)	9%
Associations	8%
Baptist Hospital	6%
Children's Homes	6%
Home & Foreign Missions (includes WMU)	6%
Retirement Homes	4%
Foundation	2%
Other	2%
<i>Biblical Recorder</i>	1%
GuideStone	1%

The North Carolina Baptist Foundation is always available to assist N.C. Baptist individuals and churches in “Fostering Generosity... Facilitating Kingdom Growth.”

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

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

During the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) in 1919, a messenger rose to the floor and recommended that the convention consider starting hospitals in North Carolina. The next year, 1920, the convention established a Hospital Commission and set aside \$100,000 to be used to establish a hospital. A site in Winston-Salem was chosen, an 88-bed hospital was built and North Carolina Baptist Hospital was chartered in December 1922. The hospital opened its doors to the first patients in May 1923. That 100-year-old original vision of a messenger to the convention gave birth to a nationally-recognized academic medical center and health care system.

Wake Forest Baptist Health is a regional health care system anchored by the 885-bed tertiary care hospital and campus in Winston-Salem. This campus is home to the adult and pediatric Level I trauma centers and burn center, the 144-bed

Brenner Children’s Hospital and the 167-bed comprehensive cancer center, serving patients in northwest North Carolina and southwest Virginia.

The regional health care system’s network encompasses the main campus and four community hospitals, the 50-bed Wake Forest Baptist Health Davie Medical Center in Davie County, the 351-bed Wake Forest Baptist Health High Point Medical Center in Guilford County, the 94-bed Wake Forest Baptist Health Lexington Medical Center in Davidson County and the 130-bed Wake Forest Baptist Health Wilkes Medical Center in Wilkes County. Through a joint venture, Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital and Wake Forest Baptist acquired Alleghany Health, a 25-bed critical access hospital in Alleghany County.

Wake Forest Baptist also operates three urgent care centers; the emergency departments at more than a dozen community hospitals; maternal-fetal and neonatal units; freestanding dialysis, imaging and endoscopy facilities; and, with Wake Forest Health Network’s community practices, more than 232 primary and specialty care clinics.

Dr. Julie Ann Freischlag, chief executive officer of Wake Forest Baptist Health and dean of Wake Forest School of Medicine says, “Our institution is changing. We are growing and we are taking care of more patients than ever before. Our mission is to improve the health of all the communities we serve. Our researchers are making new, important discoveries that will change the therapies that exist to bring better care and outcomes for patients who are born before their due date or aging beyond what is now considered the human lifespan. Whether they have cancer, neurological, cardiovascular or cognitive conditions, we are looking for ways to improve the quality of their lives.”

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 poor and most vulnerable people in our state. 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 thriving partnership we share with the convention and our broader points of “touch” aligns with the original vision of the convention to begin North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

### **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, cosponsor 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 38 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 individuals 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 Baptist associations and the impact they have 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 served by the hospitals in our health care system in the coming year and placing connectors in those associations.

FaithHealthNC supports the convention’s strategy to “impact lostness” by working 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 convention.

#### **MOTHER’S DAY OFFERING: A SOURCE OF HOPE**

The theme for the 2019 Mother’s Day Offering was, “Give thanks to the God of Heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever” from Psalm 136:26.

North Carolina Baptists have been giving thanks to God by 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 Eddie Barr whose terrible headaches and pressure in his head were so bad he was bedridden, causing him to be out of work. The surgery he had at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center relieved his headaches and pressure, but not the pressures associated with no health insurance. Facing the enormous medical bill, Eddie Barr said, “I thought, ‘How am I ever going to pay this?’ We didn’t know how to

make ends meet. Our son was going to college so we had a lot of expenses all at once. There was no light at the end of the tunnel, and we were worried.”

But the Barrs did what most people do in times of trouble – they prayed that everything would be alright. And it was when they received a letter saying Eddie’s debt was wiped clean by the Mother’s Day Offering. Eddie said, “I just thanked God. It made me feel like I belonged somewhere. This offering makes God’s love real because it is real – this is something you can actually touch, you can feel it. I pray more and feel a whole lot closer to God than before all this happened.”

Thank you for giving to the Mother’s Day Offering in the name of Jesus Christ to change lives like Eddie’s. Visit [mothersdayoffering.org](http://mothersdayoffering.org) to see his full story and those of other recipients.

#### **CARENET, INC. — LIFTING SPIRITS. HOLDING HOPE.**

**Leadership transition:** In June 2018, Steve Scoggin, then president for CareNet, was asked by Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center to assume interim leadership in the department of psychiatry. He accepted, and Bryan Hatcher was placed in the role of interim president of CareNet Counseling. In January 2019, that role was made permanent and Hatcher became president. An ordained Baptist minister who has served churches as associate pastor, pastor, and interim pastor across North Carolina, Hatcher began work with CareNet in October 1999 as a counselor and has served in a variety of leadership roles on the local, regional and statewide levels. In addition to ministry and counseling as his professional disciplines, Bryan is currently pursuing a doctor of public health degree with plans to help CareNet and FaithHealth intervene in a preventative fashion to improve health, mental health and spiritual health in communities across the state.

**Long-term impact:** For more than 40 years, the convention has pioneered a unique, one-of-a-kind partnership with a mental health ministry that reaches across 70 North Carolina counties. In that span of time, we estimate that we have reached more than 250,000 North Carolinians by this ministry of hope, healing and growth. The care of the mind, body, spirit and community is a hallmark of the Division of Faith and Health Ministries of which CareNet is a part and a witness to the extraordinary vision of the convention to attend to the whole life of individuals.

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

**Wilmington/Jacksonville:** Through our Jacksonville location housed in the New River Baptist Association office, we have

expanded care of our nation's military and their families. Torn by trauma, grief, marital discord, depression, anxiety and children with behavior problems, our CareNet center is a welcome place of hospitality and hope for those who sacrifice their lives in service to our country.

**Greenville region:** We are partners with a nonprofit school in Greenville's most vulnerable neighborhood by placing a counselor in the school to work with children and their families. In nearby Edgecombe County, CareNet counselors can be found in the facilities of a North Carolina Baptist church. Additionally, we serve the residents of one of the Baptist Children's Homes locations in Kinston.

**Fayetteville:** Founded in 1975, the oldest and largest civilian mental health provider in North Carolina outside of Winston-Salem is located in Fayetteville. We provide behavioral health for military who are deployed by bringing loved ones together over a secure and private web connection for care and support. Through the generous gift of a house by a local Baptist congregation, we have a counseling ministry dedicated to individuals and families of Cumberland County.

**Lumberton region:** Our CareNet counselors stood side by side with our local Baptist relief efforts by providing support and counseling after the trauma and devastation caused by hurricanes in 2018. We also embedded a counselor in a pediatrician's office in Pembroke to serve children of Robeson County.

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

**Winston-Salem region:** Our largest region spans Mount Airy, Kernersville, Mocksville, Thomasville, Lexington and Winston-Salem and locates counselors in pediatric and primary clinics as well as a local Baptist Children's Home. This region has also sponsored Angst, an educational documentary program for faith communities focused on children and families dealing with anxiety. This is a growing problem for young people in our communities.

**Wilkes region:** One of our newest Wake Forest Baptist hospitals is located in this region, and this center is ground zero for trauma associated with substance use in North Carolina. We have a counselor in a homeless center and have

plans to locate counselors in local primary care offices as well as a ministry to support first responders in the community as we more closely align with the local hospital that is now part of our family.

**Mooreville region:** This center is located in a facility of an N.C. Baptist church and is the largest spiritually integrated counseling service in the area. We are connecting with a large primary care physician group in the region, which will bring us closer to providing behavioral health care along with medical care.

**Marion region:** Our newest center in the network established in 2016 enables us to reach further west into rural N.C. communities where access to mental health and substance abuse services are sparse. This counseling center is becoming a hub for CareNet to focus on the population in western North Carolina with CareNet and FaithHealth services.

**Partners in ministry:** In a turbulent policy environment where behavioral health is already reimbursed well below its cost, the partnership with the 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 four Americans will continue to thrive as we develop new and innovative forms of care that touch the mind, body, spirit and community. Thank you North Carolina Baptists for standing with and for the broken, despondent, tired and hopeless who are given the opportunity through sensitive and compassionate care in 35 CareNet locations to reclaim life, love and hope. Your gifts to us through the Cooperative Program enable us to assure no one is turned away for service because of inability to pay.

#### **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 program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation, offering a variety of programs including some in community-based settings.

#### **CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH: OPENING DOORS TO HOPE AND WHOLENESS**

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

The CCH plays a key role in supporting, encouraging and strengthening congregations and extends the medical center's mission of health and healing beyond the hospital's walls. During the past fiscal year, the center has provided a variety of consulting, coaching and training ministries to support clergy, lay leaders, congregations and the FaithHealth movement itself. Faith communities and the volunteers from those communities form the backbone of the FaithHealth movement.

CCH staff and professional coaches in the center's coaching network provided more than 1,200 hours of coaching and consultation to congregations and more than 250 hours of training events for congregations and their leaders. Consultants work with congregations in the areas of revisioning, strategic planning, conflict management, pastoral and staff transitions, church mergers, and the challenges of financial sustainability.

CCH staff work directly with the FaithHealth congregations and clergy in the 24-county service area and beyond. As part of the FaithHealth Ministries Division, we provide service and training to the Clinical Pastoral Education residents and interns. The CCH staff often refer clients to CareNet or other medical center services.

#### **ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

In June 2019, Wake Forest Baptist Health unveiled the new birth center and the Dale and Karen Sisel Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a 100,000-square-foot, two-floor facility.

Wake Forest Baptist holds the coveted Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission, and in 2018 was ranked among the nation's best hospitals in seven adult medical and surgical specialties by *U.S. News & World Report*. This marks the 26th consecutive year that Wake Forest Baptist Health has been ranked among the nation's top hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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

In April 2019, Wake Forest Baptist Health and Atrium Health signed a memorandum of understanding to create a next-generation academic health system that will further transform medical education, expand patient-centered research and innovation currently in place in Winston-Salem, and empower the next generation of clinical excellence.

Wake Forest Baptist Health's Comprehensive Cancer Center is one of only three in North Carolina and 49 in the country to be designated as "comprehensive" by the National Cancer Institute. Wake Forest Baptist has continuously held the designation since it was introduced in 1990.

Wake Forest Baptist continues to be a major research and innovation center, making important contributions to biomedical and health science research nationally and internationally. The most recent "Best Doctors in America" database includes 312 Wake Forest Baptist physicians in 36 specialties, 52 of whom are pediatricians and pediatric specialists at Brenner Children's Hospital.

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 the broader impact of extending ministry to the most vulnerable and needy in the same communities where the congregations of the convention are located.

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

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

## **AFFILIATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY**

The 2018-2019 academic year brought new successes and opportunities for Campbell University. Named one of the “Most Innovative Schools” by *U.S. News and World Report*, Campbell continues to seek out opportunities for students, faculty and staff to make an impact in our community and world.

#### **Campbell receives grant to help rural clergy**

Campbell University has received a significant grant to help establish the Fellowship for Clergy in Rural and Underserved Areas.

It is part of Lilly Endowment Inc.’s Thriving in Ministry, an initiative which supports programs that help pastors build relationships with experienced clergy who can serve as mentors and guide them through key leadership challenges in congregational ministry.

The grant allows Campbell to establish the Fellowship for Clergy in Rural and Underserved Areas, a 12-month cohort model led by the Campbell University Center for Church and Community. The program will convene and connect clergy from rural and underserved communities to develop greater internal capacities for personal growth, skill development for leadership and strategies and tactics for connecting with community leadership. Each cohort will include 16 group members.

During the 12 months, pastoral leaders will develop deepening relationships while also exploring topics related to resilience in ministry, clergy isolation and community engagement capacities. Ultimately, the goal is that ministers thrive and flourish where they are planted.

By accessing the faculty and staff resources across the university, clergy will have the opportunity to learn with and from thought leaders in areas of public health, law, engineering, medicine and education. These relationships will give clergy opportunities to develop leadership capacities for their community as well as their congregation by better understanding issues facing leaders in other areas of the community.

Campbell is one of 78 organizations located in 29 states that is taking part in the initiative.

#### **Divinity School founding Dean Michael Cogdill to retire**

More than 300 people, including 130 Divinity School alumni, came to campus this March to honor the service and celebrate the retirement of Michael G. Cogdill, founding dean of the school.

Speaking at the chapel service in Cogdill’s honor, former university President Jerry Wallace praised Cogdill’s 36 year career at Campbell and led the crowd in Butler Chapel in unison “Dr. Cogdill, we love you” to conclude his introductory remarks.

“We are here today to give thanks and express our love for a unique man called Mike Cogdill. Thank you for being there, with us and for us and alongside of us, in our walks of life,” Wallace said.

Cogdill served as founding dean and professor of pastoral leadership from 1996-2010. During his 14 years as dean, he led the development of an innovative curriculum, the building of a solid endowment, the achievement of the school’s full accreditation, and the strengthening of church ties throughout Baptist and other circles.

He also saw the creation of a doctor of ministry degree program and helped guide the work of the Butler Chapel Campaign Cabinet resulting in the building of Campbell’s first-ever chapel. After stepping down as dean, Cogdill served as a full time professor of Christian ministry.

#### **Campbell football turns 10, joins Big South, adds scholarships, wins**

When the Campbell Fighting Camels kicked off the 2018 season on Aug. 30, they lined up for the first time as a scholarship football program and a member of the Big South Conference after 10 years as a non-scholarship program that started from nothing. Without a doubt, the new era began with a successful season.

The Camels made history by getting its first wins over non-conference FCS foes Georgetown, North Alabama and Wagner. Campbell also got its first Big South win, 34-6 over Presbyterian on Nov. 10. At 6-5 overall, the Camels secured back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in the program’s modern era (since 2008), and tied an overall program record for victories.

The program has come a long way in the last few years — from practicing near cow pastures in 2008 to playing in the stadium ranked third in the nation by one site for best atmosphere among FCS football programs.

The future will only get better for the program as it fills its roster with scholarship players over the next three years. Campbell also has games scheduled in the coming years against national programs like Troy (2019), Georgia Southern (2020), Liberty (2021), East Carolina (2022) and UNC Chapel Hill (2023).

“We’ve definitely come a long way,” said Jason Williams, director of athletic communications and another of the small group who’s been with Campbell football since the beginning. “These first 10 years have allowed us to get our feet under us and become an established program. We’ve become a campus that has fully embraced football — I remember seeing students with their laundry baskets head home on Fridays in the fall, and now students are staying, and they’re going to the games. And they’re tailgating, and they’re loud.”

### **Campbell Medicine celebrates 100% match placement for residency programs**

Tears of joy, hugs and lots of high-fives were abundant on March 15 in McCall Court at Campbell University as 153 medical students opened their envelopes revealing where they were accepted into residency.

Campbell’s fourth-year medical students joined thousands of students nationwide on match day, where each individual learned where they will continue their medical training after graduation in May. One-hundred percent of the class of 2019 began their careers as residents at hospitals across the country over the summer.

“We could not be more pleased with the residency match results for the class of 2019,” said Dr. John Kauffman, founding dean of the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine. “We are proud to have 56 percent of the class continuing their training in the southeastern United States — 37 of them here in North Carolina.”

The majority of the 153 graduates will train in primary medicine, while others will pursue highly competitive specialties, ranging from anesthesiology to neurosurgery.

All 96 positions for new residents were filled at Southeastern Health in Lumberton, Cape Fear Valley Health in Fayetteville, Sampson Regional Medical Center in Clinton and Harnett Health locations in Lillington and Dunn.

### **Campbell Law claims record national and international advocacy competitions**

It was a spring of firsts for Campbell Law. Campbell Law School claimed national titles for the American Association of Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition, Constance Baker Motley National Trial Competition and the National ABA Client Counseling Championship this spring.

When Tatiana Terry and Katie Webb won the national client counseling competition, they earned the chance to go to the world competition in Dublin, Ireland. There, they ultimately outscored 23 teams to become world champions at the Brown Mosten International Client Consultation Competition.

“This is an extraordinary accomplishment for our team and for our coaches,” Dean J. Rich Leonard said.

Over the past six years, Campbell Law student advocates have amassed eight national championships, five national runners-up, nine national semifinalists, seven regional championships and 17 national individual best advocate awards.

The unprecedented winning streak arrives during Campbell Law’s 10/40 celebration, marking the 40th anniversary of its first graduating class and 10th anniversary of its move to downtown Raleigh.

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

## **CHOWAN UNIVERSITY**

Chowan University is a Christian educational institution founded in 1848 by Baptist families and named Chowan — which means “people of the south” — to honor the Native American Algonquin Chowanoke tribe. For over 170 years, Chowan has enjoyed a long and distinguished tradition of faith and education in northeastern North Carolina.

### **Chowan inaugurates 23rd president**

Kirk Edward Peterson was inaugurated as the 23rd president of Chowan University on Thursday, April 4, 2019. The inaugural convocation was held at 11 a.m. in Turner Auditorium of McDowell Columns Hall.

Peterson was named the 23rd president of Chowan University by the board of trustees on Feb. 15, 2018, and assumed the office on June 1, 2018. No stranger to Chowan, he first served the university in 2004 as chair of what is now the Sport Science and Physical Education Department. Throughout his tenure, he also served as assistant dean for academic affairs and as assistant provost. Based on the needs of the institution’s service area, Peterson helped found Chowan University’s first master’s program and served as founding dean of the university’s Graduate School, which offered the only Christian university master’s degree program east of North Carolina’s I-95 and the only elementary education master’s degree within a 60-mile radius.

Peterson’s inaugural address was full of excitement for Chowan’s future as he accepted the mantle of the presidency. He looks forward to continuing the university’s faith-based legacy in the world of higher education and providing students with the support they need to grow into the futures that God has planned for them.

"It is my job to make certain that we are united in our passion to ensure that our students lead meaningful lives of lifelong learning, service to one another, and leadership with their heads, hands and hearts," Peterson said. He considers keeping Chowan's focus on the students to be the best way to honor those who built the university and the ones who continue to support it.

### **Prayer room dedicated**

Thanks to the dream and action of Chowan alumna, Edith "Edie" Farris, there is now a beautiful prayer room located in the Whitaker Library. Farris kindly gave the Chowan community this space for prayer and reflection. On the day of the dedication Farris said, "With all the busyness going on with almost everyone these days, we all need occasional silence. Silence today is harder and harder to find. As one church says, 'We're so overwhelmed with the noise and pace of contemporary life that the faint inner voice of the Spirit cannot be heard.' So this will be a place to reflect, pray, and focus on God."

### **Chowan Christian Service Association**

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 the Rev. Mari Wiles, minister to the university, Chowan Campus Ministry is extremely active. Every day of the week 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.

Chowan Campus Ministry made Hurricane Florence recovery a priority for two mission trips this academic year. Teams were sent out at Christmas break and spring break to Baptists on Mission's Red Springs Mission Camp. Students enthusiastically crawled under houses, split firewood, removed debris and power washed all in Jesus' name.

Freshman Blaire Dillard described the trip to Red Springs in this way: "I would say this was an investment in my walk with Christ. This trip sparked a higher desire in me to help communities and individuals in Jesus' name. During this trip

I really felt like we did more than just fix houses and yards. I believe we showed the people we assisted that God is loving, caring and is concerned about us."

The day after graduation Chowan Campus Ministry sent a team to Johannesburg, South Africa where they served with the Door of Hope Ministry to build a home for abandoned babies. Before leaving, the team raised funds to buy two months or 20,000 diapers for the Door of Hope babies. Once at the Door of Hope, the team made bricks, worked to restore a garden and led worship services.

### **Mary Hobson Lecture celebrates 25th year**

The Mary Frances Hobson Lecture and Prize at Chowan University celebrated its 25th anniversary by nominating best-selling author Wiley Cash as the 2019 recipient. Cash is most known for his bestseller *A Land More Kind than Home* and his most recent novel *The Last Ballad*. Cash visited the university campus on what is unofficially known as "Hobson Day" to speak with students and community members about his work.

### **Athletes winning in the classroom**

An estimated 400 student-athletes participated in 19 sports and cheerleading during the 2018-19 year. Of these, 131 are members of honors societies, 80 are on the dean's list, 52 are on the president's list, 82 are part of the honors college and 10 were chosen as outstanding student award winners.

### **New Finish Program helps Chowan students graduate faster with less debt**

Chowan University introduced a new program this year to help students finish their degrees faster and with less debt. To combat the financial burden additional semesters can place on students and parents, the Finish Program ensures that students have the tools they need to graduate with a bachelor's degree in no more than four years. The program provides personal academic guidance, career planning and helpful resources to create a clear roadmap for student success.

Each of a participant's eight semesters will include five defined success points to help students focus on key academic success indicators. Success points include gateway courses, credit hour accumulation, progress toward completion of general education requirements, academic performance, progress in major courses, among many others. Linked together, the success points create a chain of accomplishments that propels the student toward degree completion. Advisors, success coaches, the academic advising coordinator and administrators will use the success points as a guide to help students find and stay on their path to the finish line.

### **Historic graduation**

Chowan ended the 2018-2019 academic year with another record-breaking commencement graduating 268 students. During graduation exercises, honorary doctorates were awarded to Donnie O. Clary, vice chancellor for business affairs, for his years of service in Christian higher education and to Sang-Kyun Lee, board chair of the Shin-Il Educational Foundation, for his commitment to higher education.

### **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 [chowan.edu](http://chowan.edu) or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ChowanAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/ChowanAlumni). Come see us in Murfreesboro. We would enjoy showing you our beautiful campus in our historic town.

*Kirk E. Peterson, President*

*M. Christopher White, Chancellor*

*W. Frank Rose Jr., Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY**

At Gardner-Webb University, 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.

### **Trustees name 13th president**

The Gardner-Webb University (GWU) board of trustees announced William M. Downs as the institution's 13th president in February 2019. Board members unanimously confirmed his appointment at a special meeting, capping a highly competitive one-year national search. His term as GWU president began July 1, 2019.

Before coming to GWU, Downs was the dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences at East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, N.C.

According to David Royster III, GWU board of trustees member and chairman of the presidential search committee, the new president has significant leadership experience and understands higher education on multiple levels. "He has served as a faculty member, department chair, program director and dean," Royster said. "The Board of Trustees has faith that Gardner-Webb will

thrive and continue to provide transformative opportunities for students under his guidance."

With over two decades of service in higher education, Downs had been at ECU since 2014. He was the W. Keats Sparrow Distinguished Chair in the Liberal Arts and a professor of political science. He administered 16 academic departments and 17 interdisciplinary degree programs in the College of Arts & Sciences for more than 6,000 arts and sciences undergraduate majors and more than 730 graduate majors. Downs also ensured the quality of general education curriculum for more than 23,000 undergraduate students. Working with his colleagues, he introduced several initiatives to improve undergraduate research and international study opportunities.

"I am truly honored by the privilege and opportunity to serve as Gardner-Webb University's next president," Downs said. "So many things attracted me and brought me to this moment... GWU's mission and underlying values, its people and programs, and its rich traditions of excellence. Together, we have the chance to write a new chapter in the history of one of North Carolina's great universities."

From 1997 to 2014, Downs served various roles at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He has been a research fellow at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, a graduate research associate at the Carter Center's African Governance Program and a Fulbright Research Fellow in Belgium.

A Raleigh native, Downs earned his Bachelor of Arts in political science (with a minor in journalism) from North Carolina State University in 1988, and his Master of Arts and doctoral degrees in political science from Emory University in Atlanta. Downs is married to Kimberly Harwood Downs and has two children, Rachel and Bradley.

Downs, his wife and children are longtime followers of the Christian faith. "Kim and I actually met in fourth grade in a Raleigh Sunday School class, and we have been partners in our spiritual journey ever since," Downs said. "That journey has shaped who I am as an educator, as a husband/father, and as a member of my community. I fully embrace Gardner-Webb's commitment to providing rigorous academic programs in a compassionate Christian environment, and I celebrate the University's Baptist heritage."

### **Historic gift establishes Tucker Scholars program**

A couple known for their generosity made another historic contribution to Gardner-Webb University in March 2019. Carolyn and Robert Tucker gave a \$4 million scholarship endowment to establish the "Tucker Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength Scholarship."

Retired GWU President Frank Bonner worked with the Tucker family for several years in the formation of this gift. The scholarship name is based on Mark 12:29-31, a passage in which Jesus gives the two most important commandments. The first one is to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is to “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

“This full scholarship, which designates the recipients as Tucker Scholars, is transformational for these students,” Bonner said. “The cost of a student’s four-year education at GWU is covered, including tuition, room and board.”

In 2010, the Tuckers announced the largest donation in school history, a \$5 million gift, which helped to make a new student center a reality. At the dedication ceremony, Robert Tucker gave another half million donation in honor of former Vice President of Student Development Dee Hunt. The Tucker Student Center has quickly become the heart of campus life.

The Tuckers are the owners of Shoe Show, Inc. Founded in 1960 in Kannapolis, N.C., Shoe Show’s success has been based on a simple formula of providing quality products, service and value. The Tuckers’ daughter, Lisa, is a 1989 graduate and former volleyball player for Gardner-Webb. She has remained committed to the university for three decades and currently serves as a trustee. She serves the family business as president.

“Gardner-Webb is a unique and wonderful place,” Tucker said. “The faculty and staff have dedicated their lives to teaching and being role models and mentors. Their love for their profession is evident in the way they care about the students. They always place them at the center of the university. I experienced that myself, and I know how valuable that is.”

When fully in place, the fund will provide for four Tucker Scholars, one in each class, every year in perpetuity. The first Tucker Scholar will be awarded fall semester 2020. The Tucker Scholars will be students with exceptional academic experience and drive, strong character and leadership potential, and a dedication to Christian faith and service.

### **Christian mission and service**

During the fall 2018 semester, Gardner-Webb students traveled to San Francisco, Calif., and Puerto Rico to work in local ministries.

In San Francisco, the students volunteered in the food kitchen at the GLIDE homeless shelter. They also put their energy and good cheer to work with the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation on its initiative, “Runyon Up: Stair Climb for Cancer Research.”

The students in Puerto Rico helped to improve the living conditions of local communities impacted by hurricanes Maria and Irma. Partnering with Iglesia Bautista el Mesias in Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico, the GWU students and their Puerto Rican coworkers tackled construction and outreach projects while sharing the gospel and helping with other needs identified by the local ministry.

A group of 12 students from Gardner-Webb traveled to York, England, over spring break (2019) to minister to youth in the local church and school. Led by Mindy Robinson, GWU coordinator for Community Engagement and Student Ministries, and her husband, Chase, also a GWU alumnus, the group partnered with UK-USA Ministries/Youth for Christ.

A primary focus of their 10-day trip was teaching in the religious studies courses that are part of the Church of England School curriculum. The GWU team shared the parable of “The Rich Fool” from Luke 12:13-21 in 16 different classes and presented the gospel to around 600 students, who identified as agnostic or atheist.

A mission team that included eight Gardner-Webb nursing students volunteered in Guatemala during spring break (2019) to work with Good Shepherd Clinic and Center in Quetzaltenango. The group of 14 was led by Melissa McNeilly, instructor in nursing, and Stacy Simmons, associate minister to the university for pastoral care.

Partnering with North Carolina Baptists on Mission, the group helped to paint a local school and counted thousands of medicines to keep an inventory for the clinic. They also distributed hygiene kits, and picked up trash along the road and around the clinic. While working at the school, the GWU students took opportunities to play soccer and basketball with the children.

While sharing their Christian faith at a children’s camp in Bratislava, Slovakia, a team of eight from Gardner-Webb also had an opportunity to introduce the fourth-graders to an American tradition. They roasted marshmallows and showed them how to make s’mores. The 12-day trip took place May 13-24, 2019.

The Gardner-Webb team was led by Teresa Davis, administrative assistant in the GWU Office of Christian Life and Service, and her husband, Eric Davis, senior pastor at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church near Boiling Springs, N.C. They were sponsored by the International Baptist Church Bratislava, where pastor Gerhard Venter and his wife, Joan, had planned several ministry opportunities.

The GWU team worked inside and outside of the Berea Conference Center, where they were housed for three days.

During the monthly gathering for the women of the church, the GWU female team members shared their testimonies and led a craft. Eric brought the message for a church service, and the team offered music. A work day at the church consisted of cleaning, painting and yard work. The team also shared in six classrooms of sixth- through ninth-graders at the Narnia School-Petrzalka, which is like a charter school in America.

Before returning home, the GWU group visited the Trans World Radio (TWR) ministry office and moved some equipment to assist the office personnel. The largest Christian media organization in the world, TWR provides relevant programming, discipleship resources and dedicated workers to spread hope to individuals and communities in 160 countries.

### **Awards, accolades and distinctions**

Officials at Gardner-Webb thanked supporters for their part in the record-breaking success of #DoubleDawgDay, the University's annual day of giving to support student scholarships. More than 210 donors gave \$227,484 — exceeding last year's total and more than doubling this year's goal.

Helping to increase the total was a \$100,000 gift to establish the Allred-Decker Endowed Scholarship Fund. This new scholarship fund will provide GWU students with invaluable internship opportunities.

William Downs, GWU president-elect, expressed his gratitude to donors for their generous gifts. "As the newest Runnin' Bulldog, I am grateful and thrilled to see such strong support for students on #DoubleDawgDay," he noted. "Your investment in our students is vital to their success, and it helps solidify GWU as a recognized leader in Christian higher education."

One-hundred percent of the gifts on #DoubleDawgDay go to support scholarships awarded to students. McCall reinforced, "With more than 97 percent of students receiving some form of scholarship or financial aid, it's easy to see why this annual day of giving is so important."

In a surprise presentation at Gardner-Webb on Oct. 19, 2018, GWU President Frank Bonner (who retired in January 2019) was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine — North Carolina's highest civilian honor. Conferred by Gov. Roy Cooper, this prestigious award recognizes exemplary service that made a significant impact and strengthened the state. A. Hope Williams, president of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, presented the award at a gathering of the GWU board of trustees, senior staff and guests.

The School of Education at Gardner-Webb received national recognition from *TheBestSchools.org*. The school's online

master's degree in curriculum and instruction with a concentration that leads to academically gifted licensure ranked 18th among colleges offering such programs.

Gardner-Webb was recognized for exceptional web-based learning opportunities by *OnlineColleges.com*, based in Foster City, Calif. The educational resource named GWU to its 2018 list of Top 10 Online Colleges in North Carolina.

Gardner-Webb ranked fourth in the state, ahead of several larger institutions, including Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Gardner-Webb offers a variety of distance learning opportunities at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Fully online programs and courses do not require on campus class meetings. Hybrid or blended programs and courses meet on campus and online and offer a blend of the two environments.

Gardner-Webb's Godbold School of Business earned national recognition for having one of the "25 Best Online Bachelor's in Healthcare Management Degree Programs" in the country.

Gardner-Webb ranked 13th on the list, which is compiled each year by *TheBestSchools.org*, a Chicago-based company that provides information on quality educational programs around the nation.

For the second year, the Gardner-Webb University online Master of Arts (MA) in English degree was named among the best in the nation by an education information website. The SR Education Group recently named the GWU program to its 2019 rankings for Best Online Colleges and Most Affordable Online Colleges.

"We are proud of our MA in English, as it provides an opportunity for students seeking the flexibility of online learning without compromising the rigor of a graduate program," said Jennifer Buckner, chair of the Department of English Language and Literature and associate professor. "Our faculty use a range of innovative technologies and methods to foster a scholarly community in our classes."

Two leading education research websites honored an online master's degree program in Gardner-Webb's Godbold School of Business. The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) was named in three separate rankings.

"These national awards recognize the commitment of our faculty to provide a superior education for students in our online master's degree programs," said Mischia Taylor, Godbold School of Business dean and instructor. "Our smaller class

sizes offer a personal approach, and we emphasize experiential learning through internships, service opportunities, projects, course simulations, and interaction with business leaders.”

Gardner-Webb’s online nursing programs achieved national recognition from *OnlineColleges.com*. The education information website ranked the GWU Hunt School of Nursing (HSON) as No. 9 in the country.

“The Hunt School of Nursing has a proud legacy of providing a faith-based nursing education within a close-knit, supportive learning environment,” said Nicole Waters, HSON dean. “We are honored and blessed to receive this recognition of our nursing programs.”

The website’s editors reviewed over 250 schools to compile the list. They analyzed data from the National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and a methodology that took into account graduation rates, admission rates, tuition costs and more. They also praised the school for offering online resources, such as counseling, personal and professional development, and academic and technological support.

DJ Laster scored a career-high 32 points and Gardner-Webb controlled the action from start to finish in a 76-65 win over Radford in the Big South Conference men’s basketball championship game on March 10, 2019. The win punched an NCAA tournament ticket for Gardner-Webb for the first time since the men’s basketball program moved to NCAA Division I in 2000. The Runnin’ Bulldogs entered the Big Dance on a five-game win streak. The victory continued a rich basketball tradition at the school with the men’s basketball team previously making national tournament appearances at the NJCAA, NAIA and NCAA Division II levels.

“I’m just really humbled right now and blessed to get a chance to coach this group of guys,” head coach Tim Craft said immediately after the win. “I want to give all the honor and glory to Jesus Christ, number one, and just thank God for what he’s done in my life, our family’s life and these players’ lives. I’m really proud of them.”

The Runnin’ Bulldogs played the first round NCAA tournament game on March 22, 2019, in Columbia, S.C. Gardner-Webb drew top-seed Virginia, who would go on to win the national championship. The Runnin’ Bulldogs gave Virginia all it could handle for 30 minutes, but the Cavaliers pulled away with a big second half.

Gardner-Webb University and the men’s basketball team returned to the national spotlight in a CBS television special that aired on Final Four Weekend.

From March 20-23, 2019, CBS commissioned a film crew to capture the excitement, energy and mayhem of Gardner-Webb’s first men’s NCAA tournament appearance in school history. They documented March Madness on the GWU campus through the eyes of two students, Jada Robbs, of Shelby, N.C., and Will Marvel, of Buford, Ga.

Robbs shared that she was honored to be included in the program and desired to convey what it’s like to be a student at Gardner-Webb. “Our school is something to take pride in,” she affirmed. “We have great people and a great community and the majority of those relationships are connected by the love of Christ.”

### **Impact, alumni outcomes and student success**

Hurricane Florence battered North Carolina’s coastal areas in September 2018 with 90-mph winds, rainfall and storm surge. Record flooding in Pender County forced officials to close the local hospital and its emergency department. However, three days after the powerful storm made landfall, the MED-1 Mobile Hospital from Atrium Health in Charlotte, N.C., was operating in a parking lot in Burgaw, N.C.

Gardner-Webb University 2016 alumna, Beth Brock, was among the medical professionals who volunteered for the assignment. “I’m so honored and thankful I was chosen to go,” said Brock, a family nurse practitioner (FNP) from Atrium Health’s Lincoln Family Practice in Lincolnton, N.C. “As soon as I heard we may be deploying, I felt a strong desire to help the victims who would be affected by this natural disaster.”

Once on location, MED-1 is fully operational in 30 minutes with a team of more than 30 emergency room doctors, nurses and other medical staff. The 1,000-square-foot hospital is capable of handling anything from minor injuries to severe emergency medical conditions, including trauma surgery and intensive medical care. For patients in Burgaw, it was the only medical facility in a 50-mile radius.

Caring for between 150 and 200 patients a day, the team delivered babies, performed surgeries and provided other services. Brock worked in triage. “I saw patients of all ages including newborns,” she said. “I performed simple sick visits, newborn checks and routine chronic disease management.”

Brock became a nurse because of her compassion for others. After working eight years in an emergency department, she decided to pursue her Master of Science in Nursing with FNP concentration. “I chose FNP, because I wanted to prevent patients from overflowing the emergency departments with problems that could be addressed by their primary care providers,” she said. “Gardner-Webb’s nursing school prepared me for my career by teaching me the fundamentals of being a family nurse practitioner.”

On a highly traveled street in Cologne, Germany, one storefront draws attention. Through the window, people watch as Gardner-Webb University alumnus Dave Byers ('99) works at his potter's wheel.

Byers creates pottery and recycles it when necessary. "I have opportunities to share hope through the process of making clay pots, as well as what happens to them when they break or fail to meet expectations," he said. "Most people will want to just throw it away, because it is junk, but the process of recycling clay — of taking the hardened clay pot, breaking it down and making a new one — makes it easier to describe to people why I believe in a God who created me while I'm creating something."

He also draws people into his shop by writing clever sayings on a chalkboard. "Germans have an innate curiosity," Byers said. "That curiosity led more people to come in and talk. I focus on building relationships with people and through that, I share kingdom ideas and God's Word."

Byers and his family have lived in Germany for over a decade. In partnership with Greater Europe Mission, they work with a church and youth ministry. His pottery studio has flourished, and his wife has focused her talents to minister to victims of human trafficking through the International Justice Mission and the A21 Campaign.

Byers' journey to Cologne was the result of a series of opportunities, including his decision to attend Gardner-Webb and major in communication studies with a photography concentration and minor in art.

"Everything I learned through the communication courses has helped me — from public speaking, designing print materials and ceramics," he said. "I make a living creating art, preaching, communicating and telling stories."

His professors taught him the skills he needed, but more importantly, they gave him confidence. "Professors like Ms. (Susan) Bell and Bob Carey, and others on campus seemed to be glad I was here," Byers said. "They made me feel welcomed and they saw a gift in me."

He also discovered his talent and passion for making pottery at Gardner-Webb. "Once I took my first ceramics class, I knew whatever I did for the rest of my life, this would be a part of it," Byers said.

Additionally, Byers is thankful for the friends he made at Gardner-Webb, who encouraged him to make better choices. "They were the ones who pulled me out of where I was headed in the wrong direction for my life," he said. "We are still close and they are supporters of our ministry."

### **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.

*Jennifer Marion Mills, Chair, Board of Trustees*  
*William M. Downs, President*

### **MARS HILL UNIVERSITY**

#### **Scaling new heights**

The 2018-19 academic year at Mars Hill University (MHU) was one of moving toward a bright future, with new President Tony Floyd at the helm.

A rainy day did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm at Floyd's inauguration as Mars Hill's 22nd president on Friday, Nov. 9, 2018. In his address to the assembled audience, Floyd laid out his vision for the institution's future — a vision that puts its focus squarely on its students, whom Floyd calls "his lions."

As he began his remarks following the formal presidential installation by the chair of the board of trustees and the provost, Floyd addressed the theme of his inauguration: "Scaling New Heights."

"I dream that I will be part of a university that will not be complacent and will try to scale new heights," Floyd said. "I dream about an institution that won't just check off boxes and hand students diplomas and send them on out. I dream of an institution that will live its mission; will do what it says it's gonna do. And that is to prepare our students through a rigorous study of the liberal arts. To be a place where they can find personal, spiritual and academic growth. And a place where we will connect them to the world of work. I dream about a place that's going to live that."

Floyd used the "dream" terminology because he says he doesn't consider himself to be a visionary, but rather someone who dreams of what Mars Hill can do and become under his leadership. "This world needs Mars Hill," Floyd said.

"I dream of a university that sends writers and poets and actors and actresses and singers and mathematicians, nurses, business men and women, who are ready for the real world and who are ready to serve their community," Floyd said. "I dream of a university that, when a freshman comes

here, on their first day on this campus, we're going to talk to them about their life's work; about how they will use their gifts in life, and to think about how they will make a difference in our world that really needs them."

Floyd also spoke directly to "his lions" saying, "We believe in you. And no matter what comes our way, we in this room — we who work here, who go here, who graduated from here, who contribute here — we are going to sing out. We're going to sing with all our might. We're going to fight for you. We're going to seek to inspire you. And we're going to send you from this place, educated and ready for the world."

### **New faces**

Along with President Floyd, 2018-19 brought other new faces to campus, and familiar faces in new roles.

One of those new faces is John Omachonu, who joined Mars Hill in August 2018 as provost, the chief academic officer for all academic and student development programs. Omachonu has extensive experience in higher education administration, serving most recently as senior vice provost for academic affairs and professor of communications at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

He is a proponent of the liberal arts, crediting his own liberal arts education with instilling in him a broad knowledge of the world, good interpersonal skills, adaptability and a passion for lifelong learning. As academic institutions face challenges on connecting degree offerings with employability, Omachonu sees opportunities for universities like Mars Hill to become more proactive and intentional in their focus on student success.

The familiar face of longtime Sports Information Officer and Assistant Athletics Director Rick Baker now looks out from a new vantage point. Following the retirement of David Riggins and a nationwide search, Baker emerged as the person tapped to be the university's new director of athletics. He's already become quite familiar with the role, serving as interim athletics director during the search process.

### **Sent from this place, educated and ready for the world**

Between its December and May commencement ceremonies, Mars Hill sent forth 238 new graduates in 2018-19.

Spring graduates were treated to a commencement address by the Rev. Guy Sayles, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, who also retired as MHU assistant professor of religion and philosophy at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

"Too many of us limit the scope of our lives and use only a fraction of our potential," Sayles told the graduates. "Love is life's purpose: being loved and loving — which necessarily

includes being heard, seen, understood, and accepted while also hearing, seeing, understanding, and accepting others. Love welcomes and delights in us as we are and then works and serves to make us who we can become. To be loved and to love is why we are here."

*Tony Floyd, President*

*Linda Judge-McRae, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **WINGATE UNIVERSITY REPORT**

Wingate University's 123rd academic year since its founding in 1896 was highlighted by an enrollment of 3,689 students (a 1.8 percent increase over the year before), of whom 2,726 were undergraduate students (a 5 percent increase over the year before) and 963 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 122 individuals from 48 countries.

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.

On Friday, May 10, 2019, 29 graduates from the Porter Byrum School of Business, 28 from the College of Professional Studies and more than 100 from the Levine College of Health Sciences received graduate degrees. Doug Lebda, CEO of Charlotte-based Lending Tree, addressed graduates. "What I loved about your faith, knowledge and service, I'll say right off the bat, is that these all build on top of each other, and if you continue to focus on those three things, I promise you (that) you're going to have a life of meaning and a life of consequence like you will never imagine," Lebda said.

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, 428 students received undergraduate degrees. U.S. Sen. Richard Burr spoke at the ceremony. "This is a bright moment in our history because it presents so much opportunity for you and your generation," Burr said. But he warned them that in order to take advantage of that opportunity, they will need to "look forward with an active eye, and eagerness to learn and adapt."

The Wingate University Bulldogs won the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) Echols Athletic Excellence Award for the 13th consecutive year.

Wingate University is committed to helping all students experience a spectrum of faith programming, clubs, organizations and events. Drawing from our historical Baptist heritage, we believe that each person has the freedom to worship and think.

During the past academic year student groups from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) engaged in Bible studies and discussions centered around teams as well as topics that related to the lives of those involved. FCA was also committed to the evangelism of the gospel.

Koinonia Fellowship was committed to offering Bible studies, service projects and fellowships based off of the Acts 2:42 model. These students were primarily raised in the church and sought a place to grow deeper in their faith.

Wingate Young Life Leadership group worked to train over a dozen students to serve in seven local high schools as Young Life leaders. They worked to “come alongside” students to meet and walk with them wherever they may find themselves on their journey.

In alignment with the culture, Wingate has seen an increase in those self-selecting “no religious preference.” Student Ministries along with academic leaders offered places of discussion around topics including various forms of Christian worship and immigration and our response as spiritual beings. Students of “no religious preference” are not necessarily “atheist” or “agnostic,” but are often keenly interested in the spiritual teachings of Christ.

This engagement of culture harkens to Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 9 of “becoming all things to all people so that I might win one.” Wingate University Student Ministries seeks to meet students where they are instead of only inviting them into one location or organization.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, Wingate students, faculty and staff were involved in several service trips to Jamaica and Haiti. Ten students, three staff and two members of a local church participated in a mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica, during spring break in March 2019. Working with the Missionaries of the Poor, this group worked with men, women and children with mental and physical challenges. Four students and the Wingate Fellowship of Christian Athletes coordinator traveled to Haiti during Christmas break to work with children and teachers in several orphanages and schools.

Wingate’s first ROOTS (Resources, Optimism, Outreach, Targets, Support) Summit, held on April 18, brought together local leaders to consider what we have in our community, what motivates us to do the work we do, our goals and aspirations, and the support we can offer to one another. To share information collected that day, the ROOTS Summit team developed a newsletter. Wingate University is grateful to all participants in supporting our efforts to listen to and learn from each other. Another ROOTS Summit is planned for the fall and will focus on service.

*Dane Jordan, Director of Student Ministries*

## **CONVENTION CO-LABORER**

### **WOMAN’S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA**

#### **WMU’s Mandate: Making Disciples of Jesus who Live on Mission**

Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) fulfills our mandate by providing opportunities for all ages to engage in missions in three categories: missions discipleship, leadership development and compassion ministries. Our motives are to be biblically rooted, missions-focused, church-based, world-aware and denominationally supportive.

The national WMU theme, “Unshakable Pursuit,” has been the focus of our missions materials, leadership development and personal growth for the 2018-2020 biennium. The apostle Paul said, “My dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV). Because He has pursued us with relentless love, we seek to know Him with our whole heart.

Our desire is to minister to the local churches in North Carolina. Our staff, board members and other WMU-NC leaders are always willing to speak and train leaders in churches and associations. Many times we do this during the Week of Prayer for the Heck-Jones Offering. The 2019 theme of our offering and Scripture focus was that of national WMU stated above. We spoke in more than 60 churches during the months of February and March. Focus on WMU is celebrated throughout the whole year, and each church is free to schedule the emphasis into their calendars at a time convenient for them. The Heck-Jones Offering supports the missions and ministries of WMU-NC. This offering was named to honor Fannie E.S. Heck (president) and Sally Bailey Jones (corresponding secretary) who organized WMU-NC in 1886.

### **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/young women consultant; Sara Lamkin, preschool and children consultant; Amanda Martinsen, leadership development consultant and resource coordinator; and Jenn B, communications coordinator.

### **Ministry to Adults**

WMU-NC desires that all adults be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission. WMU materials are available for Women on Mission or Adults on Missions (co-ed) organizations. Adult Consultant Margaret Harding facilitates this ministry as well as other important compassion ministries — military wives retreat, prison retreat, and the Red Box ministry. Harding helps facilitate the adult track at World Missions Week at Caswell. She also shared WMU-NC missions opportunities at the ministers' wives retreat at Caraway and at the BSCNC Conference in November. The best way to describe these compassion ministries is to hear testimonies from the participants.

#### **Testimonies from 2018 military wives retreat:**

"Today was the closest I've been to my Lord ever in my life. I've made so many new friends but I have been alone a bit, too. Today I was with God asking him for forgiveness. I have lived with guilt that I should let go of and I feel like I have today. Thanks to the women I've spent the last 25-and-a-half hours with at this military wives retreat. I feel so much lighter in my heart!! I know that every one of you ladies have your strengths because I've seen them all day but I'm finding out how strong I can be in my faith just by watching you all. I have quietly cried so much today. Not of sadness or loss but because today I realized how grateful I am for what I have and I let go of whining about what I don't have... thank you all so much ... my cup runneth over today and every day. But now I realize I can now teach my girls just how truly blessed we are."

"Thank you for providing a place for us to come and give it all to God. A place of comfort, peace and lots of uplifting love. The volunteers did an amazing job this weekend, and I am so grateful to have been a part of it. It was eye-opening and life-changing. Thank you so much."

This retreat grows in number every year.

#### **Testimony from 2019 prison retreat:**

In the testimony below, inmates were encouraged to make a decision for the Lord. Following is a testimony of a participant's commitment.

"I want to be a light in the world like all of our retreat volunteers. I felt the Spirit of God encamped all around. I got motivation

through testimonies and I FELT LOVED, NOT JUDGED. I got to network with some unbelievable ladies. This was God's plan for me to meet these people — all of you ladies. I've been discouraged somewhat for I'm in Swannanoa prison, and they have a lot of resources for the Asheville area. I'm from Randolph County, and no one could help me really for resources and fellowship groups or anything. BUT GOD got me here — my hometown — Randolph County! I got to meet awesome women in this area and was relieved that God opened all these doors for li'l ole me! So I'm recharged and excited, ready to know that God's army is all around and I have no fear now — this retreat relinquished that. I got so many things out of the grace I was shown by coming here! It reminded me if I can't get to Jesus, He will come to me — even in prison! It's an honor to have met each one of you. Philippians 1:6 — I stand firm on His promise to me!"

In November, WMU members from across the state provided hygiene supplies, and the gospel message in a tract for approximately 1,700 red boxes for women incarcerated in N.C. prisons.

#### **2018 red box testimony:**

"I wanted to personally write to WMU-NC to thank you for my Red Box. I received it today and it could not have come at a better time. Since sunrise this last day of November, problem after problem seemed to knock on my cell door. When I would tell myself the day couldn't get worse, something else would happen. Then as evening started to set in and my patience was on edge a bright red box showed up at my cell door. The gifts were all nice and greatly appreciated. However, the card and the Scripture tract and the thoughts of someone caring in that moment was what meant the most to me today. It reminded me of love that God has for everyone and it helped me through the rest of a very trying day. So I again want to personally thank WMU-NC. Today you gave gifts of material things to a campus full of troubled women, who I'm sure needed them. However, you also gave gifts to me and I'm sure some other women that were far bigger than the red box and just what I needed. Thank you again."

### **Ministry to Students, Collegiate and Young Women**

WMU-NC, under the direction of Student/Collegiate/Young Women Consultant Julie Keith, works with students and leaders who desire to engage in missional discipleship. Student organizations include Acteens for girls in grades seven to 12, Challengers for boys in grades seven to 12 and Youth on Mission for youth in grades seven to 12. 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. National WMU provides resources for these organizations.

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 2018-19 Acteens panelists are: Maddy Davis, Deep Springs Baptist Church, Anson Baptist Association; Chesnee Edwards, Abbotts Creek Baptist Church, Liberty Baptist Association; and Kendall Hilliard and Annie Stroupe, Pinehurst First Baptist Church, Sandhills Baptist Association. Each of these teen girls shares how being in Acteens affords them ways to fellowship, bond with each other, pray, learn about missions and share Christ in her school, community and state.

Carolina Girls is a biennial event for North Carolina and South Carolina teen girls and their leaders. Carolina Girls was held at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro on Oct. 19-21, 2018. Participants had opportunities for “Loving the Nations, Starting in Your Community” with an emphasis on Leviticus 19:34a. The missions emphasis was working with refugees and internationals in Greensboro. Missionaries Mark and Jennifer Gragg, and Tim and Jody Cross shared their experiences with working with refugees. Girls and their leaders engaged in a refugee simulation, attended conferences and went into the community on Saturday to engage with several agencies that work with refugees. On Sunday, several groups worshipped with Friendly Avenue Baptist Karen Church.

WMU-NC worked with Friendly Avenue Baptist Church as it hosted a refugee event on April 8, 2019. Brenda Forlines and Bryan Presson graciously hosted this event. Presson showed a powerful video titled “The Stranger” by the Evangelical Immigration Table. One eye-opening statistic is that 85 percent of churches actually believe that we should care for refugees but only 8 percent of U.S. churches and 19 percent of international churches actually do. We attended a citizenship class which Brenda Forlines teaches on Monday nights for the refugees.

WMU-NC works with college students by partnering with N.C. Baptists on Mission and colleges. The theme of the 2019 International Student and Scholar Conference held at Fort Caswell on April 12-14 was “Through the Noise.” College students represented 15 different countries. Students were encouraged to consider “stories” we have heard, together with “images” about ourselves we have believed, values, DNA, and early experiences that helped to shape us. Students were challenged to discover and work toward the best version of ourselves which God intended to be “fully alive.” Students had free time to enjoy the beach, explore the forts, and visit the town of Southport. Most intriguing was the presentation by the Palestinian students regarding their observance of Holy Week in preparation for Easter celebration.

WMU-NC’s collegiate ministry also supported the Baptists on Mission Here & Now “Collide” event that took place at Red Springs on Jan. 3-5, 2019, with almost 80 college

students and leaders. Deborah Taylor represented WMU-NC. Students participated in prayer stations, worship, Bible study, fellowship times and breakout sessions. Worship was led by Rachel White, Allison Mozingo, David Stone and Mike Pittman. Students heard from local leaders involved in disaster relief and rebuild, made jump ropes for local students who had lost gym equipment, and provided blankets for displaced families. On Friday, with the Baptists on Mission rebuild center, students spent long hours in rainy weather working on 40 homes and removing trees and debris. On Saturday, students worked in the Red Springs Missions Camp warehouse to sort and process donated items for distribution.

WMU is committed to engaging collegiates and young women ages 18-35 through our SHINE organization. The words listen, learn, live and love are at the core of developing relationships. It is important that today’s five generations have seasoned mentors that will invest in their lives. The WMU-NC executive board’s Student/Collegiate/Young Women Ministry Team recently designed and implemented a survey of this age group which will be used to plan events and resources that will meet the needs for college and young women.

#### **Ministry to Preschool and Children**

Under the direction of Preschool and Children Ministry Consultant Sara Lamkin, special events were held at Mundo Vista Camp and Retreat Center. Children in Action Day was held on March 9, with approximately 100 in attendance. David and Kathy Parsons, North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries in Winston-Salem, shared their experiences of working with the families in different apartment buildings there. The mission project provided coloring books for the missionaries’ after-school programs and events. 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 2019 WMU-NC Annual Meeting and Missions Extravaganza in April, a kids camp was provided for those children in kindergarten to sixth grade whose family members were attending the event. Nineteen kids heard from missionaries and did a missions project, crafts, Bible study, and recreation.

We see growth among churches that want to begin or restart Girls in Action, Children in Action, and Royal Ambassadors. Lamkin provides training and materials to leaders who are teaching for the first time or involved in restarts. We praise God for these faithful groups who meet each week and for their leaders.

#### **Project Help: Refugees**

The current Project HELP emphasis is refugees. Sara Lamkin has had extensive training and experience in this

area. Materials and events throughout the year are offered to help inform our churches about refugees and encourage ministry among them. At Missions Extravaganza, Lamkin led a walk-through refugee simulation which was designed by National WMU. This simulation was first implemented at the SBC exhibit hall in Dallas, Texas, last year. Approximately 100 people walked through the 45-minute simulation and another 20 helped to lead the simulation experience. WMU-NC staff have spoken and led refugee simulations in several churches throughout the state.

### **Leadership Development**

Training leaders and equipping them for ministry service is a main focus of WMU-NC which strives to provide a variety of training opportunities throughout the year. Three training opportunities were offered throughout the state in the summer of 2018. The theme for all three trainings was “Firmly Planted: Unshakable Faith & Leadership” and centered on the new National WMU emphasis of “Unshakable Pursuit.” “Firmly Planted” was hosted in three locations throughout the state: Pinehurst, Murphy and Wallace. More than 300 people attended the trainings and were equipped to serve through learning about new age-level curriculum, spiritual development and creative ways to engage with missions in their local churches. In addition to the “Firmly Planted” 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.

In January 2018, Leadership Development Consultant and Resource Coordinator Amanda Martinsen launched WMU-NC’s new quarterly leadership luncheons. The luncheons, hosted in January, April, July and October, provide local leaders the opportunity to network with one another, receive training in a specific area of leadership and grow in their personal leadership skills.

### **2019 Annual Meeting & Missions Extravaganza**

Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh hosted the 128th WMU-NC Annual Meeting and Missions Extravaganza (ME) on April 26-27. The theme was “Unshakable Pursuit” with National WMU Executive Director-Treasurer Sandy Wisdom-Martin as keynote speaker. Wisdom-Martin challenged and encouraged conference attendees to pursue God and live on mission every day. Wisdom-Martin also inspired everyone to find their “why” and gave insight into the past and future of WMU as an organization. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of conference

breakout sessions. Topics included servant leadership, prayer, reaching refugees, leadership training, reaching the generations and many more. Many sessions featured a spotlight on missionaries and their ministries.

Also present were Kristy Carr, ministry consultant from National WMU, and well-known author, Rosalie Hunt, who led breakout sessions and shared pieces from her newest book on Fannie Heck. Sam James, the International Mission Board’s (IMB) longest serving missionary, led conference sessions and spoke in the general sessions. There were two ministry projects: collecting items for a local refugee welcome house and items for military families. Some participants attended a hands-on conference for packing backpacks for military families and learning how to minister to these families. Other highlights included the parade of nations featuring flags from many countries, having WorldCrafts items available for purchase, and worship music by Teresa Harmening of Texas. More than 450 women and men attended the weekend event. WMU-NC is looking forward to the 2020 Missions Extravaganza which will be held at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte.

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). Bob Navey and his family were present during the meeting for our opportunity to honor his service of 25 years to Camp Mundo Vista as camp manager. Among other gifts, Navey was recently honored by the naming of the Bob Navey Picnic Shelter at Camp Mundo Vista. Consultants Margaret Harding and Julie Keith were honored with gifts for 20 years of service each.

### **Mission Trips**

Many women of WMU-NC travel with their churches and associations all over the United States and the world to fulfill the Great Commission. WMUNC-sponsored mission trips included:

- Armenia: Training women leaders.
- Barre, Vermont: Conducting VBS and a retreat for church planters’ wives.
- Haiti: Orphanage, medical and construction work through Hope Ministries (two trips).
- Houston, Texas: Working with children, families and seniors at the Missions Center of Houston.
- Kenya: Leading women’s leadership conferences, working with Dillon Jones Academy and holding medical clinics.
- Lake Tahoe: Teaching children, resort ministry.
- MissionsCAROLINA: In 2018 and 2019, ministering

through the Red Springs Mission Camp; hurricane rebuild projects and other ministries to the homeless and those in poverty.

- New York City: Ministering through Vacation Bible School and children's clubs at the Graffiti Center.
- Pennsylvania (two trips): Leading a retreat for planters' wives; assisting PA WMU state leadership in a women's gathering.
- Wales: Leading Bible studies and discipleship for refugees and former Muslims.
- West Virginia: Ministering to church planters' wives.

### **Baptist Nursing Fellowship**

N.C. Baptist Nursing Fellowship (NCBNF) celebrated its 36th Annual Meeting at Camp Mundo Vista in February. NCBNF members participate in mission trips stateside and abroad and also volunteer as nurses at Camp Mundo Vista and Caraway during the summer. Through their meetings, members participate in continuing education credit toward license updates.

### **Christian Women's Job Corps**

Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC) NC currently has 13 sites serving 15 counties in North Carolina with two new sites in process of certification. CWJCNC also has partnerships in South Africa. Cara Lynn Vogel is the state coordinator; Deborah Taylor serves as president of the board. We are grateful for each site and each woman's life that is changed by this motto: "A hand-up, not a hand-out." The program includes job skills, life skills and Bible study, with each woman meeting regularly with a mentor.

### **Hispanic WMU (Union Femenil Misionera)**

The Hispanic WMU continues to be strong, holding retreats and meetings all across the state. This year, they had two trainings for leaders in the eastern and western parts of the state. They observed the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer in November. Their annual retreat was held May 3-5 with more than 200 women, youth and children present. The main speaker was Libo Krieg, a conference leader and author from Texas WMU. At this meeting, they elected new officers for the coming year and planned their calendar of activities. Their leaders give many hours in building a missions awareness in our Hispanic churches.

### **Sisters Who Care**

Lisa Jacobs is the volunteer coordinator for Sisters Who Care, the Women on Mission organization for our African-American sisters. Lisa has conducted regional meetings across the state to build the membership. Several projects have involved giving donations to refugees.

### **NC Baptist Heritage Award**

Jan High, former staff member of WMU-NC, was the 2018

recipient of the N.C. Baptist Heritage Award. The award is presented at a banquet cosponsored by the Baptist state convention and the N.C. Baptist Foundation each year. High is the longest serving staff member of WMU-NC with 28 years of service. As leadership development/training specialist, High was instrumental in organizing, training and nurturing a wide network of leaders to form a resource team of 122 women who traveled throughout the state to train other leaders. High spent her WMU career serving the Lord first in Maryland, then in North Carolina. Not one to retire, she continues to be involved in local missions.

### **Camp Mundo Vista**

Established in 1969, Camp Mundo Vista remains a place where men, women and children draw closer to God and are called to missions in a beautiful, rustic setting. Approximately 150 former counselors, campers and lovers of Camp Mundo Vista attended the camp's 50th anniversary celebration on June 1, 2019. Claudia Austin chaired the committee for the event. Guest speakers included Bert Yates, Caroline Jones and Dianne Daniels, retired International Mission Board missionaries; Cara Lynn Croom Vogel, Christian Women's Job Corps state director; Linda Todd, former WMU-NC Acteens/camp director; and Pat Liles, former Camp Mundo Vista director, WMU-NC Girls in Action director/consultant, and WMU SBC Baptist young women's consultant. In addition to touring camp during the afternoon, guests visited in rooms dedicated to the decade in which they served or attended camp, sharing stories and pictures – and much laughter. Singing camp songs and visiting the outdoor chapel were additional highlights of the day.

On Feb. 1, 2019, WMU-NC and Caraway Conference Center and Camp signed a management agreement by which Caraway, for the first time, assumed operational responsibility and programming of Camp Mundo Vista, except for those events which are exclusively organized by WMU-NC. WMU-NC owns the buildings that are on the property and has a lease on the property until 2091. During the weeks of June 16-29, Horizons Camp for girls and "Me, Mom and Chocolate: A Mother-Daughter Retreat" were held at Camp Mundo Vista. The camp continues to be focused on missions, including refugee retreats, prison ministry emphasis, prayer retreats, Scripture journaling and other events.

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

On June 9-10, the National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting was held at the national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala. WMU-NC Executive Director-Treasurer Amy Boone, President Dee Dee Moody, Vice President Deborah Taylor, Consultants Margaret Harding and Amanda Martinsen, and other leaders from across North Carolina attended the national meeting. The theme of the event was "Pursue," implying that God pursues us and we pursue Him back, creating a rhythm – a momentum – by which we have a relationship with Him.

Program personalities included IMB missionaries Nik and Ruth Ripken and Hun and Eunjo Sol; NAMB church planters Philip and Jummai Nache; Kevin Ezell, president of NAMB; and Todd Lafferty, executive vice president of the IMB.

On Monday, June 10, approximately 750 men, women, and children visited the WMU Building at 100 Missionary Ridge. Because of the proximity of the SBC convention center, men and women were able to visit both the WMU Building and the SBC exhibit. From 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., guests to the building were invited to participate in 131 activities, commemorating the 131st anniversary of WMU. Activities included an audio tour of the building, hearing Nik and Ruth Ripken, participating in a refugee simulation and an underground church simulation, touring a disaster relief shower unit, baking Lottie Moon cookies, observing actors portraying important men and women in missions history and 124 others. Dee Dee Moody, who serves as a vice president of National WMU, helped give a tea party to commemorate the life of Polly Webb, a paraplegic in Boston in the early 1800s. Webb was responsible for the earliest of missionary societies leading to WMU organizing in 1888.

A highlight of the celebration was WMU-NC's Ruby Fulbright receiving the esteemed Delanna O'Brien Award. Established in 1998, the O'Brien Award recognizes a Baptist woman who demonstrates the ability to foster leadership in women. David George, president of the WMU Foundation, presented Ruby a plaque and monetary gift. Following missionary

service in Zambia, O'Brien served WMU-NC as president, executive director-treasurer and is currently on the executive board. O'Brien has mentored many young women including those across North America as she served five years as vice president of networking, leadership and mentoring with Baptist Women of North America (formerly NABWU).

Visitors to Birmingham were able to see the National WMU Foundation Walk of Faith, a walkway made of bricks engraved with the names of missions pioneers and leaders, past and present. Some are well-known, while others are special only to the presenter of the brick. The WMU-NC executive board purchased a brick for Fannie Exile Scudder Heck, who organized WMU-NC in 1886 and served as president for 29 consecutive years.

### **Unshakable Pursuit**

Since the beginning of time, God has pursued men, women, and children to a personal relationship with Him and has invited them to join Him where He is working – that the whole world might hear. Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is committed to pursuing God and answering His call on our lives. Still today, in our 133rd year, WMU-NC's purpose remains to "challenge, prepare and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission."

*Amy Boone, Executive Director-Treasurer  
Dee Dee Moody, President*



# BUSINESS SERVICES

## — REPORT —



**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, assist churches. As churches in North Carolina change and diversify, the work of the Business Services Group reviews and revises its systems and processes in order to more effectively assist the churches and convention staff. The reports that follow provide a snapshot of how “God’s Great Work” was carried out in 2019 through the Business Services Group.

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

- Baptist building operations.
- Property/casualty insurance.
- Accounting.
- Budgets.
- N.C. hunger ministry grants through Global Hunger Relief.
- Legal matters.
- Investments.
- Printing/mailing.
- Human resources.
- Benefits.
- Annuity.

- Camps, assemblies and conference centers.
- General business operations.

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

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

*John Butler, Executive Leader*  
*Penny Cozadd, Executive Leader Assistant*

## COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SERVICES (CABS)

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 through GuideStone Financial Resources, 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 establishing and contributing to their retirement plans in addition to their salaries and other benefits. Sadly, nearly half of N.C. Baptist churches make no contribution to the retirement plans of their staff members. We continue to educate and encourage our churches to be responsible employers by providing for their staff members' retirements in a Christ-honoring manner.

### Convention Protection Benefits

We were pleased to be able to continue offering life and disability benefits to all staff members of N.C. Baptist churches participating in the Church Plan through GuideStone. North Carolina continues to lead all state conventions in the number of participants, but we 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 changing tax and health care laws have on our churches and their staff members. 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](http://compstudy.lifeway.com). Much of the year has been spent educating churches on the tax implications of the "lump sum pay packages" for pastors and churches. The taxability of such pay packages continues to be a concern.

## Mission Dignity

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

*Davis Blount, Senior Consultant*

## 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.
- Staff development.
- 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 the 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*

### **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 2018, churches focused on sharing the gospel to more than 137,000 people in their efforts to share not only bread and water, but the Bread of Life and the Living Water. Our statistics indicate that 158 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*

### **CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS**

#### **Caraway Conference Center and Camps**

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

Caraway is a ministry 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).

On Feb. 1, 2019, Caraway assumed operational responsibility for Camp Mundo Vista from the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC), thus becoming Caraway Conference Center and Camps. Mundo Vista is a great resource for N.C. Baptist churches for retreats and training events. In cooperation with WMU-NC, Caraway conducts girls and mother/daughter camp experiences, and also hosts many WMU-NC events.

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*

#### **Fort Caswell Coastal Retreat and Conference Center**

In 2019, Fort Caswell celebrated its 69th year of hosting camps and conferences for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. This beautiful campus, tucked away on the eastern tip of Oak Island, is rich in its history as an instrument of peace, with new chapters being written each year. Our guests continue to come here and experience quiet reflection, growth within their ministries and the opportunity to experience Christ's love for them personally.

A critical component of our ministry's mission is a commitment to maintain and improve Fort Caswell's

facilities. Our facilities need to be in the best possible condition to maximize their benefit to our guests and to reflect our commitment to being good stewards of all that God has gifted us. Construction is currently underway on two new youth residences which will improve lodging options and flexibility for guests in the future. The latest projection for their completion is in early December 2019.

In every other section of the facility, the influence of volunteer workers continues to be seen and felt. Skilled volunteers are making an increasingly meaningful impact on the maintenance and improvement of our existing facilities. We are grateful for their commitment to give so much time and effort to Fort Caswell. God has clearly used them to richly bless us and many others.

These 288 acres of unspoiled coastal property are, perhaps more than ever, a needed haven for North Carolina Baptists seeking refuge from the pressures of life. 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 Conference Center and Camp**

Truett Conference Center and Camp is one of the “best kept secrets” to expose guests to the wonders of our Creator in the beautiful setting of western North Carolina. This is the 67th year of Truett Conference Center and

Camp, which is owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Located in Hayesville, N.C., our campus is adorned in the spring and summer with rhododendrons, azaleas and daylilies, and we enjoy the cool crisp air in the fall and winter for four seasons of God’s creative beauty.

The summer is an exciting time when the mountain comes to life. The air is crisp, clean and filled with the sounds of laughter as campers from all across North Carolina and neighboring states ascend on the property for exciting times of adventure, recreation and worship. With the variety of camps Truett offers, children and teens flood the mountain each summer in anticipation of what the next adventure is going to be, and there is always excitement happening here.

In the fall, winter and spring, adult groups from all around the state and neighboring states will come to retreat and unplug from the hustle and bustle of our busy world. Each individual is able to find peace and solace in the majesty of what God has created in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

A day, a weekend or a week at Truett Conference Center and Camp will echo in your heart and mind with experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Visit the Truett website at [truettcamp.org](http://truettcamp.org) to see what is happening next.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to seek God’s face. Pray for the direction of Truett Conference Center and Camp as we seek to make improvements to ensure that each person’s stay is even more enjoyable than the last.

*Kenny Adcock, Director*

# CHURCH PLANTING & MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS

## — REPORT —



**CHUCK REGISTER**  
**EXECUTIVE LEADER**

**The Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Group (CPMP) is comprised of four ministry teams. These teams include:**

Associational Partnerships, which relates to the 77 local Baptist associations across North Carolina; Church Planting, which partners with local churches, associations and church planting networks to facilitate church planting across the state; Collegiate Partnerships, which assists local congregations in the development and implementation of strategies launching a reproducing gospel presence on every North Carolina college campus; and the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, which is focused on helping N.C. Baptists reach unreached and unengaged people groups in North Carolina, North America and around the world.

The statewide strategy of “impacting lostness through disciple-making” continues to guide our work. With more than 5.8 million lost people in North Carolina, comprising more than 162 different people groups who speak more than 300 different languages, our labor focuses upon engaging the top 250 pockets of lostness in North Carolina with the life-transforming message of the gospel.

If North Carolina Baptists can reach the vast diversity of our state with the gospel, the gospel may well travel from North Carolina back around the world through the relationship networks of the various language groups calling North Carolina home. Gospel engagement, disciple-making and church planting in the heart language of every people group is the goal of the Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Group.

Chuck Register serves as the executive leader for the Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Group. He may be reached at [cregister@ncbaptist.org](mailto:cregister@ncbaptist.org).

### **Selected CPMP ministry highlights**

- Welcomed 80 new churches into the Baptist state convention family.
- Celebrated 7,117 professions of faith through the ministries of church plants currently in the funding cycle.
- Witnessed dramatic increases in collegiate professions of faith, students sent on summer missions, students disciplined in small groups and students trained in evangelism.
- Coordinated more than 170 volunteers who distributed more than 6,000 coats and the gospel through Coats for the City in New York City.
- Strengthened the evangelistic focus of Baptist associations through the theme “Moving Into the Future: Sowing and Sending.”

*Chuck Register, Executive Leader*

*Savannah Parks, Executive Leader Assistant*

### **ASSOCIATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

Associational mission strategists (AMSs) across North Carolina play a crucial role in the life of our churches and can be a vital, significant and strategic force in the effort to help plant new churches and assist in the revitalization and replanting of existing congregations. For this reason, Associational Partnerships continues to offer opportunities, training and resources to help associational missionaries enter the field with a fresh, intentional and deliberate approach. We are grateful for the important 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.

#### **Events, conferences and training**

Associational Partnerships and the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference (NCAMC) formed a joint planning team consisting of the AMS officers and Baptist state convention staff that collaborate to enhance our relationship and plan the annual NCAMC. During this year’s three-day training event in April, we offered a full day devoted to potential and new AMS training and a full agenda of education, training and fellowship opportunities for all associational staff. Spouses participated in their own separate program track.

The overall aim of the multiyear conference has been to concentrate on Jesus’ model for making disciples. The four parts of Jesus’ method involved calling, growing, mentoring and sending. For the past several years, we have centered on growing and training. This year we shifted the focus of the conference to sowing and sending with a new theme “Moving into a New Future: Sowing and Sending.”

Our purpose was to highlight the pressing need for evangelism and missions mobilization and engagement in their respective context of ministry. Teams representing the Evangelism and Discipleship, Church Planting and Missions Partnerships, and Administration and Convention Relations groups from the Baptist state convention led AMSs through interactive presentations to help reveal available resources, equip associational leaders and establish stronger relationships.

Our guest presenter was Richard Blackaby and our worship leader was Rick Fisher, both with Blackaby Ministries International. Blackaby taught from his book, *Living Out of the Overflow* which focused on one’s leadership in relation to one’s personal walk with God. The goal of the conference was to help AMSs understand the patience, love and dependence on the Holy Spirit that is necessary to lead and coach their pastors and churches to mobilize their people to evangelize the lost and make disciples.

A conference for new and potential AMSs was offered at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Ala., in January. The theme was “Associational Transitions ... Moving Into a New Future!” with keynote presenters Chris Schofield, Ray Gentry, Todd Robertson and Steve Laughman.

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 AMSs, new AMSs and experienced AMSs with training and orientation opportunities offered by the convention and other entities that resource associational missionaries such as the Southern States Associational Missions Conference, the Network of Baptist Associations (NOBA) and the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL). Premier training is available during these opportunities for sharpening skills and developing competencies for future associational challenges.

#### **Strategic Partnership Requests**

Strategic Partnership Requests (SPRs) allow local associational partners to receive assistance with resourcing outreach opportunities, which include: church planting; collegiate ministry; strategic impact; minority, ethnic and language ministry; and various other ministries. The entire SPR process — which involves the association receiving the forms for submission, to instructions and guidance of the process, to delivery to the appropriate convention ministry group, and to the communication of the status of the request and final approval — flows through Associational Partnerships.

## **NORTH CAROLINA MISSIONS OFFERING**

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

### **Burt Wilbur, Brushy Mountain Baptist Association**

Established a new work and church transition fund to assist churches.

### **Roy Smith, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches**

“We are using these funds to do Hurricane Florence disaster relief and rebuild, which is also how we are using our Mission Impact Offering (formerly the Associational Week of Prayer Mission Offering).”

### **James Harrington, Chowan Baptist Association**

“Last October we had a citywide multid denominational and multiethnic crusade for four nights. About 20 churches were involved (maybe more but 20 core churches). We filled a 500-seat tent every night. The object was to reach one of the top 200 pockets of lostness in North Carolina. Though it ended up being more of a revival than a crusade, it definitely brought the races together like nothing we’ve done in many years. We have received many comments regarding how much this meant to racial relations in the city. Hopefully it will lead to other events.”

### **Kenneth Houston, interim AMS, South Mountain Baptist Association (SMBA)**

“These funds are put into our missions fund that is used to support our SMBA mission team mission trips. A group of 20 to 30 folks go on a mission trip in mid-June where they do a Bible ministry, VBS, and handyman ministry — whatever the pastor assigns them. We have a group that also goes to Mountain City, Tenn., twice a year — in July and December — to help with the Old Mill ministry.”

### **Troy Rust, Beulah Baptist Association**

“Our NCMO funds are combined with our associational missions offering to support our missions partnerships. The money is divided as follows:

- 25 percent: International partnership — Global Mission Nepal.
- 25 percent: National partnership — The Bridge Church, St. Johnsbury, Vt.
- 25 percent: Local partnerships — My Life Matters (third

to 12th grade school ministry), Life Choices (pregnancy center).

- 25 percent: Miscellaneous — local Spanish mission support, church mission trip scholarship and veteran’s breakfast.”

### **Michael Barrett, Piedmont Baptist Association**

“Some of our funds were used to help launch a Hispanic church planting movement in the Triad. Our church planter has several disciple-making groups scattered over the Triad as they strive to build a church planting movement.”

### **Jonas Perez, Rowan Southern Baptist Association**

“In Rowan County, we used the NCMO to support a missions trip to Hungary and another one to Honduras in 2018. Two churches went to two of these trips with information and leadership of the BSCNC.”

### **Lon Chenowith, Sandy Run Baptist Association**

“We utilized the state missions offering to purchase Bibles, gospel tracts and tools for three saturation evangelism outreaches in the summer involving 40 churches, and spring and summer community events. Funds were also applied to an association women’s conference. We are more than thankful for these annual funds that we utilize in evangelism and training events where people come to faith in Christ and grow stronger.”

### **Walker Armstrong, Pilot Mountain Baptist Association**

“We used it to supplement our summer intern program. Last summer, we hired three interns who helped with summer mission projects, VBS and a host of other activities.”

### **Joe Cappar, New River Baptist Association**

“All funds from the NCMO received by New River Baptist Association were utilized for the operations of the association’s eight ministry action teams: connections, church launch promotion, church leadership development, church revitalization, community missions awareness, evangelism, family, and military.”

## **BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY**

Bivocational ministry presents its own set of challenges. Reaching out and connecting to bivocational ministers has proven difficult but extremely necessary since these ministers do not have the option to participate in many opportunities offered for their benefit. Bivocational ministries shifted from a statewide retreat in the central part of the state to regional retreats that bring the opportunities closer to the bivocational ministers’ place of service.

We have also elected to include smaller membership church ministers in many of the events we offer. All ministers who serve churches with 125 or less in average worship attendance

are invited to participate. There are differences between the bivocational and fully funded small church minister, but the issues regarding church development are virtually the same. We continue to plan regional and associational events focusing on the smaller membership churches and ministers. North Carolina Bivocational Ministries also relates to the national resourcing body known as the Bivocational and Small Church Leadership Network, which hosts an annual meeting at various locations across the United States.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICES**

Many AMSs, church planters, strategy coordinators, pastors and church staff utilize the demographic services provided by the state convention to map their areas of ministry. MissionInsite is a vital and valuable tool that is continually upgraded with new features and is very effective in locating and identifying unreached people, which aids in developing and implementing an intentional outreach strategy. For instance, AMSs from all over the state are beginning to learn and use the tool to train pastors to survey ministry and missions needs in their context. Invaluable information is available in understanding the people they are seeking to reach with the gospel.

We encourage ministers to begin discovering just how many layers of information this tool has to help them better reach the lost, make disciples and plant new churches. This information not only has given basic demographic data for their area, but has also enabled them to understand people's likes, dislikes and preferences in life and in matters relating to Christ and church. Associational Partnerships continues the search for someone to train as trainers of MissionInsite in your local setting who have a passion for demographic studies and reaching the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am indebted to and grateful for Shirley Sells, contract worker with the Church Planting Missions Partnerships group, and those who have served and currently serve as the ministry assistant in Associational Partnerships. These individuals are proven, skilled and invaluable assets in providing training to those who are interested in utilizing MissionInsite.

Plotting a church's membership is an effective way to help churches discover if members of their congregation live in areas they are trying to reach. These members can be a great asset to reach people in those communities with the gospel. The additional benefit of being able to compare a congregation's demographics to their community or target area is invaluable because it allows them to better understand the best way to prepare the soil of people's hearts for sowing seeds of the gospel. Discovering how those you are trying to reach are similar or different from the congregation will help your church develop the best strategy to discover and meet real needs. We have barely scratched the surface in how much this tool can assist our churches

in impacting lostness. We are grateful to the convention for making this valuable resource available to every church.

### **Hosting a missions event**

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

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

*Lester Evans, Team Leader*

*Savannah Parks, Executive Leader Assistant*

### **CHURCH PLANTING**

#### **Helping people, families and communities rise**

When Pastor Joe Maye began Rise Church in Winston-Salem, they began by emphasizing a missional model of meeting in homes around their target area. Partnering with Sprague Street Recreation Center for Sunday worship services, Rise Church's ministry to their community is more than a church service gathering but is missionally aligned to bring restoration in a variety of ways, which include:

- Their school, Rise Academy, which exists to see students rise in a Christ-rooted, holistic educational environment designed to help them discover their kingdom calling and invest their lives back into improving that community.
- Jobs for Life, a ministry designed to help members of their community find work that celebrates their giftings, dignity and the image of God within them.

Rise Church explored what it would look like to plant a church that makes a difference among the urban poor in their city and is gaining traction in an incredibly hard community context.

#### **New levels of cooperation**

The Rise Church story is an inspiring one as Maye leads his church to embrace and engage the struggling in their neighborhoods. Another exciting part of the Rise Church story is this important fact: Rise Church was planted and sent by the more traditional Old Town Baptist Church, which exists in

their same city. While we know that this should not be unusual in our church, unfortunately, often it is. Old Town Baptist, believing in Maye and his calling to “the least of these,” came alongside of this vision and expanded their kingdom vision through planting and sending. There is power in partnership and in this story we are reminded that conventions don’t exist to plant churches — Jesus plants new churches through the local church. While the partnership of Rise Church and Old Town Baptist is particularly exciting, it isn’t exclusive as we are increasingly seeing partnerships between church plants and existing churches.

Along the lines of greater church planting cooperation, Kingstree Church, under the leadership of planter Matthew Speaks, began meeting in the homes of their members for worship in 2018. As their congregation grew, they arranged to meet in the facility of an independent Baptist church in their town. Their continued growth brought many issues with space in the building, bringing about a search for another church with a larger facility to partner with. Enter the leaders of Konnoak Baptist Church, which is an established church in the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association. After discussions, prayer and some shared meetings, the congregation at Konnoak welcomed Kingstree into their facility. Though these two churches meet in different parts of the facility on Sunday morning, Konnoak has been very welcoming and accommodating of the needs of the growing Kingstree Church. This is a beautiful picture of kingdom partnership and collaboration.

Both of the above examples follow the example set forth in Acts 13 where we see the story of the first sending church in Antioch. Acts 13:2-3 says, “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”

### **The need is great**

The need for new churches in North Carolina continues to increase. With more than 5.8 million individuals who don’t know Christ in the state, we are all reminded that people need Jesus and that our continued mission is summed up in the Great Commission. With recent statistics saying that 70 percent of Americans have no true commitment to the church, it’s hard to dismiss the role of church planting in fulfilling God’s plan. The rearview mirror view of the Bible makes it so much easier to see what God was doing in the creation of the church, also called the *ecclesia* in Greek or called out body of believers. Let us never forget that Jesus didn’t die for a physical structure or a meeting place. We are reminded that Jesus died for all people, from all nations, from every generation.

With the Great Commission always in mind, Church Planting N.C. celebrated the addition of 80 new churches in 2018. Of these 80 new church starts, 57 of those received training, coaching, and financial assistance through the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) and the Cooperative Program. In addition to the newly planted churches, 23 additional churches, mostly new mission works, joined the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) through affiliation. Though these new affiliates did not receive financial assistance, many received coaching and training.

In John 4:35, Jesus says, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” Not only is the harvest ripe, the harvest fields are diverse. There are more than 300 languages spoken in North Carolina. The harvest is coming to us. Of the new church plants launched in 2018, 68 percent identified as non-Anglo, which included 24 Hispanic congregations, four Asian congregations and 10 African American congregations.

One of those planters, Javier Herrera has started several Spanish-speaking, gospel-centered, reproducing, outreach-oriented Baptist churches in the Triad. They include: Iglesia la Red Pleasant Garden; Iglesia la Red Friendly; and Iglesia la Red High Point. “La red” means “the net,” which reflects that fact that these new churches are fishing for men, women and children throughout the Triad area. Herrera and his team are leading each of these new churches to be reproducing churches.

We were also blessed to add 17 new congregations who identify as being multiethnic. We pray that the number of multiethnic churches will continue to increase, by God’s grace and leadership, in the coming years.

### **Training and evangelism**

Preparing our new church planters for the work that is before them continues to be at the forefront of what our Church Planting N.C. team prioritizes. Here in North Carolina, we plant many different types of churches in varying contextual areas throughout the state and have come to understand that different types of training help different types of churches.

Our Hispanic Church Planting Training Centers continue to flourish with more than 500 people attending these training events in 2018. These trainings are based on a six month curriculum that encourages the planters to continue down a path of reproducing and training past their initial training. These events are more than just training but also serve as an invitation and exploration event.

North Carolina Church Planter Training (NCCPT) is our English speaking, large-group training. This four-day event

is for husbands and their wives, and it was held twice in 2018 for a combined total of 44 attendees. NCCPT provides a broad overview of many of the issues that planters face in starting new churches. It is led by members of the Church Planting N.C. team, as well as some planters from across North Carolina.

Send Network Training (SNT) is another training we utilize in North Carolina. SNT is a small cohort that involves contextualized training led by an experienced trainer who helps planters develop the tools they need to plant in their individual context. Interactive peer learning helps the planters implement a strategic mission based on their unique giftings and model. Church Planting N.C. hosted three Send Network Trainings last year with 13 graduates.

New churches planted in 2018 reported 152,901 evangelistic contacts, and we praise God with them for 7,117 professions of faith through the members of these churches. We rejoice in a reported total of 1,537 baptisms in 2018, an increase of 636 baptisms from 2017. New churches have a tendency to reach those who have been unreached with the gospel. Through our church plants, we have held evangelistic training for more than 125 people. Our International Youth Impact Conference had 108 attendees from 13 countries. It should be noted that over the last four years new N.C. church plants have reported more than 28,000 professions of faith.

**Church planting comparative statistics: 2017-18**

	2017	2018
Evangelistic contacts	98,546	152,901
Professions Of Faith	6,861	7,117
Baptisms	901	1,537
Total average weekly worship attendance	5,463	6,789
Cooperative Program giving	\$140,319	\$126,346
Associational giving	\$93,687.28	\$89,177

The story of Redemption Hill Church (RHC) shows the power that an evangelistic new church can have. Redemption Hill, under the leadership of planter Brandon Mercer, began meeting in a recreation center in the Ardmore area of Winston-Salem. Early in 2018, they entered discussions with Twin City Church (TCC) about RHC taking over TCC’s facility, and inviting all the members of TCC who were willing to go through the membership process of RHC.

Not all TCC members joined RHC, however, God has greatly blessed the work of this church in reaching unchurched people with the gospel. Since merging with the smaller Twin

City Church, Redemption Hill’s worship attendance has more than doubled. But most encouraging is the fact that they still have more people in small groups than in average worship attendance. Redemption Hill Church has baptized more than 70 people in the past 17 months, and only a few have been children or teens. The gospel is being lifted high, and the lost are coming to Jesus through the ministry of Redemption Hill Church.

**Kingdom vision**

We are encouraged by the number of stories we have heard in the last year where new churches have been able to partner with existing congregations, sometimes with a kingdom vision that sees the established church recognize the new church’s ability to continue its original mission. The story of Proximity Church and Camp Herman Baptist Church is one such example.

Proximity Church, under the leadership of Church Planting N.C. planter Mike Reeve, was given the existing church building of Camp Herman Baptist Church in Greensboro. Proximity was a mobile church plant that had been meeting in a public school. The Camp Herman Baptist Church building was very close to Reeve’s target of the Reedy Fork community. People from the community passed by the church building regularly on their way into Greensboro. The Reedy Fork development is projected to add hundreds of homes in the future. With the Camp Herman congregation down to about 18 attendees on Sundays, the church graciously gave their building to Proximity Church. In the agreement, Proximity was also given a small rental home near the church which they were able to sell to upgrade the church property. Proximity continues to grow and is most grateful for such a gift and investment in their mission work. We are praying that this story will be repeated in different towns across North Carolina in the coming years.

Our new churches are incredibly diverse, both culturally and ethnically. Many of our churches represent the many languages spoken across our state. The music may vary, and styles may differ from congregation to congregation, but the one thing that unites our churches is the commitment to impact lostness through disciple-making. We were pleased to find out that in 2018 our weekly worship average was 6,739, an increase of 1,326 from 2017. While our ultimate goal is sending and not attendance, we are grateful to see our new churches reaching so many on a weekly basis.

Kingdom vision is also reflected in the missions giving from our Church Planting N.C. starts. Our funded church plants commit to give at least 5 percent to missions through the Cooperative Program, 3 percent to their association or network and 2 percent to other new church plants that they can choose to partner with. Our goal is to lead these

churches to build missions giving and partnership with our convention into the foundation of the church so that they will continue to give well past their obligated giving during their funding period. In 2018, new churches gave \$126,346 to the Cooperative Program and more than \$89,000 to their partner associations or networks.

### **Reproducing churches**

The mission of Church Planting N.C. is that we exist to catalyze a reproducing church movement in partnership with local North Carolina Baptist churches in cities and towns from the mountains to the coast. It is so important that we don't just plant new churches, but that we plant new churches that have a focus on being a reproducing church. Pastor Miguel Abdala is the type of planter who exemplifies the reproducing church spirit. Abdala is a church planter in the Hickory/Newton area. Hickory and Newton are different towns, and Abdala is making an impact in both of them. In the last year, Abdala has started three Hispanic churches in the area — Iglesia Hispana Vertical Life; Iglesia Hispana Maranatha in Lincolnton; and Iglesia Hispana Monte de Sion in Hickory. Abdala is a reproducing leader, not just planting churches but preparing leaders to lead these new churches. Abdala is preparing to begin a church planting training center to prepare more potential planters to continue planting new churches.

Another important component in seeing a church planting movement in North Carolina is the intentionality of existing churches to become reproducing churches. We have seen many churches in North Carolina intentionally reproduce, such as the partnership between Old Town and Rise Church. Other reproducing N.C. Baptist churches include Mercy Hill in Greensboro, The Point Church in Cary, The Summit Church in Durham, Vertical Church in Lumberton and Mercy Church in Charlotte.

An important point in the reproducing church discussion is that you don't have to be a large church to be an intentionally reproducing church. Consider Crossroads Church in Whiteville. After launching their church in December of 2017, Crossroads planter Billy Roy led his church to be the kind of church that would live out the example of reproducing that he saw demonstrated in Scripture and through his sending church. In their first year as a church plant Crossroads Church was part of a coalition of churches that would help Sojourner Church in Concord get started with financial support. Crossroads also committed to take on two church planting apprentices. In turn, Sojourner Church "planted pregnant," meaning they started with the intention to plant and send, and they committed to apprentice and send two churches in their first two years as a church. A reproducing church planting movement will not happen unless established churches join together to plant churches.

The Church Planting N.C. team counts it all joy to serve North Carolina Baptist churches, associations and networks in joining together for the completion of the Great Commission.

*Mike Pittman, Team Leader*

### **COLLEGIATE PARTNERSHIPS**

At the conclusion of the 2018-19 academic year, the Collegiate Partnerships Team notched a benchmark of seeing a full five years since implementing the new church-based strategy designed to fulfill a vision of seeing a reproducing gospel presence on every single college or university campus in North Carolina.

The Collegiate Partnerships Team identifies a "reproducing gospel presence" that engages a college or university campus by the following four criteria:

1. It is under the authority of a local church.
2. It is doctrinally sound.
3. It is a group of students.
4. It is reproducing disciples.

North Carolina is a state rich with opportunities for higher education. Art institutes, trade schools, universities, proprietary schools, research campuses, community colleges, junior colleges and the like all make up the collegiate landscape of North Carolina. In particular, the ever-expanding N.C. community college system seems to constantly change the enormity of the collegiate mission field across our state. Because of the variety of post-high school educational opportunities and the need to clearly define and focus our mission field, the Collegiate Partnerships Team has defined a "campus" by the following criteria:

1. It has a physical location with its own address. This eliminates online programs and satellite environments that share an address with a "mother-institution."
2. It is part of a nonprofit institution. This eliminates proprietary, for-profit institutions.
3. It has "college" or "university" in its name. This eliminates institutes and clinics.
4. The institution identifies it as a "campus." This eliminates fledgling satellites that are called centers or extensions in their infancy.
5. It offers nonministerial degrees or diplomas with on-site classes. This eliminates Bible colleges, seminaries and schools of ministry, as well as programs that are exclusively online. This is an important distinction because we are identifying a mission field.

Given these criteria, North Carolina boasts a staggering 185 collegiate campuses.

Even though the Collegiate Partnerships Team has identified a much more vast mission field across our collegiate landscape than had been previously targeted by the campus ministry system prior to 2014, by helping local churches engage these campuses in an effort to fulfill the Great Commission, North Carolina has seen far greater gospel saturation since we shifted our strategy from being convention-led to church-led. The following statistics demonstrate this reality.

#### **NC Baptist churches are reaching more college students.**

From 2005 to 2013, Baptist Campus Ministry reached an average of 2,570 college students each year. Since the strategy shifted, however, from convention-led campus ministries to church-led collegiate ministries in 2014, churches have reached an average of 3,438 college students each year. This 36 percent growth rate demonstrates that more campuses engaged by churches translate into more students engaged by churches.

#### **More college students are being saved.**

From 2005 to 2013, Baptist Campus Ministry saw an average of 134 college students come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ each year. Since the strategy shifted, however, churches have led an average of 356 college students to faith in Jesus Christ each year from 2014-2019. This massive 165 percent increase demonstrates that the church has always been God's "plan A" for fulfilling the Great Commission. No organization can be more effectively evangelistic than the church.

#### **More college students are being disciplined in groups.**

From 2005 to 2013, Baptist Campus Ministry saw an average of 1,323 college students disciplined in small groups each year. However, since churches took the lead beginning in 2014, an average of 2,192 college students have been disciplined in small groups each year. This 66 percent increase demonstrates that churches, by leveraging their collective spiritual maturity and their broad generational spread, are better equipped and more effective at discipling college students.

#### **More college students are being trained as leaders.**

There is no greater entity than the church to train students to be leaders in the church, which makes complete sense logically. However, for decades, Baptist Campus Ministry tried its best to train college students to be leaders who would find a place of service in the church. The problems were evidenced, however, when leadership in a campus ministry did not even translate into church involvement following graduation, much less church leadership. From 2005 to 2013, Baptist Campus Ministry trained an average of 490 college students as leaders each year. From 2014 through 2019, however, N.C. Baptist churches trained an average of

740 college students as leaders each year. The 66 percent increase demonstrates how much more effective the church is in training leaders.

#### **More college students are learning to share the gospel.**

Just as the church is God's "plan A" for fulfilling the Great Commission by advancing the gospel, the church is also the primary catalyst for training the mission force in the work of evangelism. From 2005 to 2013, Baptist Campus Ministry trained an average of 466 college students in evangelism. Things shifted radically in 2014, though, when the church took up this task for collegiate ministry across North Carolina. Since then, N.C. Baptist churches have trained an average of 1,407 college students each year to share the gospel. This staggering 202 percent growth rate clearly demonstrates the local church's greater effectiveness in training the people of God to share the gospel.

#### **More college students are being sent as missionaries.**

Baptist Campus Ministry operated with a summer missions program that sent college students to a select number of partners. Most of these partnerships only existed throughout the summer when students would serve alongside them. Even with the limited nature of these partnerships, Baptist Campus Ministry, from 2005 until 2013, sent an average of 216 college students as missionaries each summer. In 2014, however, the Collegiate Partnerships Team shifted the missions strategy to helping churches utilize their own partnerships for sending college students. By helping churches utilize college students to strengthen their existing mission partnerships, N.C. Baptist churches have sent an average of 410 college students since 2014 as missionaries each summer. This 90 percent increase in missions mobilization demonstrates that the church is far more effective in raising up the mission force needed to fulfill the Great Commission.

After only five years, gospel saturation throughout North Carolina's collegiate landscape has certainly increased, but there are still more than 100 college or university campuses yet to be engaged by a reproducing gospel presence. We still have a long way to go. The trends demonstrate, however, that as more churches engage more campuses with the gospel:

- More students will be saved.
- More students will be disciplined.
- More students will be trained in evangelism.
- More students will be trained as leaders.
- More students will be mobilized into the mission field.

#### **Testimonies**

It's the real-life stories, however, that speak the loudest. The following are samples of stories from collegiate ministries from various churches across North Carolina.

“A young man from Iran with an nominal Muslim background who has been a student at UNCC for three years came to our church three weeks ago. The night before he first attended, my wife and I read an article about God’s work among Iranian people and that the fastest growing evangelical church in the world is in Iran. We prayed that God would save more people from Iran. The next day, Mohammad showed up at our church and told me he wanted to become a Christian! God answered that prayer in a way I had no idea was possible. We’ve met several times over the past three weeks. He had never been to church or heard the gospel before. His heart is open to the gospel, and he says he has trusted Christ for salvation and has confessed Him as his Lord! We’re reading through John together. He’s sharing the gospel using the ‘3 Circles’ with his twin sister, and she is open to the gospel, too!”

— *Bo Riley, University Hills Baptist Church, Charlotte (Reaching UNC Charlotte and Central Piedmont Community College’s Cato Campus)*

“We have had a growing prayer emphasis in our international ministry, asking the Lord to lead us and grant us access in ways we could never expect. Yearly, we host a Chinese New Year’s outreach, and this year we specifically prayed for broader access to share the gospel. Through a series of divinely orchestrated steps, we were able to partner with one of North Carolina’s largest Asian students and scholars associations to host a Chinese New Year’s celebration at our church. We were originally hoping to host about 100 students. We ended up with 320 individuals coming who all heard the gospel and interacted with American volunteer table leaders. Praise God!”

— *Chase Jenkins, First Baptist Church Durham (Reaching UNC Chapel Hill, Duke, N.C. State, and N.C. Central)*

“We were able to take a mission trip to Red Springs to help with disaster relief. During that mission trip, we took two students who were not Christians. At our first meeting, they asked if you had to be a Christian to go on the trip. I was very excited that they came with us. During the trip, we took a trip to Oak Island to the beach. I asked the group to sit by themselves and pray and look at the water and just pray to God. Both of those students ended up having significant experiences with God. They both gave their lives to Christ. One of those students has also decided that she would like to go into construction. We were able to do lots of construction projects, and she found out that she is great in this area. God is moving through this ministry.”

— *Lisa Courtney, Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Forest City (Reaching Isothermal Community College)*

“We had a male student come out of the harvest and give his life to Christ. He reached out a few months after we met him wanting to talk. Now he has been baptized, is being disciplined

and has plugged into one of our groups.”

— *Caleb Sprinkle, First Baptist Church Charlotte (Reaching UNC Charlotte, Johnson C. Smith University, Central Piedmont Community College’s Central Campus)*

“We started the year with five students who were committed to Church in the Harvest, but through persevering, God multiplied us almost five times! Every student in our church is being disciplined and is involved in accountability teams. Every student has been out sharing the gospel. We have students disciplining other students and leading others to faith. We have seen four generations of disciples and have raised up leaders to start a new gathering in the fall!”

— *Scott Kilby, Church in the Harvest, Boone (Reaching Appalachian State University)*

“This was one of the most challenging years for us, yet most rewarding. We saw our numbers drop a touch, in addition to several other random obstacles that Satan threw our way. However, I have never been around a group of people in my life that were more obedient. Our students completely gave themselves to Jesus this year. This past October we began doing evangelism trainings on the campus of UNCG. We trained students in a tool, practiced it together every week, and went on the campus and shared it with students for about 45 minutes. Students became incredibly confident. They started to really believe and see that the Holy Spirit was real! We had students that I would have never thought would come, come! By God’s grace we saw seven students come to know Jesus from December to May. That was more than double what we saw in the previous three years combined. I was simply overwhelmed at what God was doing. I hated to see the semester end.”

— *Ryan Smith, Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro (Reaching UNC Greensboro and NC A&T State University)*

“I had an open door with the North Carolina Wesleyan College baseball team. One of the players who had struggled with heavy use of drugs, alcohol and sex has given all of that up and given his life to the Lord. The Lord is working in his life, and I have hopes of him being an active leader as a senior this upcoming year both on campus and on his baseball team.”

— *Jonathan Tyndale, Christ Covenant Church (Reaching N.C. Wesleyan College)*

“Last fall, Emily, a fresh, new believer and college student at UNCW, came to the Bridge for the first time. She was followed up with immediately and invited to college night. From there, she met several college students who welcomed her with open arms. One of our college leaders, Lauren, invited her to community group where she quickly felt at home. She continued to be involved with Bridge College, her community group, and met with Lauren regularly to study the Bible. We also walked through our life discipleship guide with her, where

she learned the fundamentals of what it looks like to live the Christian life. Through that, Emily has begun to experience significant growth in her life, so much so, that she eagerly jumps at every opportunity to learn about God, grow in her faith and serve within the church. She participated in our Bridge College ‘Serve the City’ spring break trip and gained a new perspective on doing ministry in the hardest places and how the love of Jesus breaks down all barriers. Through that, she was so impacted, that she decided to give back and chaperone our high school summer project this summer, so that the next generation of students can have that same experience. She now is in our leadership pipeline for the fall of next year and continues to be hungry to know Jesus more and share that with others.”

— *Danella Kish, Bridge Church, Wilmington*  
*(Reaching UNC Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College)*

**Greater depth of ministry and greater gospel saturation**

With the first four years of the implementation of the new, church-based strategy, the Collegiate Partnerships Team was primarily focused on helping N.C. Baptist churches start reproducing gospel presences on unengaged campuses across the state. In this fifth year, in addition to helping churches start new works on new campuses, the Collegiate Partnerships Team shifted into a primary focus on helping churches strengthen their collegiate ministries with an eye on both sustainability and health. The result has been a greater depth of ministry and greater gospel saturation. This focus is clearly demonstrated in the following metrics of gospel saturation:

	2005-2013	2014-2019
Average # of students involved each year	2,570	3,438
Average percentage of students part of leadership team or development process	19.1%	21.5%
Average percentage of students involved that were new conversions	5.19%	10.4%
Average percentage of students involved that were trained in evangelism	18.1%	40.9%
Average percentage of students involved that were committed to a small group	51.5%	63.8%
Average percentage of students involved that were sent as summer missionaries	8.4%	11.9%

Not only are we seeing churches reach further into the vast collegiate landscape than campus ministries did, and not only are local churches reaching more college students than campus ministries did, churches are proving to be much more robust in their gospel effectiveness. With churches leading the way, it is much more rare for students to be sideline consumers. They are more involved now. The growth in actual conversions certainly warrants our celebration of what God has accomplished through N.C. Baptist churches, but it does not end there. Greater percentages of students are now being transformed into the likeness of Christ, and greater percentages of college students are being mobilized into being on mission with God. Simply put, our new, church-based strategy has resulted in more effective disciple-making among college students.

*Jonathan Yarboro, Team Leader*  
*Alex Hugo, Team Leader Assistant*

**GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERSHIPS**

Great Commission Partnerships exists to mobilize and empower 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 through a catalytic focus on multifamily housing, the Peoples Next Door initiative, and by helping churches form partnerships with church planters and missionaries in North America and around the world.

**Reaching people in multifamily housing**

James, a hospitable 74-year-old man, has always hosted friends and family in his apartment in east Durham, which is located near the center of a pocket of lostness. On a warm June day last year, a group from Faith Baptist Church in Durham came walking and praying through his community. James invited them in to pray for him. Little did they know, this would initiate an ongoing relationship with James and his family.

During the months that followed, members of Faith continued to pray and read the Bible with James in his home. After some time, James began to attend services with them on Sundays, and members of Faith were able to start an evangelistic Bible study in his home. James’ living room was soon filled each week with friends and family from his community to study the Bible together. In January, Faith Baptist had the privilege of baptizing James along with his son, Mark.

James is beginning to take more responsibility for leading the Bible study in his home — which we hope will one day become a church. He regularly goes to a neighboring apartment community using the same principles that were used to reach he and his family. He has led two members of

his home group to start evangelistic Bible studies of their own to reach friends and family in their own communities. While God used members of Faith Baptist in James' life that warm June day, God has used James in the life of Faith to build greater trust and expectation in God.

James' story is one of a growing number across the landscape of multifamily housing communities in North Carolina. Churches are beginning to take the gospel into apartment, townhome and mobile home communities and make disciples. Although, the task is far from done.

Great Commission Partnerships desires to see a reproducing gospel presence for every multifamily housing community in the state. A reproducing gospel presence is a group, under the authority of a local church, that is doctrinally sound and is making disciples. Nationally, 95 percent of those living in multifamily housing communities are unchurched. Throughout North Carolina, one out of every three people live in multifamily housing. Of the 250 pockets of lostness throughout the state, 135 contain at least 1,200 households living in multifamily housing. There are 28 pockets of lostness which boast more than 5,000 households living in multifamily housing, with the highest multihousing density within a pocket of lostness being 8,000 households.

When Great Commission Partnerships was tasked with catalyzing gospel work in multifamily housing communities, we knew of only 44 communities being engaged. Churches are now engaging 96 multifamily housing communities throughout the state, with 20 communities newly engaged in 2018. Great Commission Partnerships has catalyzed the engagement of 57 communities since the inception of this initiative in June 2017. Still, there is much to be done.

### **The gospel for unreached people groups in North Carolina**

Yai is a middle-aged Thai man who immigrated to North America more than 10 years ago. He is a former Buddhist who is now a brother in Christ. Yai has been faithfully disciplined for the last couple of years and is growing in his faith and zeal for others to know the Jesus who changed his life. He owns a Thai restaurant in Durham and recently hired a Thai Buddhist woman, Pa Pen, to work as a cook so that she would attend his weekly Bible study.

During Pa Pen's first week on the job, she joined the study. Rather than continuing with their study of the book of Acts, they paused and shared the gospel and their testimonies with her. She was deeply intrigued. Though friends had taken her to attend church services, she had never fully understood what was taking place around her. Pa Pen continued to attend Bible study for a few weeks before she was ready to receive Christ.

At first, Yai was hesitant to lead her to faith. Yai thought his 28-year-old Anglo-American discipler and teacher ought to be

the one to lead Pa Pen to faith. After some encouragement, Yai realized that he could help Pa Pen follow Jesus. The following week, Yai shared a video of Pa Pen asking the Lord Jesus to be her Savior. Later this year, Yai will have the opportunity to return to Thailand to come alongside of disciple-making and church planting there.

Our God, in His sovereign wisdom, has determined to allow people to come to North Carolina from places like India, Myanmar, Thailand, Pakistan, China, Morocco, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Will we seize this gospel opportunity to befriend and share with unreached peoples who are now living within arm's reach of our steeples?

Great Commission Partnerships formed the Peoples Next Door initiative to help churches discover, engage, and make disciples of the unreached people groups who are now living in North Carolina. Peoples Next Door is focused on giving every person from an unreached people group in North Carolina the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. Churches are engaging 86 of the 162 people groups that have been identified throughout our state. There are 76 people groups still unengaged.

### **Churches partnering in North America and around the world**

Over the course of last year, Great Commission Partnerships orchestrated six vision trips with 19 pastors and leaders to help churches form partnerships in strategically unreached areas of the world. Learn more about these trips at [ncbaptist.org/visiontrips](http://ncbaptist.org/visiontrips). These trips are for North Carolina pastors and leaders to explore how they might partner alongside of church planters and missionaries in each of these strategic areas. We know of 273 North Carolina churches who are engaged in partnerships in cities throughout North America, and 82 North Carolina churches who are engaged in partnerships around the world.

In addition to these vision trips, our office also orchestrated Coats for the City in New York City alongside of the Metro New York Baptist Association (MNYBA). North Carolina Baptists sent more than 170 volunteers from 19 N.C. Baptist churches who joined with three New York City churches and one Connecticut church to partner alongside 19 New York planters and missionaries to distribute nearly 6,000 coats and share the gospel with people from a variety of cultural, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds. More information at [ncbaptist.org/coats](http://ncbaptist.org/coats).

Through "SENT: Students on Mission," we also helped three churches mobilize their students to engage in a summerlong missions endeavor to share the gospel and make disciples in three different contexts — overseas, in a major city in North America, at home in their own communities. Learn more at [ncbaptist.org/sent](http://ncbaptist.org/sent).

*Zac Lyons, Senior Consultant*  
*Lauren McCall, Team Leader Assistant*



# EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

## — REPORT —



**LYNN SASSER**  
**EXECUTIVE LEADER**

**The central focus of the Evangelism and Discipleship Group is to engage our state convention’s strategy of “impacting lostness through disciple-making” as we strengthen churches by helping them develop a “disciple-making culture” that results in lives that are transformed by the power of God.**

We believe that a disciple is a transformed follower of Christ who is engaging the lost with the gospel and making disciples who, in turn, make more disciples. A disciple-making culture exists in a church when this process becomes the norm. Our staff is passionate to see this as a reality in North Carolina Baptist churches across our state.

Our staff is organized into two teams, the Disciple-making Team and the Church Strengthening Team. Their stories follow.

*M. Lynn Sasser, Executive Leader*  
*Patti Cardwell, Executive Leader Assistant*

## 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, women, Sunday School and small groups, and church health and revitalization.

### Disciple-making Conference

In addition to work in the individual ministry areas noted below, the team hosts the annual Disciple-making Conference. The 2019 conference was held on Feb. 26 at Green Street Baptist Church in High Point. Attended by approximately 700 people, the conference focused on disciple-making in a rapidly changing culture. The keynote speaker was John Stonestreet, president of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. More than 40 breakout sessions were hosted, providing practical application to a vast array of evangelism and discipleship issues faced by the local church.

*Brian Upshaw, Team Leader*

*Austin Pulliam, Team Leader Assistant*

## CHILDHOOD EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHP

### TELL Conference

In accordance with Psalm 78:1-7, children's ministry leaders are called to tell the good news about all that God has done. TELL — Teach, Equip, Love, Lead — was the theme for our first statewide children's ministry training conference. TELL was held in two locations, Mountain View Baptist Church in Hickory, and Salem Baptist Church in Apex with more than 250 participants and more than 40 churches represented. Bill Emeott, lead childhood ministry specialist with LifeWay Kids, was the keynote speaker and a breakout leader. Breakouts included training in Vacation Bible School, special needs, discipline, safety and security, Generation Z, and a variety of other topics. Next year's TELL conference is scheduled for March 21, 2020, at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte.

### Policy development

Safety and security has been a primary focus of ministry this past year throughout the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and our own state convention. This emphasis has led to many opportunities for training and resource development. A new resource available at [ncbaptist.org/children](http://ncbaptist.org/children) is a "Framework for Creating Safety and Security Policies" to assist churches in writing policies specific to their context and culture. The resource is available at [ncbaptist.org/safetypolicyframework](http://ncbaptist.org/safetypolicyframework). Other resources available to assist churches in this area are available at [ncbaptist.org/children-resources-all](http://ncbaptist.org/children-resources-all).

### First Impressions Church Walk-Thru

Statistics say that a guest to your church makes a decision about whether they will return within the first 11 minutes of their initial visit. The "First Impressions Church Walk-Thru" is an interactive online resource designed to help churches assess their guest experience from the parking lot to the children's ministry area to the worship center. We recommend that the pastoral team and key leadership work through this resource together. The resource is available at [ncbaptist.org/churchwalkthru](http://ncbaptist.org/churchwalkthru).

### Scorecard

Today's families are busier than ever, and church attendance has suffered as a result. The need for parents to assume their God-mandated responsibilities to be the primary disciple-makers in the lives of their children has never been greater. Four Scorecard family ministry workshops were held in the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 to help churches assess and develop ministries that equip and train parents in this crucial role of being the primary disciple-makers in their homes. Consider bringing your leadership team to Scorecard. More events are planned for the coming year. Learn more and register at [ncbaptist.org/scorecard](http://ncbaptist.org/scorecard).

*Cheryl Markland, Senior Consultant*

### Church Weekday Education

"This Little Light of Mine; I'm Gonna Let It Shine!" was the focus of the 2018 Church Weekday Education Summer Conference held Aug. 3-4, 2018, at the Embassy Suites in Cary. Kim Jones, children's ministry director at Cape Carteret Baptist Church, blessed, encouraged and challenged the 52 directors on Friday and the 194 in attendance on Saturday to lead by example. She discussed how shining our light affects us personally, as well as our families, our quiet time with God and others who look to us for leadership. She reminded us that teaching preschoolers and partnering with parents is a wonderful blessing that God has entrusted to us.

In planning for the new school year, Jones encouraged staff to prioritize their own spiritual journey to avoid burnout and shine brightly for the long term. Throughout the afternoon on Saturday, registrants attended a variety of breakout sessions that gave them tangible ideas to assist them in the classroom and in ministry to those around them. With more than 34 North Carolina churches represented, it was a great time to come together and be energized to shine bright and serve where God has placed you.

*Mary Sweat, Consultant*

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a ministry designed to reach people of all ages and lead them to know and respond to Jesus

Christ as led by the Holy Spirit. VBS continues to be one of the most popular outreach events among churches across the nation. Based on a survey of 1,200 adults about their experience with VBS, LifeWay discovered that 60 percent of them remember attending as a child, and 20 percent attended every summer. Additionally, in 2017, 2.5 million children attended VBS in their community, and more than 65,000 decisions were made to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. This flagship event also stimulates spiritual growth for church members.

Today's children face many more challenges than in the past. Struggles are real in families, in school settings and in our communities. During VBS, kids discovered that Jesus' love provides a foundation that will last. When those storms of life come, they will need the One who will be with them always. LifeWay's 2019 VBS theme was "In the Wild" and emphasized several encounters with Jesus. Key learning takeaways and points of application included: Jesus knew why He came; He is the Son of God; He can do anything; He rose from the dead; and we can believe everything that is written in the Bible. The theme verse was John 20:31, which says, "But these are written so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name."

VBS is still as relevant today as it has been in the past. The methods may have changed, but at its core VBS still represents a powerful and effective outreach event for the local church. The tools that are used to emphasize the Bible lesson for the day encourage real-life application. VBS provides a place of service for every member, whether it's teaching in the classroom or serving snacks.

*Evette Orcutt, Contractor, Vacation Bible School*

### **Bible Drill**

North Carolina hosted the 2019 National Invitational Tournament on June 13-14 at Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord. Twelve state conventions were represented. They were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas Baptists, and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. The participants arrived on Thursday and participated in a local mission project. The 29 participants assembled missions packages for distribution by Cooperative Christian Ministries, located in Concord. Participants also enjoyed two North Carolina favorites — Cheerwine and Krispy Kreme doughnuts — followed by a tour of Charlotte Motor Speedway. The day concluded with a time of fellowship for participants and their families.

The tournament was held on Friday with six speakers who shared four-to-six minute speeches on standing up for their faith. Additionally, 23 drillers competed to demonstrate their Bible skills, which included finding a Scripture passage in four seconds or less. The competition was tough, but the Scripture

the drillers learned will be with them forever. North Carolina hosted a formal awards banquet celebration that evening.

State finals for 2019 were held at Flint Hill Baptist Church in Shelby, with churches from across North Carolina represented. The top driller and speaker received a \$2,500 scholarship to the school of their choice and were the state representatives at the National Invitational Tournament.

The following story from a Bible Drill leader is one of many similar testimonies heard every year.

"A memory from the past is one of a young man whom my wife and I taught in our Bible Drill class who went on to drill. He was deaf and could hear very little with a special hearing aid, but he was able to read lips. He worked very hard to learn the verses in our class and drilled at all three levels and went on to be a state winner. He was an inspiration to me as a leader. When I hear people say they can't do the work involved in learning, I often tell them the story of this special student and how he did not let a disability stop him from learning God's Word.

"I have been part of drills from a child, and now as an adult, my wife and I teach the drills. We are currently the only church in Davidson County that still has drills, and it is my desire to grow the ministry and get other churches involved. I am currently in contact with a church and hope to get them started with the drills for 2020. This summer we are starting something new, an Adult Bible Drill Class. This class is more of a Bible study. We don't ask the adults to compete against the clock. We are teaching them the books of the Bible and the verses from the children's drill card and explaining the meaning of the verses and how they relate to the Baptist doctrine. There were adults that approached me and asked about this. They were embarrassed the kids knew more than they did. So I saw this as a ministry opportunity. We are meeting on Sunday nights until August. Then we will start teaching the kids again in September. I wanted to share this idea in case there are other churches who may want to start this."

*— Aaron White, Carolina Memorial Baptist Church, Thomasville*

Bible Drill is not just for children and youth. Bible Drill is not just about the competition. Bible Drill is for any age at any time during the year. Bible Drill is a catalyst for people to use to learn God's Word in their minds and their hearts.

*Deborah Robson, Consultant*

## YOUTH EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

### Summer Youth Weeks

Summer Youth Weeks 2018 consisted of seven weeks of camp at Fort Caswell. These weeks combined worship, small and large group studies, special interest tracks, church group devotions, a missions opportunity to package meals for Haiti and many other fun activities. The theme for the summer was “Reimagine,” based on Psalm 78:1-2, “My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old” (NIV). Students took an in-depth look at the parables of Christ that challenge us to reimagine the kingdom of God. Speakers for the summer were Mike Satterfield, Jay Strother, Eddie Briery, Trevor Atwood, David Sons and Mac Johnson.

After celebrating a total of 1.75 million meals packaged by campers over the previous seven summers, we continued this mission effort for Haiti through the offering and meal packaging in 2018 and packaged the 2 millionth meal since beginning this project in 2011. 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. A total of \$76,433.33 was received. Go God! Attendance for the 2018 camps was 6,484, representing 277 churches. Total decisions reflected the greater things God was doing at camp, which included 367 first-time professions of faith, more than 890 recommitments and 15 called to full-time Christian ministry.

The chaperones who attend youth weeks were invited to attend four days of youth minister training. Chaperones play a huge part in how students are ministered to while at camp and back at home as many serve as volunteers in their church’s youth ministry. Subjects included: comprehensive youth ministry plan of discipleship, evangelism tools, reasons why we are seeing a rise in homosexuality and how the church needs to respond, and suicide prevention.

During the summer of 2019, we sponsored eight weeks of youth camp for teenagers at Fort Caswell. The theme for our 2019 camps was, “On This Rock,” based on Matthew 16:18. Students took a closer look at how the church was formed with Jesus as its foundation. As of June 1, 2019, attendance was slated to total 6,638 representing 273 churches.

### Fall youth retreats

The purpose of these weekends is to help students become spiritually influential by taking the lead in disciple-making. Today’s students must live at a very high level of wisdom, purity and courage to withstand pressure without being influenced by it.

Two fall retreats took place at Fort Caswell in 2018 — one on Oct. 19-21 and another on Nov. 9-11 — with featured speaker, Garrett Wagoner. The theme, “Addicted to Distraction,” led

students to consider and discuss the things that pull them away from who they were really made to be. Total attendance for both retreats was 960 representing 46 churches. There were 40 first-time professions of faith and 83 recommitments.

### Scorecard

Scorecard is a training program for childhood, youth and family leaders in ministry to the next generation. The last several Scorecard events of 2018 were held at Peninsula Baptist Church in Mooresville on Oct. 4 and at Temple Baptist Church in Fayetteville on Oct. 16. The spring 2019 events were held at Aversboro Road Baptist Church in Garner on March 7 and at First Baptist Church in Summerfield on March 14. Scorecard is all about changing how we measure success in youth ministry. It’s so much more than how many are in attendance; it’s how they are involved, what students need to know before they graduate high school and how to plan for success in the life of a church from the nursery through high school graduation. In a survey of more than 5,000 N.C. Baptist teenagers involved in our summer camps, we discovered that we are not teaching for biblical literacy in the local church. Youth ministry must be more than having fun and eating 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 2019 in Ahoskie and Marion, as well as others in the spring of 2020.

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 215 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 2018 with a focus on Christ-centered youth ministry and making an eternal impact on future generations.

### Conclave

Conclave, the largest training event in the southeast for people who minister to teenagers in Southern Baptist life, was held Jan. 24-26, 2019, at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tenn. In attendance were youth ministers and youth workers who gathered for a time of authentic worship, relevant training, honest conversation and personal encouragement. Featured speakers were D.A. Horton, Jimmy Scroggins, John Stonestreet and Nick Person.

### Ski retreat

The Student Ministry Ski Retreat was held Feb. 1-3, 2019, at Winterplace Ski Resort in Beckley, W. Va. The retreat included all-day skiing and other winter activities on Saturday, as well as Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship services led by speaker R.D. McClenagan and the BeDoTell Team. Skiing has always been a draw for students, but adding two worship services and an opportunity to hear the gospel brings the real attention to God’s desire to have a relationship with all

people, including teenagers. There were eight professions of faith and 24 rededications to Christ. The 2020 ski retreat will be held Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

*Merrie Johnson, Senior Consultant*

## **FAMILY EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP**

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 140 North Carolina churches have called on the Faith at Home ministry to help equip their congregations to be disciple-makers in their homes.

The goal of the Faith at Home ministry is to give pastors and staff training and 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 sit at home for a meal, go down the road, lie down at night or when they get up in the morning.

To give pastors and staff the start they need and resource their congregations, we have developed the Faith at Home starter kit. This kit includes several tools to help churches train their parents and grandparents to be intentional disciple-makers of their children and grandchildren. The Faith at Home starter kit contains the book, Faith at Home: Equipping Families to Make Disciples, the “Praying for Your Family” brochure, a 15-day family Easter devotion, a family summer guide, faith talk cards, grandparent letter writing stationery, and a “Praying for Your Grandchildren” bookmark. To date, more than 100 kits have been distributed to N.C. Baptist pastors and staff.

During the 2019 Easter season, more than 750 copies of the Faith at Home Easter resource were distributed. This resource included devotional booklets and other downloadable items. Including the 2018 distribution, more than 1,800 copies have been distributed to N.C. Baptist churches and numerous other copies have been downloaded. A children’s minister from western North Carolina said, “My families loved using the Easter resource.”

The Faith at Home ministry is committed to come alongside every pastor and staff member to train and equip them so they can train and equip the families of their church. It is our sincere prayer that your church would be willing to integrate family ministry into every ministry of your church to change the cultural landscape of our communities.

*Mark Smith, Senior Consultant*

## **ADULT EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP**

During the summer of 2018, we set out to host Gospel Conversations Trainings across the state and to find trainers to be a part of the DiscipleNC team, with the ultimate goal of having a trainer in every region of the state.

In January 2019 we assimilated two trainers — Caleb Sprinkle from First Baptist Church of Charlotte and Seth Norris from Perkinsville Baptist Church in Boone. Sprinkle and Norris represent regions six and seven, respectively. The goal is for each trainer to lead or coordinate four trainings a year in their region. Sprinkle and Norris are working hard to form regional teams to help facilitate and multiply the trainings in their regions, and we are continuing to look for training catalysts in the other regions.

From July 2018 to June 2019, we have hosted eight trainings with a total of 227 people representing 49 churches in attendance. At the Gospel Conversation Trainings, attendees learned practical tools to share their faith and were given time and space to practice in the field. These tools included “3 Circles,” personal testimony and understanding spheres of influence.

Last fall during a training at Kings Cross Church in Greensboro, Jamie Burkett and Steve King from Friendly Avenue Baptist Church were in attendance. They went back to their own church and put into practice what they learned. Over the course of six months, they have successfully trained more than 100 people, passing along what they learned and empowering others to do the same. King has become a key partner in region five.

We have heard multiple stories, ranging from middle schoolers to senior adults, of people finding confidence to share their faith for the first time. Russ Billo, a youth pastor from Salem Baptist Church in Dobson, brought his youth group to a training in Boone in April. One of his eighth graders has taken what she learned back to her middle school and is sharing her faith with her friends and training others to do the same.

The goal of these training efforts is to make disciples who make disciples. This past year represents a step in that direction, and we are encouraged by some of the results we have seen. Pray that we find other trainers in the state and that the work would be taken up at every local church.

*Josh Reed, Senior Consultant*

## **EMBRACE AND WOMEN'S EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP**

Embrace women's ministry helps churches and associations develop women's ministries that encourage and equip women to be growing disciple-makers. Embrace responds to God's call and design for women to live in intimacy with Christ as they serve Him through the local church to prayerfully care for and develop evangelism, discipleship and missions in women, leaving a legacy for future generations.

During the 2018-2019 ministry year, Embrace continued equipping women to make disciples in order to impact lostness. During the 2019 Disciple-making Conference, Embrace hosted two breakout sessions to help women understand the postmodern culture that surrounds them and how to live as followers of Christ in a culture that encourages compromise. Missie Branch, assistant dean of students to women and director of graduate student life at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, led the session titled "Living in a Culture of Compromise." In this session, Branch challenged attendees to live in obedience to the precepts of Scripture, though the world encourages and applauds living differently. Ashley Allen, senior consultant for Embrace and Women's Evangelism and Discipleship, led the session titled "Cultural Backdrop: How Did We Get Here?" This session taught the histories of the premodern, modern and postmodern eras to provide a context for today's ministry setting. The session also provided participants with a biblical response and perspective.

### **Roundtables**

In the spring of 2019, Embrace hosted five roundtable events across North Carolina. The roundtables, which were held in Cary, Surf City, Wilson, Blowing Rock and Hickory, were designed for any woman to attend to learn one skill. The curriculum of the 2019 roundtables was "How to Study Your Bible." Through this training, women learned the Bible study principles of observation, interpretation and application. Women learned the techniques of exegesis and were exposed to tools and resources for Bible study to help them grow in their walk with Christ. Additionally, the women walked through John 15:1-11 using the Bible study technique. Many women expressed they had never been taught to study the Bible on their own, even though they had been a believer for many years. The women from across the state expressed their excitement about being able to understand and learn Scripture for themselves.

### **N.C. Baptist Women's Retreat**

During the weekend of Oct. 26-27, 2018, Embrace hosted the 2018 N.C. Baptist Women's Retreat. The 2018 theme was "Holy. Chosen. Beloved." based on Colossians 3:12-14 which says, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved..." The retreat featured Lori McDaniel as the main

session speaker. At the time of the retreat, McDaniel was the church initiatives manager for the International Mission Board (IMB). Additionally, Betsy Bolick, a North Carolina native and director of Small Enough Ministries in Boone, shared her testimony of God's direction and guidance in her life. Kimberly Merida from Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, led worship accompanied by Tasha Via from Journey Church in Raleigh. During the main sessions, ladies were taught about the deity of Christ from Colossians 1-2 and the identity that believers find in who He is in their lives from Colossians 3-4. Participants also were able to join four of 12 breakout sessions that were offered during the retreat. A strong emphasis was also placed on prayer as participants were given multiple opportunities to spend time in the Scriptures and in prayer. At the end of the 2018 women's retreat, women across North Carolina were challenged to read through the entire Bible in 2019. Using the outline and guide from Robert M'Cheyne, women accepted the challenge of reading through the Bible. Many ladies commented they had never read through the entire Bible before and were excited for the challenge and opportunity.

### **Embrace Day of Prayer**

Embrace held its first "Embrace Day of Prayer" on Nov. 9, 2018. Women were able to submit prayer needs through an online form or by completing a paper form at the women's retreat. Whether a woman was able to attend the women's retreat or not, her prayer request was prayed for by the women's retreat planning committee. The committee spent the entire day on Nov. 9 interceding for women who shared requests for salvation for friends and family members, health concerns, marriages, children, finances, and other concerns.

### **Embrace Leadership Network**

Embrace also launched the third year of the Embrace Leadership Network (ELN) at the beginning of 2019. The women who participated in the yearlong intensive training committed to four all-day Saturdays of training, discussion and hands-on learning activities that were designed to equip them to be well-rounded women's ministry leaders or influencers in their local churches or associations. Additionally, the participants spent dedicated time in preparation for each Saturday session reading books and articles relevant to the discussions that were theologically sound and challenged them intellectually. The twofold goal of ELN is to holistically equip women 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 of the participants from the 2018 ELN equipping year commented that she, "joined ELN to learn how to create, build and grow a theologically sound women's ministry."

### **Missions involvement**

Embrace hosted "Embracing New York City," a four-day mission trip to New York City held Sept. 13-16, 2018. The

mission team was able to leave North Carolina a few hours before Hurricane Florence hit the state. The ladies who participated in the trip worked alongside Graffiti Coney Island in the New York City borough of Brooklyn. Though known worldwide for its famous amusement district, Coney Island is the poorest and most crime-ridden neighborhood in all of New York City's approximately 300 neighborhoods. Coney Island is home to a community of approximately 65,000 residents. Graffiti was launched in 2016 by Pastor Stephen Trainer. Graffiti's ministries include a church and the Graffiti Ministries Learning Center. The Embrace mission team worked alongside Graffiti to build relationships in the community. This included cleaning windows and bathrooms of local stores. Additionally, the team prayer walked the entire neighborhood, as well as shared information about Graffiti's GED program and free grocery giveaway. A portion of the team taught the children in Sunday School during the Sunday morning service. Five Coney Island residents prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior during the Sunday morning service.

In commenting about joining Embrace mission trips, team member Donna Elmore of Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro said, "God tells all of us believers to 'go' and we should be open to whatever God leads us to do. I can't explain what it is like to trust and obey God, depend on Him, step out of the boat, endure whatever is needed, enjoy the blessing, work in unity with other team members, be flexible, but I can tell you that it is worth it all; that you make new friends, learn a lot of lessons, see ways Jesus works out different situations, and get to see sights and sounds of the city while you are still on mission."

### **New resources**

During the ministry year, Embrace implemented a variety of new resources. The "Embrace NC Women's Ministry" podcast was launched and provides the audio of breakout sessions from a variety of Embrace ministry events. The free podcast is available on Apple iTunes, Spotify and Podbean and allows women access to sound biblical teaching that is coupled with practical application.

In the spring of 2019, Embrace opened the online classroom for women's ministry leadership. The classroom features videos that focus on providing tools for women's ministry leaders in churches or associations. Teaching topics include: a biblical basis for women's ministry; complementarianism and egalitarianism; casting vision and setting goals and objectives; how to engage in gospel conversations; and more. The classroom is designed for women to enjoy learning at their own pace and is offered at no cost to the learner.

Embrace also published the manual, "How to Study Your Bible," in the spring of 2019. The booklet enables an individual to learn how to study Scripture using an inductive Bible study method. The manual provides an understanding of how to

observe the text, principles of good interpretation and how to make application.

*Ashley Allen, Senior Consultant*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUPS**

In the fall of 2018, Inside-Out regional Sunday School training was held at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Conover and Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord. These two events were attended by a total of 140 people from 18 different churches, who were trained in age-graded Sunday School ministry.

West Burnsville Baptist Church has implemented a process of looking at how their behavior flows from their values. Some of the results include church revitalization and renewal that is being lived out through their groups. They are creating community for people both inside and outside of the church. Pastor Terry Long and key leaders in the church are championing this process. All the space in the church building has been utilized, and now they are finding innovative ways to find places that provide a space to teach God's Word, build authentic community and be on the mission of God. Rick Hughes, senior consultant for Sunday School and small groups at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, is coaching them in this process.

In the past year, we have launched a self-guided online course about Sunday School and groups that is available at no cost to N.C. Baptist churches. The online training focuses on teaching, caring and reaching others. The online classroom is a convenient video resource that allows individuals or groups to work at their own pace.

Crestview Baptist Church in Canton hosted a local church Sunday School workshop for key Sunday School leaders. There were 75 people in attendance, including Pastor Dan Page and the church staff.

The Bladen Baptist Association and the BSCNC partnered to conduct a Sunday School workshop in Elizabethtown. More than 40 people from various churches in the association attended. The workshop focused on the physiology and biblical principles of Sunday School. Associational Mission Strategist David Foster invested time in local church leaders to create an ideal environment for learning, which was well-attended.

*Rick Hughes, Senior Consultant*

## **CAROLINA FAITH RIDERS**

In October 2018, Carolina Faith Riders (CFR) installed Jerry Coffey as the new state coordinator. The former coordinator,

Phillip Morris, resigned to become lead pastor at a “biker church” in Monroe. We pray God’s blessings on Morris as he moves into this new ministry. We welcome Coffey into the coordinator’s role and share his excitement and enthusiasm for disciple-making. He has actively been visiting biker chapters in North Carolina and is willing to visit your church to share how you can begin a CFR chapter to begin making disciples among the bikers in your community.

Carolina Faith Riders were in Wilmington on May 1-2 to visit with the Wrightsboro Baptist chapter. We participated in the Ride To Clyde and talked with several people about CFR and what we do in hopes of launching some new chapters across the state. We also went to Trinity of Fairview and spoke at their chapter meeting about things they can do to get more involved in the local motorcycle community.

*Rick Hughes, Senior Consultant*

## CHURCH HEALTH AND REVITALIZATION

Church revitalization continues to be an emphasis for the BSCNC as it is desperately needed in many North Carolina churches. According to LifeWay statistics, 48 percent of North Carolina churches are plateaued, while 38 percent are declining. Based on these figures, church revitalization is more than just a topic for discussion, it is a call to action. We recognize that our churches did not get into a state of decline quickly, so it will not be a quick process to return to disciple-making. Therefore, we have come to understand that equipping the pastor for this journey of revitalization is paramount. To address this need, we have 11 revitalization cohorts meeting monthly. These cohorts are pastors brought together within their local associations as they prepare for the difficult call to church revitalization.

The purpose of cohorts is to:

- Equip pastors to flourish while serving in a potentially unhealthy church culture.
- Equip pastors to lead their churches to rediscover their biblical purpose.
- Equip pastors to be disciple-makers.
- Equip pastors to create a disciple-making culture within their church.
- Equip pastors to manage transitions and change within the church.

Although we are still early in the effort of church revitalization, we do have pastors who have completed the first phase of the process. These pastors are leading their churches in the second phase, which includes discovering their current reality and developing a focused disciple-making strategy. The pastors have worked with revitalization teams within their churches as

they seek to discover how God has uniquely called and gifted them as a body to reach their community.

As we continue to have conversations with pastors and churches concerning revitalization, we trust God for His presence and leadership as our vision is to see North Carolina churches impact lostness by creating a disciple-making culture within their community.

*Sandy Marks, Senior Consultant*

## CHURCH STRENGTHENING TEAM

“After this, I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.”

— Revelation 7:9 (NLT)

Over the last two years, the Church Strengthening Team has wrestled with the question, “What strengthens the body of Christ, the church?” We know that asking seven people this question will result in seven different answers. Therefore, we looked only to Christ and the gospel for our answer.

With our focus and obedience to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, we believe the following:

1. A critical element in the life of a disciple and in the body of Christ necessary for church strengthening is the second commandment of the Great Commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” In short, loving others through relationships.
2. Another critical element in the life of a disciple and in the body of Christ necessary for church strengthening is the “new commandment,” found in John 13:34-35. In his book *Follow Me*, David Platt writes, “The church is a community of Christians who love one another and long for each other to know and grow in Christ” (p. 154). In short, the one anothers of Christ and unity.
3. A critical element in the fulfillment of The Great Commission is making disciples of all people groups. In short, loving relationships with people different from me.
4. Ephesians 4:12-13 is the path to strengthen the body of Christ. Equipping ministry leaders in building impactful loving relationships with people of diverse cultures in their efforts to evangelize and make disciples of all people groups will produce greater results for the kingdom of God.

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 life to God, He will accomplish His

purposes through you. The diversity that makes up N.C. Baptists and your community creates a beautiful mosaic of God's kingdom people.

To this end, our focus is to prepare, train, equip and resource N.C. Baptists to create loving relationships both within the church and beyond the church to those who are different from yourself by creating intentional venues for this to happen, to model and advocate for diversity and to lift up minorities in North Carolina.

*Neal Eller, Team Leader*

### **Cultural Mastery**

It all started with the launch of "The Six Stages of Cultural Mastery" from the Church Strengthening Team. In partnership with Ricardo Gonzalez, founder and CEO of Bilingual America and The Six Stage Group, a cultural mastery awareness day took place on Aug. 9, 2018. The twofold purpose of our day was to have an open conversation regarding culture and its impact on our ability to reach the lost and make disciples among people of diverse cultures.

Second, the diverse crowd of around 80 men and women heard for the first time about cultural mastery. They heard about our desire to train, equip and resource N.C. Baptist church leaders to become skilled in developing loving relationships with people different from themselves. The focus is both inside and outside of the church in order to engage, collaborate and create with others while, at the same time, sharing the gospel and making disciples.

Later that day, I received an email from Dan Johnson, pastor of Mosaic Church in Durham. It read:

"I can't get what happened out of my mind. I absolutely need to go through this course! I've been operating in a multicultural setting but not with some of the tools discussed today. I immediately called the Latino congregation pastor to begin going through some of the education and engagement phase. I even planned a lunch with one of the major political players in Durham that lives near the church."

A second awareness event took place as a breakout session at the 2018 BSCNC Annual Meeting in November where 17 people attended. The following candid comment appeared on an evaluation form: "This was excellent. I came here by accident — the session in the room next door was completely full, but it was God-ordained. Thank you."

Soon after the 2018 Annual Meeting, the first N.C. cultural mastery cohort began with six participants. The cohort was facilitated by two members of the N.C. Baptist Cultural Mastery Team, Betsy Divers and Jae Richardson. Over the next three months, the

cohort managed to complete their eight-week course in cultural mastery. At the conclusion of the cohort, I received the following email from Divers, which read:

"I imagine you have spoken with Jae about our experience with our first CM Cohort. I find myself still full of gratitude for the privilege to work with and get to know Jae better through this experience in pioneering the effort. We found a rhythm and a process that worked pretty well for us, and that we hope might benefit future facilitators and cohorts. I also LOVED being able to witness the way God spoke to our cohort group in very specific ways."

Through the efforts of Ken Tan, the BSCNC's leadership development consultant, we believe the best way to get cultural mastery to our church leaders and laity is through the multiple associations in the state who have direct contact with the local churches in that association. Therefore, in April/May of 2019, a new partnership formed. Marty Childers, associational mission strategist (AMS) with the Yates Baptist Association, is so convinced of the necessity and the effectiveness of this training that he has volunteered the Yates association to be the first association to engage directly, giving pastors and church leaders the opportunity to be the trendsetters in the state for other associations and ministry groups. Childers believes this to be critical training for ministers who desire to be more effective in reaching and discipling people of diverse cultures. How can Childers, who served for several decades as a missionary with the International Mission Board and now serves as an AMS, make such a claim? He says:

"As someone who lived internationally for over 25 years, I thought I understood cultural complexities. But this course helped me see things from a different perspective. It shed light on my blind spots. There were some parts that caused me to realize that I am not where I want to be yet, but I need to improve. I believe that Cultural Mastery is an amazing tool that should be used by the church to help us complete the commission we've been given."

For more information regarding cultural mastery, contact Ken Tan at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5641 or [ktan@ncbaptist.org](mailto:ktan@ncbaptist.org).

### **Heavenly Banquet**

But, wait, there's more. With our training in cultural mastery, the Church Strengthening Team resolved to integrate our new learnings to begin building a culture of inclusion, welcome, value and love for all people groups and cultures. It was to this end that the Heavenly Banquet held at the 2018 Annual Meeting took on a completely new flavor. For the first time in its 11-year history, the Tuesday lunch was a sell-out, representing 200 N.C. Baptists of all cultures and ethnicities.

What took place during the 90-minute luncheon was nothing short of a miracle. The room became a lab for every participant to learn and practice what it looks like to welcome neighbors and practice hospitality,” which reflected our theme.

Each banquet host and table host/facilitator modeled the theme. During and after the meal, each participant practiced welcoming hospitality with those around their table, with the assistance of table hosts. To wrap up, the banquet host debriefed our experience and issued a challenge. Over the next eight weeks, attendees were challenged to welcome a stranger, a neighbor or a friend into their home and practice hospitality. They were challenged to begin building relationships while praying for the Holy Spirit to guide them to have gospel conversations. Exiting the banquet hall, each person was given a folder of resources to assist in meeting the challenge.

In January 2019, Ronnie McLean, pastor of Freedom Baptist Church in Rockingham, and his wife, Karen, sent me the following:

“This year was extra special due to our attending ‘The Heavenly Banquet’!!! Our hearts were touched by meeting so many new friends who are missionaries or servants in the ministry all over the world. We looked around the room that day and saw people connecting and friendships were formed! We got a personal short glimpse of what Heaven will be like one day! People of all nations and cultures and backgrounds all coming together to have fellowship and talk about our Heavenly Father! We also got a personal glimpse as to what God wants from us even more! He wants each of us to go into all the world and share the Gospel! He wants each of us to get out of our comfort zones (even our own church walls where we pastor) and tell others about Him! He wants us to be His Hands and Feet! This glimpse continued to stir the desire to do more in our community and specifically our own neighborhood first.”

### **Strengthen the Church Conference**

But, wait, there’s even more. The Church Strengthening Team scheduled the first-ever Strengthen the Church Conference for Aug. 13, 2019, with the theme “On Earth as it is in Heaven” based on Revelation 7:9.

The Church Strengthening Team desires to work with you. The size of your church doesn’t matter because 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. We believe that together as partners in the gospel, we will help create something far greater than ourselves.

*Neal Eller, Team Leader*

## **STEWARDSHIP**

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, we announced our partnership with Ramsey Solutions to make stewardship an area of focus in 2019. Because of our partnership, the Ramsey Solutions team lowered the price of the Financial Peace University (FPU) leader membership from \$199 to \$99 exclusively for North Carolina SBC churches. In addition, we committed to discounting that price by an additional \$20 — bringing the price of a membership to \$79. We believe this partnership will make a huge impact on the kingdom by providing life-changing hope to even more churches and families across the country. Our partnership with Ramsey Solutions is ongoing.

A second partnership that provides every N.C. Baptist church free digital stewardship resources from the Stewardship Development Association of the SBC is accessible on the stewardship page of the N.C. Baptist website. To access the resources, visit [ncbaptist.org/stewardship](http://ncbaptist.org/stewardship). Click on “Stewardship Development Association Resources for NC Baptists” in the links section at the bottom of the page. You will be redirected to the N.C. Baptist portal of the Stewardship Development Association. On this page, register your name and establish a password. After completing these steps, you will be able to download any digital resource free of charge.

*Neal Eller, Senior Consultant*

### **Tar Heel Leadership Network**

The Tar Heel Leadership Network has made a significant difference in the lives and ministries of more than 500 N.C. Baptist pastors and staff since its beginning in 1997 by Mark Corts, longtime pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. Following Corts’ death, the leadership network was dormant for a few years until BSCNC Executive Director-Treasurer Milton Hollifield relaunched the Tar Heel Leadership Network as a partnership between the convention and the C. Mark Corts Center for Pastoral Life and Leadership in September 2011.

The Tar Heel Leadership Network is now led by Corts’ son, Steve Corts, who serves as senior pastor of Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons. The Tar Heel Leadership Network exists to develop humble, shepherd leaders willing to love and serve their flock. The network provides participating pastors the opportunity to gather 10 times during a 12-month period to explore the most pressing leadership issues of the day. Steve Corts recognizes a void of spiritual leadership among our pastors and desires to make an extraordinary impact on the lives and leadership of pastors and church leaders in our state.

Each year, 20 to 25 pastors and church staff commit to a yearlong leadership development program of teaching,

coaching and mentoring under the leadership of Steve Corts and a faculty of seven experienced pastors and leadership development authorities. Faculty members include:

- Steve Corts, pastor of Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons.
- David Homer, retired pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh.
- Ryan Pack, pastor of Riverland Hills Baptist Church in Irmo, S.C.
- Jack Homesley, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Charlotte.
- John Compton, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Hickory.
- Ron Skinner, worship pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Hickory.
- Mike Sparks, Tar Heel Leadership Network coach and former associate to Steve Corts and David Horner.
- Tom Howe, executive director and CEO of Unleashed by Design.

The following pastors and church staff made up the 2019 Tar Heel Leadership Network group:

- AJ Highsmith, campus director, Sherwood Campus, Center Grove Baptist, Clemmons.
- Chris Johnson, associate pastor, Fairplains Baptist, N. Wilkesboro.
- Dave Pryor, pastor, Red Mountain Baptist, Rougemont.
- Eddie Eaton, senior pastor, Fuquay-Varina Baptist, Fuquay-Varina.
- Jeremy Hyde, lead pastor, Mission Baptist, Locust.
- Jonathan Waits, senior pastor, First Baptist Oakboro, Oakboro.
- Josh Hayes, pastor, Pleasant Gardens Baptist, Marion.
- Josh Benfield, executive pastor, Waypoint, Chapel Hill.
- Kestler Ruth, pastor, Cleveland First Baptist, Cleveland.
- Michael Madaris, senior pastor, Highland Baptist, New London.
- Michael Bowers, pastor, Fork Baptist, Thomasville.
- Mickey Cogdill, lead pastor, Bannertown Baptist, Mount Airy.
- Mike Phillips, lead pastor, South Point Baptist, Belmont.
- Mitch King, pastor, Sulphur Springs, Hiddenite.
- Mitch Monroe, director of service & outreach, Center Grove Baptist, Clemmons.
- Nathan Redinger, pastor, LifePoint, Willow Spring.
- Neal Thornton, senior pastor, Coats Baptist, Coats.
- Robbie Wood, pastor, Pleasant View Baptist, State Road.
- Roger Mathis, pastor, Unity Baptist, Gastonia.
- Ron Loffin, lead pastor, Uwharrie Community, Albemarle.

- Travis Currin, media director/church planting residency, Carmel Baptist, Matthews.
- Wade Parker, pastor, Webb's Chapel Baptist, Macclesfield.
- Woody Freeze, pastor, Lowe's Grove Baptist, Durham.
- Zachary Williams, pastor, North Canton Baptist, Canton.
- Zack Williams, pastor, Bat Cave Baptist, Hendersonville.

For more information regarding the Tar Heel Leadership Network, contact Neal Eller at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5636 or [neller@ncbaptist.org](mailto:neller@ncbaptist.org).

*Neal Eller, Team Leader*

## HISPANIC MINISTRIES

On May 5, 2019, Guillermo Soriano retired as senior consultant for Hispanic Ministries. He faithfully served N.C. Baptists for 12 years. A few days after his retirement, the following email was sent to Hispanic leaders in our state honoring Soriano and his wife, Martiza.

“As Team Leader of the Church Strengthening Team, I had the distinct honor to serve alongside as partner in the gospel with Guillermo and Martiza Soriano. Although he only served the Church Strengthening Team for two years, I personally found Guillermo to be a great spiritual and cultural guide. In his quiet, humble and loving way little did he know that in our meeting together he disciplined me to be more like Jesus, lift up the Kingdom of God, understand and love others who are not like me, and to glorify God. I dare say that many of you can say exactly the same thing.”

I also assured them of our commitment to and support of Hispanics and Hispanic ministry in North Carolina, building upon the foundation that Soriano had established.

“As an older boomer and leader of many years within the Baptist State Convention of N.C., I recognize the importance of legacy and leaving a legacy behind. Jesus did too, that is why he invested himself into twelve leaders. Jesus knew that when it was time for Him to leave this earth, it was ultimately up to His disciples to continue the work that He started, The Great Commission. However, what if, His disciples had abandoned Him and His mission after Jesus ascended to His Father?”

I told the story of Gian Paul Gonzalez, a ninth-grade teacher in Union City, N.J., who was invited by the New York Giants team chaplain to speak to the team in December 2011. At that time, the Giants had a record of 7-7, and had lost five of their last six games. By all indications and predictions, their season was over. The Giants would simply play out the season, position themselves for the NFL draft and hope for

the best in the coming year. However, Gonzalez's speech so inspired the team that they turned around their season and ultimately played in the 2012 Super Bowl.

What was their inspiration? Two words: "All in." I posed the same challenge to all Hispanic leaders by writing:

"What does this story have to do with you? I need you as Hispanic Leaders in our state to step up, fill the gap, and be all in! Our new Hispanic Consultant will need you to be all in and to carry on the great legacy that Guillermo and Maritza left behind."

Amaury Antonio Santos became senior consultant for Hispanic Ministries effective Oct. 1, 2019. Most recently, Santos served as Hispanic strategy coordinator with the Strategic Focus Team. I believe God has positioned Santos as our senior consultant for Hispanic Ministries "for such a time as this." More than ever before, the challenge I made to Hispanic leaders in May of this year and now make to all Hispanic leaders reading this report remains the same: "The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina needs you as Hispanic leaders in our state to step up, fill the gaps, and be all in! What about you? Will you be all in?"

#### **Pastors and wives retreats**

Two strategic retreats provided pastors and wives opportunities for personal and ministerial enrichment. The retreats were held Oct. 18-20, 2018, at Fort Caswell and Oct. 26-27, 2018, in Hickory. A total of 103 participants representing 38 congregations attended the two retreats.

These retreats included opportunities to focus on spiritual renewal in their kingdom prayer life, marriage and family enrichment, ministry networking and strategic planning toward disciple-making, and leadership multiplication. As a result of these retreats, attendees expressed a better understanding and a greater desire to collaborate with BSCNC ministries.

#### **Hispanic Youth Retreat**

The statewide Hispanic youth retreat is designed to reach and disciple youth from ages 12 to 18. The 2018 retreat was held during Labor Day weekend, and the Lord blessed with 250 in attendance from 23 congregations. The 65 registered decisions for Christ included 23 professions of faith, 28 rededications and 14 decisions for vocational ministry.

The 2020 Hispanic Youth Retreat was scheduled to be held at Caswell Sept. 4-7 with the theme "One/Uno" based on 2 Timothy 2:2.

#### **Hispanic Young Adult Conference**

From May 31 to June 1, 2019, 254 people from 17 churches attended the Hispanic Young Adult Conference at Caswell. The statewide conference, designed to reach single and married

young adults aged 18 to 35, celebrated one salvation decision and four rededications.

The 2020 Hispanic Young Adult Conference is scheduled for May 29-31 with the theme "Imperishable Seed/Semilla Imperecedera" based on 1 Peter 1:23.

#### **National SBC Executive Hispanic Communication Committee Network**

Bobby Sena, Hispanic relations consultant of the SBC's executive committee, invited about 180 key Hispanic pastors and convention leaders to attend the Hispanic Leaders/Pastors Celebration held Monday, June 10, prior to the start of the SBC. Four N.C. Baptist Hispanic pastors attended the meeting. They were: Misael Marriaga from Union Cross Baptist Church in Winston-Salem; Ramon Vielza from Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem; Javier Herrera from Iglesia La Red Hispanic, a church plant from Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem; and John Rosal from First Baptist Church of Tarboro.

During the meeting, members of the National Hispanic Network Committee were introduced. Two pastors were honored posthumously for their lifetime of service and contributions to the SBC. Daniel Sanchez, distinguished professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, made a presentation of the latest trends in Hispanic immigration and the opportunities for evangelism and church planting before us. Pastor Freddy Noble introduced his new book and made a presentation of a Hispanic church model using small group ministry in New York. Ronnie Floyd, newly elected president and CEO of the executive committee of the SBC, shared a renewed vision for evangelism and ministry for the SBC and the key role that Hispanic churches have to play in our national convention.

Attendance at the national meeting was key to help connect Hispanic pastors and convention leaders with the SBC, to meet and network with other Hispanic pastors, to celebrate what God is doing among Hispanics in our nation, and to renew our vision and commitment to fulfill the Great Commission at home and abroad.

#### **Conclusion**

The Hispanic Ministries of the BSCNC strives to provide consultations and resources for congregations and associations in Hispanic ministries 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 in the state and around the world toward the edification of His eternal kingdom. We must seize the moment for His glory by becoming more effective in cross-cultural disciple-making.

*Neal Eller, Team Leader*

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This year has seen a focus on increasing the number of ways to deliver training to N.C. Baptist worship leaders, particularly through the extensive development of online 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 a worship leader wants to go and how much time they can allot the learning experience. We now offer five varieties of Worship Leader Boot Camps. A brief description of each offering is listed below. To learn more, visit [WorshipLeaderBootCamp.org](http://WorshipLeaderBootCamp.org).

### 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 as the basic option, plus there is a full band to lead more extended times of corporate worship. Due to the added worship times, this training begins on a Friday night and runs through Saturday afternoon. It provides a great experience for your entire team.

### Worship Leader Boot Camp Extreme

Since 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 titled, "A Week in the Life of a Worship Leader," and then focuses on practically working through the concepts. This is a retreat context beginning Thursday at noon and running through mid-afternoon on Saturday. These retreats are held at Caraway Conference Center and are 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 launched this past 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 at 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 option takes all the material of the Worship Leader Boot Camp Extreme and expands it to an online class available in a

cohort study or independent study. Students will work through online video teaching, resources, projects and forums to learn the material thoroughly. 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.

### The Renewing Worship blog ([RenewingWorshipNC.org](http://RenewingWorshipNC.org))

This blog is celebrating nine 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.

### Student Worship Academy

This year we began planning events and resources to help our student worship ministries across the state. Plans are in place for a worship training camp for students in the summer of 2020, which will be titled the Student Worship Academy.

### 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 churches are 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, then the Holy Spirit begins to work to change hearts and tear down altars of personal preferences that cause conflict in the church. We have seen many churches move toward unity in their worship after experiencing this journey together.

N.C. Baptists continue to benefit by participating in various music festivals and choral groups throughout the year in equipping our churches to make their praise glorious. The All-State Youth Choir, the N.C. Baptist Singers and Orchestra, the Senior Adult Choir Festival and three handbell festivals continue to flourish and minister to hundreds of people throughout the year. We look forward to helping facilitate renewed worship and unity in worship in our N.C. Baptist churches in this coming year.

*Kenny Lamm, Senior Consultant*

## PASTORAL MINISTRIES

The Pastoral Ministries office of the BSCNC exists to provide a variety of assistance to pastors and churches. Coaching, counseling, conflict resolution and professional ministry consultations and resources are available.

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 because 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. Our office conducted Peacemaker training for 25 churches and four pastors, in addition to four churchwide listening sessions from July 2018 to June 2019.

When a church comes to a place where there is a pastoral vacancy, there is often anxiety, as well as a sense of urgency expressed by the congregation about securing a new pastor. 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 two important types of help to churches. We are regularly involved with N.C. Baptist churches at various stages in the pastor search process, as well as helping the church become as healthy as possible prior to calling their next pastor. Over the past year, Pastoral Ministries has assisted 12 pastor search committees across the state.

### Ministry Match

The Ministry Match system is an online tool that aids churches in filling open ministerial positions with ministers who are currently seeking to find their next place of service. Both parties complete a detailed profile, and the system refers candidates to churches based on their common needs. At that point, it is up to the church to contact any of the referrals they are interested in. The system can be accessed at [ministrymatchnc.org](http://ministrymatchnc.org). Currently, 719 ministers and 923 congregations are active in the system.

### Interim Pastor Institute

The Interim Pastor Institute is designed to equip interim pastors to work with churches in times of transition between pastors. This involves six days of live interactive training held at various times throughout the year. From July 2018 to June 2019, two training events were held, and a total of 37 interim pastors have been certified.

### New minister orientation

The new minister orientation is an annual, one-day event held at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina offices in Cary. The goal is to introduce ministers to the convention and the ministries and resources available to them as they begin their journey as new pastors. There were 42 attendees at the 2019 event.

*Eddie Thompson, Senior Consultant, Pastoral Ministries*

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The African-American Ministries of the BSCNC works with African-American churches across the state to train and encourage pastors and key leaders. Events held during the past year included the pastor peer fellowship, the Pastors Growth and Empowerment Summit, and a pastors and wives banquet. Each event is designed to promote empowerment, growth, fellowship, support, training and networking, while equipping participants to fulfill the Great Commission and carry out the BSCNC strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." Up to 12 pastors at a time participated in the pastor peer fellowship. For the larger events, anywhere from 30 to 60 people attended. Feedback from the pastors has been positive. They have indicated attending these events helps them learn new ideas and build relationships, and it provides a safe place for them outside their normal routine of church ministry. One pastor simply stated, "It is very refreshing."

*Jae Richardson, Contractor, African-American Ministries*

## ASIAN MINISTRIES

In North Carolina, there are 130 Asian congregations in which 27 languages are spoken on Sundays during worship. However, there are still several different languages needed in order to reach the 300,000 Asians in North Carolina with the gospel of Christ. To reach the unreached Asians in the state, Asian Ministries seeks to strengthen Asian churches to impact lostness through disciple-making among Asian communities.

There are four ways to help Asian churches: A, B, C and D.

- A stands for "advancing gospel proclamation." Our aim is to help pastors, Sunday School teachers and leaders preach and teach gospel-centered messages in their pulpit and classrooms.
- B stands for "building disciple-making strategy." This is designed to 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

generations in the church and their homes. The goal is to assist Asian churches to 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 the next generation of leaders.

By helping Asian churches with A, B, C and D, Asian Ministries seeks to see the lost reached with the gospel of Christ and to multiply disciples of Christ.

### **Retreats, revivals and conferences**

**Korean Pastors Retreat (July 30 to Aug. 1, 2018):** The Korean Baptist Association of North Carolina hosted this annual pastors’ retreat at Fort Caswell. A total of 59 attendees from 16 churches participated. This year’s theme was “Pastoral Ministry in End Times,” emphasizing the importance of Christ-centered preaching and Spirit-filled prayer life. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Wi, lead pastor of New Life Korean Baptist Church in California and former president of the National Korean Baptist Fellowship. N.C. Korean pastors had a fruitful time to network and refresh their minds and souls for God’s kingdom.

**Vietnamese Revival Meeting (Aug. 5, 2018):** The N.C. Vietnamese Baptist Fellowship hosted its annual revival at Vietnamese Baptist Church in Jamestown. More than 300 people from 10 different churches participated in the revival meeting. Pastor David Tan Mai from Houston, Texas, was the main speaker. The message was “Christian lifestyle reflects on three perspectives” based on Philippians 4:4-9. Vietnamese leaders and congregations showed their unity in one spirit and their eagerness to grow in Christ together.

**Burmese Conference (July 6-8, 2018):** The people of Myanmar often use the nation’s former name, Burma, as they identify themselves. As a result, people groups from Myanmar may refer to themselves as Burmese people, even though they may use the name Myanmar in their churches names. The Burmese Baptist churches in the southeast region met for an annual conference in New Bern under the title of “Light of the Word.” Main sessions, breakout sessions and music were all conducted in the Burmese national language. Six churches participated from four states. They were: Myanmar Christian Fellowship of Virginia; Berean Myanmar Baptist Church of South Carolina; Myanmar Baptist Church of Georgia; Myanmar Baptist Church of Florida; N.C. Myanmar Baptist Church; and Life Community Church Myanmar of North Carolina. The N.C. Myanmar churches are led by Pastor Bawk, the N.C. Burmese coordinator. A total of 250 people participated in the conference. This annual conference is significant in strengthening Burmese churches with solid doctrine and strong fellowship among churches.

These Burmese churches are active in reaching Buddhists and Muslims among Burmese communities in the southeast.

**Hmong Youth Retreat (July 15-21, 2018):** The Hmong Baptist National Association hosted its annual retreat titled “Standing Stones” at Hannibal-LaGrange University in Missouri. More than 450 youth and young adults from various Hmong Baptist churches participated in this nationwide retreat. Inspired by the book of Joshua, the purpose of the retreat was to give a “memorial” for the youth and young adults to follow Christ through firsthand experience. Several Hmong leaders from North Carolina led worship sessions and spoke at the retreat. Fifteen Hmong youth were saved and baptized during the event.

**Japanese Retreat (Sept. 1-3, 2018):** N.C. Japanese ministries hosted the annual Japanese retreat at Ridgecrest. This year’s theme was “We Are United.” The keynote speaker was the Rev. Masashi Sugita, Japanese pastor of Dublin Baptist Church in Ohio, and the vice president of National Asian American Fellowship. A total of 128 people participated from churches and fellowships in North Carolina, as well as individual attendees from Virginia, Florida and Hawaii. One of the attendees from Jacksonville, N.C., came to the Lord through the retreat.

**Pakistani Revival Meeting (Oct. 20, 2018):** The Point Church Urdu in Cary hosted a revival worship and fellowship. Pastor Tamran Inayat, the Pakistani coordinator, invited a guest speaker from Pakistan who led a church with more than 30,000 members. At this event, more than 130 people from seven churches representing South Asians and other ethnic groups participated and received a blessing through the ministry of God’s Word.

**North Carolina Youth Camp (Dec. 26-29, 2018):** The 10th annual North Carolina Youth Camp was held in Denton. About 370 second-generation students and leaders from more than 17 Asian-American churches in North Carolina participated. This year’s theme was CR2 (Cross, Resurrection and Return of Christ). Each night’s messages were inspiring and interactive for students to engage with the core message of the gospel. Several students repented of their sins and dedicated their lives to Christ. Students shared testimonies of how God changed their lives through the camp. For example, one student who lost her mother seven years ago, found new hope in Christ. She said she never experienced such radical worship. God has touched the lives of many second-generation Asian-Americans at this camp.

**Asian Field Coordinators Retreat (March 21-23, 2019):** The second annual Asian field coordinators retreat was held at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Coordinators represented different language groups such as Korean, Japanese, Lahu, Thai, Karen, Hmong, Burmese, Montagnard and Laotian. This year’s theme was “Family Discipleship.” A newly

updated Asian ministries strategy binder was provided as well as many resources related to family discipleship. Mark Smith, the BSCNC's senior consultant for family evangelism and discipleship, made a presentation on biblical parenting. Yunhee Sim, the director of Life Plus ministry, spoke on discipleship in marriage. Ken Tan, the BSCNC's senior consultant for leadership development, presented on leadership in the family. This was a great time of learning about how to disciple the family, which is a significant need among Asian immigrants. Coordinators also worked through Asian Ministries' new People of the Book resource to use the material in their church networks. Coordinators also enjoyed a time of fellowship.

**Southern Baptist Convention (June 10-12, 2019):** The 162nd Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting was held in Birmingham, Ala. The theme, "Gospel Above All," was based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. One of the main characteristics of the event was to reflect kingdom diversity. As a result, many ethnic church leaders participated in the meeting. On June 10, the "Next Gen Colab" was held for second- and third-generation Asian-American leaders. The main focus of the discussion topic was on leadership development for Asian-Americans, which is the most needed area for ethnic churches.

Discussion questions included: What would a leadership development path look like? and How would a church make this kind of development happen? Multiple Asian-American leaders participated in the discussion from all across North America, including Canada. In the evening, the fourth annual National Asian-American fellowship was held. Sammy Joo, the president of the Asian-American Fellowship, presided over the meeting. Many first- and second-generation Asian-American leaders participated, along with SBC entity leaders such as Jeff Iorg, president of Gateway Seminary. One of the highlights of the event was SBC Executive Committee President and CEO Ronnie Floyd sharing greetings to Asian-American leaders. At the end of his speech, Asian-American leaders came forward and prayed for Floyd.

The 38th Korean Southern Baptist Fellowship was held June 10-12, 2019, under the same theme, "Gospel Above All." Attendees participated in the general sessions and elections on Tuesday, June 11. Several guest speakers, including Mark Clifton, senior director of replant with the North American Mission Board, and Paul Chitwood, president of the International Mission Board, encouraged and inspired Korean pastors to stay focused on Christ and to partner to reach unreached people groups for His kingdom. One of the highlights of the event was praying for Chitwood after he preached. Prayer for Floyd and Chitwood shows that ethnic church leaders in the United States are not a mission field anymore but a mission force to partner with SBC leaders for the kingdom of God.

## **Trainings**

**Montagnard (Nov. 4, 2018):** The N.C. Montagnard Ministry hosted the annual Montagnard Thanksgiving celebration at Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro. More than 150 leaders among Montagnard, Vietnamese, Khmer and Jirai people groups from 13 churches participated. Pastor K'Them, the Montagnard coordinator, announced that five leaders will be ordained in 2019.

**Laotian (Dec. 29, 2018):** Laotian pastors and leaders in North Carolina gathered to celebrate 66 leaders who successfully completed a training course. About 107 attendees from nine churches joined in the celebration at Gold Hill. One of the 66 students shared a testimony based on John 15:5, with an emphasis on the abiding relationship in Christ. Sammy Joo challenged the Laotian leaders to trust the promise of God and walk with Him in life and ministry. Laotian leaders continued training in 2019 through basic church planting and mentoring.

**Korean (Feb. 12, 2019):** The first multiply training orientation was held in the Korean language through a partnership with Ralph Garay, the BSCNC's Asian church planting senior consultant. Pastors from six churches participated in this orientation. Caden Lee, the Korean coordinator, and MC Ko, of The Connect Church, co-led the training that started in April. This training is a 12-week program, that meets monthly.

**Second Generation Asian Leadership Lab (Feb. 23, 2019):** The first leadership lab for second generation Asian-American leaders in the Triangle area was held at the Baptist state convention offices in Cary. Leaders from nine churches participated in the meeting. Those leaders represented eight different ethnicities: Japanese, Hmong, Montagnard, Vietnamese, Filipino, Chinese, Taiwanese and Korean. Most of them were born and grew up in the United States as Asian-Americans, and they have unique stories that differ from first-generation immigrants and the American majority. The theme of the meeting was "Faith," taken from Hebrews 11:24-25. Ken Tan, Simon Touprong and Sammy Joo facilitated the session in which participants shared their testimonies and the vision God has given them. All participants enjoyed the fellowship and learning from one another. Two follow-up sessions were held monthly on the topics of "Identity," to know who they are in Christ, and "community," to know where they are called to serve.

**Burmese Leaders Training (May 4, 2019):** Twenty-eight leaders from four Burmese churches met for a one-day conference in Columbia, S.C. Representatives from churches in North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina attended the event. Sammy Joo was the main speaker, and Pastor Thomas interpreted Sammy's speech and translated presentation material into Burmese. The main topic for the conference was "Spiritual Leadership: Love for the Church." By God's grace,

Burmese churches are growing, yet there is a significant need for spiritual leadership development in theological training and multiplication. All participants received a copy of the *People of the Book* resource as a supplement material for discipleship in their churches.

### **Outreach and missions**

**Korea: (June 15 to July 15, 2018):** Sammy Joo, the BSCNC Asian Ministries senior consultant, traveled to Korea to conduct several preaching and training events. He preached 14 times in seven different churches. In addition, he led two leadership trainings in two organizations. By God's grace, 1,160 people heard the gospel of Christ, and 105 of them responded by accepting Christ as their Lord and Savior, dedicating their lives to walk with Him. About 265 leaders from 100 churches were trained through the leadership training hosted by a church growth movement department within Korean Baptist churches. Pastors were challenged to preach Christ-centered messages each week to honor Christ and to lead the congregation to Christ.

**Pakistani (Aug. 18, 2018):** N.C. Asian Ministries and Pastor Tamran Inayat, a Pakistani field coordinator, celebrated the grand opening of The Point Church Urdu as the first Pakistani church in North Carolina. Tamran came to North Carolina six years ago hearing of the need to plant Pakistani churches in the state. With extensive outreach among Pakistani Muslims and training for local churches to engage Muslim populations in North Carolina, God has led Tamran's vision and prayer to fruition. Several church and organizational leaders came to celebrate this important and historic day.

**Hmong New Year's Outreach (Nov. 25, 2018):** Hmong Baptist churches in North Carolina had the first Hmong New Year's evangelistic outreach event. This was a concerted effort to engage and interact with visitors sharing life stories touched by Jesus. We used gospel tracks and evangeucubes to share about Jesus. Members of the prayer team stayed behind the scenes and prayed during the event, while others prayed for those who shared prayer requests. The children's team handed out balloons and shared the gospel with evangeucubes. Others served coffee and hot chocolate to attendees. The follow-up meeting at Hmong Community Baptist Church on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, concluded that the team conduct this outreach again next year to further the gospel to bring light into the darkness, especially when more than 10,000 Hmong people will come together for a four-day event.

### **Resources**

**Podcast:** The N.C. Asian-American ministries podcast was launched in May 2017 with the goal of highlighting the life and ministry of next generation Asian-American leaders in North Carolina. As of June 2019, 114 episodes have been published, which include interviews with 30 Asian-American

leaders representing 27 churches in North Carolina and beyond. Podcast episodes have 4,859 downloads from more than 18 different countries.

**Videos:** Asian Ministries has produced daily verse-by-verse exposition videos for pastors and leaders. In the fall of 2017, 104 videos were produced on passages in 1 John. In the spring of 2018, 87 videos were produced on Psalm chapters 1, 2, 19, 22, 23 and 51. From the fall of 2018 to the summer of 2019, 115 videos on "Servants of God" and 111 videos based on the *People of the Book* resource were produced. These daily videos are currently sent to 10 Asian field coordinators and 25 other pastors and leaders representing 30 churches on a daily basis.

**People of the Book:** On March 18, Asian Ministries published the *People of the Book* resource. The booklet aims to help church leaders and members understand what Baptists believe and do. It is a study on what the Bible teaches on three major questions: What we believe, who we are and what we do. The three major questions include important doctrinal elements such as: who is God, what is the Bible, who we are and what we do. Content is drawn from *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*. The *People of the Book* booklet is being requested and used by Asian churches and non-Asian churches alike. God is using this booklet to train brothers and sisters in Christ to be equipped in basic doctrines and to love God's Word in their personal lives and multiplying disciples. One of the encouraging stories is that this book is being translated into Spanish and was requested for use in prison as discipleship material. Pray that the Lord would continue to use this material for His kingdom.

Asian Ministries exists to help churches impact lostness through disciple-making. Pray for Asian leaders to be raised up and for churches to be multiplied to advance God's kingdom.

*Sammy Joo, Senior Consultant*

### **MILITARY AND CHAPLAINCY**

From the pew to the many military installations around the state, the Military and Chaplaincy Ministry partners with churches and associations to reach and disciple active duty servicemen and servicewomen, veterans and their families. We work alongside government organizations, businesses, nonprofits and mental health professionals to bring a holistic approach to our ministry.

This year can be summed up into two categories: connections and conversations. Connections have provided us the opportunity to have a voice in the larger military and veteran community to spread our influence and message of Jesus

Christ. Conversations, including local meetings, counselings and individual calls, have provided us the opportunity to go deeper with our military, veterans and church leadership in order to flesh out a meaningful vision and mission of reaching the lost and discipling our own.

Following is a list of connections, conversations and consultations.

### **Connections**

Local Baptist association meetings/projects:

- Sandhills.
- Metrolina.
- Cabarrus.

Other Agencies:

- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS).
  - Jim Houck.
- Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention
  - Paul Kim.
- North American Mission Board.
  - Doug Carver.
  - Endel Lee.
- 82nd Airborne Division chaplain's office.
  - Col. Eddie Cook.
- FORCOM readiness chaplain.
  - Lt. Col. Ray Williams.
- N.C. Army National Guard (NCARNG) joint force headquarters chaplain.
  - Lt. Col. Jonathan Heitman.
- 145th Airlift Wing Charlotte.
  - Col. Jeff Kidd.
- 139th regional training institute officer candidate school.
  - N.C. Army National Guard officer candidates in training classes 61 and 62.

### **Conversations**

- Military Week at SEBTS on Sept. 5-6: Honored and celebrated military ministry.
- 911 Independence Fund event in Charlotte: Honored local heroes.
- N.C. National Guard yellow ribbon event in Charlotte: Focused on educating and training returning war veterans.
- BSCNC Annual Meeting: Represented military and veterans.
- The Independence Fund veteran speaker series in Charlotte: Provided the invocation and chaplain presence.
- Queens College student veterans event in Charlotte: Represented N.C. Baptists.
- Wreaths Across America event in Matthews: Provided the invocation and chaplain presence.
- Tar Heel Leadership Network: Provided education and awareness of veteran issues among young leaders.

- Spectrum News advocacy programs for local veterans: Advocated for spiritual ministry among veterans.
- Operation Hurricane Florence: Represented N.C. Baptists as the state task force chaplain activated with the N.C. Army National Guard for 15 days.

### **Consultations with lay leaders**

- Rocky Mount: Lay veteran ministry.
- Charlotte: Starting a veteran pastor's group.
- Concord: Online church for veterans.
- Waxhaw: Pastoral counseling for veterans.

Any military chaplain will tell you that ministry of presence is 90 percent of a chaplain's job. When you show up in times of crisis, it brings a measure of the Divine into the conversation. It is no different with our church associations and leaders of N.C. Baptists. We must show up. It's not so much the planned out events, or the large gatherings where lives are being changed and hearts mended, but it has been more so in the hundreds of one-on-one coffee shop meetings or impromptu stress-induced phone calls where the real life-changing conversations have taken place. I challenge our churches and ministry leaders to consider fluid and flexible ministry opportunities in order to effectively impact our military and veteran community.

*Thomas Watson, Contract Worker, Military and Chaplaincy*

### **EMERGENCY CHAPLAINCY**

The need for public safety chaplains is greater than ever before. We estimate that 3,000 chaplains are needed to effectively serve our first responders and citizens across the state of North Carolina.

For the past two years, I have been working through a partnership formed between Emergency Chaplains and the N.C. Association of Chiefs of Police to develop a training and certification program for law enforcement chaplains. The program was launched in mid-2019 providing an accessible and affordable solution to equip chaplains to meet this great need.

This training is now available through Emergency Chaplains for current and prospective law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and 911 chaplains. N.C. Baptists are encouraged to take advantage of this training and prayerfully seek opportunities to connect with local public safety agencies that need a chaplaincy presence. Emergency Chaplains will also assist in placements. Service opportunities are available statewide for both ordained and nonordained chaplains. Visit [EChap.org/training](http://EChap.org/training) for more information.

*Ralph Thompson, Contract Worker, Emergency Chaplaincy*

## SPECIAL MINISTRIES

An era ended with the retirement of Donnie Wiltshire, senior consultant for Special Ministries, on April 5, 2019. For 20 years, Wiltshire faithfully served the marginalized in North Carolina by providing ministry to the developmentally disabled, deaf, blind, illiterate and those who do not speak English. He carried the legacies of those who had gone before him: Jerry Potter (1952-1994) and Neal Payton (1963-1999) taking hold the baton of Special Ministries passed to him in 1999.

Before Wiltshire's retirement, many asked, "Who will be next to take hold of the baton of Special Ministries for N.C. Baptists?" Milton Hollifield, BSCNC executive director-treasurer, understood Christ's mandate found in Scripture, "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me'" (Matthew 25:40, ESV). Therefore, Hollifield directed the leadership of Evangelism and Discipleship Group to discover and hire as contract workers, N.C. Baptists who are passionate in each of the ministries cited.

### Deaf Ministry

Kevin Clark, contract worker for deaf ministry, is no stranger to N.C. Baptists. He served alongside Wiltshire for many years coordinating deaf evangelism events, directing the annual Deaf Youth Retreat, and planning and implementing international mission trips for deaf volunteers each year.

Clark led a deaf mission team from the United States to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from July 17-25, 2018. This team of five consisted of three deaf going on their first-time missions experience. Their original plans were to lead a deaf camp, but little did they know that God had other plans for them. Clark described what happened after the team arrived in Honduras as follows:

"Honduran transport workers were on strike against the government for increased gas prices. The workers blocked roads with their cars ceasing transportation resulting in camp cancellation, since many deaf campers could not travel to Tegucigalpa. However, God had other plans for the deaf leaders of Honduras. The deaf leaders decided to have Saturday and Sunday services from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their church in Tegucigalpa using the same materials and resources planned for camp. It was great! On Saturday, we had 73 people with one deaf lady making the decision to follow Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. On Sunday, with 75 people attending, 10 deaf people decided to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Wow! God is good at all times!"

In January 2019, a team began traveling to the N.C. School for the Deaf in Morganton once a month for three hours to share the gospel with and disciple the deaf students during the school year using the 42 cloth stories.

From Jan. 7-14, 2019, N.C. Baptists, including Clark, led a deaf camp in Columbia. Leading the camp were deaf leaders, one hearing leader, and two deaf leaders in training. Fifty-seven deaf campers attended, and six made a first-time decision to follow Christ.

The annual N.C. Baptist Youth Retreat took place May 17-19, 2019, at Caraway Conference Center. Twenty-nine campers attended, and two campers made first-time decisions for Christ. The two campers received the following discipleship resources: "Seven Steps" booklet along with "The Action Bible."

*Kevin Clark, Contract Worker, Deaf Ministries*

### Literacy Missions

Along with Wiltshire's retirement, also came the retirement of our veteran literacy missions coordinator, Barbara Martin. For 20 years, Martin served N.C. Baptists with passion and compassion. She trained and equipped numerous workers across our state to proclaim the gospel using the tools of literacy missions. Glenda Reece, certified trainer and member of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, wrote these words of appreciation and affirmation for Martin:

"'There is a time for everything,' as we are told in Ecclesiastes 3. Barbara Martin began her literacy missions work for SBC 20 years ago. She has held all of us together through these years by communicating, loving and helping each of us involved in literacy work. Of course, she worked with me at Forest Hills teaching classes, but she also worked with each of us in training, and in compiling reports and setting up our conferences. What a great job she has done. As this position shifted to Jeanette Walters, I felt all was in God's timing. Each of us contributes what we can. However, Barbara's contribution has influenced me greatly, and I think many others can say the same. What a joy to have been led by this dedicated, kind, thoughtful and hospitable woman of God! Thank you, Barbara! So glad you will stay with us and continue to attend and help as we all serve together."

Carrying on Martin's legacy and great work in literacy missions is our new literacy missions coordinator, Jeannette Walters. Coming highly recommended, filling the gap of leadership, Martin wrote the following:

"Jeanette Walters comes with a rich background in all aspects of literacy missions. She is a NAMB certified ESL and ARW workshop leader, and for a number of years has led workshops all over our state. In addition, she has experience in English as a Foreign Language and she has taught EFL in several countries. She also led worship services especially for women, some of whom came to faith at that time. Jeanette's experience on the national level includes contributing to the 'Project Help Literacy Resource Kit,' which included

guidelines and ideas for teaching ‘The Meaning of the Word,’ the logo for Project Help Literacy. On a professional level, she taught ESL in Wayne County Public Schools for many years. She was appointed in 1989 by the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) to be the church and community director in the Neuse Baptist Association, and served in that capacity for several years. Jeanette also worked for the North Carolina State WMU, serving in several capacities. We are thankful for Jeanette, her lifetime of dedicated kingdom service, and look forward to supporting her in prayer, and working with her as we reach others for Christ through literacy missions.”

### **Literacy missions workshops**

There are approximately 80 ongoing Bible studies due to literacy missions ministries in our state. From that, we have one new church start this past year. In addition, 55 professions of faith and countless seeds of the gospel were shared and planted in students in these ministries.

Approximately 560 teachers volunteer in literacy missions statewide.

State literacy missions conferences held:

- September 2018: 66 participants.
- October 2018: 37 participants.

Regional workshops held:

- June 2018: Greensboro area, Lawndale Baptist Church
- August 2018: Charlotte area, Metrolina Baptist Association
- February 2019: Wilmington area, Northside Baptist Church
- March 2019: Charlotte area, Metrolina Baptist Association
- April 2019: Goldsboro area, Trinity Baptist Church
- May 2019: Roxobel area, Bertie County, Sandy Run Baptist Church
- May 2019: Charlotte area, Metrolina Baptist Association

A session on literacy missions was held at the N.C. Baptist Men’s Conference in August 2018 and March 2019.

Five-hundred leaders, teachers and volunteers receive an electronic literacy missions newsletter in January and June. The newsletter shares stories and conference information as well as current resources.

Several volunteers go overseas each year as well, teaching and sharing Christ. One of our volunteers shared in a country last year to a group that saw five young people accept Christ and be baptized in a service that followed the teaching sessions.

Mr. P., a volunteer teacher at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro, shared how he felt overwhelmed teaching a class because he was the only teacher of English as a

second language (ESL). He felt as though the weight of the entire program was on him. As we often do, we try to just keep going and trust God will help us along. He does help us, of course; however, He does sometimes need to get our attention in various ways. That happened to Mr. P. He prayed. The church decided to hold a missions fair, and as Mr. P. shared at his display about the ESL ministry, a large number of people signed up to help. After setting up a training for the new volunteers, the one class of ESL students became three classes of students. God richly blessed and multiplied — not only the field for harvest, but also workers for the harvest, too. “Oh, that I would have prayed sooner and given it to Him,” said Mr. P. God provided, as He always does. We must realize it’s in His timing. Waiting is the hard part.

Some of our volunteers in literacy missions are working with internationals, both here and abroad, sharing Jesus. We cannot begin to count the seeds planted for the kingdom; but God is blessing in this ministry, and we believe He will continue as we share and teach His Word. We teach youth, children and adults so that they may be able to read, write and speak the name of Jesus.

*Jeanette Walters, Coordinator, Literacy Missions*

### **Blind Ministry**

Craig Freeman of Wake Forest serves as our contract worker for the Blind Ministry. He is an educator of music in the public school system, well-versed in the pulpit, has facilitated gatherings on blindness, and lectured on the topic at Lion’s Clubs, universities and churches. Freeman says, “Any way that I can be a servant in these areas, please let me know.” Freeman is available to speak with churches about ministry with individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Each year, the BSCNC sponsors the Baptist Fellowship Retreat for the blind and visually impaired, a major outreach program for the convention. This year, 33 people attended the retreat that featured Jae Richardson, the convention’s African-American Ministries contract worker, who helped us explore the theme “From Here...To There.”

The Blind Ministry also records and distributes the *Biblical Recorder*, the news journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, in audio format as a free service.

### **Special Needs Ministry**

Happiness Retreats continue to be a major focus of our ministry to people with special needs. Therefore, we searched for a contract worker with the following characteristics that would manage and coordinate this ministry: a passion and love for people with special needs; compassion, humility and work experience in this area of ministry; recognition by others as a leader in this ministry area; experience as a

special needs camp director, trainer of others, and obviously, a Christ-follower.

We knew that Judy Autry was the obvious choice for this role. Autry is a former BSCNC staff member and leader in the Special Needs Ministry at First Baptist Church in Sanford. Her longtime devotion and work as the Caraway Happiness Retreats coordinator for the last 21 years has met the needs of N.C. Baptists and others with special needs, while mentoring the next generation to step up in areas of leadership.

Autry will be responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing and managing the five three-day Happiness Retreats in our state. The western Happiness Retreat is led by Darlene Ponder and Lester Evans, BSCNC team leader for Associational Partnerships, who live in western North Carolina and are part of the Happiness Retreat planning team.

### **Spring Fling**

Spring Fling, sponsored by the BSCNC in partnership with Campbell University, ministers to approximately 200 individuals every year. This one-day event, hosted by Campbell, is for churches and individuals with special needs. The campers participate in crafts and games, interact with students who attend the university, worship, and enjoy lunch. In addition, the Campbell basketball teams come to help with the games. Many thanks to Faith Beam, Campbell's associate vice president for spiritual life and campus minister, and her college ministry team for making this a great day for people with developmental disabilities.

### **Happiness Retreat**

Happiness Retreats are three-day summer camps for people with developmental disabilities. A total of five camps are held each summer at either Truett Camp in Hayesville or Caraway Conference Center in Sophia.

Truett Camp hosted the first retreat in June, which drew 64 campers and chaperones in 2019. Caraway Conference Center hosted the remaining four camps in July. This report was written and submitted prior to the July 2019 camp weeks. In July 2018, 642 campers and chaperones attended. Both camps have talent shows with hidden and shared wonders from each camper filling every show. This is such a rewarding time for the campers and staff. They have disciplined us as staff in many ways.

Happiness Retreats give campers opportunities to attend classes where they study and interact with God's Word, sing in a choir, learn the art of puppets, perform a musical number with handbells, express themselves through creative movement, and relax while swimming in the pool. For the final evening of each camp, campers experience worship specially planned for them. The service closes by giving opportunity for

anyone to come forward for prayer or to accept Christ. Our staff is always ready to reach out and pray with anyone that comes forward. Our last day concludes with classes and a special presentation of photos of their camp experience.

Knowing many of the chaperones who attend with a special needs person are lost or unchurched, Happiness Retreat staff created a devotion booklet especially for them. Their desire was to provide an avenue for gospel conversations.

Executing Happiness Retreats requires a large number of people and financial resources. We are grateful to the faithful men, women and youth who staff our five retreats each year and to the many churches that faithfully bring their special needs campers for the most significant weekend of their year. Without the resources of the BSCNC and the "Friends of Happiness Retreat" endowment fund, we could not accomplish this wonderful camp.

Having a place for everyone to worship is a focus for Special Ministries in a church. Does your church have a special needs member? Are you involved in providing the families a place for everyone to fellowship, learn and worship together? This large population of families in our communities is searching for a church to fill their family's needs. The BSCNC has resources that can help a church meet these needs.

### **Conclusion**

In Special Ministries, we meet people at the point of their need and seek to make disciples among these people groups. The BSCNC recognizes that if we are to reach all people groups with the gospel, then we cannot overlook people groups who are outside the usual ethnic linguistic groups we typically target.

*Neal Eller, Team Leader*

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

We thank God for the opportunity to raise and equip spiritual leaders who lead like Jesus. It is not just a cliché to say that we focus on training leaders who lead like Jesus, but it is the foundational element for everything that we do in leadership development. We have invested this past year in several strategic equipping tracks that train trainers who are capable of teaching and mentoring others. We had many who participated in these trainings who came from churches and associations all over the state and have benefited from the timely, tested, affordable and replicable resources. We introduced new leadership resources and repeated those we have offered in the past that have proven to be effective in reaching, discipling and developing multiplying leaders. We offered equipping tracks in the areas of character, capacity, context and competency to carry out God's divine mission and vision in the lives of His

people. These equipping tracks are designed to give a leader some hands on experiences on how to facilitate the training. We are reminded of what the apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:12 “to equip the saints for works of ministry to build up the body of Christ.”

In the area of character development, we offered the equipping track titled “Lead Like Jesus.” It gave every leader and potential leader a better perspective on what it means to be a servant leader by understanding who we are and whose we are in Christ. This foundational leadership component differentiates a worldly leader from a spiritual leader as noted in Matthew 20:25-26: “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”

Here is what Scott Setzer, associational mission strategist for the North Roanoke Baptist Association, said about the training: “‘Lead Like Jesus’ is a great resource that addresses not only the question, ‘How do I lead?’ but also, ‘Who am I as a person and a leader?’ By using the four areas of the heart, head, habits and hands as a grid, I have been able to evaluate my life as a leader. I have also been able to utilize ‘Lead Like Jesus’ while coaching ministry leaders. ‘Lead Like Jesus’ serves as a great tool for developing servant leaders in all aspects of church life.”

In the area of capacity, we provided the equipping track titled “Leadership Profile.” This track provided the ability for every leader to understand the way each person is uniquely designed by God and how the utilization of our spiritual gifts, personalities and calling helps carry out God’s purpose and plan. We have seen this training used for new membership classes, staff development, new officers and more to help utilize our giftedness to effectively carry out God’s purpose and plan in our lives.

Here is a testimony from Drew Dalton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Old Fort, N.C., on how he utilized this training in his ministry context: “Let me begin by first telling you that I have received a blessing at each and every track that I have attended. They have provided invaluable insight for my ministry, as well new partnerships for fellowship and mission. But I want to tell you specifically about the track that I attended in April, the Leadership 3-in-1 Profile. This training helped me understand not only who I am as a minister, but also who I am as a person. It also taught me to be more sensitive to those who may not share my passions or giftings. Knowing your own personality profile is one thing; but understanding the profile of those you minister to is indispensable. It helps you to motivate, encourage, exhort, and even reprove the people of your church; appreciating them as individuals instead of just a cog in the machine. This training represents to me a paradigm shift in the way I look at my congregation and how I lead, feed, and tend the flock with which the Lord as entrusted me. I look forward to the next session.”

In the area of context, we offered an equipping track titled “Cultural Mastery,” in partnership with the BSCNC Church Strengthening Team. The training provided the ability to relate and build loving relationships with those who we need to engage in our communities in order to win, disciple and develop leaders to be like Christ. We had a cultural mastery awareness event in August 2018 and trained 10 cultural mastery trainers who went through the certification process so they can train others in our state and beyond. We were able to work with Ricardo Gonzales, the founder of cultural mastery, in developing material uniquely designed for the church.

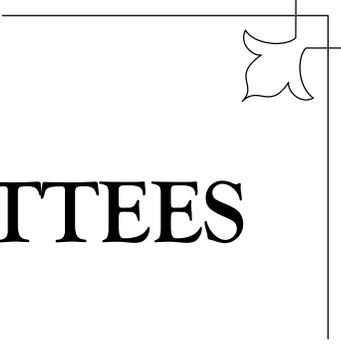
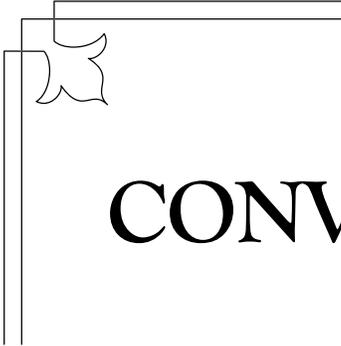
In the area of competence, we provided development through the equipping track titled “Strategic Planning that Works” with Bud Wrenn, pastor of Integrity Church in Burlington. We are blessed to have pastors and leaders like Wrenn who have invested so much in developing leaders in the church and workplace. Those who took part in this training were exposed to many practical and proven ways to develop a church and organizational vision and strategy. With so many books written and seminars available on this subject, this training sought to be well grounded in biblical principles and application.

Robbie Gibson, pastor of East Sanford Baptist Church, participated in this training and submitted the following testimony: “I have had the privilege of participating in many of the Spiritual Leadership Equipping Tracks. While there are many benefits to these trainings, I want to mention just one. The thing I find most beneficial is the biblical truth of iron sharpening iron. We come into these trainings to hear from ‘experts’ in an area of ministry, but the hands-on participation and discussions with other pastors and leaders has a value that far exceeds the cost of the training sessions.

“The idea of strategic planning was overwhelming to me. Listening to Bud Wrenn, the author of *Innovative Planning: Your Church in 4D*, explain the process left me feeling only slightly better. However, when he began to break us out into teams and have us work through the process with his guidance, I gained a confidence that I never had before about strategic planning. Working with others and being guided through the process gave me the encouragement that I needed to lead the church through this process. There is no better church leadership training or resource that I have found than the Spiritual Leadership Equipping Tracks.”

We now have trainers all over the state who can provide timely and relevant training and resources that may be accessed at [ncbaptist.org/leadership](http://ncbaptist.org/leadership). We also thank God for the pastors, church and association leaders who took the time to be trained as trainers and have made themselves available to equip others for the ministry.

*Ken Tan, Senior Consultant*



# CONVENTION COMMITTEES

## — REPORT —

**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. To recommend an individual to a place of service, visit [ncbaptist.org/recommend](http://ncbaptist.org/recommend).

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.

The Administration and Convention Relations Group has the dual role of serving churches of the convention and serving convention staff.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT

The Committee on Nominations is charged with the task of receiving and reviewing the numerous recommendations provided by North Carolina Baptists for service on the 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, the *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. 5 edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, on the *Biblical Recorder* website and in the BSCNC Book of Reports.

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 2020 Committee on Nominations.

The committee would also ask you to consider the issue of gender and ethnic diversity in the recommendations you submit. We would like to see more and more of the wonderful diversity of our Baptist state convention family reflected in those we will be nominating to serve in these key leadership positions in the future. So please think and pray about the recommendations you will make from large churches, small churches, rural churches, urban churches, new churches, historic churches, men and women, young and old, and potential leaders from across all cultural and ethnic groups.

Please submit your recommendations through the N.C. Baptist app or online at [ncbaptist.org/recommend](http://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*

## 2019 Committee on Nominations Members

*Robin Fisher, Rocky Mount, Chair*

*Mark Brady, Moyock*

*Michael Davis, Charlotte*

*David Duarte, Greensboro*

*Carolyn Fowler, Murfreesboro*

*Mark Golden, Waynesville*

*Amy Harrison, Troutman*

*David Helms, Pendleton*

*James Keku, Browns Summit*

*Heath Lloyd, Reidsville*

*Dustin Mace, Vale*

*Connie Millsaps, Franklin*

*Josh Pruitt, Rutherfordton*

*Gene Roberts, Asheville*

*Jennifer Thoppil, Mount Airy*

*Jason Wilkinson, Wake Forest*

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."

## **Board of Directors, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina**

### **Region 1**

*Terry Stockman*, 2020-2023, Meherrin (O), Murfreesboro, West Chowan Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 2**

*Dimas Castillo*, 2020-2023, Living Hope Community (U), Jacksonville, New River Association, Minister, Male  
*Brandon Dees*, 2020-2023, Calvary (O), Rocky Mount, North Roanoke Association, Minister, Male  
*Jon Mills*, 2022 unexpired term of Willie Porter, Gaston First (U), Roanoke Rapids, North Roanoke Association, Lay Person, Male  
*Jody Yopp*, 2020 unexpired term of Phil Brannan, Kellum (O), Jacksonville, New River Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 3**

*Tim Chavis*, 2020-2023, Bear Swamp (U), Maxton, Burnt Swamp Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 4**

*Carlyle Hall*, 2020-2023, Castalia (U), Castalia, Tar River Association, Minister, Male  
*Steven Wade*, 2020-2023, Faith (O), Louisburg, Tar River Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 5**

*Paul Cao*, 2020-2023, Vietnamese (U), Whitsett, Piedmont Association, Minister, Male  
*Jim Cohn*, 2021 unexpired term of Steve Wilson, Walnut Cove (U), Advance, Pilot Mountain Association, Minister, Male  
*Keith Jefferson*, 2020-2023, Immanuel (U), Mebane, Piedmont Association, Minister, Male  
*Walter Overman*, 2020-2023, Main Street (U), Kernersville, Pilot Mountain Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 6**

*Jimmy Barrett*, 2020-2023, Poplar Grove (U), Kannapolis, Cabarrus Association, Minister, Male  
*Chris Baucom*, 2020-2023, Benton's Cross Roads (U), Monroe, Union Association, Minister, Male  
*Casey Norkett*, 2020-2023, Hickory Grove (O), Harrisburg, Metrolina Association, Minister, Male  
*Mark Perko*, 2022 unexpired term of Jonathan Homesley, Deep Creek (U), Wadesboro, Anson Association, Minister, Male  
*Sam Roach*, 2020-2023, Weddington First (U), Waxhaw, Union Association, Minister, Male  
*James Weddington*, 2020-2023, Eastern Hills (U), Charlotte, Metrolina Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 7**

*Chris Johnson*, 2020-2023, Fairplains (U), Wilkesboro, Stone Mountain Association, Minister, Male  
*Wes McGarry*, 2020-2023, Westfield (O), Pilot Mountain, Surry Association, Minister, Male  
*Stephen Robbins*, 2020-2023, Elkin Valley (O), Elkin, Elkin Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 8**

*Ryan Bennett*, 2020-2023, Cross Memorial (O), Marion, Blue Ridge Association, Minister, Male  
*Shawn Berryhill*, 2020-2023, Montford Cove (U), Union Mills, Green River Association, Minister, Male  
*Matthew Mills*, 2020-2023, Mount Pleasant (U), Forest City, Sandy Run Association, Minister, Male  
*Cory Smith*, 2020-2023, Mountain View (O), Hickory, Catawba Valley Association, Minister, Male  
*Keith Stephenson*, 2020-2023, 2nd Baptist (O), Rutherfordton, Green River Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 9**

*Ricky Mason*, 2020-2023, Antioch (O), Maggie Valley, Haywood Association, Minister, Male  
*Chris Reese*, 2020-2023, Enka (U), Candler, Buncombe Association, Minister, Male

### **Region 10**

*No vacancies*

### **Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina**

*Bill Boddie*, 2020-2023, Christ Covenant (U), Nashville, North Carolina Miscellaneous Association, Lay Person, Male  
*John Cashwell*, 2020-2023, Providence (O), Concord, Cabarrus Association, Minister, Male  
*Gayla Freeman*, 2020-2023, Marshall First (U), Conover, French Broad Association, Lay Person, Female  
*James D. (Jim) Goldston III*, 2020-2023, Bay Leaf (O), Raleigh, Raleigh Association, Lay Person, Male  
*Kenneth Lance*, 2020-2023, Salisbury First (O), Winston-Salem, Rowan Southern Baptist Association, Minister, Male  
*Karl Milliren*, 2020-2023, Rich Fork (O), Thomasville, Liberty Association, Lay Person, Male  
*Steve Strickland*, 2020-2023, Mount Airy (U), Pembroke, Burnt Swamp Association, Minister, Male  
*Robert (Bobby) Tucker*, 2020-2023, North Kannapolis (O), Kannapolis, Cabarrus Association, Lay Person, Male  
*Christopher (CW) Watkins*, 2020-2023, The Summit Church (O), Durham, Yates Association, Minister, Male

### **Biblical Recorder**

*Joan Calhoun*, 2020-2023, West Edgecombe (O), Rocky Mount, North Roanoke Association, Lay Person, Female

*Marty Childers*, 2020-2023, Durham Memorial (O), Hillsborough, Yates Association, Minister, Male  
*Ron Davis*, 2020-2023, Old Town (O), Pfafftown, Pilot Mountain Association, Lay Person, Male  
*Amy Lunceford*, 2020-2023, Rocky Mount First (O), Rocky Mount, North Roanoke Association, Lay Person, Female  
*Sonny Sweatman*, 2020-2023, Beach Road (O), Oak Island, Brunswick Association, Minister, Male

#### **North Carolina Baptist Foundation**

*Mike Cummings*, 2020-2023, Deep Branch (U), Pembroke, Burnt Swamp Association, Minister, Male  
*Byron Greene*, 2020-2023, Highland (O), Garner, Raleigh Association, Minister, Male  
*Jim Shelley*, 2020-2023, Creedmoor First (O), Creedmoor, Flat River Association, Minister, Male  
*Sylvia Stafford*, 2020-2023, Friendly Avenue (O), Greensboro, Piedmont Association, Lay Person, Female  
*Harold Vaden*, 2020-2023, Calvary (O), Reidsville, Dan Valley Association, Lay Person, Male

#### **North Carolina Baptist Hospital**

*No vacancies*

#### **Committee on Convention Meetings**

*Debbie Faulk*, 2020-2022, Edgewood (U), Mebane, Mount Zion Association, Lay Person, Female  
*M.C. Ko*, 2020-2022, The Connect Church (U), Cary, Raleigh Association (mission church), Minister, Male  
*Eric Peacock*, 2020-2022, Westchester (O), High Point, Piedmont Association, Minister, Male  
*David Richardson*, 2020-2022, Creedmoor First (O), Stem, Flat River Association, Minister, Male  
*Jonathan Waggett*, 2020-2022, Coats (O), Garner, Little River Association, Minister, Male  
*Robbie Wood*, 2020-2022, Pleasant View (U), State Road, Elkin Association, Minister, Male  
*Jeff Maynard*, Chair 2020, Brevard First (O), Hendersonville, Transylvania Association, Minister, Male

#### **Committee on Resolutions and Memorials**

*Ken Jones*, 2020-2022, Friendship (O), Lincolnton, Ashe Association, Minister, Male  
*Bill Sturm*, 2020-2022, Sandy Ridge (U), Conover, Catawba Valley Association, Minister, Male  
*Dai Vo*, 2020 unexpired term of Jared Parks, Vietnamese (U), Jamestown, Piedmont Association, Lay Person, Male  
*Chris Webb*, 2020-2022, New Bethel (U), Pembroke, Burnt Swamp Association, Minister, Male  
*Joel Stephens*, Chair 2020, Hopewell (O), Concord, Union Association, Minister, Male

#### **Historical Committee**

*Jonathan Blaylock*, 2020-2022, West Canton (O), Canton, Haywood Association, Minister, Male

*Ryan Bliss*, 2020-2022, 4D Church (U), Morrisville, North Carolina Miscellaneous, Minister, Male  
*Chivous Bradley*, 2020 unexpired term of Peter McDonald, Pleasant Hill (U), Rutherfordton, Green River Association, Lay Person, Male  
*Jayson Rowe*, 2020-2022, Conway (U), Conway, West Chowan Association, Minister, Male  
*Nick Smith*, 2020-2022, Lake Junaluska First (U), Waynesville, Haywood Association, Minister, Male  
*Allen Murray*, Chair 2020, Centerville (U), Kelly, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches (formerly Wilmington Baptist Association), Minister, Male

#### **COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS**

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials has the responsibility of reviewing all properly submitted resolutions and presenting those resolutions to messengers for consideration at each year's annual meeting. The committee also has the responsibility of preparing a report memorializing ministers and lay leaders who have died in the previous year and recommending names of individuals to whom the "Annual of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina" will be dedicated.

#### **Resolutions**

A resolution has traditionally been defined as an expression of opinion or concern. A resolution is not used to direct a specific action other than to communicate the opinion or concern.

No resolutions were submitted to the committee this year; therefore, no resolutions are being presented to messengers for consideration at this year's annual meeting.

#### **Memorials and Dedication**

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials met on July 24, 2019, 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 2018 to June 2019. In appreciation and honor, the committee presents the following persons to whom we dedicate the 2019 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual.

#### **Logan Carson**

Logan Carson, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's (SEBTS) first full-time African American professor, died Nov. 3 at age 86. Carson, who taught theology at SEBTS from 1994-2009, will be remembered for his zeal for life, love for teaching Scripture to his students and his humility in serving others.

Danny Akin, Southeastern's president, noted, "The thing I remember most about Dr. Carson is that he said he didn't want his sight back in this life because 'the first thing I want to see is Jesus' face.'"

Carson was born blind due to malformed retinas in July 1932 in McDowell County, N.C. However, blindness did not stop his zeal in ministry and his love for the Lord. In 1955, Carson was pursuing a degree to become a constitutional attorney when he sensed God's call to teach students the Scriptures.

Carson received a bachelor of arts in Bible and social science from Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., in 1957. In 1960, just three days after marrying his wife, Glenwood, he received his bachelor of divinity from Hartford Seminary Foundation in Connecticut. Twenty years later, the graduate school of Drew University in Madison, N.J., awarded Carson a doctor of philosophy degree. His students through the years have been impacted by the way he taught them to know and love Scripture and to honor the Lord through doing everything well for His glory. His motto was, "In Christ, strive for excellence."

During his time at Southeastern, Carson also served as pastor of Green-Bethel Baptist Church in Boiling Springs, N.C. Before joining the SEBTS faculty, Carson had taught 21 years as a professor of religion in Old Testament studies at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs. Doug Nalley, director of housing at SEBTS and a former student of Carson's, recalled how Carson would affectionately call his seminary students "tadpoles," as they were not fully-developed theologians. Carson told his class he was going to be sent to make brooms after high school but was determined to do more, Nalley recounted.

"They laughed at him initially, but then off he went to law school," Nalley said. "Next was theology school. If they had their way, Dr. Carson would have spent his life making brooms. However, in God's providence, God used this blind man to prepare untold numbers of students to fulfill the Great Commission and serve the church."

In addition to Gardner-Webb, Carson also served as an instructor of religion at Montclair State College in New Jersey and a Bible knowledge master at Waka Schools in northeastern Nigeria. Carson's ministerial positions included pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C.; associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Jeffersonton, Ky.; pastor of Webb First Baptist Church in Ellenboro, N.C.; and pastor of Christ Community Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C. Throughout his educational journey, Carson was both an outstanding student and beloved professor.

As a student, Carson graduated with high honors from Shaw University, received special commendation in receiving his master's degree and maintained a 4.0 GPA during his Ph.D., while also being awarded multiple fellowships. At Southeastern, Carson received the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2003. Carson's hiring at Southeastern stemmed from the advocacy of his former secretary, according to the 2002 book by

historian Barry Hankins, "Uneasy in Babylon: Southern Baptist Conservatives and American Culture."

The secretary, not named in Hankins' book, had taken a job at Southeastern and recruited Gardner-Webb graduates who were studying at the seminary to sign a letter urging that Carson be considered for the faculty. Paige Patterson, who became SEBTS president in 1992, "grew interested and brought Carson to Southeastern for an interview that eventually resulted in his hiring for the fall of 1994," Hankins wrote.

Wayne McDill, emeritus senior professor of preaching at SEBTS, was both a colleague and neighbor of Carson. A member of the faculty committee that interviewed Carson in a preliminary visit to Southeastern, McDill said his first impression "was that he was so informed about almost any subject, and that he was spiritually sensitive. I was struck with his genuine interest in students. I was in his office one time when a student came by. Dr. Carson immediately recognized him and asked about his situation. Then he prayed for him while we stood there together."

Carson served in other capacities during his career as well, including as a music writer for a Kentucky newspaper called "The American Baptist," parliamentarian for the Ebenezer Baptist Association and Gardner-Webb College faculty meetings; moderator of the Gold Hill Missionary Baptist Association; a speaker and evangelist for revival services and a conference leader for multiple Winter Bible Studies. Carson was preceded in death by his wife, Glenwood (whom he affectionately called "Pep"), and is survived by his two adult children, Aaron and Tricia.

#### **Milum Oswell "M.O." Owens Jr.**

Dr. Milum Oswell "M.O." Owens Jr. passed away on May 21, 2019 at his home in Covenant Village, Gastonia, N.C. He was 105 years old. He was born Sept. 4, 1913, in New Holland, Aiken County, S.C. He was the son of the late Milum O. Owens Sr., and Jesse Hammett Owens.

Owens graduated from Taylors High School in Taylors, S.C. where he was salutatorian of his class. He then attended Furman University where he was on the swim team and track team and helped form the Furman Glee Club where he served as baritone soloist and manager. After graduation with honors from Furman, he worked as a teacher and principal at Barwick High School in Barwick, Ga. He entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1935 and graduated with honors and an MTh degree in 1938.

Owens served the following pastorates before coming to Gastonia: Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Palmetto, Fla.; Marion, N.C.; and Lenoir, N.C. From Lenoir he was called to East Baptist Church in Gastonia. While serving there, land was purchased to relocate

the church, but it was later decided to plant a new church which became Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia. As that church grew, Owens was called there and served there as pastor until his retirement in 1980.

For 30 years after retirement he served as interim pastor in 15 different churches. During his ministry he was instrumental in forming seven new churches in North Carolina. Owens was always active in community affairs, as well as in his church organizations. He served on the board of trustees at Gardner-Webb College for 14 years and was chairman of the board for several of those years. He founded Gaston Christian School in Gastonia in 1978. He also helped in the forming of the Crisis Pregnancy Center.

The Milum Oswell Owens Chair of New Testament Studies was endowed in his honor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club in Marion, N.C. and frequently performed as a soloist in various charity shows. He was a member of the Rotary Club in Lenoir, the Lions Club in Gastonia, then joined the Rotary Club in Gastonia and was proud to be a Paul Harris Fellow.

A great believer in travel, he traveled in all 50 states, in 40 different countries and on all seven continents. Owens had many interests and hobbies. He was an avid reader and gardener. He excelled in growing roses. He loved golf and played as often as his schedule allowed. He collected stamps and coins, built at least 20 dollhouses, and always supported the arts, especially music programs. He was a prolific author, publishing three books and a quarterly publication titled "The Watchman." He enjoyed many sports, particularly baseball and basketball. He was for years a loyal fan of the Dodgers and ultimately became an ardent fan of the Braves.

Owens is survived by three loving daughters, Celia Alexander (Erwin) of Suffolk, Va., Linda Russ (Eldon) of Greenville, S.C., and Mary Lancaster (Glenn) of Vass, N.C.; foster daughter, Deborah Ko (Chi Sown) of Girard, Ohio; eight grandchildren; two foster grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; three foster great-grandchildren; five step-children, and many step-grandchildren. He was predeceased by three wives, Ruby Bridges Owens, Ola Carothers Owens, and Margaret Williford Brown Owens.

Owens was God's servant his whole life. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed.

### **Roy J. Smith**

Dr. Roy J. Smith, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and leader in North Carolina Baptist life, passed from this life to the next on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, at Brookridge Baptist Retirement Community in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Smith was born in Macon County, North Carolina on July 7, 1929, to the late Sanford J. Smith and Pearl Kinsland Smith. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Doris Pearce Smith. He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Charlotte Cook Smith; three children, Ginger (Dick) Graves, Roy (Martha) Smith Jr., and Tracy Smith; Charlotte's two children, Steve (Sheryl) Cook and Ann Parker; 11 grandchildren, Shelley (Justin) Sizemore, Betsy Graves, Charlie Graves, Jordan (Jessica) Smith, Nicholas (Ashley) Smith, Jaclyn (David) Holland, Ashtyn Smith, Adam Cook, Sophie Cook, Andrew Parker, and David Parker; three great-grandchildren, Elliot Sizemore, Layne Smith, and Emelia Smith; his brother Johnny (Guinehl) Smith, and two sisters, Lib Pierce and Peggy (Clinton) Clevenger, and many nieces and nephews.

Smith was a graduate of Wake Forest College ('53) and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary ('56). He completed additional graduate studies at North Carolina State University and Emory University. He holds two honorary doctorates of divinity from Wake Forest University and Campbell University.

A 1984 article in the *Biblical Recorder* announcing Dr. Smith's election as general secretary of the North Carolina Baptist convention led with the headline "Roy J. Smith is always at home in North Carolina," a sentiment that rang true until the very end of his life. His storied career was motivated by service to God and to the people of North Carolina. Smith was beloved across the state for his patient and scholarly mind, his oratorical genius in the pulpit, and his compassionate and dedicated servant leadership.

He was a lover of Wake Forest athletics and a well-known sports commentator to his family and friends. He was an accomplished guitar player and singer, traveling across the state to perform country and bluegrass music, with a particular proclivity toward Johnny Cash. He was a great fisherman, a competitive Rook and Boggle player, and an accomplished gardener.

Smith travelled extensively across the world both on behalf of the Baptist state convention and for pleasure. He enjoyed spending time at the mountain house in Franklin, N.C., built on his family's land. Smith had a very distinguished career. His entire 43-year ministry was within the state's boundaries. He served as pastor of Union Hope Baptist Church in Zebulon (1954-57) and Jersey Baptist Church in Lexington (1957-62).

From 1962-1997, he served the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He held positions as associate in missions, secretary, town and country missions and seminary extension, and associate general secretary-treasurer. In 1984 he was elected executive director-treasurer of the Baptist state convention, a role he filled until his retirement in 1997.

He was recognized as North Carolina and southeastern regional “Rural Pastor of the Year” in 1962 and as “Tar Heel of the Week” in 1984. Among his many civic commitments, Smith served on the board of trustees at Wake Forest University as well as played an integral role in the foundation of Wake Forest University Divinity School and Campbell Divinity School. He served as a member of the coordinating council for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina and was the National Cooperative Baptist Fellowship representative to the Baptist World Alliance.

#### **Myrtle “Ellen” Dennis Tabor**

Myrtle Ellen Dennis Tabor, Ed.D., 90, of Winston-Salem went to be with the Lord at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital on March 10, 2019, after experiencing a sudden heart attack and stroke.

She was born in Albemarle, N.C., in 1928 to Charlie Martin and Henrietta Dennis. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Dr. Charles Gordon Tabor. Ellen received her first degree at Mars Hill College and went on to nursing at Baptist Hospital, and after she and Charles wed, they dedicated themselves to missionary service at Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan, South Korea, for 20 years.

Upon their return to the United States, Ellen passionately pursued both education and service as a nursing professional. She was the founding president of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship and earned her doctorate in education, continuing to tutor and volunteer throughout her life. She modeled in her life and actions what it meant to be devoted to the needs of those around her. She was a strong leader, a selfless servant, a dedicated mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a friend to so many.

Her family is grateful for the time, lessons and love she has shared with them over the years. They are also grateful for the many kindnesses and partnerships that those in her community have shared with her during her life. We rejoice that she is in heaven with her Lord and Savior now, reunited with Charles.

Ellen is survived by her sons: Charles David Tabor and his wife Christina Nelson; and Dennis Gordon Tabor and his wife Carol Tabor; her grandchildren: Jennifer, Kara, David Jr., Laura and Beth; and great-grandson, Nicolas.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Mary Lula O’Dell Austin, Reidsville  
Harvey Earl Brown Sr., Charlotte  
Logan Carson, Angier  
Paul Fisher, New Bern  
Randolph Scott Hammett, Clemmons  
Sandra “Sandy” Morison Harrison, Statesville  
James “Chris” Jackson, Hendersonville  
James Matthew Lambert, King  
Willie Maynard Newman, Loudon, Tenn.  
Milum Oswell “M.O.” Owens, Gastonia  
Lucille “Lu” Evans Phelps, Morehead City  
Gary L. Pinkley, Concord  
James “J.C.” Crawford Raper, Richmond, Va.  
Earline Whitehurst Revelle, Shiloh  
Stephanie Michelle Santos, Wake Forest  
William “Bill” Edward Saylor, Charlotte  
Roy J. Smith, Winston-Salem  
Myrtle Ellen Dennis Tabor, Winston-Salem  
Mildred “Millie” Harmon Wiggins, Buies Creek  
Louise Stewart Willet, Black Mountain  
Donald Willis, Belwood

#### **2019 Committee on Resolutions and Memorials**

*Kenny Gooden, Yadkinville, Chair*  
*Everett Coates, Clayton*  
*Buddy Cutshaw, Indian Trail*  
*Aime Kidimbu, Raleigh*  
*Joel Stephens, Miland*  
*Bob Weathers, Shallotte*  
*Ben Whitmire, Weaverville*  
*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 affiliated with the convention to preserve their historical documents, artifacts, correspondences and records.

The committee also sponsors an annual historical writing competition encouraging church and associational historians to submit books and compilations for special recognition at the convention's annual meeting each November.

The committee continues its work with Brent Aucoin, professor of history at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, to produce an updated history of North Carolina Baptists from World War II to the present. The anticipated publication date will be late 2020.

The committee will also be recognizing the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) on its 10th anniversary at this year's annual meeting. We celebrate this milestone and look forward to how God will use this ministry arm of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in the coming decades.

## 2019 Historical Committee Members

*Allen Murray, Lake Toxaway, Chair*  
*Susan Bales, Clayton*  
*John Fidler, Zebulon*  
*Woodrow Freeze III, Durham*  
*Brent Highfil, Clayton*  
*Brandon Powell, Zebulon*  
*Dale Robertson, Salisbury*  
*Marc Sanders, Whitsett*  
*Tim Sydnor, Cary*  
*Amy Whitfield, Wake Forest*



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**North Carolina Baptists**

**Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield Jr., *Executive Director-Treasurer***  
205 Convention Drive • Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org)

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