

BRINGING CHURCHES TOGETHER TO IMPACT
LOSTNESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES & TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH

Forerunner

“partnerships”
Philippians 1:3-6

160th Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 29 - 3:30pm
Little River Baptist Church



Special Time of Worship Led by
North Greenville University
Campus Band



Annual Sermon by Dr. Chris Schofield,
Awaken Ministry

Make plans now to attend the Annual Meeting, as 32 churches
join together for an informative meeting and an awesome evening of worship!

Associational & Denominational Reporting begins at 3:30pm

Dinner Served at 5:30pm

Worship & Annual Sermon at 6:15pm

All Pastors, Church Staff/Leaders, & Church Messengers are encouraged to attend.

Visitors are always welcome!



Transylvania Baptist Association

675 Hendersonville Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

828-877-3203 - transylvaniabaptist@gmail.com - transylvaniaams@gmail.com - www.tbanc.org

Rev. Terry Stockman - Association Missions Strategist

Rev. Michael Skinner - Moderator

Mr. James Felty - Vice Moderator/Treasurer

Rev. Marc Reynolds - Clerk

Nancy Kilpatrick - Administrative Assistant

October 2023
Volume 33 Issue 10

TERRY'S THOUGHTS



Allow me to divert from my ongoing series of articles dealing with the value of the association to celebrate and recognize the importance of observing Pastor Appreciation Month. Calling your attention to this important annual event is, in fact, another aspect of the association that illustrates its value. What is Pastor Appreciation Month and how can we appropriately celebrate this annual activity in our churches? The following are a few of my thoughts and suggestions on what Pastor Appreciation is and how you can honor your pastor while celebrating all the hard work he has done on your behalf:

- This event was made formal several years ago and it provides an opportunity to tangibly show your pastor how much you appreciate his efforts to serve you, your family and the community you call home.
- **Consider his faithfulness to proclaim the truths of God's word on a weekly basis.** Vance Havener once said in defense of preaching and preachers, "The Bible doesn't say how will they hear without a brass band, but rather how will they hear unless they have a preacher!" Vance was referencing Romans 10:14 where the Apostle Paul is asking a series of questions to Israel's rejection of the message of Christ, "How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher?" It is hard work being prepared each week to preach, at least two or three times so that you and your families are "equipped" to understand what it means to be a Christian and to know what the Lord expects of us as believers.
- **Consider his love for you.** I have yet to meet a preacher who was genuinely called to ministry and to a particular church that doesn't love his congregation, warts and all! Speaking from experience, when a pastor loves his congregation there is nothing he can't withstand or that he will do for those he is charged to serve.
- **Consider the sacrifices he makes in terms of time and family in order to better serve you!** We laugh, every now and then, when a joke is made that a preacher only works perhaps twice a week. The sad thing is that some people actually believe that. Please allow me to dispel that rumor here and now. Again, pastors who are worth their salt faithfully visit and pray over the needy, the sick, those who have spiritual and physical issues only the Lord and perhaps the pastor can solve, along with a host of other matters too numerous to list. Further many of those matters help the church to function properly and most never know it is him, the pastor, that provides services we all enjoy as well as take advantage of.
- **How can we honor our pastors tangibly?** How about writing hand written cards expressing your sincere appreciation for all he does (don't forget their spouses who serve alongside him) and include a gift card. The church could designate a Sunday, in October, to recognize him, along with his family, publicly with a love offering and special testimonies of their faithfulness as well as your love for them. What about giving he and his family a weekend off to spend time with each other away from the ministry area. The convention has three conferences centers within our state that have mostly free accommodations in prime spots for them to enjoy some time together as a family.
- Finally, as one church did for their pastor, they made it a point to have the entire congregation send he and his family cards (with something in them), provided meals, and took them out for meals assuming the cost each day of October. That pastor was blown away and their relationship with the church has grown mightily. God always blesses his people when they honor the Lord regularly as well as His servants.

I could go on; however, space and time will not allow. I assure you that a healthy and beloved servant is a powerful resource for the body of Christ. For more tips and ideas on how you might honor your pastor check out our newsletter, Lifeway.com, and NCBaptist.org. Won't you join me in honoring all of our pastors here in the TBA? I am sure we will see a surge in relationships and ministry when His people honor His servants.

Remember I love you as well and consider it my honor to serve you; the best folks I know in the Kingdom of God! Also remember we, at the association, stand ready to serve you in whatever way necessary to see you succeed in your ministries.

**Pisgah Forest welcomes new Pastor
Rev. Jimmy & Becky Parker**

In His Grip,
Terry

**Pray for our churches without Pastors:
Church at See Off**

Things to Know About Your Pastor

Let's honor our leaders

**OCTOBER IS
PASTORAL
APPRECIATION
MONTH!**

and show our appreciation!

- ◆ He loves God and you a lot. *(Be mindful.)*
- ◆ He is a painfully limited human being. *(Be realistic.)*
- ◆ He probably has a pretty low view of his “performance.” *(Be kind.)*
- ◆ He wishes he were a better preacher. *(Be awake.)*
- ◆ He really does want God’s best for you and your family. *(Be open-hearted.)*
- ◆ His work knows no time or locational boundaries. *(Be patient.)*
- ◆ He hears much more negative information than positive. *(Be encouraging.)*
- ◆ He has been called to a vocation in which few remain. *(Be praying.)*
- ◆ He has chosen a highly leadership-intensive call. *(Be lead-able.)*
- ◆ He needs help. *(Be available.)*
- ◆ His God-given vision is bigger than himself and the church. *(Be faith-filled.)*
- ◆ He wants to personally meet all the needs, but knows he can’t. *(Be understanding.)*
- ◆ He’s going to say some dumb things every now and then. *(Be forgiving.)*
- ◆ His family is patient with you, so be patient with them. *(Be conscientious.)*
- ◆ He is greatly encouraged by your faithfulness. *(Be there.)*
- ◆ He is passionate for God’s Word to be made practical to you. *(Be hungry.)*
- ◆ He longs for church to be your spiritual oasis. *(Be loving.)*
- ◆ He dreams for you and your family’s spiritual health. *(Be receptive.)*
- ◆ He needs to hear that you prayed for him. *(Be interceding.)*
- ◆ He’s just a regular guy. *(Be real.)*

Anonymous

My Old Bible

*Though the cover is worn, and the pages are torn,
And though places bear traces of tears;
Yet more precious than gold is the Book worn and old
That can shatter and scatter my fears.*

*When I prayerfully look in the precious old Book
Many pleasures and treasures I see;
Many tokens of love from the Father above,
Who is nearest and dearest to me.*

*This old Book is my guide, 'tis a friend by my side,
It will lighten and brighten my way;
And each promise, I find, soothes and gladdens my mind
As I read it, and heed it today.*

*To this Book I will cling, of its worth I will sing,
Though great losses and crosses be mine,
For I cannot despair, though surrounded by care
While possessing this blessing divine.*

~ Donald Ross



**Transylvania WMU is collecting 500 pairs of white ladies' socks
for the Red Box Prison Ministry.**

The socks must be solid white.

Please bring donations to the Baptist Center by
Monday, October 30.

**Association Financial Summary
August 2023**

	Current	Year-to-Date
Blantyre	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,000.00
Blue Ridge	\$ 75.00	\$ 525.00
Boylston	\$ 343.70	\$ 2,801.68
Biltmore Brevard	\$ 0	\$ 2,500.00
Brevard First	\$ 1,018.82	\$10,470.15
Calvary	\$ 567.19	\$ 3,543.04
Carr's Hill	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,000.00
Carson's Creek	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,150.00
Cathey's Creek	\$ 243.00	\$ 1,648.00
Cedar Mountain	\$ 366.00	\$ 3,790.00
Cherryfield	\$ 571.98	\$ 3,165.16
Church at Sapphire	\$ 0	\$ 1,860.00
Church at See Off	\$ 0	\$ 0
Cove Church	\$ 0	\$ 150.00
Dunn's Rock	\$ 0	\$ 6,308.54
East Fork	\$ 0	\$ 900.00
Enon	\$ 0	\$ 500.00
Faith Missionary	\$ 0	\$ 1,358.00
Grace	\$ 200.40	\$ 2,196.71
Lake Toxaway	\$ 0	\$ 415.30
Little River	\$ 0	\$ 1,071.00
Middle Fork	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,600.00
Morningside	\$ 185.55	\$ 1,377.00
Mt. Moriah-Calvert	\$ 0	\$ 0
New Hope	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
North Toxaway	\$ 50.00	\$ 400.00
Oak Grove	\$ 100.00	\$ 600.00
Pisgah Forest	\$ 331.07	\$ 2,708.11
Rocky Hill	\$ 400.00	\$ 3,200.00
Temple	\$ 131.25	\$ 1,050.00
Turkey Creek	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,600.00
Zion	\$ 0	\$ 1,603.43
Checking Interest	\$ 4.31	\$ 67.02
Total Receipts	\$ 5,613.27	\$61,758.14
Total Expenses	\$11,234.01	\$91,507.75

2023 Budget \$141,973.00
 Needed Monthly to Meet Budget \$11,831.00

Church News

Calvary - has 171 metal chairs free to a good home.
 Please call Dana at 828-884-4726 if
 interested.

Carson's Creek - will celebrate
 Homecoming on Nov. 19.

Cedar Mountain - is hosting GriefShare
 on Tuesdays at 6pm.

New Hope - will have Trunk-or-Treat Saturday,
 Oct. 28, 4-6:30pm.

Churches please submit info of upcoming events by
 the 20th of the month for publication in the
 next edition.

The **Center for Women** is seeking a part-time em-
 ployee with social work/case management experience.
 Social worker certification not required, however the
 candidate must have case management experience,
 must be a Christ follower, and must be prolife. The
 position will be provided through a grant from Life-
 Link for 2 years, 15-20 hours/week at \$20-22/hour.
 For more information and to apply, please contact
 Meghan LaRose at 828-885-7885
 or cpccare@comporium.net.

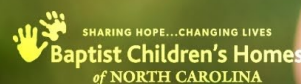


Many thanks to Boylston, Calvary, Middle Fork, Pisgah
 Forest, Rocky Hill, & Temple for materials donated to the
NC Mountain State Fair Ministry. We received blan-



kets, clothing, hygiene kits, and
 break tent supplies (cups, paper
 towels, napkins, & lemonade
 mix).

80%
COME TO US
UNCHURCHED
BECAUSE YOU GIVE
THE GOSPEL IS
SHARED!



ANNUAL OFFERING

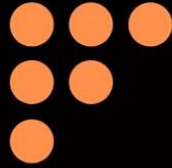




October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Cooperative Program Sunday</p> <p><i>Sheila Alewine Birthday (Dunn's Rock)</i></p>	<p>2 Weekly Prayer at TBA 6:30pm</p>	<p>3 Pastors Fellowship 6pm</p>	<p>4 Fields of Faith Rosman High 5:45pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 <i>Rogers Anniversary (Temple)</i></p>	<p>7 <i>Mary McCall Birthday (Mt. Moriah)</i></p>
<p>8</p>	<p>9 Weekly Prayer at TBA 6:30pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 <i>Cheryl Childers Birthday (Grace)</i></p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16 Weekly Prayer at TBA 6:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 <i>Marc Reynolds Birthday (Little River)</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Day of Prayer for Associational Missions</p>	<p>23 Weekly Prayer at TBA 6:30pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 TBA 160th Annual Meeting 3:30pm Little River</p>	<p>30 Weekly Prayer at TBA 6:30pm</p>	<p>31</p>				





FIELDS OF FAITH



Wednesday, October 4, 2023

ROSMAN HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL FIELD

Free Meal & Family Games starting at 5:45

Worship Service at 7:00

Fields of Faith is a student-lead event hosted by the FCA Leadership Team at Rosman High School. We would count it an honor if your entire family would join us on the football field on October 4th. Bring a chair and/or blanket and come prepared to worship with us!



6 Ideas for Redeeming the Season

Halloween is coming, and families are making plans to explore your neighborhood in search of treats. As believers, we can redeem one of the darkest nights by sharing the loving light of the gospel without even leaving home!

Redeeming Halloween as a Family

- When trick-or-treaters knock on your door, be prepared to give them candy and a good tract. It's like reverse door-to-door evangelism!
- Feeling creative? Decorate Halloween treat bags in advance, filling them with a handful of candy, small toys, and tracts that can be handed to trick-or-treaters.
- Taking the kids trick-or-treating? Be prepared with excellent tracts to share God's love with everyone you meet along the way.

Redeeming Halloween as a Church

- Host a trunk-or-treat event and be prepared to send families home with sweet treats and the good news of Jesus.
- Send a team of people, equipped with tracts, to share the gospel with folks at local fall festivals or Halloween parades.
- Using personalization options, you can include your church contact information on tracts to invite families to your church and provide opportunities for follow-up.

courtesy Moments With The Book
mwtb.org

3 Evangelistic Ideas for Fall

Summer is winding down, and fall is just around the corner, so it is a great time for your church to start thinking about fall outreach events. Families look for fun, seasonal things to do together, and an outreach event will help you connect with those in your community and share the hope of the gospel. Here are three fall outreach ideas:

Tailgate Party: Are you ready for some football? With the fall comes America's favorite game!

- Set up a large outdoor screen on a lawn or in your church's parking lot and encourage everyone to bring a friend to watch college football. Provide food and beverages or ask people to bring their own.
- Have "jersey day" and invite everyone to wear their favorite team's jersey.
- Show an NFL game after church on a Sunday. Provide pizza and drinks. During halftime or after the game, present the gospel.

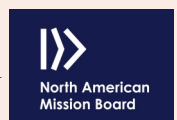
Trunk-or-Treat: On a tight budget? Here is an economical yet effective option.

- Offer a trunk-or-treat as a safer and less frightening option than traditional trick-or-treating.
- Invite families from the community to attend.
- Members of your church park in the parking lot, decorate the trunks of their vehicles and distribute candy and gospel tracts.
- Include an opportunity to present/hear the gospel at one of the vehicles.

Fall Festival: A fall festival has become a staple for many churches, so much so that many communities look forward to them annually.

- Include food, beverages, music, games, rides, competitions and more.
- Make it evangelistic by presenting the gospel. One easy way is to set up a prayer booth at the festival and equip prayer volunteers to share the gospel.

courtesy North American Mission Board



"When an opportunity like this knocks, let's not waste it!"

NC Baptists on Mission Volunteer Couple of the Year Dewey & Kathie Aiken

Our Volunteer Couple of the Year met when they were in high school. Faith, family, and missions have been a hallmark of their lives and partnership together since the beginning. Service in their local church and participation in short-term mission trips became a part of who they are.

Things changed for this couple while enjoying a 25th anniversary trip through the New England region. Their eyes and hearts were opened to the tremendous spiritual need in the region. A seed was planted, and they began to earnestly pray about what God wanted them to do about it. While attending a Mission Conference in 2002, God's plan became clear. The Lord wanted them to conclude their successful careers as a purchasing manager for Duke Energy, and a registered nurse, and move to Vermont.



In 2005, Baptists on Mission began a partnership with the state of Vermont, and it was simply natural that this couple becomes the on-site coordinators for the partnership. That began what has been an incredible blessing for North Carolina Baptists!

From 2005-2009 they served in Vermont and helped North Carolina Baptists develop a deep love for the people and the congregations there. In 2009 they felt the call to move back to Brevard, North Carolina, but to serve in the Appalachian Mountains among some of the poorest communities in our nation. Baptists on Mission started the Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, and this couple became our on-site coordinators.

Their work today includes providing on-site coordination in the Appalachian Region (since 2009), the state of Pennsylvania (since 2017), and New England again - all three areas where Baptists on Mission enjoy National Partnerships. They encourage and pray for hundreds of pastors, church planters, and their families. They assist scores of mission teams as they serve in our Partnership areas.

This couple is widely known - and loved - for their positive attitude, their smiling disposition, their can-do spirit, and their loving hearts.

Baptists on Mission is proud to honor Dewey and Kathie Aiken as our Volunteer Couple of the Year!

Article courtesy NC Baptists on Mission
Fall 2023



ncmissionsoffering.org

Give the gift of

RELIEF FOR TODAY.
HOPE FOR TOMORROW.



North Carolina
MISSIONS
Offering



NCMO mobilizes Baptists on mission

By giving to the N.C. Missions Offering (NCMO), you are fueling missions efforts that extend across North Carolina and around the world through the 19 ministries of Baptists on Mission. Your gifts offer free, mobile dental care all over the state (even in the most remote areas), mobilize volunteers at rebuild centers and mission camps like Charity Mission Camp, and reach the nations through international missions. When hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and even international conflict afflict the world around us, NCMO supports the disaster relief ministry. When you give to NCMO, you are offering relief for today, hope for tomorrow.

Give the gift
of time . . .

Do A Good Turn

November 4-5



The change from Daylight Saving Time on November 5 will provide a great service opportunity for youth groups and others to “Do a Good Turn” and make a difference in the lives of aging adults. Make plans now to reach out to older adults in your church and community and give the gift of time. Offer to help change their clocks and devices on Saturday, November 4 before the time change on November 5.

Your acts of service may include:

- Changing clocks
- Checking for working smoke alarms
- Installing new smoke alarms
- Replacing burned out light bulbs
- Cleaning gutters
- Doing yard work
- Enjoying fellowship



North Carolina
Baptist Aging Ministry

www.ncbam.org

Providing aging adults *help for the journey* since 2009

This year's Appalachian Christmas backpack collection will be **Saturday, Nov 4 from 9AM-12 noon at Calvary Baptist Church**. Here in Transylvania, we have a goal of **500 backpacks for this year**. Please prayerfully consider helping us meet that goal. Each backpack will be used for Christmas for the children and youth of Appalachia. Remember **we are not collecting shoes this year**. If your church is unable to prepare complete backpacks, we ask that you help us with **supplemental supplies for the backpack processing** at Shelby Mission Camp. You may **bring these supplies to the Baptist Center anytime or to Calvary Baptist on Nov 4**. These extra supplies include **children's socks, winter hats, gloves, full size toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo, washcloths, hair brushes, small quality toys, thermoses, manicure sets, jewelry, wallets, etc.** If you have questions, you may contact Kathie Aiken at 828-553-8785. Thank you for making a gospel difference in a child's life this Christmas!



2023 Appalachian Christmas Outreach

Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by NC Baptists on Mission, seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Appalachian Area. One of the greatest ministry needs in this area occurs at Christmastime. We are calling on churches statewide to respond to this need through Appalachian Christmas Outreach in 2023.

GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:

The statewide goal is to collect 21,000 backpacks of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in late November and December of 2023. The state-wide collection day for 2023 is **Saturday, November 4** from 9am to noon. Thirty plus collection sites will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks to. Specific sites will be listed on the Baptists On Mission website in September. We encourage churches to begin collecting and filling the packs early – and throughout the year.

AGE GROUPING and LABELING:

Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl as well as the appropriate age. Age groupings are 4-7, 8-10; 11-14; and 15-17 Due to labels falling off in previous years, we have gone to a ribbon system for labeling the backpacks. A royal blue (or similar) ribbon will indicate a boy's backpack. A pink ribbon will indicate a girl's backpack. In addition, a yellow ribbon will indicate that the backpack is for ages 4-7, a green ribbon for ages 8-10, a red ribbon for ages 11-14; and a white ribbon for ages 15-17.

Please prepare each backpack as you would for your own child or grandchild, with new items, not used. Please include items from each category listed to the right. Please do not neglect to put in a Bible! This may be the only Christmas present this child receives, and will be a witness of Christ's love.

ITEMS TO COLLECT

Each zippered backpack should include:

- 1) **ITEMS OF NEW WARM CLOTHING** including a winter cap, gloves, 2-3 socks, and scarf
- 2) **METAL POP-TOP CANS OF FOOD (3-4 cans)** such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit
- 3) **At least one or two NEW, AGE-APPROPRIATE TOYS** Examples: small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, puzzles, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, other (*no toy weapons, please!*) For older youth category, substitute appropriate item for toy. No pocketknives! (*See website for suggestions.*)
- 4) **HYGIENE ITEMS** including toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush /comb, full-sized shampoo toothpaste, deodorant (*please fit these items into a one-gallon Ziploc bag so they will not leak.*)
- 5) **FRESH, WRAPPED CANDY** (*no chocolate please, as it may melt – and no peanut products please due to allergies*)
- 6) **A CHILDREN'S or YOUTH BIBLE** (*no particular version is required*) *This is the most important thing that goes into the pack! Please include!*
- 7) **A COPY OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY** (*downloadable and printable pdf found on website*)

For more information contact



Mark Abernathy
mabernathy@ncbaptist.org
919-459-5607

More information and specific details available on our ACO webpage at:

www.baptistsonmission.org/aco

"Your participation will mean so much and may make an eternal difference in a child's life!"



SAMARITAN'S PURSE NOW HIRING

Work with Operation Christmas Child to process gift-filled shoeboxes for children around the world in Jesus' Name.

Whether you're a people person or like working behind the scenes, we have a variety of seasonal employment openings at our regional shoebox processing centers.

From approximately mid-November to mid-December, jobs range from assisting teams of volunteers to lifting cartons or operating forklifts in our warehouse.



Apply at samaritanspurse.org/ocseasonaljobs



Franklin Graham, President
1-800-528-1980 | samaritanspurse.org
© 2023 Samaritan's Purse

Operation
Christmas Child
Collection Week
November 13-20

Collection Points:
Little River Baptist
Church & Brevard
Wesleyan Church

Materials & more
available at
samaritanspurse.org



Women's Discipleship Conference
October 27-28
Caraway Conference Center

by faith

N. C. BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

We will dig deep in Scripture to behold Christ. In doing so we will grow in clarity of the gospel, that our faith might be strengthened, and we might be like this Jesus to whom we look. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://ncbaptist.org/events/womens-discipleship-conference/>

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT
January 13-15, 2024

Truett
Conference Center & Camp
<https://truettcamp.org/unshaken/>

Pray for the Unreached

“Ask me and I will give the nations to you as an inheritance.” Psalm 2:8

Region 9 - East Asia

The Church & The Gospel

East Asia consists of China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Japan, and North and South Korea. Together they make up a total of 1.6 billion people. This is a region shrouded with mystery and ancient religions, including Buddhism, Shintoism, ancestor worship, Sunni Islam, and atheism - all of which are widespread here. Despite this, Christianity has made a significant impact in some countries, such as China, Taiwan, and South Korea. Still, there is a high degree of persecution against Christians, especially in China and North Korea.



Unreached People Groups

A total of 504 unreached people groups live in East Asia, comprising more than 300 million people. Among the largest groups are the Japanese, with 121 million unreached people. The highest concentration of unreached people is found in China, with 445 groups.

Group Focus: The Uygur People



The Uygur (pronounced wee-gur) are an unreached people group in China. The highest concentration of their more than 10 million people is found along the border between China and Kazakhstan, though Uygurs are found in almost all on China's provinces. The Uygurs are ethnically related to the Turkic peoples, including Uzbeks and Kazaks. They practice a form of Sunni folk Islam, mixed with superstitious traditions. Historically resistant to the gospel, until recently there were fewer than 50 Uygur believers. In the last few years, more than 400 Uygurs have come to Christ and have been baptized. Many of these now serve as evangelists among their people.

In 2015 the Chinese government cracked down on religion. This resulted in more than 1.5 million Uygurs being sent to “Redoctrination Camps” (prisons). In these camps, torture is often used in an attempt to force them to leave their Islamic faith. Since the Uygur also are an independent people, the government views them as unpatriotic and dangerous. Much prayer is needed for the millions of Uygurs who have no Christian witness.

Prayer Points for Central Asia

- Pray for a moving of God's Spirit among the people of East Asia to confront the spiritual darkness that has blinded their hearts for centuries.
- Pray for the translation and distribution of the Scriptures in their own languages and dialects. Many Christians in this region do not have a single Bible.
- In light of the ongoing persecution in China and North Korea, pray that God's people will remain faithful and that their example will serve as a powerful witness to their faith.
- Ask God to cast down the materialism that keeps the Japanese from listening to and seeing the reality of God and His plan of redemption.
- Pray for native missionaries to engage the remaining unreached groups in their regions to bring the gospel to the unreached and the unengaged.



Conference Center & Camp

FATHER & SON WARRIOR WEEKEND

OCT 6-8, 2023



- Come for 2 or 3 days
- Optional Campout
- Price includes meals, lodging, recreation, and much more
- Biblical teaching
- Warrior Games
- Open to boys ages 6-12 with their father or similar figure

**FATHERS: BATTLE
FOR YOUR SONS**

“

Great event to spend time with my son. Activities were great and had a spiritual message.

”



Scan for
more info
& register



Hayesville, NC www.truettcamp.org 828.389.8828



Truett

Conference Center & Camp

FORGED MAN CAMP

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023



RECREATION

Trap Shooting | Air Rifles
Archery | Fishing | Air Pistols
Tomahawks | Cornhole |
Sports | Pro Demonstrations



FELLOWSHIP

"Iron sharpens iron, and one
man sharpens another."
Proverbs 27:17



BIBLICAL TEACHING

Discover encouragement,
freedom, hope, and power
through the Word of God.



**REGISTER
ONLINE!**

On Mission Together
NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

177 Truett Lane Hayesville, NC 28904
www.truettcamp.org 828.389.8828

6 Things to Look For When Evaluating Church Health

Where is your church strongest? Weakest? What steps will you take to capitalize on your strengths while also addressing your weaknesses?

Many writers (including me) have written books about characteristics of a healthy church. A brief article cannot describe all these characteristics in detail, but here are some of those traits. Perhaps this list will help you evaluate your church.

First, a healthy church is committed to the Word of God as its authority. They may still be learning to apply it well, but they know they must filter all they do through the Scriptures. It is the Word that directs them to Christ, who is the cornerstone and head of the church. It is the Word they proclaim Sunday after Sunday.

Second, a healthy church is not a perfect church, but they continually strive to follow Christ and make disciples. We too often assume a healthy church will have no problems, but that is not the case. A healthy church will be imperfect, and it might even be a bit messy at times — especially as they reach non-believers. Still, they seek to honor God in all they do.

Third, a healthy church works to do well all six purposes of the church: worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry/service, prayer and fellowship. They seldom do them all well at the same time, and never do they do them perfectly. Instead, they seek to grow and improve in each one, recognizing that a healthy church completes all six purposes. They evaluate themselves regularly, and they do not “settle” where they are.

Fourth, a healthy church has a clear outward focus. They work to reach non-believers and equip new believers. They provide evangelism training. Their members intentionally know non-believers. They share the gospel with them, baptize them and teach them to obey all Jesus commanded. They welcome new church plants in their area. Their budget reflects dollars spent on others rather than themselves. These commitments, of course, are included in the six purposes listed above, but they emphasize doing the work of the Great Commission.

Fifth, a healthy church is passionate about reaching the nations around them and around the world. That is, they take seriously the call to make disciples of all peoples. Their commitment to the nations is evident in their praying, giving, going and sending. They raise up leaders, equip them and send the “called-out ones” to North America and around the world. They do not keep their best; they commission them if God has called them to go.

Finally, a healthy church has prayer in its DNA. That commitment starts with the lead pastor, and it permeates all the church does. They live out this almost contradictory reality: they are a strong congregation, but their strength comes from their being weak. They march forward, but they march on their knees.

Using this list to assess your church, where is your church strongest? Weakest? What steps will you take to capitalize on your strengths while also addressing your weaknesses?

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