

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

Forerunner

“Church Awaken”

Joel 2:12-14



*Merry Christmas
from your Association Staff
Jim (Moderator), Terry (AMS), & Nancy (Admin. Assistant)*

Transylvania Baptist Association

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December 2023
Volume 33 Issue 12



TERRY'S THOUGHTS



As we begin to celebrate the Christmas season and the completion of another year serving our Lord, I wanted to express my deepest appreciation for the love, support, and a new attitude, among our member churches, to work together throughout this past year. Examples of what I am talking about are, God showing up during quarterly meetings, an increase in baptisms for the year, increased participation and giving among our churches, a willingness to support the kind of change that improves communication as well as our ability to serve you better, the addition of new pastors among our pastor-less churches (by the way we are fully staffed with pastors among all of our member churches; PRAISE THE LORD) and an openness to establish new relationships between the association and pastors along with their church members. From where I sit, 2023 has been a successful year and any glory surrounding the successes of this year belong to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!

Concerning the Christmas season there are a number of celebrations, cantatas, special Christmas programs (Candle Light services, Christ Day Celebrations, etc.), parades, mission trips, and a host of other traditional type celebrations occurring throughout our County and among our people (PLEASE SEND US YOUR SCHEDULED DATES SO WE CAN ASSIST IN ADVERTISING THEM IN THE FORERUNNER AND ON OUR WEBSITE).

While it is good and necessary to participate in these activities, let us remember those who are first without the gift of Jesus in their lives, secondly those who are suffering this time of year, and those we can assist who are doing the work of ministry through Transylvania County, our state, and beyond. Why should we share the gift of Jesus? Well Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs." (Matt. 5:3-10).

Based on this admonishment from the Lord and especially this time of year it is particularly important for us to give. In fact the Apostle Paul, during his farewell address to the Ephesians, reminded us of the words Jesus uttered for all to hear concerning giving, ". . . It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35). My hope for you this Christmas season is that you will not only be blessed by giving, but also you will be blessed by the Lord giving to you!

Remember that we love you, consider it an honor to serve you, and we stand ready to assist you or your church with whatever need you have! Please enjoy this season of the year and both Greta and I wish you the Merriest Christmas ever!

In His Grip,
Terry

**Christmas Banquet for Pastors & Wives
Tuesday, December 5 - 6:00pm
Temple Baptist Church**

Please call or email the Baptist Center to sign up to attend. Deadline to register is Monday, November 27.

Each person should bring an inexpensive wrapped gift to share.



Convention Highlights from Greensboro

More than 1,500 messengers from N.C. Baptist churches gathered on Nov. 6-7 for the 193rd Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting.

In a historic meeting that saw a number of firsts, N.C. Baptists approved a budget that moved to a 50/50 Cooperative Program split, celebrated missionaries from the state and saw the first African American preside over the state convention's annual meeting during the two-day event held Nov. 6-7.

"Because you give, together we can go. Thank you for your generosity and partnership in the Gospel.

The local church is God's plan "A" for reaching a lost and dying world. It's amazing to see local churches freely working together for the shared mission of taking the Gospel to our neighborhoods and the nations. And we get to do that as a movement of churches who are on mission together. That's not just a slogan. That's who we are as NC Baptists.

I am thankful for the momentum God has graciously given us, and I believe our best days of ministry are ahead. God is on the move in North Carolina, and I look forward to continuing to be on mission together with you."

Todd Unzicker,, Executive Director-Treasurer
Baptist State Convention of NC

In a historic vote, messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting overwhelmingly approved a 2024 budget on Tuesday (Nov. 7) that calls for Cooperative Program receipts to be divided equally between the state and national conventions.



*Lewis Smith - BCH,
Chuck Campbell - Catawba Valley
Assoc, & Terry Stockman - TBA*

continued

The theme of this year's event was "Shepherd the Flock" based on 1 Peter 5:1-4. In verse two of that passage, Peter exhorts elders "to shepherd the flock of God that is among you" (ESV).

Ronjour Locke, elder at Treasuring Christ Community Church in Raleigh and instructor of preaching and urban ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, opened the conference by preaching on "The Shepherd and His Character" from Psalm 15. Locke said character begins with the gospel, and he shared three types of character that flows from the gospel – relational character, judicial character and sacrificial character.



Tony Merida, pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, preached on "The Shepherd and Adversity" from 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, which addresses the Apostle Paul's heavenly experience and his thorn in the flesh. Merida shared three reasons for suffering: suffering humbles us and points us to our need for God's power; suffering causes us to draw near to the Lord; and suffering enables us to learn that Jesus really is enough.

Jim Shaddix, professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, preached on "The Shepherd and His Preaching" from Jeremiah 23:16-32. Shaddix shared a warning with attendees not to ignore the counsel of God as some prophets of ancient Israel did in the Old Testament. Shaddix encouraged pastors to prioritize personal and prayerful communion with the Lord in their ministry.

Mark Clifton, teaching pastor of Linwood Baptist Church in Linwood, Kansas, preached on "The Shepherd and Revitalization" from Matthew 11:2-6. Clifton shared four reasons that John the Baptist questioned that Jesus was the Savior and how Jesus resolved those doubts. Clifton encouraged pastors that as they are discouraged to look to Jesus for revitalization because only revitalized pastors can revitalize churches.

Jason K. Allen, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, preached on "The Shepherd and His Study." Allen shared seven reasons for pastors to be faithful in their study along with some practical applications drawn from 2 Timothy 2:15.

David Brady, senior pastor at Christ Community Church in Mount Airy, preached on "The Shepherd and Steadfastness" from 1 Corinthians 15:58. Brady shared three things that should inform the shepherd's daily life. They are: the shepherd's daily foundation should be the gospel; the shepherd's daily work should be being "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord;" and the shepherd's daily direction should be the return of Christ.

H.B. Charles Jr., senior pastor at Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, preached on "The Shepherd and Gospel Centrality" from 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Charles shared four commands for how pastors are to preach the word. Pastors should preach the word dutifully, diligently, defiantly and devotionally, Charles said.

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, preached on "The Shepherd and the Great Commission" from Matthew 28:16-20. Akin shared how Jesus' command in the Great Commission shows us God's complete power, his global plan and his constant presence. Akin also encouraged pastors to be passionate about the Great Commission which will make their churches passionate about the Great Commission.

- At the close of registration, 529 pastors, 363 church staff and 623 laity had registered for this year's annual meeting for a total of 1,515 messengers. An additional 365 visitors registered for a grand total of 1,880 in attendance.
- Messengers approved a 2024 Cooperative Program (CP) budget totaling \$31 million, a \$1.5 million or 5% increase over the current budget that also moves the state convention to a 50/50 split with global ministry partners.
- Messengers approved a motion stipulating that undesignated CP receipts in excess of the \$31 million budget in 2024 be allocated at 50% to global ministry partners and 50% to state convention ministries.

continued



- Messengers adopted a \$2.6 million goal for the 2024 North Carolina Missions Offering, an increase of \$100,000 or 4% over the current goal of \$2.5 million. Under the offering goal for 2024, NCMO allocations would remain unchanged with 62% going to Baptists on Mission ministries, 28% to church planting in North Carolina and 10% to associational missions projects.

- All three current convention officers were re-elected to second terms of service. Quintell Hill, lead pastor of Multiply Community Church in Monroe, was re-elected as president. Jason Miller, senior pastor of Dutch Cove Baptist Church in Canton, was re-elected as first vice president. Allen Murray, pastor of Centerville Baptist Church in Kelly, was re-elected as second vice president. All three officers ran unopposed.

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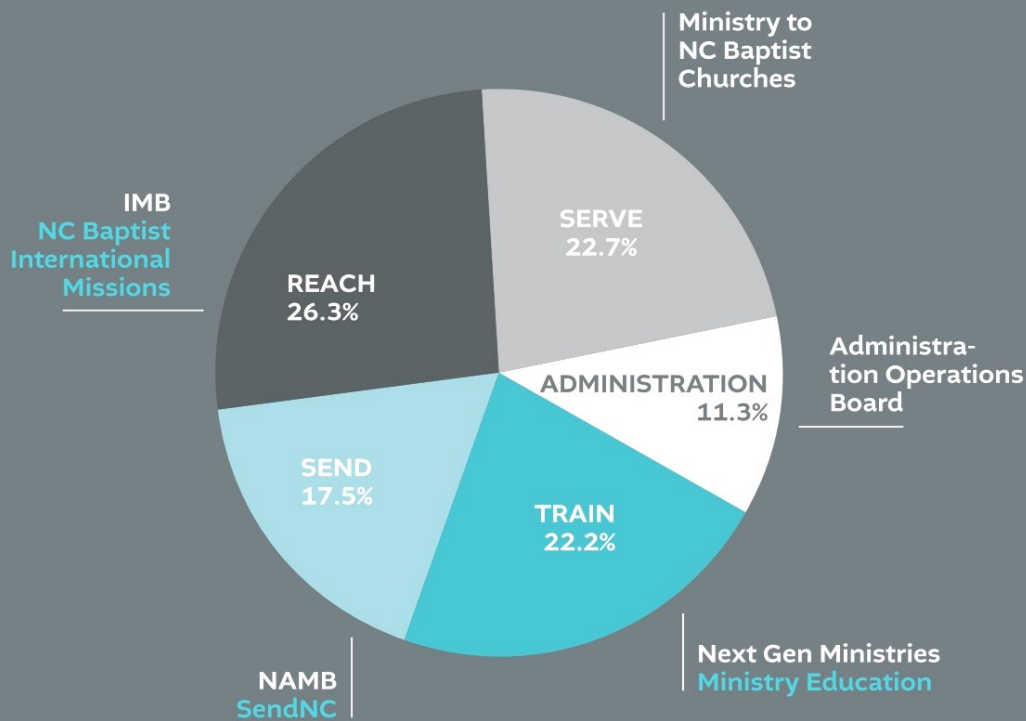
- Messengers adopted an amended “Resolution on Equal Protection For The Preborn.”
- During his executive director-treasurer’s address, Todd Unzicker shared an address with messengers that highlighted four ways N.C. Baptists are on mission together. They are: training, reaching, sending and serving.
- During his president’s address, Quintell Hill preached on “What’s so Good About the Good Samaritan?” from Luke 10:25-37.
- Messengers approved a report and recommendations from the *Biblical Recorder (BR)* Study Committee about the working arrangement between the state convention and the *BR*. Messengers also approved a series of amendments to the *BR*’s bylaws based upon recommendations made by the study committee.
- Messengers heard reports from N.C. Baptist institutions, agencies and other ministry partners, including the Biblical Recorder, Provision Financial Resources of N.C. Baptists (formerly the N.C. Baptist Foundation), the Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) of North Carolina, N.C. Baptists on Mission, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- N.C. Baptist leaders recognized Clay Warf, longtime president of Provision Financial Resources, who is retiring at the end of the year after 25 years of service.
- Miles Mullin, vice president and chief of staff with the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, presented N.C. Baptists with the Psalm 139 Project’s Partner for Life Award.

A dark blue promotional graphic for the Disciple-Making Conference. At the top right, it says "FEB. 27, 2024". The main text reads "DISCIPLE-MAKING CONFERENCE" in white and teal. Below that, in a white script font, it says "registration opens NOV. 10". At the bottom, the website "DISCIPLEMAKINGCONFERENCE.ORG" is listed. A small logo is in the top left corner.

A graphic for the International Pastors Conference. The word "REFRESH" is written in large, bold, black letters, partially obscured by a dynamic splash of water. Below the splash, a dark blue banner contains the text "INTERNATIONAL PASTORS CONFERENCE" and "MAY 17-18, 2024 • CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER". A small logo is in the bottom right corner.

Where

DO MY CP DOLLARS GO?

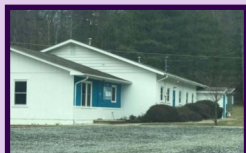


IF MY CHURCH GIVES \$1000 TO SUPPORT COOPERATIVE PROGRAM:

- \$263** goes to support missionaries and ministries around the world
- \$175** goes to reach our state and nation through church planting
- \$222** goes to disciple children and students and to educate the next generation of missionaries, pastors, and church leaders
- \$227** goes to equip our churches to more effectively reach their communities with the gospel and to strengthen them for 21st century challenges
- \$113** goes to general operations and administration, including Board of Directors activities

Cove Shelter is now open on Code Purple nights through March 31, providing overnight assistance to homeless individuals, including sleeping accommodations, hot meals, access to shower and laundry facilities, and the Gospel.

Churches are encouraged to assist with simple hot meals, staffing, and financing for sleeping bags, towels, and other necessities.



For more information, please contact Pastor Brad Snipes at 828-577-6412 or covechurchbrevard@gmail.com.

Church News

Blantyre - Hightop Mountain Harmony will be guest music on Dec. 10 at 11am.



Boylston - will have a Women's Christmas Luncheon at Bay Breeze on Dec. 2. Will have a special service and Christmas Party with Blackwell Cottage from Broyhill on Dec. 10. The Choir's Christmas Special will include "Look to the Lamb" and "What the Lord Has Done for Me."

Calvary - has 40-50 metal chairs free to a good home. Please call Dana at 828-884-4726 if you can use them.

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

Little River - is seeking a part-time worship leader. For more info, please visit <https://lrbchurch.org/employment>.

New Hope - will have a float in the Rosman Christmas Parade. Is collecting for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Pisgah Forest - is seeking a part-time music director/leader, For more information, please contact Gene Parker at 828-508-9142.

Rocky Hill - is seeking a worship leader. For more information and to apply, please contact Pastor Leland Holland at 828-553-3308 or lelandholland@yahoo.com.

Etowah Baptist - is seeking a Student Pastor & Children's Pastor. For more information, please contact the church at 828-891-7153 or office@ebcetowah.org.

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

Association Financial Summary October 2023

	Current	Year-to-Date
Blantyre	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,250.00
Blue Ridge	\$ 75.00	\$ 675.00
Boylston	\$ 381.35	\$ 3,522.65
Biltmore Brevard	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 3,750.00
Brevard First	\$ 1,193.60	\$12,710.62
Calvary	\$ 345.00	\$ 4,313.46
Carr's Hill	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,500.00
Carson's Creek	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,450.00
Cathey's Creek	\$ 207.00	\$ 2,057.00
Cedar Mountain	\$ 366.00	\$ 4,522.00
Cherryfield	\$ 233.40	\$ 3,398.56
Church at Sapphire	\$ 0	\$ 1,860.00
Church at See Off	\$ 0	\$ 0
Cove Church	\$ 0	\$ 150.00
Dunn's Rock	\$ 1,681.86	\$ 7,990.40
East Fork	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Enon	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,200.00
Faith Missionary	\$ 0	\$ 1,358.00
Grace	\$ 492.96	\$ 2,916.41
Lake Toxaway	\$ 237.74	\$ 653.04
Little River	\$ 0	\$ 1,606.50
Middle Fork	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00
Morningside	\$ 0	\$ 1,738.90
Mt. Moriah-Calvert	\$ 0	\$ 0
New Hope	\$ 0	\$ 200.00
North Toxaway	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00
Oak Grove	\$ 0	\$ 600.00
Pisgah Forest	\$ 367.11	\$ 3,450.84
Rocky Hill	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,000.00
Temple	\$ 131.25	\$ 1,312.50
Turkey Creek	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00
Zion	\$ 597.69	\$ 2,201.12
Checking Interest	\$ 3.54	\$ 74.44
Total Receipts	\$ 9,938.50	\$77,161.44
Total Expenses	\$10,440.82	\$112,439.91


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

Many thanks to Boylston, Calvary, Carr's Hill, Pisgah Forest, Rocky Hill, & Temple for donating socks for the WMU Women's Prison Ministry Red Boxes.





December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
Week of Prayer - Lottie Moon Christmas Offering - December 3-10						
3 <i>Walters Anniversary (Cedar Mtn.)</i>	4	5 Pastors Christmas Dinner Temple 6pm Weekly Prayer N. Toxaway 7am	6	7 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9
10	11 <i>Wally McCall Birthday (Mt. Moriah) Mullis Anniversary (N. Toxaway)</i>	12 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	13 <i>Bill Voorhes Birthday (TBA Retired)</i>	14 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	15 Backpack Distribution Wise, VA	16
17	18 <i>Kyle Reese Birthday (Faith)</i>	19 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am <i>Jami Reese Birthday (Faith)</i>	20	21 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am <i>Skinner Anniversary (Enon)</i>	22	23
24 Christmas Eve <i>Sarah Skinner Birthday (Enon)</i>	25 Christmas Day Baptist Center Closed	26 Baptist Center Closed	27	28 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	29 <i>Deb Holland Birthday (Rocky Hill)</i>	30
31 New Years' Eve						



Calling Out the Called: 5 Things Your Church Can Do

Have you ever had a sinking feeling that there's a bigger problem lurking around the corner? Maybe you have noticed drops of oil on your garage floor or a water stain forming on your ceiling. These types of scenarios are examples of small symptoms that reveal much deeper problems beneath the surface. Whether they are the result of unintentional oversights or reveal some level of negligence on our part, left unaddressed you can be certain that the cost and collateral damage will be far greater than if you confront the issue head on.

The problem we're facing: In recent decades the focus in the church has shifted away from intentional efforts to invite believers to consider vocational ministry as a calling. As a result, there's a leadership famine in our local churches. There are a variety of factors that have contributed to this trend, but perhaps the greatest obstacle we face is simply an unintended one. Our desire to mobilize the church, emphasize spiritual community and authorize every member to live on mission, has essentially neutralized a call to vocational ministry.

It is important for us to affirm that, indeed, in the church there is no spiritual "varsity" team of leaders and "junior varsity" team of laity. God has called all believers to serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission. In this sense, there is a "universal calling" for all believers to serve the Lord and actively participate in his mission. So-called "secular" vocations are intended by God to be missional platforms in our culture and communities. In fact, these vocational callings are an essential part of the gospel mission being accomplished.

At the same time, we must be careful that we do not undermine the ministerial calling of some in a well-intended (and biblically accurate) effort to affirm the value of every believer in God's kingdom. While there is a "universal calling" for all believers, there is also a "unique calling" for each individual disciple. When we consider the missional heart of our heavenly Father and the size of the task at hand, we can recognize the need for all believers, regardless of their vocational capacity, to leverage their unique calling for the cause of Christ.

The pathway forward: If we are going to commit ourselves to "calling out the called," we must also consider some practical ways we can do this in our ministries that are both biblically sound and personally responsible. It starts with a patient mindset and a humble faith that pursues more of a climate change in our ministries rather than creating lightning-strike moments. Calling should simply become a concept that is regularly talked about in our ministry in a variety of ways. Here are some examples.

- 1. Extend invitations** - Perhaps the most obvious way that we can cultivate this type of "calling culture" is to regularly include a ministerial calling and its possibility as part of our invitations for response. If our listeners are not aware or do not know that it is an option to prayerfully consider, it is more difficult for them to discern this type of calling as part of God's will for their lives.
- 2. Share testimonies** - Personal testimonies of those who have been called into vocational ministry can help our people disarm their fears and clarify their understanding to consider what full-time ministry service really involves. Our own experience of discerning and answering God's call can be used by the Lord to encourage our people to consider their calling.
- 3. Celebrate the church** - Sometimes we can also be guilty of bemoaning our ministry responsibilities or complaining about relational dynamics in the church. Instead, we should model a love for the church as the body and bride of Christ that is positive, affirming and exhibits gratitude for the privilege of serving the Lord in a ministry capacity.
- 4. Provide opportunities** - A primary element of discerning a call to ministry involves discovering your spiritual passions and gifts through service opportunities. We must encourage, enable and empower others to do the work of the ministry. As people begin to explore, exercise and employ their spiritual gifts, they may also begin to discern God's calling on their lives to serve in a similar vocational capacity.
- 5. Train leaders** - As we cultivate a ministry environment that cooperates with the Spirit in "calling out the called," we must be prepared to mentor and invest in those who discern a call to vocational ministry. Nothing will substitute for your personal involvement in their lives, and in many ways the discipleship process is identical to what we would do for every follower of Christ.

By integrating some of these principles and practices into our ministries we can help facilitate healthy conversations with our people that can lead to prayerful consideration about their potential ministerial calling.

NC Baptists, IMB Hold First-of-its-kind Sending Celebration

N.C. Baptists honored and prayed for missionaries with ties to churches from across the state as part of a first-of-its-kind Sending Celebration, held jointly between the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the International Mission Board (IMB) on Monday, Nov. 6. The celebration was the highlight of the opening session of the 2023 N.C. Baptist annual meeting, which drew more than 1,300 messengers and guests to the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center on the first day of the two-day event.



IMB President Paul Chitwood delivered the convention sermon in conjunction with the celebration, after which nearly 30 missionaries who have answered the call to go to the nations shared testimonies and prayer requests with those in attendance. Chitwood said the IMB had never held an event like this one before. “A service like this is literally something we’ve never done before at the International Mission Board in our 178-year history,” said Chitwood, adding that Sending Celebrations typically include missionaries from multiple states. “Tonight is unique in that we are celebrating those N.C. Baptist IMB missionaries who have been sent out and are being sent out.”

During his convention sermon, Chitwood praised N.C. Baptists for their collective efforts in calling, sending, supporting and praying for missionaries. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has led all state conventions in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions for 19 years. North Carolina also leads other state conventions in missionaries being sent to the field. “I’m so grateful to you N.C. Baptists for the way you are literally leading our broader Baptist family in engaging lostness around the world,” Chitwood said.

In his message, Chitwood called lostness the world’s greatest problem, saying it is an eternal problem, a universal problem and a growing problem. “Brothers and sisters, we know the solution to the world’s greatest problem is the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Chitwood said.

Prior to introducing missionaries from North Carolina who are currently serving on the field or preparing to go, Chitwood asked attendees if God might also be calling them. “My question tonight before we get to celebrating these who have already committed their lives is ‘What about you?’” Chitwood said. “Is God calling you?”

At the conclusion of Chitwood’s message and the missionary introductions, N.C. Baptist Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Unzicker posed a question to attendees. “Brothers and sisters, what do you think of your N.C. Baptist missionaries?” Unzicker asked. The question prompted a standing ovation and an extended time of applause from the audience as the missionaries stood and faced them on stage.

Unzicker closed the event by inviting N.C. Baptist leaders and attendees to pray for the missionaries and their prayer requests. Unzicker prayed that God would use the missionaries “to turn this world upside down for Jesus.”

Chad Austin, Managing Director
Biblical Recorder



ServeNC is an opportunity for every N.C. Baptist church to love its community in Jesus' name.

Every church. Every community.

Whether it's painting a school, cleaning up a yard, or serving meals to those in need, your church knows your community's context. You can choose the best project to make a difference through ServeNC.

Sign up and commit your church to one week of being on mission together and display the gospel to those in need. Let's make a huge impact serving from the mountains to the coast **Aug. 3-10, 2024**.

Visit SERVENC.COM to sign up and receive resources, tools, and more.



**Register your church today at
SERVENC.COM**



Your church knows your community best. What unique challenges is your neighborhood facing? Where can your church step in and serve? Here are some ideas to get you started as you plan to ServeNC:

- ➔ Offer free lawn mowing and landscaping services
- ➔ Collect school supplies for children in need
- ➔ Serve at your local pregnancy center
- ➔ Build wheelchair ramps for those with disabilities
- ➔ Deliver lunches to the homeless
- ➔ Deliver homemade baked goods to public service workers
- ➔ Host a free yard sale in your church's neighborhood
- ➔ Check and install fire alarms in homes
- ➔ Host a community health fair
- ➔ Serve at a local food bank

Prayer is our first and primary strategy. It shapes everything we do. As your church makes plans to ServeNC, pray early and pray often for God to transform every church and every community through this effort. Pray:

- ▶ That God would lead your church to see the unseen and serve the underserved.
- ▶ That God would turn your eyes toward the community and show you ways to meet their needs.
- ▶ That God would help your church recognize the abilities and resources He has given, and discern how to best use them to serve your community.
- ▶ For help for every member to identify their role in serving.
- ▶ For your community to see the church as Jesus' hands and feet.
- ▶ That God would use your church to reach the lost in your community with the gospel.
- ▶ For relief to those in need and freedom from the burden of sin.

SERVE NC

AUGUST 3-10, 2024

Pray for Peace in the Holy Land

As we watch devastating events taking place in the Holy Land, we are not mere spectators. We don't just see headlines. We see people. Right now they are injured, frightened, missing. They are lost. As this crisis unfolds, we will not ignore it. We will not be silent. We will not stand still. We will cry out to God on their behalf, asking Him to bring about true peace as only He can. Join us now as we pray, together.

Pray for Physical Needs

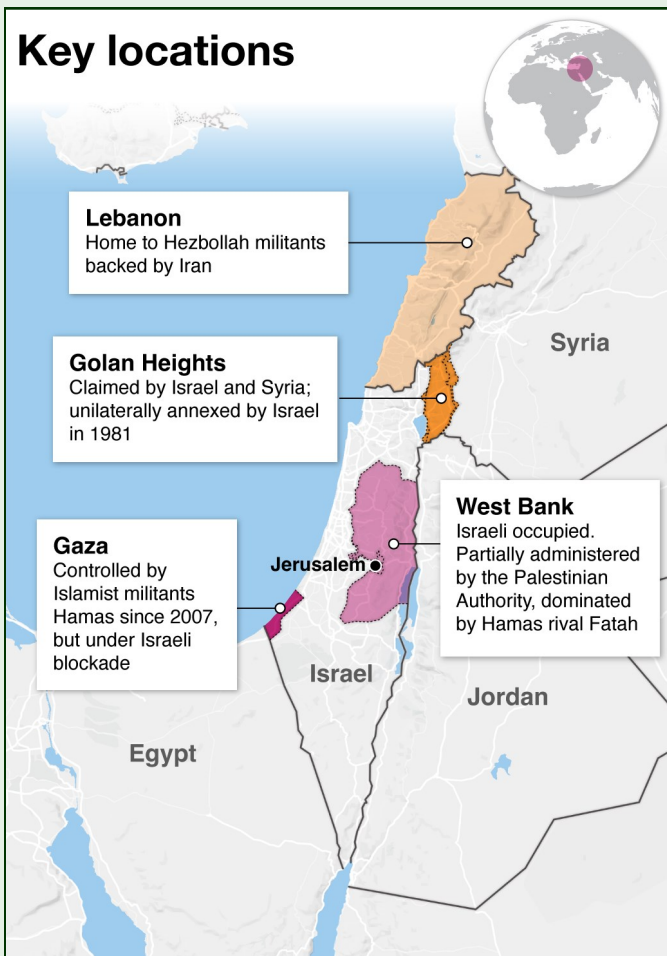
Men, women, and children are facing unspeakable horrors. While this region has a history of unrest, the escalation of violence demands an urgency in our intercession. Pray now that God would have mercy on the millions who are suffering and comfort those who have lost loved ones. Ask God to bless the efforts of those distributing aid. Pray He will provide opportunities for them to share His love.

Pray for Lostness

Rockets are launched and the streets are filled with violence. Amid this chaos, the lost are living and dying in darkness. While the nations rage, God is still in control and near to all who call out to Him. Pray that God will use current events to draw the lost into a relationship with His Son.



Key locations



Pray for Gospel Access

Believers are walking through this crisis with non-believing neighbors, friends, and family members. Pray that believers will have attitudes of peace amid the current situation. Pray that the lost will ask them about the peace they have in times of trouble.

Pray for the Church

In a land impacted by years of hatred, believers from diverse backgrounds who are united in Christ can display God's love to each other and to their neighbors. Pray that they will seek to share and be the light of Jesus to their neighbors.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Courtesy IMB

Harvest Seeds Ministry & Love Packages - The Value of Your Used Literature

We all know that Harvest Seeds Ministry is God's Ministry, and He has proven over and over again of how He takes care of His Ministry. The Pallet Loading, held on October 14, is just another example of how God was in charge of His Ministry. A group of 32 faithful servants met at 7:00am on October 14 to begin the work. It was raining. After about an hour delay, the team began the work. They had to put tarps down to put the pallets on because the asphalt was wet. The team had finished bringing everything out of the church, put on pallets, labeled, and shrink wrapped by 10:15. Turner Trucking had brought 2 of their 53-foot trailers, and after these were full, there were still 9 pallets left that Putnam Distributors would have to take to Turner's warehouse. There were a total of **61 pallets, 3706 boxes of Christian materials, 2 sewing machines, 4 large trunks and 5 large tubs of puppets, 33 sets of crutches, 61 walkers, 1 wheelchair, 111 walking canes, 1 'geri' chair, 1 rollator walker, and 1 transport chair.** In addition to the above medical equipment, God blessed us since the last pallet loading to be able to give to local people with a need 3 wheelchairs, 1 knee scooter, and 1 walker.

~Pat, Harvest Seeds Director

From Ghana: "I would like to thank God for the wonderful materials I have received. Among the books I got in a 50kg bag of books are 20 Bibles and the wonderful "Explore the Bible" materials which I have given to members of our Church. In the past I had no reading culture because I had not even a single book apart from my Bible. Now my knowledge has grown so much due to books and the study Bible I got from you. My ministry has greatly changed due to the knowledge I have acquired from such wonderful books. May God bless those that donated these books and Bibles." ~Bishop Elijah Mafuta

From Zimbabwe: "The Sunday School materials are wonderful. They use them for teachings. They are so hungry for the Word. They use them at Church, cell groups, Sunday School. It allows them to teach from the beginning to the end. These books are well written and printed so that you can teach yourself the Word of God. It is amazing some schools even use them in their curriculum. You have no idea these same Sunday School books are teaching hundreds of people. One couple from Mutoko after reading these Sunday School books became missionaries to Malawi. It was 7 years ago, they took 300 of the books to Malawi and have been teaching the people in Malawi. When they finished reading and studying, they then pass them on to other branches. This is another tool of saving and getting the people to read the Word.

It's like gold and becomes a treasure

Whenever Africans lay their hands on Christian material, it's like gold and becomes a treasure. The Sunday School books are like a Bible to them, because not everyone gets a Bible here. That's the reason why we can't thank you enough, because we are getting feedback from churches, people, hospitals, prisons on the Christian material they collect from us. You have saved whole families. Men, women, have been kept from becoming drug addicts. Marriages that were scattered are brought back together. The list is endless. Heaven has a crown waiting for you."

You have saved whole families

From India: "My children's life-style changed by a single book said Jyothi, a 37-year-old married woman. She had been deeply concerned about her two young children growing in the Lord. She had been busy with work and wanted her children to grow spiritually. One day, on her way home, Jyothi met our literature team distributing spiritual, inspirational, and children's books. She was happy and found a children's book that she thought would be perfect for her children. The book was called "The Parable of the Lost Sheep" and it was beautifully illustrated with colorful pictures and easy-to-understand language. She brought the book home and read it to her children every night before they went to bed. The children were captivated by the story of the shepherd who left his 99 sheep to search for the one that was lost. As days went by, she noticed that her children were asking more and more questions about Jesus. They wanted to know more about the parables and the stories of the Bible. She was delighted to see her children interested in learning about God and showing interest in faith and she wanted to nourish their curiosity. The following day, she took her children to our ministry where they were conducting Vacation Bible School nearby her place. The two children attended the VBS regularly and we saw a significant transformation in them. They grew in faith and it showed in their actions. The book had opened a new world of faith for these two young children and I am so grateful to Love Packages for having such a heart towards children's spiritual growth. Jyothi is now an active member and has encouraged many people to get books from us and has led many children to walk with God."


Filling eager hands with God's Word

2024 TRUETT RETREATS



January 13-15: **Winter Youth Retreat**

Grades 6-12: Youth Groups can bond, make memories, and encounter the Gospel in a fun, friendly environment.

February 9-10: **Marriage Matters**

An amazing event for a husband and wife to improve their relationship through Biblical guidance and a weekend getaway.

March 22-24: **Women's Conference**

Ages 18+: An event for women to connect, be encouraged and equipped to follow the Lord closer.

April 5-7: **Mother & Daughter Retreat**

Ages 6-12: Invest in your relationship in a fun setting that continually points participants towards Jesus.

April 26-28: **Grandparent Camp**

Ages 6-12 w/ a grandparent: Bridge the generational gap by making lasting memories with a retreat that appeals to all ages!

May 3-5: **Father & Daughter Campout**

Ages 6-12: Get outside and unplug from the worries of daily life to grow in relation to the Heavenly Father.

June 6-8: **Western Happiness Retreat**

All ages: An event for people of all ages with developmental disabilities to enjoy a weekend of fun, friendship, and faith!

October 4-6: **Father & Son Warrior Weekend**

Ages 6-12: Dads fight for your sons in the battle for being a man after God's own heart while enjoying great outdoor recreation.

November 1-3: **Forged Man Camp**

Ages 18+: Come be men with great outdoor recreation and iron sharpening iron in the beautiful fall mountains.

August 16-18: **Grandparent Camp**

Ages 6-12 w/ a grandparent: Bridge the generational gap by making lasting memories with a retreat that appeals to all ages!

Retreats repeat annually on the same weekend.

Revive

Isaiah 57:15

We are the ideal place to retreat from the burdens of daily life. Here, you will feel God's presence. Our staff will take excellent care of you. The end result is that you will be more alive in Christ than before.

Refresh

Philemon 1:7

Spend time in fellowship with others. Deepen your friendships. All your needs will be met, allowing you to rest and adventure as much as you wish!

Renew

Isaiah 40:30-31

Encounter the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thousands of guests have had their hearts renewed and transformed to be molded more into the image of our Savior.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

January 13-15, 2024



PRICE INCLUDES:

- BIBLICAL TEACHING
- GREAT ACTIVITIES
- WORSHIP SERVICES
- MEALS
- LODGING
- RECREATION
- & MUCH MORE



Conference Center & Camp

SATURDAY AFTERNOON
TO MONDAY MORNING

“

I loved the variety & the type of activities. I also appreciated the depth and detail of the spiritual aspects of this retreat. -2021 Youth Pastor

”

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

100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® enable gospel transformation among the unreached.

imb.org/lottiemoon

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Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence. She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

GOD'S WORK THROUGH US IN 2022

122

Countries

728,589

People heard the gospel

178,177

New believers

21,231

New churches

102,417

Baptisms

