

Biblical Recorder 2018 Annual Associational Report

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

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

Do you have the BR Advantage? The *Biblical Recorder* may give you the advantages you need.

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

You need the BR Advantage!

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

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

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

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

God is glorified when His church is strong, healthy and living out both the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). So, your *Biblical Recorder* staff works diligently to provide church leaders with articles, stories and information to that end.

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

- The *Biblical Recorder* **in print** is a great value. Individual members can subscribe or the church can provide the *Recorder* for its members at a discounted rate. A copy will be mailed directly to their home or bulk copies can be mailed to the church for distribution. Visit BRnow.org/Subscribe.
- Get the *Biblical Recorder* in a **digital format**. This is the full version of the printed copy,

in an easy-to-read digital format online. It's free if you have a paid subscription to the print edition. Subscriptions to only the digital edition are affordable, also.

- Our **website**, *BRnow.org*, is packed with more than 18,000 pages of valuable information. It is one of the highest ranked websites among Baptist newspapers worldwide.
- Download the **BR smartphone app** today. It is a free, easy way to get important news items at your fingertips. The new app has become a popular way to stay close to vital information on your iPhone or Android.
- *BRweekly* is a free, **email newsletter**. If you sign up today, every Wednesday morning you will receive an email summary of the week's important news and brief comments from the editor in your inbox. Visit *BRnow.org/BRweekly*.
- Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We give you breaking news and important information quickly.

Everyone in your church needs the *Biblical Recorder*. The BR Advantage helps church members give generously and grow stronger as serious disciple-makers.

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

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

We want to help your church members grow stronger in every way – stronger in their personal walk with God, stronger in their support of their church, stronger in their involvement with Baptist missions and ministries in North Carolina, stronger in their work with international missions. This blesses your church and honors God. Regardless of what you have perceived the *Recorder* to be in the past, this is our present focus and commitment.

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

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

This year the *Biblical Recorder* celebrates 185 years of service to North Carolina Baptists. Our website is 21 years old and the *BRweekly* celebrates six years of ministry. We are proud to be an agency of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 1939. We are equally proud to support the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1845 and the Cooperative Program since 1925.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to join you in standing firm on the truth of scripture.

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