

YBA is a network of great commission churches in the Research Triangle of North Carolina. Our mission is to see local churches strengthened, planted, and resourced to share the gospel of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

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Greetings YBA family and Happy New Year!

Can you believe it is 2023? I pray that you had a great time celebrating Christmas and ringing in the new year. Actually, this past week has been interesting for our family. First, my mother-in-law and then my wife, Melissa, contracted Covid. So, our family gathering was put on hold, but we are hoping to gather in a few days as soon as everyone is cleared. My family's Christmas gathering was not what it usually is because we had to make some adjustments due to the reality of disease. I think this is a microcosm of what needs to occur in many of our churches today. There is disease and we must make adjustments. According to Thom Rainer, who has made it his lifework to study churches for the past several decades, "every church is either moving toward greater vibrancy or it is declining and dying." Far too many churches are sick but they are afraid or too rooted in their traditions to do anything about it.

I know some of you are thinking, "Wow, Marty, that isn't very encouraging for a NEW YEAR message," but let me say that I am very optimistic that in 2023 we are going to see more churches flip the script and make changes to see growth instead of decline. Your YBA Church Strengthening Team and I stand ready to help you and your church move toward vibrancy instead of death. You should be aware that it will come at a cost...oh no, we will not charge anything, but it will come with a change of heart for many of us. I want to take a few sentences to admit that what I am advocating for may sound strong or even harsh. I need you to know that this newsletter article comes from love for our God and His bride, the Church. I have wrestled within myself on how to challenge us to step up and "open our eyes and look at the fields; already they are white for the harvest." This short article comes from love and concern for the Church.

One of my favorite Greek words is "Metanoia" which means a change of mind that results in a change of heart. This is exactly what I'm praying for the church in 2023. Instead of saying we need a new staff person to reach young people, we need to fall in love with the youth of the community. The staff addition will not remedy the situation when a change of heart is what is required.

For many years as we served with the International Mission Board, we often heard people say, "America is a Mission field as well," and this affirmation is truer today than ever. The U.S. has the third largest population of unreached people groups in the world behind only India and China. So yes, there are many lost people that need to hear the gospel, but the way that we've been presenting it to them has not got the job done, so we must be willing to make changes. Let me be clear the Gospel message must never change but the presentation has to in order to reach the lost. Over the last 50 years, it was sufficient to launch a new program or build a new building and people would come. That is no longer a strategy that works any more. Today more than ever the church here in America must be living on mission every day.

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So, I want to challenge those churches who have been in decline, and those churches who may think there is no answer. I want to ring the alarm and say, “all hands-on deck.” It is not a weakness to admit we need help; in fact, it might be the most courageous thing your church can do. YBA in partnership with NC Baptists and other partners are ready to help you and your church. The diagnosis may not be what you want to hear, but there is hope. God is doing some amazing things in Church Revitalization, but it is not easy and it might even be a little shocking to you and your congregation. Please let us know how we can help.

One of the worst-case scenarios is when a church has been in decline for decades but it continues to have money in the bank so they realize they can continue to last for another 10, 15 or even 20 years. The question that I want to ask you and your church is what legacy do you want to have? That you held on to the very last and you spent every penny on keeping the church the same with the faithful few or if you were willing to embrace or at least accept change and see the legacy of your church making a difference in your community and making a difference to lost people who need to hear the good news of hope that can only be found in the Gospel of JESUS.

I spoke with a man in another association a few weeks ago whose church had made some difficult decisions, and he told me that his desire and their church’s desire was to see those funds that had been in the bank be used for the advance of God’s kingdom. He said he had realized that God’s kingdom was more important than the history and tradition of his church. This is a question that many churches are wrestling with today. Here at Yates Baptist Association, we want to walk with you and your church to see the church thriving instead of dying. You and your church can make decisions now that will enable your church to grow and reach new families and see people walk out of darkness into light. Maybe your church needs help, maybe your church can help. Join me in praying that churches will make the right choice to see the Kingdom grow.

For the mission,
Marty Childers
Associational Mission Strategist



***If you would like to support the ministries of Yates Baptist Association, donations can be made online:
www.yatesba.org/give
or you may scan the QR code to the right.***



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YBA Mission Opportunity July 1-8, 2023



The TEAM

You and your student team...

YBA churches

Mission Strategist Marty Childers

Oaxaca National Partners

FBC Oxford Mississippi

Some questions you or others may ask...

Is Oaxaca safe? Short answer is YES!

The long answer is Oaxaca is a world tourist destination because of its food, history, and culture. Tourists are welcomed and security is meant to protect you. There is no visible drug cartel activity in southern Mexico. Oaxaca is the name of the state and city. (Just like New York, New York). Oaxaca City is a major city with a small-town feel.

What are the group rules? Great question!

1. Don't be unwise or cause others to be unwise.
2. If there is a decision to be made, choose the option that is best for our group and not just for you.
3. Whining is not the way – it makes you look bad and annoys those around you.
4. Don't say anything about anyone that you have not said to them.
5. Wear clothes that impress God, not girls or guys. (Raise your hands and touch your toes and if anything shows, then change your clothes.)
6. Whenever you are told to do something with your phone (turn off, turn it in, whatever) do it with a good attitude.
7. Alcohol and tobacco are not allowed on this trip. Don't even think about it.

Who can go?

This project is for students completing grades 9-12 and their parents.

All participants must have a passport that does not expire before February 9, 2024.

Where are we staying? The group will be staying together at a local hotel. We are currently negotiating a contract and we will update you when a decision is made. Each student will have a safe and secure place to sleep. Hot water and WIFI are always a mystery in southern Mexico. We plan to have hot water and WIFI available. But it probably will not work like yours does at home.

Who is supervising the group? Each church is required to have one chaperon per five students. Adults/parents will be at the same hotel as students. And, interpreters will be at the hotel as well. There is an excellent amount of supervision.

What are we eating? Oaxaca is a world class food destination with an abundance of Mexican food options. Even though we do not recommend it, there's also McDonald's, Papa John's, and Subway. There's plenty to eat. AND, we will have snacks (healthy and unhealthy) available at the hotel at all times. Nobody will lose weight on this trip. Go to this website to learn more about food in Oaxaca: <https://uncorneredmarket.com/oaxaca-food/>

What about health care? Each student and adult will be provided with Travel Health Insurance that will reimburse any emergency expense of about \$100. There are excellent healthcare options in Oaxaca. Usually, there are a few who have some stomach issues and those are taken care of quickly with rest and medicine. We hope that a nurse or two will be going with us on this trip.

What about permission to travel? Students who are not traveling with BOTH parents will need a signed affidavit from the parent NOT going that the student has permission to travel. This form will be provided to you by YBA.

WHAT TO BRING!

- Your passport that does not expire before February 9, 2024.
- You are allowed ONE suitcase and one carry on piece of luggage.
- Your own personal water bottle. Most trip illness comes from lack of hydration. DRINK LOTS OF WATER! We will provide water for you!
- Your Bible, notebook, and pens.
- Money for meals while traveling through airports to/from Oaxaca. If bringing credit cards be sure to inform your bank that you are traveling to Mexico.
- At least \$100 for souvenir and fun money. You will be able to exchange dollars to pesos in Oaxaca.
- Your favorite snacks if you're a picky eater.
- Casual clothes. No shorts at ministry sites. Shorts are fine during free time and during training. **Keep everything modest.**
- A backpack to carry your stuff each day.
- Small flashlight. (Your phone may work.)
- A copy of your passport photo page in every piece of luggage and carry-on.
- Oaxaca weather is moderate. It can get chilly in the mountains of Oaxaca so bring a jacket/ sweatshirt.
- ELECTRICITY: The electricity in Oaxaca is 110 volts. You do not need a converter.
- VACCINATIONS: If you are up to date on your USA vaccinations then you are fine to travel to Mexico. Recommended but not required are Tetanus, Typhoid, and Covid.

MINISTRY PROJECTS

Each student and adult will be expected to be a part of all ministry projects. The following ministry projects are being planned:

- Telling Bible Stories.
- Telling how you became a follower of Jesus.
- Prayer Walking.
- Evangelism in the Park.
- Teaching English.
- Sports and Games.
- Arts and Crafts.

You can learn more about Oaxaca at these websites:

<https://www.responsiblevacation.com/vacations/mexico/travel-guide/the-cultural-heritage-of-oaxaca>

<https://www.asmallworld.com/explorer/articles/cultural-highlights-oaxaca>

Fun fact: The movie Nacho Libre was filmed around the city of Oaxaca. You should watch or rewatch it before coming...

What is the COST?

The cost is \$750 plus airfare.

(Estimate total is \$1,550 per person.)

\$750 payment covers meals, lodging, ministry expenses, interpreters, local transportation, and travel health insurance. Meals while traveling through airports to/from Oaxaca are not covered. Students will need approximately \$100 for souvenirs and fun money.

Payment schedule:

\$250 per person is due before 2/15/23.

\$750 payment is due before 4/15/23.

Balance is due 6/1/23.

Partial Financial Scholarships are Available from YBA in certain situations. Contact Marty Childers for more info at YBA office.

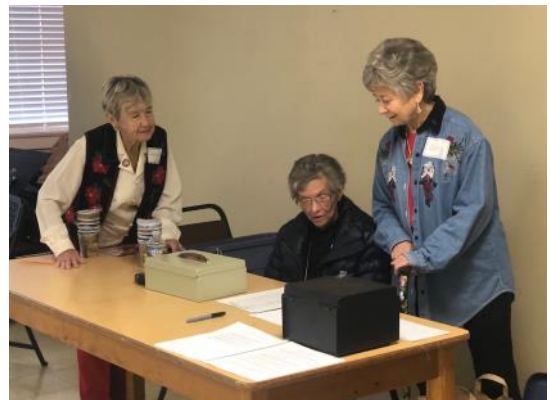
GOT MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact Marty Childers at YBA

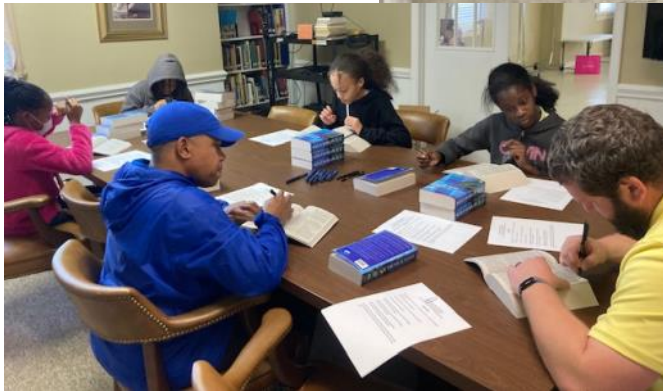
martychilders@yatesba.org



Christmas Toy Store 2022



More Scenes from the 2022 Christmas Toy Store



A special “Thank You” to Braggtown Baptist Church for hosting this year’s Christmas Toy Store. Thank you also to all the volunteers, and to each and every one who donated toys or made financial donations. We are also very appreciative of the students from Gorman Christian Academy who gave their time to help with set up and mark Bibles with the plan of salvation. Because of your generosity and kindness, many families were blessed with a special Christmas this year.



A special “Thank You” from YBA and from the Baptist Children’s Home to everyone who baked cookies. We had some creative bakers this year! YBA delivered 2,177 cookies plus a financial donation to the Mills Home in Kinston. The children and house parents were so grateful for your generous donation of Christmas goodies!

[Becky High-Shipp and Carolyn Taylor counting and packing cookies.]

Upcoming Ministry Opportunities



HAVE YOU
SIGNED UP?

2023 Prayer Emphasis

Let's be on mission together as we pray for unreached people groups in North Carolina, N.C. Baptists missionaries and church planters throughout 2023. To learn more, go to:

PrayNC.org



To learn more about this opportunity, go to:

<https://ncbaptist.org/events/reconstruct-conference/>

YBA PASTORS' GATHERING & LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 2, 2023

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided

Grey Stone Church Family Life Center
2601 Hillsborough Road, Durham, NC 27705

Special Guest: Todd Unzicker
NC Baptist Executive Director-Treasurer

Please RSVP to martychilders@yatesba.org
or office@yatesba.org by Jan. 31



February 20, 2023

Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC

To sign up:

disciplemakingconference.org

YBA Food Pantry



Antioch Baptist Church
1415 Holloway Street
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 688-8893

Food is received and distributed ON THURSDAYS
(10:00 am-12:00 noon).

FIRST QUARTER PANTRY PROVIDERS (JAN-MAR)

Braggtown
Dayspring
Ebenezer
Faith Community

First, Hillsborough
Gospel
Grey Stone
Guess Road

Hanmaum
Harvest Glen
Immanuel
Mount Hermon

Mount Moriah
Rose of Sharon
University

Even if it is not your quarter to supply food, donations are appreciated throughout the year. Thank you!

URGENT NEED! The food pantry is almost empty.
All items (except for can beans) are needed.

Needed items: RICE, PASTA, MEATS, JELLY,
MASHED POTATOES, PASTA SAUCE, CAN FRUITS,
GRITS, OATMEAL, MAC/CHEESE, DRIED BEANS



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

Baptist Children's Homes of NORTH CAROLINA

Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO



The Every Child Initiative

Here's how your church can get involved

Start praying

Pray that God would reveal to you how your church can be part of ministering to children.

Pray for the 15,000+ children in North Carolina who are in need of a home. Pray that they would know the love of Christ and feel it through the local body of believers.

Invite BCH to share at your church

Find a convenient time for a Baptist Children's Homes staff member to come to your church and share about foster care and adoption. It may be on a Sunday morning, Sunday night or a weeknight -- whatever best fits your church.

Here's why having a representative come is important:

It gives your members an opportunity to interact. They not only learn details about how the foster care and adoption process works, but it allows them to ask questions and hear the need firsthand.

God may move in people's hearts. There are people in our pews that God is already calling to this ministry, but they may not recognize it until the need is shared with them. It gives them, as well as your church as a whole, the opportunity to see how God may be leading.

Contact Dr. Mark Smith @ 828-450-9136
to take your next step.

NC Baptist Foundation Scholarships

The NC Baptist Foundation has four educational scholarships available for Baptist students. Applications for these scholarships are online, and were open as of January 1, 2023 and will remain open until the close of business on February 15th, 2023. More detailed information can be found on each scholarship at: <http://ncbaptistfoundation.org/scholarships>. Listed below are some of the features of each scholarship:

Bullard Family Scholarship:

Be committed to preparing for full-time Christian ministry.

Be a member (or parents are a member) of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.

Award ranging between \$500 minimum and \$2,500 maximum.

Martha Watson Scholarship:

Be full-time student at any institution of higher education.

Be a member of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.

Award ranging between \$500 minimum and \$2,500 maximum.

Luther H. Butler Scholarship:

Be a full-time student at a NC Baptist related University.

Be a member of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.

Award ranging between \$500 minimum and \$2,500 maximum.

Mildred France Thomas Music Scholarship:

Be a music major with an interest in piano and / or organ as your medium.

Be a member (or parents are a member) of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.

Award ranging between \$500 minimum and \$2,500 maximum.

CALENDAR OF YBA MEETINGS

JANUARY

Nominations Committee (Zoom) Jan. 5, 10am
 Annual Missions Celebration Comm (Zoom) Jan. 12, 1pm
 Communications Team (Zoom) Jan. 12, 2pm
 MLK Holiday (YBA Office Closed)..... Jan. 16
 Finance Committee Jan. 25, 11am

FEBRUARY

Nominations Committee (Zoom) Feb. 2, 10am
 YBA Pastors Gathering & Luncheon..... Feb. 2, 11am
 Annual Missions Celebration Comm (Zoom) Feb. 9, 1pm
 Communications Team (Zoom) Feb. 9, 2pm
 Associational Leadership Team Feb. 13, 11am
 Senior Adult Luncheon (Location-TBA)..... Feb. 14

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

IRS issues standard mileage rates for 2023

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2023 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2023, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- ◆ 65.5 cents per mile driven for business use
- ◆ 22 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes.
- ◆ 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS....

The **YBA SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON** will be held on Tuesday, February 14. (Location - TBA) Details will be emailed to churches soon.

YBA CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lawrence Road Baptist Church—Part-time Youth Minister needed. Visit the YBA website for job description. (www.yatesba.org/jobopenings) Please send letters of interest and resumes to: Lawrence Road Baptist Church, 1901 Lawrence Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278, ATTN: Deacon Chair or email: secretarylrbc@gmail.com.

Ridgecrest Baptist Church - GriefShare Session Begins Wed., Jan. 11 from 6:30-8:00p.m. and will continue for 13 weeks. Go to GriefShare.org to sign up. Please text or email Jim Burch with any other questions. (919-812-0933, james.burch@duke.edu).

Rose of Sharon Baptist Church - Red Cross Blood Drive Dates: Jan. 4, Feb. 23, Mar. 23, May 30, June 15. Time: 2:30-7:00 pm in gym.