



INFORM ♦ INSPIRE ♦ ENGAGE

January 15, 2014

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina
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Dear Dr. Hovis and the CBFNC Partnership Development Committee:

I am pleased on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of ABPnews/Herald to provide this update to our annual letter outlining some of the ways in which our missional collaboration with CBFNC bore fruit during the 2013 year. Updates are listed as bullet points below.

- On January 1, 2014, a year-long process culminated in the merger of *The Religious Herald* with ABPnews. This historic merger offers a compelling illustration of the collaborative spirit that has characterized the ministries of these two news organizations and our partnership with CBFNC.

The merger grew out of a shared conviction that we could best serve Baptist Christians and churches around the world -- including North Carolina -- by collaborating rather than competing for readers and resources. The merger builds upon our respective strengths while consolidating and streamlining core operations, eliminating duplications, and achieving economies of scale. It also equips us to embrace the challenges of dramatic changes in Baptist life, in religious journalism and in communication technologies.

In particular, the merger reaffirms the critical role which CBFNC holds among ABPnews/Herald's constituencies.

- Among ABPnews' respected lineup of opinion writers and analysts are many with close ties to CBFNC churches and partner institutions. These writers reflect the vibrancy of CBFNC life and enrich the minds of thought leaders in North Carolina and across the nation.
- ABPnews benefitted from the leadership on its governing board of several North Carolina leaders with CBFNC ties. They include Jayne Davis of Wilmington and Bill Wilson of Winston-Salem.
- Our news and feature stories in 2013 covered a wide range of topics. Many of these compelling articles were strengthened by North Carolina sources serving in churches, institutions and ministries with CBFNC ties as well as CBFNC staff.

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- Our coverage of national and state and regional CBF activities keep CBFNC churches abreast of key aspects of this important movement among Baptists.

We look forward to our journey together in service to Christ and to Baptist Christians and churches in 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'D'.

David R. Wilkinson, Executive Director & Publisher
ABPnews/Herald