

A REPORT on the missional collaboration between *Baptists Today* and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

By John D. Pierce, Executive Editor

Baptists Today is grateful for the growing relationship of collaboration between *Baptists Today* and CBFNC to provide effective communications and quality resources to congregations. This collaboration — built on trust, competence and mutual benefit — is a model for the kind of partnering relationships described in CBF 2012 Task Force report.

CONGREGATIONS

BT and CBFNC share a common commitment to serve congregations. This collaboration is squarely aimed at providing a quality news journal — with important information on trends and resources that impact congregational life, as well as a superb Bible study curriculum for adults and youth.

The Nurturing Faith Bible Studies by Tony Cartledge of Campbell University Divinity School are used in a growing number of N.C. churches. These materials assure church leaders that participants are learning from a trusted Baptist Bible scholar who respects the intelligence of class members.

The North Carolina edition of the news journal allows for inclusion of state-based content in every issue — with some stories shared with a national audience. *Baptists Today* news journal has more subscribers in North Carolina than any other state.

STEWARDSHIP

Communication between staff members of CBFNC and *Baptists Today* is open, frequent and healthy. This allows for the free sharing of ideas and the exploration of new ways to enhance collaboration.

Baptists Today takes financial stewardship very seriously. COO Julie Steele administers the organization's operations that include monthly use of a CPA, oversight from a Budget/Finance subcommittee of the Board of Directors, and an annual, independent audit.

The North Carolina edition of *Baptists Today*— with the Nurturing Faith Bible Studies — is made possible by funding from CBFNC. Financial support from organizations and individuals also allows *Baptists Today* to expand the resources provided to churches through a new subsidiary, Nurturing Faith, Inc.

In 2012, the first Nurturing Faith book titles were released. Other books are moving quickly through the process — including titles by authors connected to CBFNC.

As funds become available, other church resources will be developed. For example, *Baptists Today* has acquired rights to an excellent church-based children's curriculum that can become a Nurturing Faith resource for faith development.

LEADERSHIP

Baptists Today has two staff persons — Tony Cartledge and Kim Hovis — based in North Carolina. Six members of the current Board of Directors live in the state: Kelly Belcher (Asheville), Jack Causey (Statesville), James Dunn (Winston-Salem), Jack

Glasgow (Zebulon), Lee Royal (Greensboro) and Charlotte Cook Smith (Winston-Salem).

PARTNERSHIP

Baptists Today and CBFNC work cooperatively on several levels — in addition to the content in the news journal.

Rick Jordan of CBFNC writes teaching plans for each of the Nurturing Faith Bible Studies. These are part of a package of online teaching resources (at nurturingfaith.net) to assist teachers in preparing to teach the weekly Bible Lessons by Tony Cartledge.

Also, Rick provides training for Sunday school teachers in North Carolina and other states. These training sessions are co-sponsored by CBFNC and *Baptists Today*.

Currently, CBFNC and *Baptists Today* leaders are discussing new ways to collaborate for the benefit of congregations.