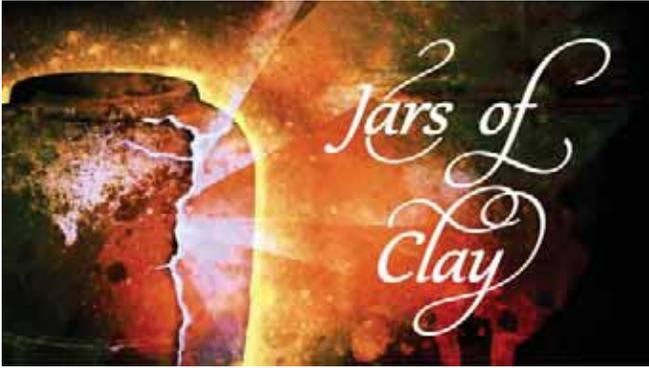




Carolina Connection

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina



For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

~2 Corinthians 4:6-9

Did you know that you contain a precious treasure? Even though each of you is "precious in His sight," that is not to what I am referring. In today's age, we often tend to focus on "me, me, me" when it is really all about "Him, Him, Him!" And if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we have the light of God's glory shining in us. He has redeemed us for a greater purpose in this life. But why would He choose to use us? We are only jars of clay, an earthen vessel, broken, chipped, and dirty. I'm reminded of 1 Samuel 16:7. *"People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."* Just like in the very beginning of creation, God has made something out of nothing. He uses our everyday stories to point to His Story! It's not because WE are precious. Just the opposite. In Corinthians, Paul explains *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him"* (1 Corinthians 1:27-29)

If you tell "your story" to others and imply that YOU are the treasure, then you get the glory. But if you tell people about what God has done through your nothing (your redeemed earthen vessel that contains His precious treasure), then you give God the glory. This fulfills the purpose for which God made us, and it makes sense of all those cracks that exist in our clay pot. I don't know about you, but I am definitely a "cracked pot," and although it is sometimes difficult to admit, I am thankful for those cracks. If we were perfectly sculpted, beautifully painted, and shining polished vessels, what purpose would we have but to sit and look pretty on a shelf. Often times we try to cover up those cracks so that no one can see our flaws. We want to be the perfect Christian. When the fact of the matter is that God often allows us to be cracked or even broken so that others can see His light through us. Yes, we are hard pressed on every side, perplexed, persecuted and struck down; but thanks be to God, we are not crushed, not in despair, not abandoned nor destroyed! Do you feel like a broken, cracked pot that is of little value, useless and rejected? Remember God chose you, so let His light shine through you!

Please know that your Executive Committee is praying for each of you. We are also praying that if it is God's will, you will be able to attend the conference this fall. God has once again answered our prayers and sent us an incredible keynote speaker, Dawn Smith Jordan. Her testimony and teaching has been such an inspiration to me and I know it will be to you as well. May God bless you always!

Teresa



The marvelous thing about God is that the deeper the tragedy, the greater the grace. Dawn Smith Jordan is no stranger to both. On May 31, 1985, Dawn's younger sister, Shari, was kidnapped and murdered just two days before her high school graduation. It caused the largest manhunt in South Carolina's history, drawing national attention.

Shari's murderer allowed her to write a letter of farewell to her family, saying: "Please don't let this ruin your lives. Just keep living one day at a time for Jesus. Remember, everything works out for the good to those that love the Lord. Some good will come of this." Never could Dawn or her family have realized how even God could do just that.

With the hope only found in Jesus Christ, Dawn went on to become Miss South Carolina 1986 and 2nd runner-up to Miss America. The Billy Graham Crusade came to South Carolina that same year, and millions were touched by Dawn's testimony, and her singing of "Amazing Grace." God was weaving all of these circumstances together to form a full-time ministry that would reach thousands throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 1986, Dawn received a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Columbia College in Columbia, SC. Today, Dawn ministers in up to 75 concerts/events annually. The heartbeat of her music and message is the sufficiency of God's grace, even to the point of forgiving the man who killed her sister.



Registration & First Timers

A BIG thank you to those who have already sent in your registration and deposit for our upcoming NCBSA Conference. As with past conferences, November 12-14, 2018 will be a time to remember. If you have not registered yet, early registration is still open! A \$50 deposit will hold your spot and the balance may be paid periodically, with final payment due by September 30. If you are unable to attend this year's conference, you can still be a member of the NCBSA. Just remember to send in your annual membership dues of only \$30. This helps with the administrative costs of the NCBSA. As a reminder, only active members qualify to serve as future officers.

Whether you are a secretary, treasurer, office manager, ministry assistant, or volunteer, this is a great time to be a part of the NCBSA. Come to Caraway and enjoy God's beauty! If you have been before, you know that the NCBSA Conference is a way to make new friends as well as reconnect with old ones, be encouraged, learn how to better minister to others, etc. That's why it is so important to invite a First Timer to attend this year. Each First Timer will be assigned a mentor who will help her find her room, show her around the area, and be on hand to answer any questions she may have. In order to make each First Timer feel special and welcome, we need several current members to prayerfully consider saying "yes" to being a mentor.

Your officers have been working diligently and are super excited that it is all coming together. Already we have seen God's mighty hand at work! We have prayerfully considered each and every evaluation sheet and are implementing changes as needed for the conference. Please be in prayer for us as we strive to make this conference an experience of spiritual, professional, and personal enrichment along with lots of fun and fellowship for all.

Don't forget to send in your registration and invite a First Timer!



We are excited to be back at Caraway Conference Center this year! The majority of our activities will take place in the same building that houses the rooms, with the exception of our General Sessions. These will be a short walk across the driveway in Hollifield Hall. All rooms come equipped with irons, ironing boards, and hair dryers. There are no TVs or coffee makers in the rooms. Courtesy coffee is available around the clock in the lobby. There is also a single serve coffee maker for guest use in the lobby. You can purchase K-Cups from the Conference Center for \$1.00 each or feel free to bring your own.

All meals will be served in the dining room. Caraway has changed the way it serves meals, so we will be eating buffet style rather than cafeteria style as we have in the past. There is also a full salad bar available at every lunch and dinner.

We will have our Banquet on Tuesday evening. We encourage everyone to dress in their Sunday best for this meal. It makes it feel so much more special!

If you're looking for something to do during your Free Time, Caraway's grounds are full of hiking trails (a map of these trails will be provided in your Conference Notebook). The Center is also a fairly short drive from Asheboro and Seagrove (the pottery capital of the USA).



We are so looking forward to spending time with all of you in this beautiful setting. If you haven't registered yet, please do so as soon as you can. It wouldn't be the same without you!

Alicia



Send Us Your Photos!

We will be doing our own photo directory again this year. If you are happy with the picture we used last year, you don't have to do anything! We will reuse what photos we have. If you did not submit a photo last year or would like to change your photo, please send those to ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com.



This year's mission emphasis is one that serves everyone in our communities. Crime destroys not only the lives of victims, inmates and the inmate's family, it negatively impacts the economy and quality of life. The Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries exists to minister to the incarcerated women, men, and young people in Forsyth County. Based on Christian principles and with Christians serving as chaplains and volunteers, the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries,

with the support of many churches and people in the community, seeks to lead those incarcerated into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and growth in Christ. This ministry also seeks to create the atmosphere necessary for reconciliation, a fresh beginning, and an end to the cycle of crime and punishment. We hope you will prayerfully consider giving a donation to this organization when you attend the 2018 conference this fall.

In addition to monetary donations, we will be collecting the following hygiene items for the inmates:

- Antiperspirant deodorant, stick or solid only (no gel)
- Toothpaste, 6-8 oz.
- Soap, bath size
- Shampoo, regular size bottle

Rodney Stillwell, Senior Chaplain with the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries, will be joining us for this year's conference. He's been with the organization since 1985, and over these years his greatest joy has been to see men and women leave incarceration to find their places in God's community. He uses his pottery skills to reach people often forgotten by society: the prisoners of North Carolina's jails, prisons, and detention centers. Those of you who have attended past secretaries' conferences may remember him as "the potter" and we are so excited that he will be taking time out of his schedule to lead breakout sessions again this year.

And it is our prayer that YOU will be able to take time out of your busy schedule to join us at Caraway for what promises to be another wonderful time of worship, fellowship, renewal, and rest. To God be the glory for the things He has done!

Karoline

2018 Executive Committee



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2018 NCBSA Conference November 12-14 at Caraway

Name: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Mailing Address (work): _____

City, Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Position: _____

E-Mail Address: (Required): _____

Association: _____

Room mate(s): _____

NEED Private Room (Enclose additional \$85): _____

Physical Needs: _____

Food Allergies: _____

Is this your first time attending a NCBSA Conference? _____

Would you serve as a mentor to a First Timer? _____

TOTAL COST: \$225.00 (includes membership and conference fee, room at conference center, and meals).

PRIVATE ROOM - additional \$85 (If you do not have a roommate in mind and do not want a private room, a roommate can be assigned to you.)

COMMUTERS: \$160.00 (includes membership and conference fee, Monday dinner, Tuesday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Wednesday breakfast and lunch).

We encourage you to register early!

A \$50.00 deposit, along with the completed registration form, reserves your spot.

Amount enclosed: _____

Installments are acceptable.

Final payment due September 30.

Make checks payable to NCBSA.

Mail to:

**Rachel Sanders
c/o Bethlehem Baptist Church
100 Half Moon Church Rd.
Jacksonville, NC 28546**

Refunds for Cancellations

(excludes \$30 membership fee)

Before July 31: 100% refund

August 1–September 30: 60% refund

After September 30: No refunds



This is being delivered via email to reduce our budget cost. It is also available on our website, www.ncbaptistsecretaries.net. If you know anyone else who would like to receive our newsletter, please forward this to them. Also, contact Alicia Ashley at ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com with their name and email and she will get them added to our mailings.
Many Thanks!

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