

however, we pledge to maintain the highest levels of journalistic integrity, ethics and excellence so that the BR remains a source of news and information that N.C. Baptists can trust.

Respectfully submitted,

Devin Goins, Chairman, Board of Directors  
Chad Austin, Managing Editor, *Biblical Recorder*

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## FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE



Fruitland Baptist Bible College has educated and trained many pastors throughout North Carolina for more than 75 years. Over these many years FBBC has also trained many men and women whom God has called into ministry and missions around the state and the world. FBBC has graduates across the globe faithfully serving Christ and making a difference for the kingdom of God. Fruitland has some great reasons for celebration for the 2023-2024 year:

- program development
- recruitment
- student activities
- special days
- community service
- conferences
- camps

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The 2023 Fruitland Graduation ceremony was held on Sept. 15, 2023. 22 students received the Associate of Religion/Christian Ministry degree. 11 students in the Hispanic program were awarded the Certificate of Christian leadership and Diploma in Christian Ministry.

Fruitland Baptist Bible College added several new features over the past year as the administration and staff continued to develop the educational program. The online Biblical Exposition class offered a hybrid opportunity for the students. Students in the Biblical Exposition classes met one Saturday on campus for a face-to-face experience with the professor. The students enjoyed this opportunity, and FBBC will offer more classes in the hybrid model in the future.

FBBC also began a new certificate program called The Certificate in Ministry Essentials. The Ministry Essentials Certificate is designed to help the bi-vocational and small church pastor. The program allows students to gain practical ministry education, Bible knowledge and spiritual growth through an online, residency and person-to-person experience without having to move their family to campus. The program started with more than 70 students.



The 2023 Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to Don Holder and Paul Pruitt. These men have blessed FBBC over the years with support and recruitment of new students. The Advancing Fruitland Award was given to Elinore Reuss for her generosity in providing scholarship money to the Fruitland students. Her impact on the lives of our students is greatly appreciated.

The Hispanic program at FBBC awarded the Certificate of Christian Leadership and the Diploma in Christian Ministry to eleven students during the 2023 Graduation ceremony. Robert Fernandez, the FBBC Director of Spanish Theological Education, is a blessing to the ministry of Fruitland. Fernandez oversees the Certificate program, the Diploma Program and the online Associate degree program for Hispanic students around the state and around the world. In August 2023, the FBBC Hispanic Program sponsored a conference for Hispanic students and Christians in the region.

Simon Touprong is the Fruitland Director for the Montagnard Program. God has blessed FBBC with a great group of Montagnard students who are learning to spread the Gospel around North Carolina and the World.

The administration and staff at FBBC were involved in various recruitment opportunities during 2023-2024. Fruitland was present for the Polk County Schools Career and College Day as well as the Summit College Fair at Thomas Road Baptist Church.

The school sponsored a trip to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Preview Day which allowed our students to experience the atmosphere at Southeastern as they make future decisions concerning continuing their education. FBBC also sent representatives to Caswell during the 2023 Summer season in order to recruit potential students at the BeDoTell Summer Youth Camps. The FBBC staff also had the privilege to spend three days at the Journey Summer Youth Camps at Toccoa Falls College this past summer. They were allowed to present the FBBC program to students at the college.

FBBC has also expanded and enhanced the student activities offered to our campus students. Fruitland has redesigned our orientation for new students at the beginning of each quarter in order to make orientation an entire one-day event which students and parents can enjoy together as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We also sponsored a Super Bowl Party and Game Night for the students in February. FBBC added two Pickle Ball Courts to the campus and hosted a Pickle Ball Tournament and Family Night this past Spring. The school offers a Bible study each Wednesday for our female students. The students also lead a chapel service each Thursday evening. FBBC offers a Men's Recovery Group meeting twice each week for students who had dependency issues in the past. The staff also took the students to an Asheville Tourist Baseball game, which was an event the students enjoyed. FBBC students enjoyed a mission trip to New York in November 2023.

This past February was a special event at FBBC. Dr. Francois Carr spent time in Chapel and after Chapel with our students and faculty as he encouraged them to seek a closer walk with God. Dr. Carr is the founder and director of two ministries called Heart Cry and The Connected Life. These ministries concentrate on helping people to experience more intimacy with God and mentoring spiritual leaders and churches to become catalysts for revival. Heart Cry co-sponsors conferences in the USA, Europe and Africa.

During the first week in March, FBBC honored our part-time employees with an Employee Appreciation Day. Fruitland is blessed to have maintenance, cafeteria, and cleaning



staff who serve the school in very important and necessary ways. We are so thankful for their contribution to the ministry of Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

On March 12, 2024, Fruitland hosted the 1st Annual Prayer Breakfast for the Henderson County Sheriff's Department. FBBC is thankful for the sacrificial service our local law enforcement professionals offer to our community. We were very blessed to have them on our campus for this special day of prayer.

Alumni Day was a very special event last year on the Campus at FBBC. Merritt Taylor, the Alumni Association President, and the Alumni Association officers planned a wonderful time of worship around the Word of God. Michael Smith, one of our retired professors, gave some very encouraging words from the Bible. Dr. Smith had a tremendous impact on the students at Fruitland and is still involved in the lives of our students in retirement. Clayton King also spoke on Alumni Day and his words were profound and powerful. His love for Fruitland and his encouragement is always welcome and beneficial to the work of FBBC.

On May 7, 2024, Fruitland sponsored her annual Founder's Day Celebration. Quintell Hill and David McKinley were the speakers and their messages greatly blessed everyone. Jesse, Mandy, and Dennis Horton led worship for this special day were a tremendous blessing.

The faculty and staff at FBBC were able to participate in the Disciple-Making Conference in Charlotte, N.C. this year, as well. Several of our professors taught classes at the conference and our staff also recruited at the conference. Some of our staff were also able to attend and promote Fruitland at the Mission Conference in April 2024.

FBBC sponsored a "Make Disciples Student Conference" on the Campus in the Spring 2024 Quarter. This conference was established by the faculty and students in the "Youth Ministry 301-302" class at Fruitland. The event was a great success and many students from the surrounding area attended.

Fruitland Baptist Bible College, BSCNC and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary participated together to sponsor the "Leading through Preaching Bible Conference" on the Campus at FBBC. The featured speakers were, Dr. Danny Akin, Dr. Scott Pace and Dr. Chuck Lawless. Professors and personnel from SEBTS, FBBC and BSCNC led various breakout sessions for the event as well.

FBBC hosted various summer camps on campus this year. On July 9 – 15, the Deep Impact Kids camp enjoyed a week on our campus. The following week of June 9 – 22 the Deep Impact Students met on the campus. Clearview Baptist Mission Camp held a week of camps during the last week in June. These camps served the community in the area and spent time in Bible study and worship. Many children and young adults were impacted through decisions for Christ and ministry.

## CONCLUSION

God has truly blessed Fruitland Baptist Bible College throughout 2023-2024. Our students, staff, administration, and faculty have worked together in a wonderful way to make this year a success. Dr. David Horton, our president, is very thankful for the presence of the Lord on our campus and has some great plans and goals for the coming years. One of the most important initiatives for Dr. Horton in the coming years is the need to organize and take a proactive role in filling the vacant pulpits throughout the State. Fruitland, under the direction of

Dr. Horton, is preparing more certificate programs and hybrid classes in the coming year which have the capacity to mobilize in the regions around the state. Dr. Horton is also working to produce "The Fruitland Podcast" which will feature Dr. Horton interviewing students, professors and alumni as well as other guests. Please pray for FBBC as she begins on sending more students as pastors in our churches.