



# General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

THE BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS

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## Report to the General Board

### Storm Status and Reports

Monday, April 18, 2011

To: The General Board  
General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

From: Haywood T. Gray  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Please receive the following information as updates to the information that has come to my attention since Saturday's storms across North Carolina:

#### Baptist Headquarters

- Although the Baptist Headquarters building was near the center of the tornado that touched downtown Raleigh, the building suffered no damage from the storm.
- Headquarters was open on Sunday and manned by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer to give support to the staff and students who remained on the Shaw University campus.
- The EST has offered office space to Shaw administrators as power is still out in many buildings on campus.
- Headquarters staff members are safe. No staff has reported serious damage to their homes. The neighborhoods where the EST and Mrs. Sherry Wiggins (WBH&FMC staff) live were both hit by the storm. EST spent Saturday night away from his home; traffic flow has not been restored to Mrs. Wiggins' neighborhood as of Sunday afternoon.
- The Baptist Headquarters will be open for business during normal hours beginning Monday, April 18.

#### Shaw University

- The University sustained extensive damage and has been closed as of April 17 at noon. It appears that a tornado touched down on the student quad (which is surrounded on three sides by the Student Center, Newsome (Women's) Dormitory and Fleming-Key (Men's) Dormitory).
- The EST was on the campus on Saturday night from approximately 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. speaking and comforting students and staff. Some students expressed various immediate needs since many were unable to get into their dormitories on Saturday night. The EST helped to meet some of those needs and concerns; he made a cell phone available so students could call parents/relatives; he listened to amazing stories of grace as students and staff shared their experiences.
- Governor Perdue and Senator Hagan both visited the campus on Sunday.

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**HOWARD W. PARKER, JR.**  
President

**HAYWOOD T. GRAY**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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### **Raleigh**

- Areas of Raleigh were hard hit in the weekend storms and tornadoes. Areas of the city remain with out power and some neighborhoods are closed to traffic.
- A significant section of downtown Raleigh was still without electric power on Sunday afternoon. Some traffic lights along major corridors in the city are not operating.
- The EST will be in touch with pastors in Raleigh throughout the day to assess areas affected and inquire where GBSC can be helpful in the Capital City area.

### **Holly Springs**

- The EST has been in touch with Rev. Otis G. Byrd (Pastor of First Baptist Church, Holly Springs) who has reported damage to his Church and several homes. EST will follow-up with Rev. Byrd to see if there are instances where GBSC can offer assistance.

### **Sanford**

- The EST has been in touch with Dr. Thomas Smith (Pastor of First Calvary Baptist Church, Sanford) who has reported that most of the damage in Sanford is in the commercial area. However, Dr. Smith has agreed to investigate loss in Sanford area and will report instances where GBSC may be of assistance to persons affected.

### **Bertie County**

- The EST has been in touch with Dr. Ricky L. Banks (GBSC Second Vice President) who has reported extensive damage in Bertie County. It appears that the highest death toll from across the State comes from Bertie County.

### **Cumberland County**

- The EST has been in touch with Dr. Matthew Rouse, Jr. (Pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Raeford) who has reported damage in some areas of Cumberland County. EST will follow-up to see if there are instances where GBSC can offer assistance.

President Parker continues to be engaged and the EST is providing daily briefs and updates to the President and the Vice Presidents. The EST will continue to make contact with areas affected across the State and will update the General Board as appropriate.

*Haywood T. Gray*

(Rev.) Haywood T. Gray  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer