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Office of University Communications

August 20, 2012

Pastor Greg Laurie to Appear Live Via Satellite on Aug. 26 at Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Members of the community are invited to participate in an event that organizers say could bring more than five million people together and ultimately lead more than a half-million people to Christ.

The Harvest Crusades have been held for the past 22 years in cities all over the world, where over 4.4 million people have gathered to hear a gospel message by Pastor Greg Laurie. This year, as part of a larger outreach initiative called "Harvest America," Laurie will share the good news with thousands of attendees at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, Calif., while hundreds of thousands more are expected to watch online or with church groups in their own communities.

Over 1,400 churches, community teams, and other groups all over the nation are serving as host sites for the Harvest America crusade, and Gardner-Webb University is no exception. In partnership with several churches in the community, the University will offer citizens in the region an opportunity to be a part of what some are calling the largest evangelical effort in modern church history.

"At last year's Harvest, individuals watched the live stream broadcast from every state of the union and 32 countries around the world," Laurie said. "Now this year, with HD-quality video available through Internet streaming and satellite, people will fill churches, theaters, coffee houses, and living rooms, linking together as One Church in thousands of locations as part of the Harvest America event."

The mission of Harvest America is one day, one church, one message. "Our hope is that Harvest America is not only a night of fun and excitement but a night of encouragement for Americans who are struggling financially, relationally, physically and spiritually," Laurie explained. "We understand that life is hard and sometimes turns out differently than we had planned. However, we believe that people can find hope and joy, despite their struggles, when they know Jesus Christ."

The Harvest America crusade will kick off on Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center on the Gardner-Webb campus, beginning with a mass choir involving representatives from churches all over Cleveland County. The Harvest America feed will start at 8 p.m. Overflow seating, if needed, will be available at Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

For more information, or to find out about other host sites in the community, email Tom Runyon at harvestclevelandcounty@gmail.com or visit harvestamerica.com.