

Kempsville Baptist Church Sponsors DC Planter



Angel Serrano (right) is the church planter of The Father's Heart Ministry Center.

SPONSORSHIP IS MORE THAN JUST AN ITEM ON A TO-DO LIST

When Kempsville Baptist Senior Pastor Dr. Kelly Burris heard that the SBC of Virginia was sponsoring a “DC Vision Tour,” his heart was stirred. The DC Vision Tour, held in March 2014, was a tour of the greater Washington DC area by pastors, staff, and key leaders of SBC of Virginia churches to show the opportunity to be involved in church planting activity in that area. Participants were afforded the opportunity to see different people groups that were currently engaged through church planters sponsored by the SBC of Virginia. Participants were also shown how they could become partners in reaching diverse people groups through church planting sponsorship in the DC area.

Accompanying Dr. Kelly Burris was Missions and Education Pastor Tim Zittle.

“It was incredible to see at the Vision Tour how our church could be involved in reaching internationals for Christ without getting on a plane and flying half way around the world,” Pastor Zittle shared.

“It opened our eyes to realize these people were within a three or four hour drive from our church! We were very excited about the possibility of getting involved.”

Planter Angel Serrano Jr. was one of the church planters featured at the DC Vision Tour. Pastor Serrano is lead planter at “The Father’s Heart Ministry Center,” which is a work among Hispanics in Manassas, VA just a few miles from DC.

“When we heard his story we felt drawn,” Pastor Zittle shared. “We invited Angel to come share with our church and he did. The Lord settled it in our heart, and this was how He was calling us to be involved.”

Kempsville was determined to make their sponsorship more than just an item that was checked off its to-do list.

“We realized that financial partnership is a huge part of the equation. But we wanted our sponsorship to be about more than just money,” Pastor Zittle shared.

Two weeks before Christmas Pastor Angel invited a team of people from Kempsville

“
It opened our eyes to realize these people were within a three- or four-hour drive from our church!”

Pastor Tim Zittle

to come up and help with an outreach project his church was doing in the community. They simply called it “The Christmas Outreach Project.” It involved collecting toys that were handed out to children at an event, and the gospel was presented. Kempsville sent 49 people from their church to help with the event.

“What a great blessing it was for our folks to not only hear about church planting in the DC area, but to experience it for a day,” he shared.