



## Acts 1:8 Families



# Mission Project Revived

The SBC of Virginia's Acts 1:8 Families event was scheduled to take place in July. This annual mission project, designed to afford families the opportunity to participate in mission work together, had typically been held in the Appalachian Region. This year's project, however, was slated for the DC area to help Impact Church, a church plant in Centreville, VA, offer a soccer camp as a community outreach. With registrations for Acts 1:8 Families lacking by June, the SBCV made the difficult decision to cancel the project.

Enter Bethel Baptist Church in Chesapeake, VA. When they learned the project had been cancelled, their hearts were grieved. For previous Acts 1:8 Families events, Bethel members have made up a greater portion of the team than any other church, and several families have attended every year. Those families had a passion for this year's mission too and approached their pastor, Dr. Marcus Bridges, to ask, "Can we possibly resurrect this project?"

Pastor Marcus contacted church planter Brandon Hembree at Impact Church, and the project suddenly came back to life. Fifteen people from Bethel quickly signed up to go, and details were coordinated for a July 9–12 trip. The Bethel team and members from

Impact Church distributed flyers in the community to advertise the soccer camp and share about Impact Church. The Bethel team helped with the soccer camp and also went door to door, giving away watermelons and inviting people to Impact Church.

"I am so proud of our people and their heart for mission work," says Pastor Marcus. "They have really embraced the concept of families doing mission work together and did not want to see this project die."

Church planter Brandon Hembree was most grateful. "We appreciate our partnership with the people at Bethel. They really stepped up and, as a result, we were able to invite hundreds of people to Impact Church and ultimately to Jesus Christ. We had several visitors the following weeks because they received a watermelon or church invitation, and they got to hear the Gospel!"

"Planting churches in the DC area requires all hands on deck," says Hembree, and Bethel Baptist Church provided many hands to help. Their diligence helped Impact Church, blessed the community, and made an eternal investment.