Editor's Letter

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Finding LOST THINGS

On February 13th, my family and I joined thousands of others to rally and walk at the 2020 March for Life. It was a privilege to converge on the capitol in Richmond to say (and shout) unequivocally that we believe in life because we believe our Creator created all of life. I'm thankful that we, as the churches of the SBC of Virginia, have the opportunity to band together around important Biblical tentpoles and show the world our unity and love. (more information about the March for Life on page 12)

While marching around the streets of Richmond in a slight drizzle that afternoon, my 7 year-old daughter, Lily, dropped a stuffed animal she was holding and didn't notice it until a little later. When they went back to search for it, it was gone. My wife, Wendy, said to a sad second grader to pray and believe that God would somehow bring it back to her. By the time they reached the end of the march, there was still no stuffed animal. While waiting against a metal fence near the capitol for me, Lily noticed the young woman beside her had something that looked familiar. This stranger, who had been marching in a different group and a different time, approached Lily. She had in her hand Lily's stuffed animal. Lily was so happy when her lost item was returned — and truthfully, so were we. Does God answer the prayers of His children? Yes! Does He care about lost things? Absolutely!

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables — all about lost things: a sheep, a coin, and a son. In each story, there was

such sadness when these things were lost. When the lost item was found there was much rejoicing. In fact, the person who found their lost item asked others to rejoice with them and even threw a celebration.

God has placed each of us in a mission field with people who are lost. SBC of Virginia churches are currently using two resources to help train and encourage us to get out into that mission field. Missions such as Who's Your ONE? and Bless Every Home gets us thinking about that "one lost sheep" needing to be found and then to take action steps to pray for, care for, share with, and then disciple those friends, neighbors, and co-workers. In just a little more than a year, we've seen almost 190,000 homes that are now directly "adopted." We've had dozens of training sessions and prayer times. Many church members have identified their "one" and are now actively praying and sharing their faith.

The need is so great. But there is a real, renewed sense of urgency in SBC of Virginia churches about this need and that the time is short. Let us not forget to rejoice and celebrate what God has done and what He is doing as each church focuses on evangelism and as each "one" comes to faith in Christ. I know heaven is rejoicing. ■

Breaking DOWN WALLS

Just the very word racism can be a buzzword. It also can be a difficult issue to talk about. It causes us to reflect on the condition of our hearts and challenges our belief: Do we really see others as God does?

The theme for the Women's Ministry dinner at the Annual Homecoming was Breaking Down the Dividing Walls. Eydie Thomas, wife of **First Baptist Church of Norfolk**'s senior pastor and former SBCV president, and Doris McFarland, wife of **Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church**'s pastor and current SBCV president, shared their personal journeys in dealing with the issue of racism.

Eydie and Doris began meeting almost a year ago to prepare for how they would discuss this topic. It was through these meetings that God knitted together the hearts of these women from different racial backgrounds. As they openly confessed their personal struggles with racism, God challenged their beliefs. "In over 25 years of ministry to women, I have never seen more open and honest communication between two women," said Donna Paulk, Women's Ministry Strategist, SBCV.

According to God's Word, we are one in Christ: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) Our heavenly father makes no distinctions between races, but we do?

Doris McFarland said, "No one wants to admit they are prejudiced or bias. Deep wounds need healing, but we must remember that God can 'heal the brokenhearted and bind their wounds.' (Psalms 147:3). As Eydie and I planned for the conference, there was a great sense for tearing down walls that have separated us for so long. We are more confident of God's message, that love is the greatest gift. (1 Corinthians 13:13) 'Love covers a multitude of sins.'" ■