2019 | VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2 | Telling the stories of Vision Virginia

Team **Planting** From Roleigh to Charlottesville Help, Healing, & Hope Disaster Relief across

the Nation

Picking Missed Fruit

A legacy left in Zimbabwe



You are not alone.

PROCLAIMER

Summer 2019

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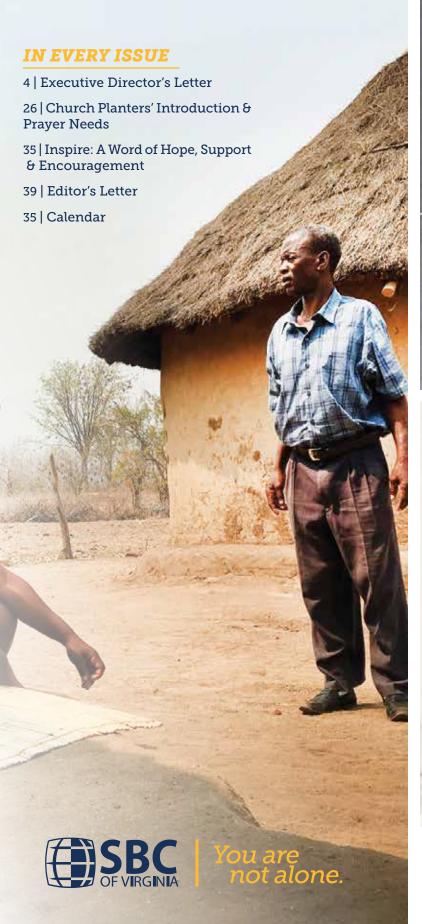
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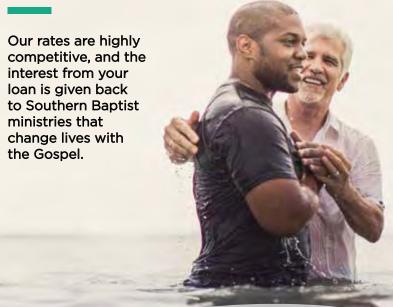
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CHURCH LOANS THAT CHANGE LIVES





CONTACT: Eddie Urbine 804.270.1848 or foundation@SBCV.org

Executive Director's Letter

You Are Not Alone As You Go

In Hyman Alterman's book, "Counting People,"

he estimates that there were more than one-fourth billion people on the earth at the beginning of the Christian era — more than 250 million people.

It is believed that the book of Acts was written in about AD 60. In AD 48, the Roman emperor Claudius ordered a general census of the Roman Empire. In the census, the males between 17 and 60 years of age were counted. There were 5,984,200 of them.

The point is this: The task, the mission, which had been set before those 120 Christians was enormous — impossible in human terms. "Evangelize Jerusalem," Jesus said, "and all Judea and Samaria, and even the uttermost part of the earth."

And do you know what happened? By Acts 19:10, you read that they essentially fulfilled this mission. They basically evangelized the world in which they lived. Do you know how they did it? They did it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This edition of the *Proclaimer* shares stories and opportunities for the church to go beyond our walls and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You are not alone as you go and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You are not alone because Jesus has given you, a follower of Christ, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit fills us as Christians with power.

Acts 1:8 tells us, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

The Holy Spirit gives us our purpose. Acts 1:8 continues, "and you will be my witnesses..."

The Holy Spirit directs our plans. Acts 1:8 concludes with, "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV)

SBC of Virginia is a convention, a fellowship, a family (if I may be so bold as to use that metaphor) of churches. We strengthen, mobilize, plant, and revitalize churches, together, as we seek to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. We are not alone as we do this task. But, most of all, remember that because of the Holy Spirit, as you go, You Are Not Alone.

Your brother in Christ,

BRIAN AUTRY





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Love the **PEOPLE!**

66...the church became known as a group of people who truly cared about others. 99

Love the people — that's what has been ing local shops, but most came through happening at Franklin Heights Baptist word of mouth. The word about Franklin **Church** through a newly launched ministry to local internationals. The ministry began just under one year ago as Program Director Carolyn Barr mobilized the congregation to serve the community through offering English as a Second Language (ESL). SBCV trainers, Jim and Susan Austin, responded to the church's invitation to train the interested volunteers in ESL. With training completed and volunteers equipped to lead, a new ministry was born that would soon birth new life.

Just seven people came to the first ESL session offered by Franklin Heights. A year later, more than four times that amount come on a regular basis. Some members joined after seeing fliers or from contact-

Heights quickly spread as the church became known as a group of people who truly cared about others. Through conversational English lessons, students naturally shared about life and needs. Understanding and knowing the students' needs turned into a ministry opportunity. For example, the church began providing dinner during the ESL sessions to help students not go hungry. Teachers helped families run errands and special sessions were held to help navigate community resources such as hospitals and schools. In all of these things, the hands and feet of Christ were at work in families from around the world, who now live in Rocky Mount, Virginia.

Tilling hands and planted feet softened the soil for the Word of God to take root. With each English lesson, students also heard a Bible lesson and were challenged to memorize Scripture. Through learning to trust their teachers and the message they taught, five students have trusted in Christ and received baptism. Two new international families are now a regular part of the Franklin Heights fellowship. One year, two families and five baptisms — with an endless supply of opportunity as the nations continue to be found next door.

"Bury yourself in Christ and just love," says Barr. "It's all about Jesus." And as He made plain — they will know we are His by our love. ■

RESOURCE:

Interested in hosting your own ESL training, or want to attend one? To learn more, visit:



Bury yourself in Christ and just love.







Spreading God's Word to an Unreached People Group

ollowers of Christ are called to actively spread God's words and love to bring about spiritual transformation in the world whether it be our loved ones or strangers from another country. God is moving the nations so that all will hear, and we, as Christians, have been commissioned to advance His Kingdom until He returns (Matthew 28:18-20). But, did you know that God is bringing some of the least reached people groups in the world to be our neighbors? One of those unreached people groups is the Mixtec people from Oaxaca, Mexico. Much to the surprise of the members of Bethany Place Baptist Church, they have been given the opportunity to serve as God's missionaries to the Mixtec people — in Richmond, Virginia

Can you be a missionary and not leave home?

The term "missionary" is defined as "a person sent by a church into an area to carry on evangelism or other activities," according to dictionary.com. Bethany Church Mission Team Member Kim Satterwhite said, "I have always been fascinated by missionary stories, but I always thought that was work God had given to someone else. I listened and felt almost jealous because God had called them to serve people who are not like us, while I was as unequipped. I was amazed that God could and even would use me — a homeschool mom with no missionary skills and no seminary training." Kim organized the first Richmond Mixtec Summit. God used her to equip others and prepare them to serve.

It was stunning to learn that a group of more than 3,000 unreached Mixtecs, a people we knew nothing about, were living in Richmond right under our noses!

Mission Team Member Ben Ward wrote, "God has brought this group of people from thousands of miles away to our doorstep. It's like an international mission without ever leaving U.S. soil."

Are there missionary needs that are looking for you?

Many Christians have said to themselves, God has not called me to be a missionary. But Jesus said, "Go into all the world and make disciples." How much effort would it take to go to the next community and tell others what He has done for you? If we are grateful for what He has done, we will tell others.

Ben Ward wrote about his excitement to take the Gospel to the Mixtec people group, "It was stunning to learn that a group of more than 3,000 unreached Mixtecs — a people we knew nothing about, were living in Richmond right under our noses. We are excited about the opportunity we have to get to know the Mixtec people, to build genuine relationships and to share the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Can you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ and not live on mission for Him?

If we believe God's Word is true and take seriously the Great Commission, we will live on mission. Disciples of Jesus Christ will do as He did, "seek and save the lost" and "make disciples." The fruit of a disciple will be more disciples (Matthew 7:16). ■

Who are the Mixtec?

People of the Rain

The Mixtec are the third largest group of native Mexican peoples. They call themselves the Ñuu Savi, "People of the Rain." Their homeland is the Mixteca, a region, which occupies the western half of the Mexican state of Oaxaca and small parts of Guerrero and Puelba states on the northern and western borders of Oaxaca.

According to best estimates, there were about 500,000 Mixtecs residing in Mexico in 1999. (Bartolomé, 1999).

What is an Unreached People Group (UPG)?

An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance (Joshua Project).





We came back to the church and announced that we would be going. Immediately the 20 slots alloted for the trip filled up.

London Bridge Committed to:

2 Teams

2 times a Year

hat began as a vision trip by Greg Brinson, senior pastor at **London Bridge Baptist Church** in Virginia Beach, Virginia ended up as a five-year mission partnership in Puerto Rico. The Lord put the idea of a mission partnership in Puerto Rico on Brinson's heart as he heard of the SBC of Virginia's work there in the aftermath of hurricane Maria. The category 5 storm hit Puerto Rico in September 2017 and devastated the island, causing \$91.6 billion of damage. The storm claimed the lives of 2,975 Puerto Ricans. Initially, the SBC of Virginia focused on sending disaster relief teams. However, as time went on and the need for disaster relief teams diminished, a need to strengthen churches in Puerto Rico that were doing the work of spreading the Gospel became the focus.

"Pastor Greg and I visited with Pastor Jorge Santiago of One Church, and we both knew that the Lord wanted us to partner with them," says Matt Shumaker, missions pastor at London Bridge. "We came back to the church and announced that we would be going. Immediately, the 20 slots allotted for the trip filled up."

The church sent their first team of 20 the week before Easter. The team focused on two areas: One was some construction for a damaged home; the other was a couple of outreach events. They also held a bike rally with a block party. 75 kids participated. A party was thrown after the rally, where the Gospel was presented and 20 people accepted Christ as Savior. Then the church held a "Fiesta" at the church with inflatables for the children and food. Once again, the Gospel was presented and six more gave their hearts to Christ.

London Bridge has committed to send two mission teams per year to partner with Pastor Jorge Santiago and One Church. The next team is slated to go in October 2019. ■

Do You Want to Be a Part of a New Work?

SBC of Virginia churches have made a huge investment and an even bigger impact on the island of Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria hit in 2017. The widespread devastation necessitated an unprecedented response, and SBC of Virginia churches have been up to the challenge. From Disaster Relief teams, to mid-term and long-term volunteers, to partnering with pastors and church planters, SBCV churches are making a difference and proving that the people of Puerto Rico are not alone.

Still Making an Impact

How will your church engage and eternally invest in the lives of Puerto Ricans? SBC of Virginia is providing two basic pathways to partnering in Puerto Rico.

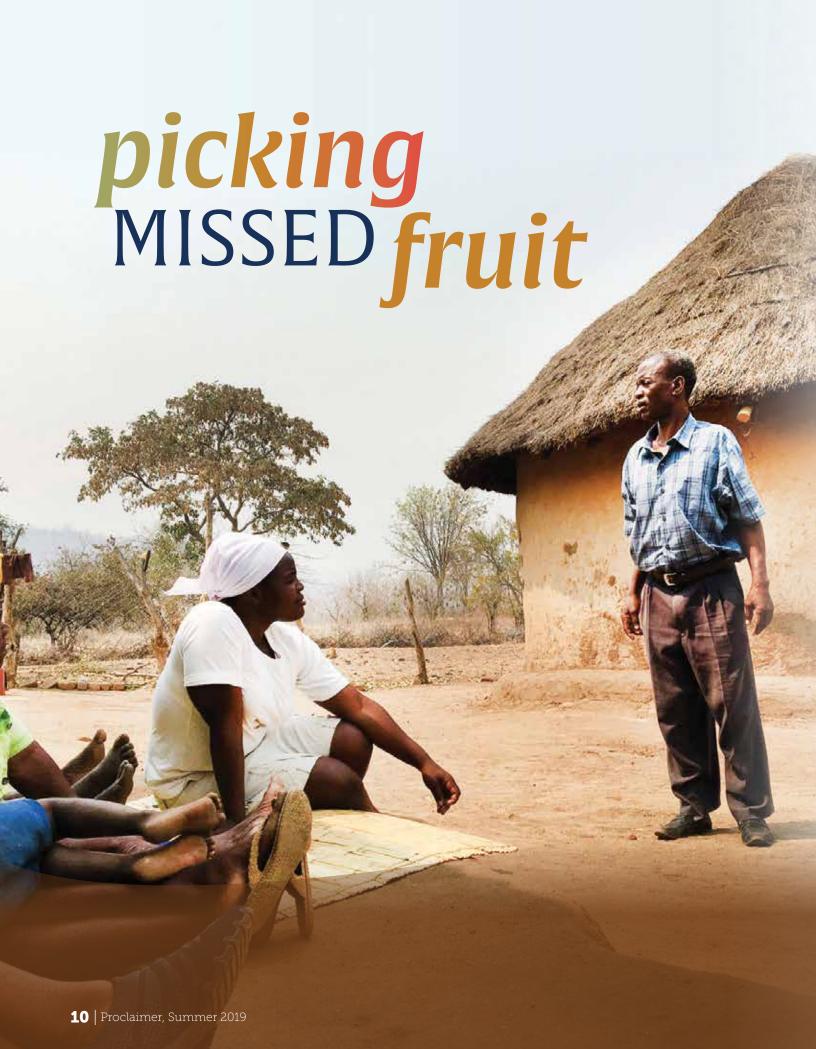
SEND Relief. NAMB's Send Relief efforts continue on the island, rebuilding homes and lives. Register through sbcv.org/puertorico. Dates and trips are available for groups of all sizes, or for individual volunteers.

2 PARTNER with a Church Planter. London Bridge Baptist Church is one SBCV church that has established a partnership in Puerto Rico. Pastor Jorge Santiago in Comerio has seen great fruit from ongoing partnerships. Contact Brad Russell (brussell@sbcv.org) to join in an existing partnership.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF A NEW WORK? Join SBCV on a four day Pastors' Vision Trip in Puerto Rico this Fall (dates TBD) as we tour the island and see the great work the Lord is doing and how our SBCV churches can join in.

According to NAMB's SEND Puerto Rico, currently, there are 56 Southern Baptist churches on the island, engaging a population of more than 3.4 million people.





66

Time after time, visit after visit, I watched God use this man to harvest fruit that most would have missed.

ast September, I found myself doing something out of the ordinary: holding on to the branches of a tree while my friend Jonathan Munhutu picked the last remaining fruit off the branches. The persimmons on this tree had ripened some time before, so the fruit was hard to find. To be honest, I would have passed it by had Jonathan not been with me.

These persimmons were small and dry, and, to me, they just didn't seem worth the work it took to get such a small amount of flesh out of them. For Jonathan, though, they were worth whatever it took. In fact, we would stop and get a handful of persimmons every time we passed that tree that week.

In my time serving alongside Baba Munhutu in the villages of Zimbabwe, I saw that this was how he approached much more than just persimmons. As we would visit from home to home, I was always amazed at the passionate way he shared the Gospel with any who would listen. God used his animated style and his unshakable tenacity to bear fruit for His kingdom. It was fruit I would often have passed by — people who seemed to give the right answers yet who didn't really know Christ; people who would try to change the subject onto something they would rather speak of. Time after time, visit after visit, I watched God use

this man to harvest fruit that most would have missed.

As I stood, holding the branch for Jonathan to pick fruit, we didn't know that Jonathan would not see another September persimmon harvest in this life. As I prayed while Jonathan shared the gospel, we didn't realize that would be the last time I would serve alongside him. However, God saw fit to take Jonathan home to be with him this week.

For Jonathan, the harvest season is over, and now it is time for rest. My life has been forever impacted by this

incredible man

who loved to pick fruit that others would miss. May God continue to raise up many others who have the heart Jonathan displayed. ■

by Sean Couch, Pastor, Christiansburg Baptist Church, Christiansburg, Virginia

After several months of battling cancer, our dear friend and co-laborer, Jonathan Munhutu died, entering the Lord's presence very early in the morning. He labored tirelessly alongside each of our mission teams since 2012, faithfully sharing the Gospel among the Ndau people and modelling devoted discipleship in his village

> of Nyanyadzi. He has left us an enduring legacy of genuine humility and joyful faithfulness to Jesus. I am grateful today for the hope of the Gospel and the certainty of eternity through the power of a resurrected Savior. He Lives!

by Tim Hight, Senior Pastor, GraceLife Baptist Church, Christiansburg, Virginia

"I am the vine;

you are the branches.

The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me." ~ John 15:5, CSB

PASTOR TO P

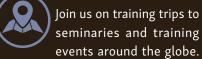
very pastor needs a partner, an encourager, a mentor or a friend. Pastoring can often be a lonely existence. Many pastors may find themselves on an island. Called to lead, working long hours, often discouraged by the struggles of their congregations, not to mention the constant spiritual warfare within. Now, take a moment to imagine yourself in this situation:

> Called to preach the Gospel, you and your wife are the only believers in your village. On rare occasions, a missionary comes to the area and you have the opportunity to gather with a few other pastors. Ongoing theological training is spotty, if available at all. Books to help you study are hard to come by. Each day is a joy to take up your cross, but that cross is often heavy when you carry it alone. Sometimes, just talking to another pastor, encouraging one another and praying together goes a long way toward restoring your soul.

This is the situation thousands of pastors find themselves in around the globe. And SBC of Virginia pastors can be an encouragement and support to

them. The SBC of Virginia Mobilization team is working with the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board leaders around the world to build relationships between pastors to curb the theological and spiritual famine that many are experiencing. The SBCV wants to provide two avenues to help you build a pastor-to-pastor relationship.

TRAINING TRIPS



SBC of Virginia pastors can help train current and future pastors/ planters and build a one-on-one relationship that can continue into a full-fledged mission partnership.

VISION TRIP

Join SBC of Virginia on a Vision Trip and explore future partnerships while

building relationships with pastors/ planters. Make a weekly phone/Skype/ Facetime call to a partner pastor/ planter with whom your church is prayerfully considering partnering. Be an encouragement and seek to learn as well.

Pastor, you can make a difference in the life and ministry of a pastor or church planter in places like Sub-Saharan Africa, Puerto Rico, South Asia, Lithuania and Spain.

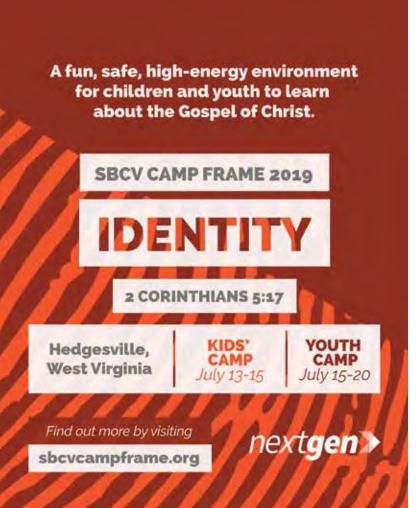
This fall, the SBC of Virginia Mobilization team will be taking several Vision Trips and will be holding pastor-to-pastor cohort training events. The investment of your time and a trip may just make an eternal difference in the life of a pastor/planter and in the people he has been called to reach with the Gospel, and you are guaranteed to find yourself encouraged and growing as well. ■

RESOURCE:

Interested in encouraging and supporting other pastors or possibly taking a Vision Trip this fall? Find out more by visiting:



sbcv.org/pastorcohort



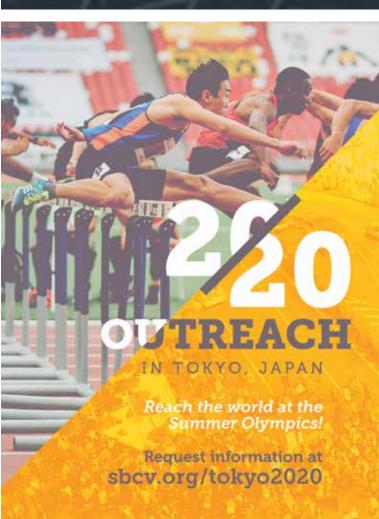




ENGAGING LOSTNESS IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA Featuring Sam James

September 27-28, 2019 | Salem Baptist Church, Manakin-Sabot







othing screams excitement (or summer!) as loud as Vacation Bible School. At First Baptist Church of Norfolk,

VBS is all about winning and leading all the people within their reach to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. It's an all-hands-on-deck event, led by Pastor

Eric Thomas, staff and an enormous number of volunteers, who not only serve at both church locations, but also outside the walls of the church. They've led VBS in a shopping mall, in backyards,

in different cities of our state and in several countries. Of all the locations for taking VBS outside the church walls, the one that has become consistent and dearest to the hearts of those who put VBS on at St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children.

Nine years ago, First Norfolk provided VBS at St. Mary's, a specialized residential care facility for children and adults with severe disabilities. What started with a week of Bible stories, crafts and worship with more than 90 residents and their support staff has led to lasting relationships where hearts have been knitted together in a monthly LIFEgroup and worship at St. Mary's. Some St. Mary staff members have become active members of First Norfolk.

The joy of going outside the walls of church for VBS is seeing God change the lives of people who may not have the opportunity to come to the church. Some St. Mary's staff

My friend used a computer to talk. ...but that day, when he prayed, he used his voice, the best he could.

> and residents have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, while other staff members have returned to church and now serve in leadership roles within their church.

> "VBS at St .Mary's put me back on a path to Jesus and helped my wife, Jenn, begin her journey. We serve together ministering to the middle school students, and I am now on staff as LifePoint Christian Fellowship's Student Director," said Carlton Farmer, community liaison of St. Mary's Home.

> "I had the privilege to lead one resident in a prayer, asking Jesus to be his Lord and

Savior. My friend used a computer to talk. The process was slow and often laborious for him. But that day, when he prayed, he used his voice the best he could. It was beautiful. I continued to see the Holy Spirit change his heart in decisions he made. He even became a leader in VBS. A year ago, the Lord took him home to heaven.

> I know he is whole and complete, walking and talking and praising God. And, I will see him again." said Gretchen Gray, First Norfolk member.

"The children and staff look forward to VBS with First Norfolk all year long," said Carlton Farmer. "Everyone is engaged, singing, dancing, laughing and learning all with the foundation of growing closer to God."

"Our congregation went with the mission to serve during a week of VBS and in return had our hearts changed and eyes opened to a population within our community who are underserved and under reached for the Gospel of Christ," said Sara Horning, First Norfolk member.

Friends BECOME FAMILY

Sherlynd Baptist Church, located in the Waynesboro (Sherando Lake), Virginia, area, has a saying about their church — "Where friends become family." This is the testimony of numerous church members, including their pastor, Allen George. Allen grew up as the son of a pastor in West Virginia and came to Christ as young adult after serving in the Air Force. While in the military, he had received extensive leadership training, but little did he know that God would use this when he was called into ministry.

A Call to Ministry

Having moved to the Waynesboro area for work, as a new Christian, God began to work in Allen's heart compelling him to actively serve in a local church for the first time. He began by serving in student ministry, where he sensed a call to ministry from the Lord. The Lord opened the door to preach youth revivals, camps and, eventually, church revival meetings back in West Virginia. His home church in Waynesboro continued to give him chances to grow — eventually calling him as their youth pastor.



On Mother's Day 2008, Pastor Allen preached at Sherlynd while they were without a pastor. He and his wife, Lisa, came as friends to help and now are part of the family. This is his first pastorate. In fact, when he came to be the pastor of Sherlynd, he had no formal ministry training, but years of being mentored by others.

A Trademark of Leadership

This pattern of mentoring and discipleship has become the trademark of Sherlynd Baptist under Pastor Allen's leadership. The church began to grow soon after he arrived — first going to two Sunday morning worship services, then a needed building expansion and, eventually, a new modern worship center (with more plans for further expansion).

Discipleship continues through the Faith Bible Institute classes offered each week, teaching Bible content from Genesis to Revelation. This three-year discipleship program has 30 graduates and several people called into church leadership as a result. Also, all new members and new Christians are taken through Advancing the Call Class, which is a 25-week discipleship program grounding people in the faith and service in the local church.

Church Growth

Sherlynd joined SBC of Virginia in 2012, taking advantage of its many resources to strengthen and mobilize their church. As evidence, its involvement in missions and outreach has escalated. They have planted a church in an underserved community in the last several years. It has members planning to head to International Mission Board service as missionaries. They do periodic Sunday worship services at nearby Sherando Lake.

Sherlynd is a healthy rural church that exemplifies a welcoming family atmosphere. The congregation, rejoices by clapping whenever the time for giving is announced. In fact, when the growth of the church led to the need for a new worship center, they paid off their \$900,000 building expansion in only five years — this is amazing for a rural church, averaging less than 200 in attendance. The youth ministry has an active ministry to widows. The church has a ministry to Fishburne Military School and the local trailer park. Each fall, their School Outreach draws dozens from the surrounding area — providing backpacks full of school supplies, clothing and shoes for children, and even clothing and supplies for their parents. One can see how such a loving congregation has grown by more than 300 percent in the last 10 years and regularly has the chance to baptize new believers.

God's Amazing Grace

In August 2019, the church will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The church has much about which to rejoice, but, most importantly, by God's amazing grace, Sherlynd Baptist Church truly lives up to its mission statement — "Where Friends Become Family." ■

RESOURCE:

Does your church have a clear discipleship process? Perhaps you should consider LifeWay's Leadership Pipeline.

leadership.lifeway.com

Or LifeWay's Gospel Project, for all ages:

gospelproject.com

Farm Work

Supports Zimbabwean Seminary



We were determined

to take the resources God has provided and teach Zimbabweans to "fish" for themselves. Through their ingenuity and hard work, we knew that they could.







Vision becomes reality — Umambo Farms, bird house for Hi-Line laying hens, provides scholarship funds for students with futures as co-vocational ministers of the Gospel.

raceLife Baptist Church, under the leadership of Dr. Tim Hight and in partnership with IMB and Zimbabwe Baptist Convention, adopted the Ndau Tribe in 2012. The Ndau were, at that time, an under-reached people group in the southern part of the country. Ndau means "the forgotten tribe," and it seemed to be a fitting description. Over the past seven years, there have been hundreds of villagers who have trusted Christ as Savior, multiple Churches planted and many disciples trained in evangelism, discipleship and leadership.

As a result of these efforts, it became painfully apparent that theological education was lacking for the pastors whom God was calling. There have been several men over the past seven years who believed God was calling them as pastors, but due to a limited theological education were not able to serve in that capacity. That led Pastor Tim to seek out the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zimbabwe (BTSZ) and begin to build a relationship with them. And, in 2015, God did a miraculous thing through this relationship.

Training Pastors

Since 1955, BTSZ has played a significant role in training pastors for the entire southern region of Africa. There have been students from other countries such as Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa. The seminary's vision is to train men and women to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a broken part of the world. Current IMB missionary and Seminary Dean Nick Moore says, "The biggest obstacle to this mission has been a financial one."

Nick and Kendra along with their children came to Zimbabwe as missionaries with IMB in early 2016

to serve at BTSZ, training pastors and equipping leaders. When they arrived, they found that the prospect of keeping the seminary open was bleak.

In previous years, the IMB has basically fully funded all faculty and students, including fees and maintenance. In 1994, however, the IMB began a new initiative called "New Directions" in which it focused its efforts almost exclusively on church planting and evangelism. One side effect of this initiative was that the seminary faced an overnight budget cut. For an institution that had been founded and fully funded by outside support, this proved to be a nearly fatal transition.

When the Moores arrived in 2015, the 15 students who remained were unable to pay the school fees. The unemployment rate in the country was hovering at 95 percent, creating a cash-flow crisis, rendering the seminary without funding.

The Vision

Nick and his team began to search for other resources that were available, it quickly became apparent that the seminary had an abundance of land, owning 500 acres. The idea that rooted focused on developing that land from a agricultural standpoint. Nick says, "We were determined to take the resources God has provided and teach Zimbabweans to "fish" for themselves. Through their ingenuity and hard work, we knew that they could."

Their vision blossomed into what they are calling Umambo Farms, which is Shona for "Kingdom." In January 2018, the first phase of construction started, building a 2,500 sq. ft. bird house for Hi-Line laying hens. The egg production was a huge success. In July 2018, phase two began with the construction of a second Laying House identical

to the first with the addition of a modified water supply system. The construction costs have been covered by egg production and agriculture partners in the area.

Nick and his team developed an agriculture business that provide scholarship funds for students, who work 20 hours per week in exchange for tuition, housing and meals. According to Nick, this practice is considered "an added value to their participation, giving the students valuable experience and agricultural skills for a future as co-vocational ministers of the Gospel."

The seminary students are serving as managers, security and general laborers to keep the house in operation. In the meantime, in 2018, enrollment increased to 26 students with 21 of them taking advantage of the new work study scholarship through Umambo Farms.

As of April 2019, 43 students were enrolled in the seminary and most were paying for their training through the new work study scholarship program with Umambo Farms.

Umambo Farms' tagline is "Umambo Ngauuye," meaning "Let Thy Kingdom Come," which is derived from Matthew 6:10. This is a mission Umambo Farms takes to heart, as God has designed his Kingdom to advance on earth as one individual life at a time is impacted. In light of that, Nick asks, "Please continue to pray for BTSZ, as we train pastors and leaders in Zimbabwe. Pray for the continued growth of Umambo Farms, as we endeavor to expand into other agricultural means in order to advance God's Kingdom."

Team Rlanting

"I felt like having a team moved our church an entire year forward in the process."

he SBC of Virginia church planting process promotes the value of team planting. During summer 2018, Josh Miller (former pastor of Ministry Training, The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina) moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, to plant Center Church. Along with Josh came 39 adults (plus 12 kids), who sold houses, relocated and found jobs to invest their life in planting a church in Charlottesville. Once the team arrived, the ministry began with the "10:2 Initiative" — a three-part strategy based on Luke 10:2, which was designed to help every team member take a step forward as a personal disciple maker. The strategy included daily prayer, practical disciple making training and the challenge to set up at least one "Gospel appointment" by the end of the fall. The vision is clear, says Josh, "We want to be a Gospel-centered, disciple-making

church that engages with people who are far from God."

How important was it that 39 people agreed to relocate to Charlottesville? According to Josh, "I felt like having a team moved our church an entire year forward in the process."

On January 20, eight months after Josh and the team moved to Charlottesville, Center Church hosted its grand opening service in the community. The attendance that day was encouraging, but it was even more uplifting to learn that four people professed faith in Christ through the ministry of Center Church and were baptized a few months later.

Several weeks ago, Josh unveiled what God had been impressing on them for the future: "Over the next 15 years, we're seeking to plant a Gospel-centered, disciple making church in five of the most influential

university towns in Virginia. College students in the Commonwealth are the leaders of tomorrow. They're motivated to make a difference in the world and are highly mobile upon graduation.

Center Church is excited to come alongside the SBCV and other churches in Virginia. One practical way churches can participate is by encouraging future University of Virginia (UVA) students to attend a "College For A Weekend" event hosted by Center Church from July 28-28. College For A Weekend is an opportunity for high school seniors to get to know Charlottesville and learn how they can flourish in their faith at UVA. To learn more about College For A Weekend, including dates, email Center Church College Director Justin Leitch at justin@CenterCville.com.

The SBC of Virginia is grateful to partner with Center Church in planting churches.

Here's how you can pray for the church:

That our leaders would disciple others well (1 Thess. 5:14)

That our love for each other would be a testament to our city (John 13:34-35)

That God would lead us to those who are spiritually interested (Luke 10:2)

That God would empower our 1 percent vision (Eph. 3:20)

RESOURCE:

You can keep up with the teaching ministry of Center Church by visiting:



CenterCville.com/messages

Or you can make a financial investment in their church by visiting:



CenterCville.com/give



the pastor of Salem Baptist Church, in the rural area of Goochland County, Virginia, the previous pastor had already cast a vision for relocating the congregation in order to be more visible and to reach more people. In 1995, 30 acres of land on Broad Street Road were purchased for some \$250,000. Broad Street is the road that takes you from the city of Richmond and heads west through Short Pump and finally into Goochland County. The demographic studies projected that there would be growth in that area in the coming years.

Upon Pastor Zbinden's arrival, he shared the same vision. As a matter of fact, he had an idea that would put the new land to use almost immediately — enter the the Christmas presentation called "Bethlehem Walk." To this day, there are thousands who attend this journey each year to view the replicated streets of Jerusalem, the stable where Jesus was born and all the way to Calvary's hill, where He died on the cross.

On the same property, today, in the near distance, you will find the brand new Salem Baptist Church. The 35,000 square foot facility is a full-service facility with a drive under portico, an open foyer for gathering, office suites, secured pre-school and children's wing, youth and adult educational space, a worship center that seats 300 and an expandable wall to accommodate even more, a fellowship room and a commercial kitchen. It also features security entrances and the latest technology.

Pastor Zbinden said, "It was worth the wait, worth the investment and worth the drive."

The church intentionally waited until they had at least half of the money on hand before building. In addition to donations from church members, they were able to sell the existing facility to another congregation as well as sell some of the land they had previously purchased. They also decided to save money by using volunteers for the construction. An organization called Nail Benders helped them construct the shell of the building while volunteers from 17 churches over a two year period helped them complete the interior. About 15 men in the church volunteered to oversee the ongoing project. Zbinden says, "Yes, it is ongoing project because now that we have met the building regulations and have an occupancy permit of the county, we still have 9,500 square feet to finish. This construction route took us several more years, but I would not trade the relationships that we have built with Nail Bender volunteers and the lasting friendships we have made with other churches that have helped. And, now, our church volunteers have a bond that is not easily broken," he added.

Worth the Investment

The building today is valued at close to \$5 million. Pastor Zbinden says, "But praise the Lord that the debt is just under \$1.2 million." The story is really not about the building as much as it is the relocation of the church in order to reach more people with the Gospel and to make disciples. Today, Salem Baptist Church is reaching out through their Awana program, Precepts Ministry, which video conferences people in from other states, and by hosting a Classical Conversations Homeschool Co-op. There are already other

seeking to use this state-of-the-art facility with its Wi-Fi and live streaming capabilities. "This facility is an investment that is meeting the needs of the current congregation and the community — and it is worth it," says Zbinden.

Worth the Drive

The facility is several miles east of the original location. But since the time of the purchase of the land, Broad Street has extended west with housing and commercial properties all the way to the intersection of Interstates 64 and 288. So, now the church is just over three miles from one of the busiest shopping areas and an ever-growing housing market in the Richmond region. Pastor Zbinden says, "In addition to God's provision, this was His timing. We might not have believed the projections many years back, but today, because of God's timing, we can see it come to fruition. There are more people to reach, more people to share the Gospel, more people to disciple. As a matter of fact, we are participating in the Bless Every Home strategy to pray, care, share and disciple our neighbors. Our location has expanded

our reach and much so, that we are planting a new church and sending out one of our own to do so in the Short Pump area. People are driving a few miles to be a part of the work, but it is so worth it." ■





H.B. Charles, Jr.
Shiloh Metropolitan
Baptist Church,
Jacksonville

Vance Pitman Hope Church, Las Vegas

Ken Weathersby SBC Executive Committee Eric Thomas First Baptist Church, Norfolk

Brian Autry SBC of Virginia SUNDAY | 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM MONDAY | 8:30 AM - 8:45 PM TUESDAY | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Register Today

sbcv.org/home19

General sessions will be interpreted for the Deaf and childcare will be available for children up to 4-years-old (pre-registration required).





BRIDGINGTHEGAP

Kids Ministry Conference

We wanted to stop and think of ways (to create) bridges in Spanish and English language.

Queríamos detenernos y pensar de maneras (para crear) puentes en español e inglés.





he SBC of Virginia Kids Ministry Conference brought more than 500 children's ministry leaders and pastors to Swift Creek Baptist Church in Midlothian, Virginia, on March 2. A full day of equipping and training provided these leaders with resources and teaching ideas to take back to their churches to lead their children to love God and His Word.

Expanding Our Reach

Two years ago, a thought became a prayer. How can we reach the Spanish communities of faith more effectively? After much prayer and brainstorming, this year's conference provided four breakouts entirely in Spanish. For those coming to prepare for VBS, Raul

and Marisol Santamaria and Andrea and Jose Mazariego shared two breakouts in their native language. For those wanting to equip themselves in the broader ministry to children, Laura Guardia provided two breakouts in Spanish as well.

"Many Spanish speaking congregations have a huge dilemma in the way that they do children ministries," said Laura Guardia. "Conventional Spanish-speaking ministries are unintentionally designed to preserve the language and cultural preferences of foreign-born Latinos (often) at the expense of their native-born English-dominant children. Being together with other church leaders at the Kids Ministry Conference helped us reflect about our practices and

results. We wanted to stop and think of ways (to create) bridges in Spanish and English language. I think we accomplish that, now is time to work."

One attendee from Iglesia Bautista Spotswood in Fredericksburg, Virginia, said, "It is the first time that I (attend) an activity like this. I realize how much I need to change the way that am I teaching children. It was truly a blessing and I really enjoyed all the Spanish breakouts. All the topics were very interesting and useful. Next year, we hope to find more Spanish breakouts and that more people that are serving in children ministries can come, learn and be encouraged."

SBCV Kids has placed a priority on equipping children's leaders in a way they can understand. Reaching the nations can start in our own backyard. As this prayer was answered, may it take root and grow into making disciples here and abroad.



RESOURCE:

For more information, visit:



sbcv.org/children

To view the Kids Conference video, visit:



sbcv.org/kmc

Hearts Drawn to Pray

DR. CHUCK LAWLESS, keynote speaker on the Prayer Summit Tour, challenged the hearts of more than 400 participants from 67 churches to emulate the prayer life of Jesus and to stand in the gap for our neighbors and others through prayer. At each of the four locations across the Commonwealth, hearts were drawn to make prayer the priority in our lives and in our churches. Here are several testimonials from Prayer Summit participants who experienced this work of God in their hearts.

I enjoyed the Prayer Summit so much and especially Dr. Lawless. The statement he made that 'No one default's to dependence on God, all naturally tend toward independence. That's why prayer is hard work' was so meaningful to me. I look around to those I care for and in my sphere of influence, and see that happening over and over. The example Dr. Lawless gave from the Gospel of Luke on Jesus model of prayer has encouraged me to be persistent in prayer for those

that are not depending on God. Thank all of you for your graciousness to us in providing this Summit on prayer. — Susan

"(I am) so thankful for Dr. Lawless' reminder not to minister first and pray second." - Tim

I have enjoyed my times participating in the prayer summits. I walk away each time with another tool to help me be more effective in my praying.

Already, our weekly prayer groups have switched their focus in their prayer times to praying for kingdom needs in addition to physical needs.

Our area churches benefitted greatly from learning how to pray with more of a kingdom focus, as we see have seen the strength of working in our community together." - Fred

"The Prayer Summit was outstanding. Dr. Lawless literally taught us a seminary class — in one afternoon. I'm so thankful for the SBCV's generosity in providing such a wonderful event." - Karen

We praise the Lord for these encouraging testimonies of the work of His Spirit in the hearts of His people. May God use SBC of Virginia churches to persevere in prayer that we may be found winning Virginia on our knees.





If you happened to die Today, do you KNOW if you would go to heaven?

YOUR ETERNITY depends on your answer to this very important question.

God says that in order to go to heaven, you must be born again. He gives us a plan of salvation — how to be born again — in the Bible.

It's actually very simple:

Admit that you're a sinner who needs to be saved. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again.

"If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

Commit to accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

Take God at His Word and claim His gift of salvation. Believe, and you will be saved. All that's left for you to do is to receive Jesus into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior. If that is your sincere desire, then talk to God from your heart. Here's a suggested prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and do not deserve eternal life. I believe You died on the cross for me. I believe that You shed your blood to pay the price for my sin, and that Your death, burial, and resurrection were all for me — to make me a new creation and to prepare me to dwell in Your presence forever. Jesus, please come into my life, take control of my life, forgive me of my sins and save me. I am placing my trust in You alone for my salvation, and I accept your gift of eternal life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

GHURCH PLANTING

Legacy

Dr. Doug Echols is the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Yorktown, Virginia, a historical church founded in 1840. From its early history, Bethel was focused on church planting, establishing Little Bethel Baptist Church on the current site of LibertyLive Church in Hampton, Virginia. Pastor Doug came to Bethel in November 2010 with a vision of extending Bethel's church planting legacy — planting five churches in 10 years. Within a year, Bethel commissioned Jeff Mingee and a group of families to plant a church with a focus on reaching college students in Newport News, Virginia. Furthermore, Bethel generously supported their efforts with continuous prayer, encouragement and financial support.

Mingee, former youth pastor at Bethel, and the families that made up the launch team started **Catalyst Church** in August 2012 in a coffee shop adjacent to Christopher Newport University. Mingee reports, "Catalyst Church was planted out of Bethel with the firm belief that 'Jesus Changes Everything'. Since that time, we've worked to advance the Gospel in Christopher Newport University and the surrounding Newport News communities."

Catalyst has maintained a focus on advancing the Gospel. That focus has been evidenced in new believers professing their faith through baptism, generous giving to missions through the Cooperative Program, sending and supporting two of their own members as missionaries currently serving in Vietnam, and in training leaders to continue the legacy of church planting.

Mingee says, "The mission of God is bigger than any one church or church plant or church leader. Church leaders today stand on the shoulders of church leaders from yesterday and with the hope of raising up and sending out church leaders tomorrow." With that conviction, Mingee has worked consistently to train next generation leaders.

Adam Long and Bill Dumphy are products of Catalyst Church's leadership development efforts. Both have served as church planter apprentices at Catalyst Church in partnership with the SBC of Virginia. Reflecting on the value of his apprenticeship, Long says, "Catalyst Church offered me a safe place to fail, a safe place to grow, and a safe place to ask questions. Having the freedom to learn and serve in that capacity truly helped shape me in ways most people could never understand. For that, I am so thankful." Dumphy shares that same gratitude, "My time as an apprentice at Catalyst was invaluable. Working under Jeff's leadership really helped to solidify my next steps in planting GracePointe Church. Where we are now is only possible through the apprenticeship at Catalyst."

In the same manner that Bethel sent the team that planted Catalyst, Catalyst Church equipped and sent the Long family, the Dumphy family, and a few others to plant Gracepointe Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, in May 2018. Dumphy reports that along with other families that God provided, "We began meeting regularly in one another's homes starting in September 2017 and started meeting at our current location beginning in May 2018. He continued, "This first year was spent establishing a culture focused on the Gospel and how (the church) would be planted in Williamsburg."

Gracepointe Church launched weekly worship services in Williamsburg in September 2018.

Long says, "We believe in partnership. Our church was planted with two pastors casting the same vision on the same mission to reach the unreached in Williamsburg. Our partnership with Catalyst Church is vital to our church seeing growth as well as our community being changed by the Gospel." Dumphy adds, "Catalyst has been a strong partner in the Gospel. Without their partnership, there's no way we could have launched when we did. The beautiful thing is that their partnership continues to this day."



A prime example of churches planting churches and leaving a legacy that continues to this day: there was a church that planted Bethel in 1840, which, in turn, planted other churches. They had an indirect role in planting Gracepointe through the investments they previously made in Catalyst. Recently, they joined their daughter church (Catalyst) in providing support to their granddaughter church (Gracepointe). Gracepointe is now poised to continue the mission of God through church planting.

How is your church continuing the mission of God through church planting? Your SBCV missionary team stands ready to assist you in your efforts. ■



Prayer for Church Planters

"Then Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (HCSB)



For downloadable prayer cards and more information on these and other church planters, go to sbcv.org/planters



Jefferson Hernandez **Church Planter** IGLESIA BIBLICO CAMPO BLANCO

Meeting at:

44180 Riverside Pkwy, Leesburg, VA Birthdays: Jefferson (November 26), Carol (May13)

PRAYER NEEDS:

- God's favor with Loudoun County's people, businesses and community
- · Ability to contact those who are far from God in order to have Gospel conversations with them
- For our community's broken to find restoration in Jesus
- · For our team's growth in unity and love with Jesus as well as for one another as we journey together
- · For churches to rise up to expand God's Kingdom

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Financial partners to sustain our growth for 3-5 years
- · Spanish-speaking worship team members
- Mission teams to help us maintain momentum

Mike Cauthorne **Church Planter RESONATE CHURCH**

Meeting at:

Skipwith Academy, 300 Schofield Dr., Midlothian, VA Birthdays:

Mike (December 29), Ingrid (June 22)

PRAYER NEEDS:

- To be a disciple-making church that multiplies
- · For us to stay faithful to God's Word in all we say and do
- For us not to lose our first love (Revelation 2:4)
- · That we will run the race set before us to go and make disciples

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Prayer partners and financial partners
- This summer we are in need of mission teams or interns to help start our summer sports outreach and block parties









More Like a Family

By Dr. Marc Brooks Pastor, Gethsemane Baptist Church in Richlands, Virginia

had the privilege of leading my church into partnership with the SBC of Virginia this past year. I am often questioned about the process and our motives in transitioning. What makes a 50-year-old Southern Baptist Church in Southwest Virginia pursue a relationship with the SBCV? Here's our reasoning:

Values

In late 2017, Gethsemane Baptist Church entered a season of re-examining our identity and priorities. We were driven to intentionally reconsider our most closely held values. As we embraced our prophetic role within a culture that is increasingly hostile to Biblical truth, it became overwhelmingly obvious that the SBC of Virginia most closely aligned with our priority of integrity to Scripture. We decided that relationships matter — we wanted to make sure our relationships reflected Biblical values.

Priorities

The SBCV is Great Commission fellowship. It is a joy to be a part of a fellowship that recognizes the power of the Gospel and our role in making disciples. This is executed strategically, unapologetically and refreshingly without compromise. Member churches are challenged, equipped and empowered to be faithful from our own communities to the ends of the earth. Gethsemane has been blessed by the mutual passion that SBCV churches share for making the Gospel known.

Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Volunteer



Resources

The resources of the SBC of Virginia have been, perhaps, of the greatest value to our congregation. So many different ministries geared toward pastors, leaders, women and kids of varying ages. The SBCV takes their responsibility and sacred trust seriously. Each program is built on Biblical values and executed with a high degree of competency and energy. We were thrilled to find a meaningful community built around shared Biblical principles.

Staff

The SBC of Virginia staff guided us through the membership process in a way that allowed our congregation to move at our own pace and avoid possible pitfalls. The staff was attentive to the needs of our church and eager to engage. Since joining, the staff has shown itself to be increasingly insightful and responsive. From the Glen Allen office to local leadership, the staff has been absolutely incredible. Our local leadership has been a marvelous blessing to our church.

Home

The SBC of Virginia is home. I am so appreciative for positive cooperation that stays focused on SBC values and missions. There wasn't really a huge adjustment for our church because we had never drifted with

the culture. We are so grateful for this likeminded fellowship that feels more like a family than a strategy. ■

RESOURCE:

Students participating at the annual YEC Conference

Is your church interested in partnering? Find out more by visiting:



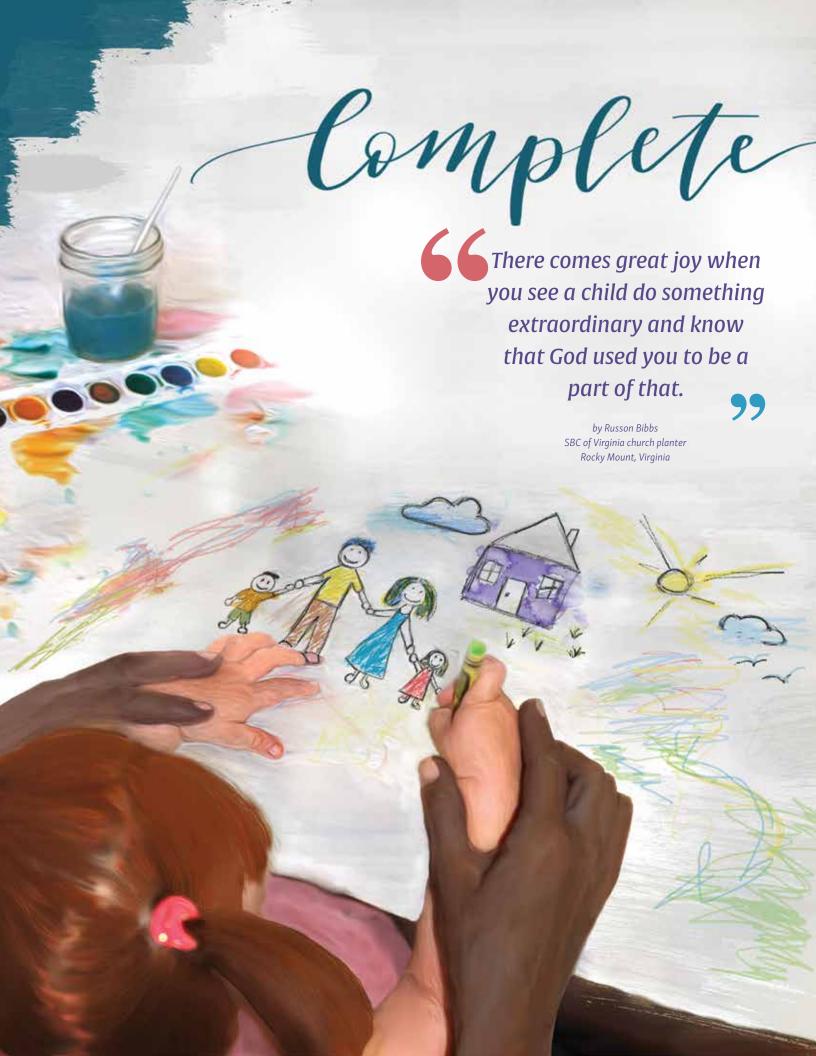
sbcv.org/partner

Leadership Summit with Dr. Johnny Hunt



James Taylor and crew ministering at Bless Portsmouth





Why Fostering

My name is Russon Bibbs, and I am a church planter with the SBC of Virginia in Rocky Mount, Virginia. My wife is Nicole Bibbs, and we have five kids (three biological and two adopted through foster care). Also, we currently have one foster child in our home.

Our journey began when God called us to make an impact on our community. We knew God called us to plant a church in my hometown. The more that calling became clear, the more we also felt that fostering was another investment for our family and our community. At this point in our lives, we had one child, who was approximately two years old.

We followed the call God gave us to invest in our family by begining the fostering process and contacted the local Department of Social Services (DSS). Over the years, we have fostered four kids from DSS and adopted two children through this process.

The Greatest Joy

We have experienced great joy during our fostering journey. One of the most impactful aspects has been witnessing the change that happens in our foster children's lives — as well as in the lives of our biological family. We have been molded and changed by the kids God has brought to us. For example, we've been blessed to witness a foster child,

who has had a rough life or gone through a difficult experience, finally be able to relax and just be a kid — to truly embrace who God created them to be. There comes great joy when you see a child do something extraordinary and know that God chose you to be a part of their story. Throughout the fostering process, our greatest joy has been growing our family and formally adopting two children. These two boys have brought a joy and laughter to our family that would not be there without them. They seriously know how to make the whole family laugh — it's like their super power. Because of these two boys, our family is complete in a way it would never have been without this experience.

The Biggest Challenge

I won't lie or sugar coat things — this has been a challenging experience. This journey has tested our faithfulness to the call God gave our family. One of the biggest hurdles we faced was continually rearranging our lives to accommodate numerous appointments for our foster children — something we were willing to do (but it does take a toll on the family). It wasn't just our schedule that was shifted. Our home was re-arranged, as well, to accommodate new family members.

Each child brings their own challenges to the family, and we had to learn how to meet those needs in a flexible and loving way. Before fostering we had a pretty rigid schedule but from this experience we have learned the value of being nimble, making room for flexibility.

Additionally, fostering proved to be especially challenging when coupled with our church planting call. With all the demands of planting a new church and those of fostering a child, some days seem to not have enough hours in them. At times, we had to pull the emergency brake, re-prioritize, and focus on needs.

Even with all the challenges, we would and continue to foster because of the impact we have on our foster children and the great joy they bring us.

Seeing God in the Moments

In spite of the challenges we faced, we were able to see some pretty clear "God Moments," meaning it was incredibly evident that God was working through and in our experiences. One of the biggest God moments has been the opportunity to influence the child and also their biological family. For two of the children we fostered, we still maintain a relationship with their biological parents. These relationships have (in some cases) lead to discipleship opportunities.

Fostering has also been the most sanctifying experience our family has encountered, shaping us into a better, more God-centered family. We have seen God use our foster children to mold us into the image He wants us to be, and are incredibly grateful for the foster children He brought into our lives. If you are considering fostering, please know that the investment and the trials are well worth it. The challenges cannot compare with the blessing God brings into your home and personal life.





a recent article, Thom Rainer formally posed the question many churches have been asking recently: "Where have all the student pastors gone?"* While Dr. Rainer provides several demographic and practical reasons to help us understand the trend, the fact remains that youth pastors are increasingly hard to find. As with any resource in short supply, it becomes even more vital to care for and protect that resource. Enter, the SBC of Virginia Student Pastor Retreat.

Held at The Great Wolf Lodge, in Williamsburg, Virginia, the Student Pastor Family Retreat, brought student pastors and their families from across the Commonwealth to be challenged, encouraged and given the opportunity to rest in the Lord. Keynote speaker Mac Cockrell of Life Action Ministries led discussions with student pastors and Donna Paulk, SBC of Virginia Women's Ministry Strategist, led a breakout for the wives. SBC of Virginia NextGen Strategist Shawn Ames noted: "I'm so glad to work with a network of churches that places a high value on youth pastors and their families. They are precious resources to

God's Kingdom, and more and more in short supply."

Mike Camire, Pastor of Students, College and Global Missions at Parkway Baptist Church in Mosely, Virginia, commented, "It's just a great time away with my family, but then also connecting with other student pastors and their families from the state. I have really made some lifelong relationships here...being fed and encouraged by the program that is done here as well."

Ross Riley, the Associate Pastor of Children and Youth at Shermont Baptist in Danville, Virginia, reflected, "I love that this time there was that intentional push for my wife [to interact with the network of youth pastors and their families], and she got to connect with other folks [of like mindedness] here..."

SBC of Virginia partners with local churches to provide this ministry at a more affordable price for the lead youth ministry person at each SBCV church. The Student Pastor Family Retreat has

become a perennial favorite and is an ongoing demonstration of the value of our Gospel partnership. After all, we can do more together for youth pastors and their families than we can do alone.

* https://tinyurl.com/where-SP-gone



SBC of Virginia has a partnership with Lifeway Students to provide ongoing training for youth pastors at a discounted price — whether you're a volunteer or professional. Check it out at: sbcv.org/studentpastor

When registering enter the discount code: "SBCV-SPN"

In case you missed it...

Audio from the sessions are available for download at: sbcv.org/spfr



amazingthinghappens when we pray: God hears us. If you need a reminder, just ask Pastor Steve Chromy from Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in Danville, Virginia. About a year ago, the Lord laid a desire on Chromy's heart for the women of the Danville area to come together for a time of worship, teaching, and growing in their relationship with the Lord. Chromy began to pray, seeking God's will and direction for the women of Danville.

Chromy shared this vision with a friend, another pastor, and they started praying together for God to move. Soon several SBC of Virginia pastors were praying, meeting, and asking God to do a work only He could accomplish and to inspire them with a strategy to engage Danville. As the pastors continued to pray, Shawn Ames, Regional Catalyst to the Central and Southwest Region, became aware of the desire and presented the notion of an areawide women's event to Donna Paulk, SBCV Women's Ministry Strategist. Through a great amount of planning, teamwork and

An amazing thing happens when we pray: God hears us!



organization Equip: Danville finally became a reality.

As soon as the event was posted on the SBCV women's event page, registration began to grow. Women from Danville and surrounding areas were eager for Gospelcentered, relevant, applicable teaching, and a time of fellowship and community with their sisters in Christ. Through this event, the women of Danville would know that they were not alone in their desire and calling to minister to women and to grow in their walk with God. The women's conference followed multiple events to engage the churches in Danville that would both unify and meet the many needs in the Danville area.

As the registration numbers were tallied and sorted, the results were astonishing: women from more than 65 area churches were in attendance. Clearly, Chromy had been led by God and his prayers were heard. As spring turns into summer along the Dan River, there is great anticipation to see what God does next with powerful partnership among the SBCV churches in Danville and the surrounding communities.

RESOURCE:

Women's ministry events are held throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit:



sbcv.org/women

CONNECT

Women's Leadership Conference

A ministry retreat for women who are passionate to grow in loving God and helping others grow.



with

Dr. Rhonda Kelley

Founder of Women's Academic Programs, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Mary Margaret West

Girls Ministry Specialist, LifeWay

Dr. Brian Autry

Executive Director, SBC of Virginia

International Learning Center

sbcv.org/connect19



August 2-3, 2019



A one-day event focused on establishing your faith in Christ.

M OCTOBER S. 2019

LONDON BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, VIRGINIA BEACH

▼ LEARN MORE AT

SBCV.ORG/ESTABLISHEDIS



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

FINCASTLE BAPTIST CHURCH | FEATURING LISA-JO BAKER

8-9 2019

JOIN US AS LISA-JO BAKER SHARES HER INSIGHTS ON HOW TO GROW FRIENDSHIPS GOD'S WAY AND KEYS TO MOVING PAST OUR INSECURITIES. COME BE SURROUNDED BY HIS PRESENCE!

▼ LEARN MORE AT SBCV.ORG/SURROUNDEDIP

Inspire A word of hope, support and encouragement

...But they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to repent..." Jeremiah 5:3

evil, wicked darkness continues to mount in our land and Christians appears content with, "...holding to a form of godliness..." (2 Tim 3:5).

Have our hearts become hardened to God's word? Have we become spiritually numb? I believe we would agree that the church, as a "light" for the land, seems all but gone out. The "church" has become intoxicated from her lethargic approach to the way, truth, and life of the Gospel, exchanging along the way, "truth for lies" (Rom. 1:25). We need to be revived (Psalm 85:6)! Christendom needs a "fresh wind" ushered in by genuine repentance! Jeremiah 5:3 says, "...They have refused to repent."

The Spirit of God compels me to say, "Tell My people to repent or enter into the consequences of your unwillingness (Isaiah 30:15). While prayer for revival is greatly needed, it will be hindered unless we first repent. Without repentance, we will encounter the wrath of God, and in some ways, I believe we're already experiencing it! Repentance certainly begins in the heart of a believer and as it was with Nehemiah, repentant leadership led by God helped the people through repentance. Therefore, we must preach and proclaim the word of repentance and then lead repentance from the pulpit to the parking lot! In Revelation Chapter 3, in His letter to the church of Laodicea, the Lord makes a sharp distinction between the conditions of being hot or cold and being lukewarm. Sadly enough, this church didn't know its own condition. The people said, "we're fine" but Jesus said they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked". Jesus told them to be "zealous" to repent. Repentance is granted when our sorrow is genuine (2 Cor. 7:11). God's grace gives us mercy to repent and the word of God convicts us that we need to repent. Here is a strong principle we dare not miss in God's word to Jeremiah, if the leaders had been faithful to be joined to God's counsel and preach His word to His people, the people would have turned back from their evil ways (Jer. 23:22). You see that? God knows that if we preach what He speaks, it will produce what He seeks (Isaiah 55:11). The power of God is in the Holy Ghost "preached" word, delivered by Holy Ghost filled shepherds who see and hear (Jer. 23:18) God calling His people to repentance! Have we refused to repent? Beloved, the time is now let us stand in God's counsel and preach with a fervor, the word of God on repentance and allow God to return His people into a "fresh fragrance" from His presence (Acts 3:19)!

Love you all!

Milton Harding Pastoral Relations Associate mharding@sbcv.org

Helping, E Hope

KANSAS CITY — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) leaders and volunteers gathered on Jan. 23 to honor those who exhibited great selflessness and determination in the aftermath of disaster. Around 150 people attended, representing 42 state convention teams and North American Mission Board (NAMB) staff.

SBDR leaders from across North America gathered to assess the previous year, discuss ways to enhance their effectiveness and recognize exemplary service.

Recipients were chosen after their respective state directors nominated them for the award.

The SBDR steering committee, which is made up of state disaster relief directors from across the United States, then voted to determine the award winners.

Six disaster relief volunteers received Distinguished Service Awards for their exceptional service in SBDR, including Ron Earley,



Distinguished Service Awards recipient Ron Earley

who serves through the SBC of Virginia.

Ron has been a part of SBCV Disaster Relief since his first deployment following Hurricane Katrina. He has served in all disaster relief ministry areas as Yellow Hat and Blue Hat (or Unit Leader) and has also been trained and served on Incident Command Teams many times. He also has served as a trainer for many years and recently wrapped up a three-year assignment on the National Feeding Committee.

Thank you!

SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief ministry would not exist without the volunteers that sacrifice time and money to *Go* and *Serve*. From team leaders to weekly warehouse

I have been told I have a 'servants heart'. If I do, I thank God for the gift and the opportunity to exercise that gift."

~ Ron Earley

workers in Lynchburg, Virginia, to all of the hundreds of Gold Hats, we thank God for each one of you and your commitment to our Lord Jesus. While we do not desire for disasters to strike, we do look forward to serving with you when the inevitable does happen. Thanks you for all you do!

RESOURCE:

Please consider becoming a part of this vital ministry. For more information, visit:



sbcv.org/dr

Training

Training kicked off in 2019 with five spring trainings and more than 150 participants. This year, we have incorporated some changes that increase the amount of online training and allows everyone to be credentialed in all three ministry areas (Feeding Unit, Chainsaw Operation 1 and Spiritual Care Provider) during a single, Saturday training day. Additionally, during lunch, Assessment training is conducted.

Training continues this fall:

Sep. 7 | Indian River BC, Chesapeake

Oct. 5 Christiansburg BC, Christiansburg

Oct. 12 | FBC Charlottesville

Oct. 26 Onley BC, Onley

When you've seen a disaster on the news in the last 50 years, what you may not have seen is the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) volunteers who were already on the scene through their local church — and they remained long after news cameras left town. DR volunteers bring Help, Healing and Hope to those who have lost so much.



During an awards banquet held on Jan. 23 in Kansas City, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief leaders and volunteers gave a standing ovation to award recipients, who were honored for their distinguished service.



acob and Janice Baum covenanted together to form Loudoun Valley Baptist Church (LVBC) in Purcellville, Virginia, in August 2016 — along with 28 other adults. Now, nearly three years later, they have grown to 64 members and have seen God work in their midst in some amazing ways. Specifically, the congregation launched its Mercy Ministry.

Loudoun County is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation. Unfortunately, because the area is so affluent, the issue of poverty is often overlooked. LVBC supports the Tree of Life Ministries in Purcellville. This effort has proven to be a tremendous way for the congregation to reach out to those in need. LVBC has supplied community dinners, taught Bible studies and made food deliveries. Through this effort, they have seen one woman come to Christ, baptized and join the church.

But, there's more — LVBC also hosts another ministry called Main Street

Commons Outreach. Since LVBC began this ministry, they have hosted a number of events at a local apartment complex, including two mini Vacation Bible Schools. They plan to continue to be involved in this neighborhood, which is close to the high school where they once held their services. Pray for inroads into that community and for the Gospel seeds that have been planted to take root.

Finally, the Women's Ministry has taken off in this young church plant. This ministry has seen the conception of a regular women's Bible study that has been well-attended. Through this ministry, women have taken ownership of expounding God's Word to one another and supporting each other in accountability and prayer.

Pastor Jacob led the church to become part of an additional network of church plants, the Pillar Church Planting Network out of Raleigh, North Carolina. LVBC has been a great Gospel Partner with the SBCV. Pastor Jacob states, "Over the last few years the

SBCV has been a really valuable support and prayer partner. With their trainings and encouragement, I have been blessed again and again."

Please continue to pray for the Baum family, Loudon Valley Baptist Church and Loudon County. ■

2 covenanted together

28
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covenanted
two to form
Loudoun
Valley BC

64
current
members

Editor's Letter BRANDON PICKETT







Getting Outside the Walls



Some of us are like the Dead Sea, always taking in but never giving out, because we are not rightly related to the Lord Jesus. 99 ~ Oswald Chambers

you've ever been to Israel or watched video or pictures, you have probably seen people floating in the Dead Sea. It is truly one of the moments that will always stick in the minds of those that have made that special trip. The Dead Sea is more than 1,300 feet BELOW sea level — making it the lowest point on earth. Although it can have healing properties to your skin, because of the massive levels of salt (up to 32 percent), no living thing can survive in that water. An interesting point is that the water in the Dead Sea is the same water that came from the Sea of Galilee down the Jordan River. The sea that provides so much drinking water and life at the top is toxic at the bottom. What changed? What began as water flowing out and constantly being renewed ends up being confined and stagnant.

I'm sure you've heard the phrase on the cover: "Get Outside the Walls." We are told that we need to "Get Outside the Walls" of the church. But, what does that really mean? Does it mean getting outside our comfort zone? Does it mean being the hands and feet of Jesus? Or does it just mean being willing and eager to be used of God whenever and wherever? Paul says that "hospitality starts at home" — being hospitable to those of the household of faith first. They will know us by our love for each other. But, the first sign of a declining church is also when the staff and members start to focus more on what's going on inside the church rather than what is happening in the community and world around it. Paul gives warning in the Bible to be careful not to fall into that mentality. And, he thanks those congregations who reached outside and cared

for those on the outside of their walls.

In Philippians 2:4, Paul encourages us to "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others."

In Philippians, chapter 1, and Colossians, chapter 1, Paul thanks the churches for their love for him and their love for the saints — outside their walls

And Jesus, in Matthew 25, says, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

I'm so thankful for the many SBC of Virginia churches that reach outside on a regular basis — through ministries such as ESL (English as a Second Language), Disaster Relief and partnership and compassion ministries. Just recently, a number of churches came together to emphasize foster care and adoption. As I write this article, church youth groups are coming together to minister in Manassas, Virginia, at Fusion Mission Camp. And, very soon, hundreds of churches will start packing backpacks for needy children in Appalachia, Virginia. A challenge to us all, a statement of intention, and a testimony of what is happening all wrapped up in one phrase — Getting Outside the Walls. ■

Brandon

(left) Excited Appalachian children receive backpacks given by the many generous churches of the SBC of Virginia

(right) Church youth





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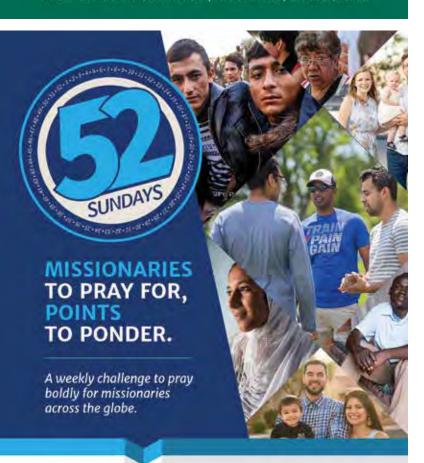


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CALENDAR 2019

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 11-14 Family Fusion, Chincoteague Island
- PLANT B—Church Planting Team Training
- 15-19 Fuge Camp, Liberty University, Lynchburg
- 15-19 Frame Camp, Hedgesville, West Virginia

August

- 2-3 Women's Ministry Leadership Conference, International Learning Center, Rockville
- Church Planter Network (Statewide)

September

- 7 Disaster Relief Training, Indian River BC, Chesapeake
- 12–14 PLANT A—Church Planting Team Training
- 12-14 Four Fields Training, Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen
 - 20 Hispanic Pastors and Leaders Fellowship
 - 21 Hispanic Conference
- 22-23 Empowered Prayer Conference, Southwest
- 22-29 Vision Virginia Week of Prayer
- 27-28 East Asian Peoples Affinity Summit, Salem BC, Manakin-Sabot

October

- 5 Disaster Relief Training, Christiansburg BC, Christiansburg
- Pastor Wives Retreat, Virginia Beach
 - Establish Women's Conference with Lisa Jo Baker, London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach
- **Executive Board**
- Refuel Conference, Thomas Road BC, Lynchburg
- Disaster Relief Training, First BC, Charlottesville
- **Church Planter Interviews**
- PLANT B—Church Planting Team Training 18-19
 - Ride for the Unborn, London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach
 - Disaster Relief Training, Onley BC, Onley

November

- Crossover: Feed the Valley
- Annual Homecoming, First BC, Roanoke
 - Thanksgiving

RESOURCE:

To view our online calendar, visit:



sbcv.org/calendar



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