

PROCLAIMER

2019 | VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3 | Telling the stories of *Vision Virginia*

Disciples are not alone

Helping Churches

*New church plant
unites people.*

Hope in Cana

*No challenge too
big for God.*

Saturate Augusta

*County-wide
evangelism.*



*You are
not alone.*

PROCLAIMER

Winter 2019/20 — Issue 3

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“*There is a lot to be done, and the work ahead is tough. ...you have a unique opportunity in front of you...*” p. 11



*You are
not alone.*

Disciples (and Disciple-makers) ARE NOT ALONE

In 2019, we marked the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing. Twelve astronauts would go on to walk on the moon. However, they did not do it alone. According to Virginia's own NASA Langley Research Center, more than 400,000 people were employed in some role at the peak of the Apollo program — with more than 20,000 companies involved. My point is that while history records the names of the 12 astronauts who walked on the moon, they were not alone. Likewise, the Bible teaches that even someone such as the Apostle Paul was not alone as a disciple.

Acts 9 records what became known as the Damascus Road experience of the disciple we know as the Apostle Paul. The part that I want to draw your attention to is what happened after the Damascus Road. The Lord calls a disciple named Ananias to minister to the future Apostle Paul. In the coming months, SBC of Virginia wants to call upon all of us to embrace the theme "Disciples Are Not Alone."

Here are a few encouragements from Acts 9:10-19:

The Lord Jesus can use even the most unknown disciple to make a difference (verses 10-12). Ananias is only mentioned here and in Paul's testimony later in Acts 22. He is simply referred to as a disciple. Charles Spurgeon said, "He who gets beyond a disciple rises beyond his proper place."

Ananias was available to do God's will, even if he wasn't excited about it at first. Ananias had heard about Saul, and he had some reservations. Yet, Ananias obeyed God's call and is used mightily. We may be nervous or even afraid to make disciples, teach a class, or work with two-year old children at church. Scripture tells us that God empowers us and works through us to make disciples.

We must never underestimate the value of one person disciplined for Christ. Peter ministered to thousands in Jerusalem. Philip saw a great harvest among the Samaritan people. Scripture only records Ananias ministering to one man — but what an impact.

I have heard famous preachers speak, yet, I still remember the couple teaching my third grade Sunday School class in that little room upstairs where I went to church in 1978. I have sat under scholarly professors at two seminaries, but I still remember my sixth grade Sunday School teachers challenging us to learn the books of the Bible so the class would get to go on a roller skating party (and I'm not even a fan of roller skating). Thank you to all of the Sunday School, Bible study, and small group leaders in our churches. Thank you for making disciples in so many ways and venues. Know that the Lord is working through you so disciples are not alone. ■

Your brother in Christ,

Brian Autry



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f facebook.com/brian.autry.70
t [@brianautry](https://twitter.com/brianautry)

Churches **HELPING** Churches

Not only do churches plant churches, but churches help churches. That's what's happening with three SBC of Virginia churches, as they work together to help a new church plant make inroads into their community.

After launching **Resonate Church** in Midlothian, Virginia, Lead Pastor Mike Cauthorne reached out to three SBC of Virginia churches to help out by sending laborers during intentional events throughout the summer.

Unity Baptist Church in Prince George County, Virginia, along with financial support, sends their youth praise team to Resonate once a month to lead the congregation in worship. According to Pastor Cauthorne, this partnership, and having the praise team for live worship, has been a tremendous blessing.

In addition to Unity Baptist Church, **Salem Baptist Church** in Crozier, Virginia, sent their youth group to Resonate to lead a family fun night at Skipwith Academy, the church's meeting location. This prompted a significant outreach at Skipwith Academy, where several parents and kids learned about Resonate Church. According to Josh Weatherspoon, Associate Pastor at Salem Baptist Church, "Pastor Cauthorne and I both see great value in partnerships for the sake of the Gospel, and with Resonate Church being in the early stages of establishing a Gospel witness within their community, we desired to partner with Resonate to bless Skipwith Academy, leading carnival games during their Family Night."

Parkway Baptist Church in Moseley, Virginia, felt led to send their youth

group to pray and help host a block party at the end of Adventure Camp this past summer.

When asked, "What excites you the most about this partnership?" Weatherspoon responded, "It has been my experience that we can truly do more for the sake of the Kingdom when cooperating together in Gospel-advancing partnerships. Pastors are blessed, congregations are blessed and communities are blessed." ■

*...great value
in partnerships
for the sake of
the Gospel.*



GROWING *Hope* *in CANA*

HOPE — it's something we all need. God knew that, and that's why He continues to equip people to deliver hope to those who need it most.



“The building is nice, but it’s really about the people.”

Even before its launch in the Spring of 2012, God had already called Anthony Thomas into the Gospel ministry while he was attending **Sky View Missionary Baptist Church** led by Pastor Wendell Horton. Pastor Horton was already burdened to bring hope to the Cana community, and along with their partnership with the SBC of Virginia, the infrastructure was in place! A work like this requires faith that God will continue to bring it to completion and faithfulness in the face of the challenges and trials that lie ahead.

We easily celebrate when God does something new. We celebrated **Hope Community Church** in the spring edition of the *Proclaimer* with the article entitled “Bringing Hope” by Randy Aldridge. The church launched strong in May 2012

with 115 in attendance, and they had baptized eight by August with more ready for baptism.

However, once the ink dries, the celebrations cease and the dust settles, the reality sets in. But the work has not stopped. Hope is not only still alive and well in the small community, but Hope is also growing in Cana.

Since their launch under the leadership of Pastor Anthony Thomas, Hope Community Church has continued to grow. The church now finds its home in a 15,000 sq. ft. worship center that is sitting on 15 acres of land, allowing room for Hope Community Church to continue to grow. “The building is nice but it’s really about the people,” says Pastor Anthony.

While Pastor Anthony admits this has not been an easy seven years and there

have been times that he and his wife Angie have come close to “throwing in the towel,” they have stood firm in their calling to the community and the ministry to which they are called. Both Anthony and Angie continue to serve faithfully in the ministry the Lord has called them to. The Lord remains faithfully at work alongside them with 21 new believers baptized so far this year, ranging in age from 9 to 82.

The church isn’t done growing. They plan to add athletic fields, picnic shelters, and walking trails to help bring hope to the local community through the efforts of the church. ■



21
New believers
BAPTIZED
so far this year.
Ranging in
age from
9 to 82



Saturate Augusta

“ Let’s set the
captives free
and break
down the
walls between
churches. ”

~ Dave Anthony

A vision to bring the Gospel to every door in Augusta County, Virginia, and the encompassing cities was the compelling mission of Saturate Augusta — a unified effort of almost 40 churches. Dave Anthony, a layman and champion for evangelism from **Calvary Baptist** in Staunton, Virginia, led the way after praying for such an opportunity. Recently Dave said, “Let’s set the captives free and break down the walls between churches.” This was spoken at one of a series of prayer rallies designed to call local churches to pray and strategize for a large-scale Gospel distribution.

Anthony learned of the evangelism tool, Bless Every Home, at the 2018 SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming. He saw it as a platform to saturate the area with the Gospel. He, in conjunction with the SBCV and its churches in the area, partnered with Saturate USA (saturateusa.org) to provide more than 50,000 homes with Gospel materials. On Saturday, September 7, 2019, evangelical churches from all around Augusta County (Staunton and

Waynesboro, Virginia) area completed a combined outreach to place a *Jesus Film*, *Three Circles* tract, and *Gospel of John* at every home in the county. Four-hundred teams from all these churches deployed that day for what they called “D-Day” (Distribution Day).

Pastors from evangelical churches enlisted additional churches and pastors in this powerful effort, which included many facets. A leadership group called the Saturate Augusta Coalition was selected. It has a broad base of leadership and vision, with four out of the six council members being leaders of SBCV churches. Their strategy included 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting, concluding on D-Day. The county churches met for three prayer rallies throughout the summer — seeking the Lord to bring renewal and revival, to prepare hearts to be His witnesses, to prepare the hearts of unbelievers to receive the Good News, and to bind the enemy forces in the community. Their plan included engaging all churches to become part of Bless of Every Home as a strategy, enrolling members to be “lights” in the community. With mission

maps in hand, church groups deployed on “D-Day” to “saturate” the county with Gospel witnesses. A follow-up celebration is planned as well as further unified efforts among the churches in the future.

Could your church do something like this? Absolutely! Bless Every Home provides a platform to launch such an effort. An organizational plan and a core of visionary leadership is needed, and your community could have a “Saturation of the Area” event. Contact your local SBCV staff to see how your church can be involved in such an effort.

As Dave Anthony put it, “Our vision is to have every household in our county saturated with prayer by the ‘lights’, who are followers of Jesus in local churches. I look forward to seeing the map covered with faithful witnesses. Let’s Bless Every Home! Let’s light up the county!” ■

RESOURCE:

Interested in providing homes with Gospel materials? To learn more, visit:

@ www.saturateusa.org



Truth AMONG CONTRADICTIONS



THE ICELAND PROJECT

Just a five hour direct flight from Washington, D.C., sits an island of misconceptions and seeming contradictions. Iceland is a land of mystery and beauty, but the spiritual darkness runs deep. What has been dubbed the most godless country in Europe is *supposedly* 85 percent Christian.

Gunnar Gunnarsson, pastor of Loftstofan Baptistakirkja, the only Baptist church in the capital city of Reykjavik and one of only two Baptist churches in Iceland, says that these spiritual contradictions are numerous.

We're a nominally Christian country often overlooked by the outside world because of very positive sounding statistics on paper, while in reality regularly

topping the charts for leading the world in anti-depressant consumption per capita, out-of-wedlock births per capita and atheistic beliefs per capita. Meanwhile, the nation is tanking in church attendance, and has less than five healthy churches in the entire country.

With no IMB missionaries in Iceland, the need for a Gospel presence was great. In 2006, a small group of churches began to meet that need, forming the "Iceland Project" — a coalition of churches committed to church planting. This coalition of churches has prayed, visited, lived in Iceland and committed themselves to this long-term endeavor.

Now, a church has been planted, with plans for a second church in the works. In early 2019, Logan

and Carla Douglas left their home church, **Pillar Church** in Dumfries, Virginia, to partner with Gunnarsson to ultimately plant a second church within the region — Redeemer City Church.

The road ahead is difficult. Gunnarsson said, "Ministry is hard here, and little groundwork has been done or passed down to current generation of Christians doing work on the ground."

This is why it is the right time for SBC of Virginia churches to get involved. Already, a dozen SBC of Virginia churches are supporting the Iceland Project. ■

“

There is a lot to be done, and the work ahead is tough. If you want to be a part of God's work in Iceland, you have a unique opportunity in front of you — not only to start a church or a couple of churches, but hopefully and prayerfully, by the grace of God, impact a nation," Gunnarsson said.

”





BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA
USA

GERMANY

EAST ASIA

SOUTHEAST
ASIA

Missionary Nº7

**Names withheld to protect the missionary's identity.*

On Monday, July 22, 2019, a member of **Catalyst Church** boarded a plane headed to Southeast Asia, where he would spend a year reaching college students with the Gospel. Having just defended his thesis, this young man was taking a year between studies to invest in fulfilling the Great Commission. This is the heartbeat of Catalyst Church.

In August of 2012, Catalyst Church launched with a desire to reach those on and around the campus of Christopher Newport University. From the beginning, Catalyst had missions in her DNA. Catalyst's mother church, **Bethel Baptist** in Yorktown, Virginia, valued mission trips and had established partnerships around the world. Jeff Mingee, lead pastor of Catalyst Church, had participated in numerous mission trips. Launch team members at Catalyst included former IMB missionaries and others, who had a heart for missions. Just weeks after the first service, Catalyst announced its first mission trip to Southeast Asia.

Since launching in 2012, Catalyst has sent seven full-time missionaries to serve in various places around the world. Sarah served alongside the IMB reaching refugees in Germany. Katy and Taylor Terrill are currently working with Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. J* is currently teaching English to unreached peoples in East Asia. K*, C* and A* are currently reaching college students in a major city in Southeast Asia.

Pastor Jeff Mingee wrote in an email to the church, "There is so much more work to be done. Seven out of 10 people in Virginia don't have a relationship with Christ. There are still more than 7,000 unreached people groups (with no access to the Gospel) around the world. This year we are praying for and expecting God to save more people and send more people through the


ministry of Catalyst Church. So, let's begin praying now for missionary number eight. Perhaps, it's you that God is calling."

Catalyst Church is a testimony to what God can do with a willing group of people. They're quick to point out that they're not a perfect church and that they certainly don't have a magic formula for sending missionaries. They're ordinary believers with an extraordinary God who is making His name known among the nations. ■

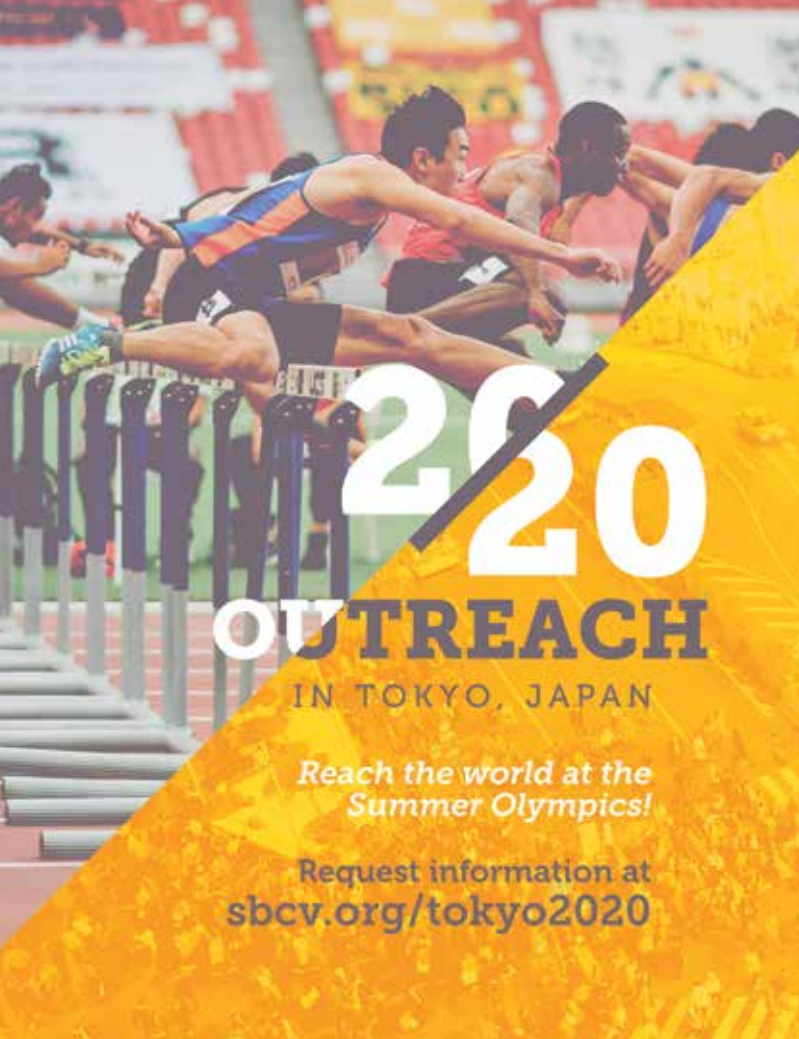
RESOURCE:

Want to bless your neighbor by being a light in their spiritual journey? Find out more by visiting:

 sbcv.org/blesseveryhome



7 out of 10 people
in **Virginia** don't
have a relationship
with Christ



2020 OUTREACH

IN TOKYO, JAPAN

*Reach the world at the
Summer Olympics!*

Request information at
sbcv.org/tokyo2020

I SAW

A GREAT MULTITUDE

FROM EVERY NATION... [REV 7:9](#)

imb

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CHRISTMAS
OFFERING*

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March 25 | Roanoke

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DISASTER RELIEF
family — this ministry
could not exist without
all of our hundreds of
VOLUNTEERS.



A Lifelong MISSION

Serving in Crisis Situations

Erne Rogers first felt called to rescue ministry in the mid-1970s when he was flying Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopters in the High Sierra mountains of Nevada and California, where he made 32 rescues. That experience planted the desire in his heart to serve others in crisis or disaster.

Ernie was born and raised in Gallup, New Mexico. He graduated from Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Texas, in 1971 with a B.S. in business administration, later earning a master's degree in management from Salva Regina College, of Newport, Rhode Island, and a master's degree in international affairs from the Naval War College.

Following undergraduate study, he was designated a Naval Aviator in June 1972 and reported for duty to NAS Fallon, Nevada, flying the H-1N helicopter as a Search and Rescue (SAR) pilot in the High Sierra Mountains.

He went on to lead a 27-year career in the U.S. Navy, retiring at the rank of captain. Following the Navy, Ernie joined Liberty University and was co-founder of the School of Aeronautics.

Then in 2016, Ernie completed the SBC of Virginia Introduction to Disaster Relief and began serving in the ministry that God had placed on his heart many years ago. During his time with SBC of Virginia, he has deployed to West Virginia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Puerto Rico. Additionally, he has served here in Virginia several times following various storms and events.

Ernie has also become a valued member of the instructor team, traveling across Virginia to assist in teaching and coordinating Disaster Relief classes.

More than two years ago, when SBCV acquired warehouse space in Lynchburg, Virginia, Ernie was quick to volunteer at the warehouse, not only as a worker,




Whether you deploy to Texas or the next storm location, assist with training, move trailers around the state or beyond, or work at the warehouse — YOU ARE VALUED.

but as the manager. A team of 8 to 10 volunteers meet nearly every Wednesday, from 10 a.m. until about noon, working on equipment, inventorying trailers, organizing and keeping everything running smoothly.

Ernie's story is just one of many within the SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief family. Without all of our hundreds of volunteers, this ministry could not exist. Whether you deploy to Texas or the next storm location, assist with training, move trailers around the state or beyond, or work at the warehouse (we can always use more workers!), you are valued. We praise God for each of you and thank Him for your desire to go and serve. ■

RESOURCE:

*Want more information about this ministry?
Find out more by visiting:*

 sbcv.org/dr

5 Reasons

I'M A SOUTHERN BAPTIST

Written by Eric Fannin, pastor of Vansant Baptist Church, Vansant, Virginia



1

Southern Baptists Trust the Authority of the Bible

Southern Baptists have not always trusted the Bible. In the 1970s, a drawn-out battle for the authority of the Bible, known as the Conservative Resurgence, began. Those who questioned God's Word withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Many denominations equivocate concerning the authority of Scripture. In contrast, Southern Baptists believe that "All Scripture is inspired by God" (2 Timothy 3:16) and "The law of the LORD is perfect" (Psalm 19:7).

2

Southern Baptists Are Gospel-Centered

Our faith is entirely dependent upon the life, death, resurrection and return of King Jesus. Southern Baptists are becoming increasingly known for a Gospel-centeredness that penetrates deeper than evangelism. Our leaders teach that spiritual growth is moving further into the Gospel, not beyond it; that the Gospel is the central hub for every spoke of Christian doctrine and practice.

3

Southern Baptists Are Mission-Focused

God is a missionary God, who left His home to bring salvation to us (John 1:14). He calls His people to do likewise (Acts 1:8). Southern Baptists take this call seriously through the Cooperative Program (CP). The CP allows Southern Baptist churches to combine their resources to obey the Great Commission. Local churches give to their state convention which withholds a portion for state mission work and sends the rest to the SBC. The SBC divides those funds between its entities for Great Commission work. As a result, we have the largest international missionary sending agency (IMB) in the world, having 3,623 missionaries. The CP allows us to have more than 5,000 North American missionaries (NAMB).

4

Southern Baptists Support Six Solid Seminaries

We expect the highest standards for medical schools, which train physicians in the care of the body. However, issues of the soul are of greater importance and complexity. Schools that provide training for the care of souls must offer the surest and highest education. Our six seminaries are preeminent in this regard. They are committed to the Bible so that God has blessed them to be six of the largest, most influential seminaries in the nation. While many seminaries train pastors to be suspicious of Scripture, our seminaries stand firm on God's Word. The seminaries include: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

5

Southern Baptists Have Been Blessed with Many Godly Leaders

In several denominations, many local churches believe the Bible and seek to follow it while their denominational leaders deny the Bible and seek to undermine it. Contrary to that, leaders of the SBC faithfully take their stand on God's Word and proclaim it without fear or ambiguity. In the 2016 SBC presidential election, Steve Gaines and J. D. Greear were nominated. When the election was too close to call, both men offered to withdraw and support the other. Such men set a godly example and provide strong biblical leadership.

Originally published as 7 Reasons at
ericfannin.wordpress.com on
October 24, 2017

LUKE 14:23

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

2019

"COMPEL THEM
TO COME IN.

THAT MY HOUSE
MAY BE FULL."

Student Fusion

Help your students move beyond their comfort zone and reach the community for Christ.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA
JUNE 22-26



BRISTOL
July 20-24

Family Fusion

Two opportunities for families to build a legacy of missions with their children.



CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND
JULY 9-12



BUCKROE BEACH
July 13-16

sbcv.org/studentfusion2020

sbcv.org/familyfusion2020



Bringing the **LOVE** of Jesus to Chincoteague

Kacie was in a desperate situation. Her father was in tears, praying for God to send help. Only a few months before, a fire had destroyed most of her earthly possessions. That was right before the company she and her husband worked for closed. Now she and her family were living with her father in Chincoteague, Virginia. Although a mobile home was offered to her by a neighbor, it had been abandoned for several years and required extensive repairs before it was livable. Her husband was working all the overtime he could get to try get the family back on its feet and was not available to help. Undaunted, Kacie got to work watching YouTube tutorials and

gutting the interior. But the task was simply overwhelming. That's when the tears and prayers come into play.

Enter David Guy. David was serving as the youth intern at **The Heights** in Colonial Heights, Virginia. David was in Chincoteague on assignment with SBC of Virginia's Family Fusion as part of his internship. His task was to develop the mission project in the neighborhoods on the south end of Chincoteague Island. On the same night that Kacie and her father prayed for God to send help, David was driving through Kacie's neighborhood, coming up with a plan for families attending Family Fusion to bring the love of Jesus to Chincoteague. As God would have it, the very next day, David

bumped into Kacie and asked her if there were any needs that she had that Fusion could help her with. Twenty-four hours later, dozens of hands and feet went to work rehabilitating a mobile home for Kacie and her family. Brush was cleared, trash picked up, grass mowed, a hole in the floor of the kitchen was patched and stairs were installed at the back door. Before they left, supplies for the next phase of the rebuild were purchased and placed in the home.

On that day, multiple generations of Christ followers joined forces to show and share the love of God to Kacie and her family and made an impact that will not soon be forgotten. ■





ANNUAL 2019 HOMECOMING

Disciples are not alone!

The SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming is more than a business meeting. It is a time for disciples to worship, hear testimonies, enjoy fellowship, and be equipped.

Three Days of Stories and Celebration

SUNDAY, NOV. 10
5:15 - 8:30 P.M.

S

MONDAY, NOV. 11
8:30 A.M. - 8:45 P.M.

M

TUESDAY, NOV. 12
8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

T



Inspiring Speakers

▶ **O.S. Hawkins**

GuideStone Financial
Resources

▶ **Vance Pitman**

Hope Church, Las Vegas

▶ **Eric Thomas**

First Baptist Church, Norfolk

▶ **H.B. Charles Jr.**

Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist
Church, Jacksonville

▶ **Ken Weathersby**

SBC Executive Committee

▶ **Brian Autry**

SBC of Virginia

▶ **Ken Whitten**

Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa

Homecoming meals included!

Thanks to your Gospel partnership,
meals are provided at no charge to
messengers and guests with registration.

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registration required).

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breakouts will be interpreted
for the Deaf.

Register today at

sbcv.org/ah2019

[#sbcvhome](https://twitter.com/sbcvhome)



Equipping Breakouts Monday Morning

Subjects include topics such as:

*See the
website for
additional
details.*

- ▶ Sunday School Strategy
- ▶ Evangelism/Leadership
- ▶ Teaching Doctrine
- ▶ Missional Small Groups
- ▶ Church Guest Awareness
- ▶ Importance of Small Groups
- ▶ Investments
- ▶ Teaching Together
- ▶ Coaching for Results
- ▶ Legal Issues / Ministry Safe
- ▶ Hispanic Ministry
- ▶ Discipling Girls, Preschoolers, Children, and Women
- ▶ The Roles of Women in the Church



Powerful Worship on Monday Evening

Don't miss Charles Billingsley, LU Praise, and LU Choir on Monday evening.



Reaching Students



Gospel
Partnerships



In 2017, three SBC of Virginia senior pastors (Steve Harrelson from **Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church**, Boston, Virginia; Dennis Smith from **Jeffersonton Baptist Church**, Jeffersonton, Virginia and Philip Walker from **Stevensburg Baptist Church**, Stevensburg, Virginia) bonded as “a cord of three strands” through the SBC of Virginia Pastors Fellowship in Culpeper, Virginia. These three church pastors soon recognized that they were also bound by a common passion to fill a void in their area of reaching middle school students with the Gospel.

Access to Public Schools

The United States Supreme Court ruled in 2001 that Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) could have access to public school facilities to conduct Good News Clubs in elementary schools and Junior Youth Clubs in middle schools.

Partnerships

In partnership, together in 2018, three pastors followed God’s calling to lead their churches to begin a CEF Junior Youth Club (JYC) on the campus of Culpeper Middle School in Culpeper to both proclaim the Gospel and to disciple these students. Seven men and women from the three churches volunteered to lead the JYC. They met at the school and prayed for three months before the first student, a seventh grader named Genesis, joined the club. Through prayer, perseverance and partnership, these three pastors and churches continued working together to overcome challenges and to seize opportunities like attending parent orientation to invite students to attend the club.

In the 2019 school year, 18 students were enrolled with an average weekly attendance of 16 middle schoolers in the Junior Youth Club at Culpeper Middle, in even better news, four clubbers came to saving faith in Christ during the 2019 school year at JYC. Pastor Dennis Smith stated, “It is evident that God is changing the lives of these kids. They sacrificially give up other activities to attend JYC, and

they are calling their parents to a commitment to Christ.” One clubber was even instrumental in leading one of his fellow classmates to Christ through the influence of the Junior Youth Club.

Impacting the Community

Because of this partnership, God has brought excitement in the lives of each of these three churches as they are impacting their community with the Gospel. Members are financially donating to purchase curriculum, snacks, Bibles, prizes and a pizza party for the Junior Youth Club and to assist the club with community outreach in the Culpeper area. Some members even donated the necessary funds to take the students on a field trip to The Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.

Through the pleading of students and power of God at work in the hearts of area school leaders, the three churches plan to expand their ministry in the 2019-20 school year to beginning a club in Culpeper High School. School leaders have requested that they consider beginning clubs in two other area schools as soon as possible. The pastors are now praying for more volunteers to take the Gospel to the schools.

Pastor Steve Harrelson stated, “In the end, as we looked at the desperate need of a Christian influence in our schools, we discovered that while, we as individual churches, can’t meet the need in every school, we could come together and make a difference in this one. God has given an open door for us to build a force of sold-out Christ followers within the school itself. The open door is there, and our conviction is that it is a sin not to walk through it.” ■

A Vital Ministry

Clifford Baptist Church (Amherst, Virginia) established a Good News Club (GNC) in Central Elementary School in the town of Amherst, Virginia in 2012. This after-school group meets on most Monday afternoons during the school year, with approximately 20 church volunteers teaching the truths of Jesus' love to children in grades K through 5th. The program includes singing, memorizing Bible verses, prayer groups, Bible-based games, and a Bible story lesson. All GNC members receive a bright T-shirt and are encouraged to wear it on Mondays, "advertising" club meetings.

Shepherding

In the past seven years, the GNC has shepherded more than 300 students through the program, with many children attending club meetings all six years at the school. There have been more than a dozen children who have been saved within this ministry, and several of them have been baptized at Clifford Baptist Church.

"The work and effort you put into the Good News Club changes lives."

Family Involvement

One great celebration of this Good News Club has been with the Connelly family. Parents Jason and Amy have been faithful to encourage all three of their children to attend the weekly GNC meetings. Twins Trace and Ryan graduated from the program's fifth grade group in 2016; their younger sister Kelsey graduated this year. The result of this family's involvement with Good News Club is their household's salvation, with parents and children coming to Christ and experiencing baptism at Clifford Baptist Church. Kelsey summed it up best in her graduation address to the GNC group: "If I could take one thing with me to middle school, it would be the love that each one of the Good News volunteers showed me and every other member through the last six years. I always looked forward to the smiles and joy each of you gave me every Monday as I walked through these doors. It shows that you care about and love us kids so much, and you thoroughly enjoy teaching Jesus' love for us. ... Good News Club is important because learning about the love of Christ when you are young is key to paving the way to live our lives to honor the Lord ... Thank you to every one of you (who) volunteers your time every week. The work and effort you put into the Good News Club changes lives."

Clifford Church's Senior Pastor, Michael Fitzgerald, is actively involved in meetings each week. He sees this chapter of the GNC as one of the most vital ministries the church has developed in his 37 years there. Clifford Church took their Good News Club into its eighth year as school began this fall. ■



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LEAVING A *Legacy*

**Larry (Margaret) BLACK &
Randy (Sherrilyn) ALDRIDGE**

The Church Planting Team at the SBC of Virginia (SBCV) has experienced significant transition in 2019, but none more significant than the exit of two of its long-term strategists — Larry Black and Randy Aldridge.

Larry and Margaret Black (right) joined the SBCV missionary team in 2005. Larry came with extensive experience in church planting in other state conventions, one association, and the North American Mission Board. As a church planting strategist with the SBCV Larry has served in the Central, Central-West, and Northern regions of the state.

While there are churches that dot the landscape in the regions Larry has served, he most significantly has left a legacy of assisting SBCV churches to reach people from the nations of the world that God has brought to the Commonwealth. He led a three-year effort that resulted in discovering 190 of the 195 nations of the world present in Metropolitan Washington DC, and 124 present in Metropolitan Richmond.

Upon discovering the myriad of people from the nations, Larry worked diligently to help our churches engage directly with indigenous church planters from 65 of the 190 nations. He became a champion for those indigenous leaders, advocating for support, creating and delivering contextual equipping, creating networking platforms, and providing loving coaching as a friend and brother in Christ.

Larry and Margaret have retired from the SBCV after 14 years of service. They now reside in the Atlanta, Georgia-area closer to their grandchildren and continuing in their work of advancing the Gospel through church planting among the nations.

Randy and Sherrilyn Aldridge hail from south Georgia but came to Virginia in 1993 for Randy (bottom right) to become the pastor of Pennington First Baptist Church. In 1998,



Randy led the church to align with the newly formed SBC of Virginia and served on its executive board from 1999-2002. He pastored Pennington First Baptist Church for 11 years until he resigned to join the missionary team of the SBCV in 2004.

With his pastoral experience and knowledge of the Appalachian region of the state, Randy served the churches of that region as a church health missionary for four years. In 2008, he began work as a church planting strategist in the region at the same time he was planting Christian Life Fellowship in Jonesville, Virginia. The church grew quickly with new members and new followers of Jesus. After four years, Randy resigned as

pastor of the new church and continued in his role as the SBCV church planting strategist, serving the western two-thirds of the state.

Randy served the churches of the SBCV in the Central-West and Southwest regions of the state faithfully for 15 years until his resignation in 2019 to become the new pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Martinsville, Virginia, in August. He and Sherrilyn have served the churches and pastors of that region well, leaving a trail of communities and towns with new and healthier churches — all proclaiming the Good News that Jesus saves. ■

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

YOUR ETERNITY depends on your answer.

God says that in order to go to heaven, you must be born again.

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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."

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Focused

ATTENTION

IN CHURCH REVITALIZATION


“

*...give every
SBC of Virginia
church the tools
necessary for
revitalization.*

”

For the past two years, SBC of Virginia has placed a significant emphasis on church revitalization. The current model for church revitalization in the SBC of Virginia is to identify churches in every region of Virginia and give them hands-on assistance from the SBC of Virginia staff and other partner churches. This has resulted in the SBC of Virginia choosing 8 to 10 churches to give focused attention over a 12 month time period to accelerate their revitalization effort. This action-based approach has proven effective for many churches. While this approach is effective, the desires of the SBC of Virginia is to expand its scope in church revitalization.

The desire is to give every SBC of Virginia church the tools necessary for revitalization. The SBC of Virginia is pleased to announce we have officially entered



Is your church experiencing decline in salvations, baptisms, worship attendance, Sunday School, small groups or giving? **Help is here.** You are not alone.

into a partnership with Thom Rainer, founder, and CEO of Church Answers. Thom Rainer was previously CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources and now is dedicating his time and attention to the area of church revitalization.

Through this partnership, SBC of Virginia will be able to expand its revitalization effort to 30 churches in the coming months. Church Answers will provide an internet-based assessment and teaching tools, covering various critical areas such as identifying the leadership style of the pastor, the dynamics of his particular congregation and the demographics of the community. Further, these assessments will be coupled with face-to-face consultations. These enhanced tools along with a team of consultants and the SBC of Virginia staff, our reach in church revitalization will be greatly enhanced. ■

RESOURCE:

If you are interested in knowing more about Church Answers, visit:



churchanswers.com

Further, if you are interested in pursuing church revitalization, please contact Rusty Small at:



rsmall@sbcv.org



Exposure & RESCUE



A particularly brutal practice existed toward vulnerable children in ancient Rome. The practice was known as **exposure** or leaving children, whose frame or family could not sustain them, to the perilous elements outside the city gates. Amid this cultural darkness emerged a new people, Christians, who earned notoriety for rescuing the exposed and abandoned. As the church lived out its convictions and calling, an impossible culture of abandonment changed.

A crisis of vulnerable children exists in our time and culture. Presently, more than 5,000 children in Virginia are active in foster care — **exposed** to the fragility of life outside family. Without enough foster families, children are left outside our societal gates. It seems an impossible culture to turn around, but the legacy of the early church informs us otherwise. Culture can change and the people of God can lead it.

Churches Respond

Two SBC of Virginia churches — **Fellowship Community Church** (Salem, Virginia) and **Fincastle Baptist Church** (Fincastle, Virginia) — are making great gains in the ministry of foster care and adoption.

In Fincastle, corporate education and awareness stirred the congregation. To equip the called, the church strategically partnered with a local foster care agency to offer licensure coursework as a part of Wednesday night discipleship. Five Fincastle families completed the training, creating the largest licensing class in the agency's memory.

Presently, more than 5,000 children in Virginia are active in foster care.

Fellowship Community's obedience grew out of the example of their pastor, Ken Nienke. As the Nienkes opened their home and hearts to a teen in need, God stirred others to do likewise. It is estimated that over 10-percent of the congregation is actively involved in welcomed foster or adoptive care.

SBCV's First Foster Care and Adoption Conference

In May, the SBC of Virginia partnered with Fellowship Community and Fincastle Baptist Church to host the Convention's first conference on foster care and adoption. Families from across the state gathered to learn next steps and receive the support of a like-minded community. The keynote address by Christian Alliance for Orphans president, Jedd Medefind, (right) is available to view at sbcv.org/fcasummit.

As we become increasingly aware of the urgent reality of today's vulnerable children, may we, like the early church, become known for sacrificial love that turns the tide of change. ■

RESOURCE:

If you are interested in learning more about fostering or church training, please contact SBCV Compassion Ministries Associate, Sarah DeJarnette, at:

 sdejarnette@sbcv.org

Additionally, if your church already has an existing foster care ministry, please let us know so we can best connect you with regional opportunities.



Inspire

A word of hope, support, and encouragement

“

But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship... As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.” Joshua 24:15 (CSB)

Are You Serving GOD or MAN?

The call to “choose” is yet again upon us as it was in the Prophet Joshua’s day, as God’s people had gone wayward. The state of our current culture continually forces Christians to stand at the crossroads of good and evil and choose a side. But that line between right and wrong blurs more and more each day. The backdrop to Joshua’s charge is simple — make a decision: Will you choose to follow God or will you select the conveniences of life?

Before you can even make a decision, you must understand that all idols begin innocently as “thoughts” or “ideas,” and we create and serve them believing they will make our lives easier and our lifestyles comfortable and desired. Has anyone noticed that the social media and cell phone app gods are multiplying at an amazing pace?

Our flesh will never be satisfied, and we’ll always find things that take us away from God as we think, “out of sight, out of

mind.” When we invest our God-given time, resources and creativity in “idols” that we think will appease our flesh, we rob God of His glory and cheapen our witness to others.

As the prophet Elijah asked, “...How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). Let us not delay. Today, if we hear His voice, let us be swift to repent and finalize our choice to always choose Christ. ■

Love you all!



Milton Harding

Pastoral Relations Associate

✉ mharding@sbcv.org

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Impact Generations

impact

verb | im'pakt |

1 (impact on) have a strong effect on some or something

On Saturday, May 25, at **Mission Church** in Norfolk, Virginia, women gathered to impact the next generation and to cross cultural barriers. The one-day conference drew a diverse group of women, representing many cultures and ethnicities from all over Hampton Roads, Virginia, and the surrounding areas and offered insight from keynote speakers as well as in-depth table conversation.

Dr. Jena Dunn delivered an overview of the Book of Titus, giving great insight into the history leading up to Paul's letter. Dr. Dunn pointed out many similarities between the world at the time of the writing and our world today. In order to impact the generations, Christians must "participate in life, and not rely on upheaval or "cloistering ourselves away," Dunn shared.

That is certainly true in Portsmouth, Virginia, where Women's Ministry Director Maxine Porcher is encouraging the women of **Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church** to "participate in life." By organizing the women of her church into "cell groups," God's love is overflowing into the community by working with the local food bank, women's shelter, and nursing homes. Some of the eight groups are divided by age, allowing strong bonds to be made. Other groups are more interest-based, developing deep mentorship by walking through life together. As the groups have grown, they have attracted not just church members, but women form the community as well.

Pastor's wife, mom, and Regent University student Jaqueline Shannon addressed the group of 65 women. Shannon stated, "Every woman has the charge to disciple another woman." She reminded the group that, "We do not have to have credentials in order to be on mission."

Donna Paulk, SBC of Virginia Women's Ministry Strategist, commissioned the women to remember that, "You cannot teach anything well unless your life is connected to God. [We must] start out with a prayer of surrender." As the conference concluded, it was clear that the women of Southeast Virginia know they are not alone in reaching the next generation for Christ. ■

RESOURCE:

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



sbcv.org/women

Purpose;

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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, visit sbcv.org/planters



Greg Gibson
Church Planter
VERITAS CITY CHURCH

Meeting at:
3255 K St NW, Washington, D.C. 20007
Birthdays:
Greg (April 10), Grace (December 2)

PRAYER NEEDS:

- For God to continue to move, as we seek our first 100 baptisms
- For favor in Georgetown, Virginia
- For clarity on our second location in Washington, D.C.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- With financial resources (give directly to missions in D.C.)
- With short-term mission teams (send teams to Veritas)
- By building missional awareness and momentum (bring Greg to speak)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

veritascity.org
info@veritascity.org



Paul Hardy
Church Planter
RESONATE CHURCH

Meeting at:
414 S. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23322
Birthdays:
Paul (August 9), Suzie (June 1)

PRAYER NEEDS:

- For protection from the enemy
- For entry into biker clubs and favor with them
- For our launch team — for direction, wisdom, and unity
- For a building of our own in the right location at the right time

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Prayer partners
- Creative and gifted worship team members
- A donated motorcycle to present at community events
- Monthly financial supporters

CONTACT INFORMATION:

ironhorsefellowship.com
doctorpaul56@gmail.com

yec



2020

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2 COR. 5:14

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CALENDAR 2019

NOVEMBER

- 8-9 Surrounded Conference, Fincastle BC, Fincastle
- 9 Crossover: Feed the Valley
- 10-12 Annual Homecoming, First BC, Roanoke
- 28 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 1-8 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering & Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

2020

JANUARY

- 17-18 Youth Evangelism Conference, London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach
- 21 Prayer Summit, New Bridge BC, Sandston
- 25 Equip Women's Conference, Atlantic Shores BC, Virginia Beach
- 28 Leading Noble Men, Grove Avenue BC, Richmond

FEBRUARY

- 4 Young Pastors Summit with Jeff Iorg, SBCV Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen
- 29 Equip Women's Conference, Grove Avenue BC, Richmond
- 29 The Noble Man, Roanoke

MARCH

- 1-2 Who's Your One Tour with Johnny Hunt, LibertyLive.Church, Hampton
- 7 Kids Ministry Conference, Swift Creek BC, Midlothian
- 14 Kids Ministry Conference, North Roanoke BC, Roanoke
- 14 The Noble Man, Fredericksburg
- 20-21 Women's Conference with Jackie Hill Perry, Spotswood BC, Fredericksburg
- 24 Ministry Safe Training, Staples Mill BC, Glen Allen
- 25 Ministry Safe Training, First BC, Roanoke
- 28 The Noble Man, Swift Creek BC, Midlothian



Editor's Letter

BRANDON PICKETT

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📘 facebook.com/brandon.pickett

🐦 [@brandonpick](https://twitter.com/brandonpick)

Expand

When I was growing up and I didn't want to try something new or eat something I had never eaten, my Dad would always say to me, "Come on, Brandon. Expand your horizons!" I didn't always appreciate what he was trying to teach me. He knew that the very new thing he was trying to get me to experience could very well be my new favorite thing. I, meanwhile, thought that he was trying to poison me. I'm just kidding, of course. It wasn't until I was a little older that I realized there was an exciting world of new tastes, experiences and, even, people if I would do what he said — expand my horizons.

The Bible encourages us with this same principle. Isaiah 54:2 says, *"Enlarge the site of your tent, and let your tent curtains be stretched out, do not hold back; lengthen your ropes and drive your pegs deep."* This verse is much more than the prayer of Jabez in I Chronicles 4, where Jabez prays for God to expand his borders. Scholars believe this was a challenge to Israel to prepare for the new covenant that Jesus would usher in and prepare for Gentiles to "come into the tent." But God knew that to expand the tent and stretch out the curtains, they needed to drive their pegs deep. The broader the ministry — the deeper the foundation needs to be. Praise the Lord our fellowship was built on the foundation of the inerrancy of God's Word and that foundation continues to this day.

Your *Borders*

I believe we are already seeing God enlarge the SBC of Virginia tent. We are seeing incredible growth in our Hispanic ministry (top right). A new church planting couple was sent to Iceland (bottom). The first Foster Care & Adoption Summit was held with dramatic results. Multiple churches got together to “Saturate Augusta” and plant the Gospel in around 50,000 homes in just one day (bottom right). More than 100,000 homes are being prayed for all over Virginia as part of

Bless Every Home. And, that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

As we get ready to usher in a brand new decade — 2020 — it’s exciting to think of all that God can do through each one of us if we just expand our horizon — and tent — to something new. Let’s not hold back. Let’s continue to drive our pegs deep in the Gospel and prepare for new opportunity, new ministry and new blessings. ■



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