

PROCLAIMER

2020 | VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1 | Telling the stories of Vision Virginia

BLESS EVERY HOME *in Action*

New Life from Old

*New life beginning in
old church buildings.*

Virginia March for Life

*Marching to support
the cause for life.*

BEH Impacts Local Church

*Reaching communities
with the Gospel.*



*You are
not alone.*

PROCLAIMER

Spring 2020 — Issue 1

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*You are
not alone.*

Bless Every Home Reach Every Nation

God has called us to bless every home and reach every nation. In this edition of Proclaimer, you will find stories about God working through churches to bless every home and reach every nation as they proclaim the Gospel of Christ. You will find opportunities that are upcoming that you and your church family can utilize to extend your reach and ministry capacity.

For the past 18 months, SBC of Virginia has been mobilizing churches to bless every home in Virginia and Metro DC as we pray, care, share, and disciple. Approximately 150 churches are partnering to proclaim the Gospel as part of our Bless Every Home initiative. Almost 190,000 homes are now being “blessed” as we pray, care, share, and disciple.

Recently, I worshipped and preached at **Franklin Heights Church** in Franklin County with Pastor Stan Parris. Pastor Stan cast a vision for their church family to adopt every home in their county and they are fulfilling that vision! At

last count, **The Heights Baptist**, which is pastored by former SBCV president Randy Hahn has more than 250 people mobilized and is blessing almost 10,000 homes. Whatever your church size, wherever your church is located, you can be a part of blessing every home.

Likewise, your church is part of seeking to reach every nation. SBC of Virginia churches are partnering to plant churches among the nations right here in our local communities. Through our cooperative Gospel partnership you are sending missionaries around the world to reach the nations through our Southern Baptist International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

SBC of Virginia exists to partner churches to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. You are not alone as you bless every home and reach every nation!

May we be united in following the example and answering the call of our Lord Jesus: And Jesus went throughout

all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:35–38 ESV) ■

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Autry



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NEW LIFE

Rising from the Old

It's no secret that the evangelical church in America is statistically losing ground. Less people identify as practicing Christians than ever before in our history by percentage. As a matter of fact, thousands of churches are closing their doors every year. As a result, the Gospel is reaching less people and abandoned church buildings are becoming more common in communities across the country. Virginia is no exception.

The good news is that a new chapter of life is beginning in many of these old church buildings. **Hope Church Clearview** in Martinsville is one such story of new life. Twelve years ago, the Holy Spirit convicted Pastor Brian Edwards of **Hope Church Danville** that he needed to move beyond his comfort zone and lead his church to begin planting new churches. He didn't know what church planting really was at the time but stood on Sunday morning and proclaimed "our church will be a church that gives birth." As a result, **Hope Church Halifax** (east of Danville) was started in 2011. Since then, six more churches have been birthed. Hope Church Clearview is one of the newest plants. The original name of the plant was Hope Church Martinsville, but God changed that.

As a core group of people from Hope Church Martinsville were meeting in the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, Pastor Haywood Alcorn was praying for new life to come to Clearview Baptist Church. Clearview was a church plant that began with a small group of believers that felt the call to reach the Clearview community in 1971. God called Pastor Alcorn to be the founding pastor, and the group officially constituted as a church in 1974. On July 4, 1975, Clearview broke ground on their first church building which was completed exactly one year later. Clearview was built by people from the church and community to reach that part of the city with the Gospel, and boy did God do some amazing things. For instance in 1982, Haywood believed God was calling them to baptize one person each week of the year, and he cast that vision to the church. He shared they were really disappointed that year because they only baptized 47 people (tongue in cheek I'm sure). God allowed Pastor Alcorn to pastor Clearview Baptist until 1987. Over 300 people were saved and baptized during that time, and they give all praise to God.

Fast forward to 2019, and the aging congregation has dwindled to just a few members.

Pastor Alcorn, hearing about this new church plant, reached out to one of the pastors of Hope Church Danville. Before long, Clearview Baptist voted to dissolve and give the property to Hope Church. Several remaining members chose to join the new Hope Church plant, which would now become Hope Church Clearview, in honor of the Gospel legacy of the saints that devoted their life in the Clearview community. Chris Brown is the new church planter that recently joined the team.

The old Clearview Church building needed lots of work both aesthetically and structurally, including repairing years of damage due to leaks and lack of use. Pastor Edwards is most excited that a broken baptistry that has been used for storage for well over a decade, is now repaired and will soon hold water again to baptize those being saved. New Life rising from the old. The story of the Gospel always results in new life. Pray for Hope Church Clearview that Pastor Alcorn's goal of 52 souls would experience the waters of baptism. ■

COMMUNITY DRIVEN: VBS

Have you ever noticed around the month of June that you start seeing church Vacation Bible School (VBS) signs all over the community? Todd Yoder, Youth and Children's Pastor at **Calvary Baptist Church** in Staunton does VBS a little differently than most churches, and they have found it to be impactful for the Kingdom of God.

"If one takes a moment and looks at our country and the local community, there are a lot of sports being played," said Yoder.

For the past decade, Calvary has done a Mega Sports Camp because it is not only evangelistic, but also relational. "We use it as a means to mentor and disciple the volunteer leaders, and I love that it gets as many people involved as possible, and that they take ownership in the VBS," said Yoder, so he opted for Mega Sports VBS. He found that many families can be reached through a VBS approach such as this.

Following the opening rally, each child chose the elective they want to participate in throughout the week. For the Staunton area, hunting is very popular, so they tailored the electives to include hunting as well as other sports such as volleyball, baseball, basketball, soccer,

and, even, karate. Choices also include painting, jewelry making, creative dancing, and cooking. During these electives, the head coach teaches the fundamentals while the assistant coaches and the team moms and dads reinforce the message in a relational manner. This approach offered the church the opportunity to share the Gospel daily.

The closing rally included a high school or college student athlete sharing their testimony, which correlated to the night's theme. This encouraged the student athlete to grow spiritually.

"It was such a privilege to share a bit of my journey in martial arts and how it correlates with my relationship to Jesus Christ," said Aspen Cash, a member of American Freestyle Karate. "It is a journey that is not always easy, but always worth it."

Because of Cash's testimony, several kids accepted Christ. "Leading these children to a faith in Christ was one of the most amazing experiences of my life," Cash shared.

Calvary also provides a time of offering for missions each day. There is always competition between the girls and boys to bring in donations of coins to partner in missions giving. According to Yoder, they have raised more than \$4,500 in one week for a local ministry.

"To be clear, it isn't about which VBS a church selects, but it is about seeking what the Lord wants you to do and be obedient to Him to bring glory to God," Yoder said. For now, Calvary serves the Lord through sports, and brings the Gospel message to children excited to come to VBS. ■

Church Focus Turns

Building real relationships to multiply disciples."

Outward

In the late summer of 2014, **Parkview Baptist Church** called Jim Drake to serve as its pastor. The church was still hurting because of a recent split they had gone through, and they couldn't get attendance above 20.

When a church is in that condition, they can't help but be inward-focused, so Drake began crafting a new mission and tactic to help the church gain new vision and understanding that the greatest need would be for trust.

Drake preached a series of messages from the book of Nehemiah. From which, he pointed out King Artaxerxes had to trust Nehemiah even though he didn't know him. The king had to extend trust to a cupbearer he didn't know. Just as it was a matter of life or death in Nehemiah, it was in Parkview. Drake asked the church to extend trust that he hadn't earned and in-turn, he would spend his time proving they could trust him.

"Building real relationships to multiply disciples" became the tactic to guide them beyond the walls of their church. From the beginning, everything was to be relational rather than attractional. In other words, they had to get outside the walls of doing things for themselves, and of expecting to bring people to the church. Therefore, in September 2014, they launched their first "Beyond the Walls" event, which was a cookout located in the Bluefield town park. "It was to have fun and enjoy the community," Drake said. From that time, they have looked for what no one else is doing and for how they can be most effective.

Drake began attending town council meetings to get to know and to develop relationships with town leaders. He soon would be invited to pray over council meetings, and to look for opportunities that would open up the church to serve their community. One such opportunity came that November with an invitation to serve hot chocolate at the town Christmas tree lighting.

In the spring of 2015, they held the first "Home Town Heroes" service, honoring first responders, along with neighborhood Bible clubs across town, and now soccer camps.

Drake said, "just as Jesus lifted the eyes of the disciples to see the fields white unto harvest (John 4:35)," in the same miraculous way, the folks of Parkview began to unify in their vision and decision making."

Once Parkview began to see beyond their walls, unity within the church began to grow, allowing them to make significant changes such as a new covenant, new membership process, and even new ministry partnerships.

For Parkview to move forward in reaching their neighbors and the nations, they realized it would be imperative to have healthy relationships with ministry partners they could trust. They decided to partner with the Mountain State Baptist Association, and the SBC of Virginia to help them stay on the mission "Beyond the Walls." ■



A photograph of three men sitting around a white table in a meeting. The man on the left is a Black man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark jacket. The man in the center is a white man with short hair, wearing a blue and orange plaid shirt, gesturing with his hands. The man on the right is a white man with glasses, wearing a white shirt. On the table are several red plastic cups, water bottles, a black mug, and a box of tissues. In the background, there are stacks of red and white paper cups and a silver electric kettle on a blue tray.

A Common Bond

“

*We want to encourage each other
to think Biblically and wisely about
the way we shepherd our churches
and care for our own souls.*

”

For about two years, a group of pastors have been meeting together for the purpose of mutual edification. The group was initiated by Peter Hess, founding pastor of **Christ Fellowship Church** of Williamsburg. He first had the idea for this gathering after listening to a Pastors' Talk: 9Marks podcast on pastoral friendship. Hess recounts, "Mark Dever shared how they do a monthly pastors gathering in the DC area at Capitol Hill Baptist Church. I thought we might be able to do the same here in Hampton Roads. So, I emailed some brother pastors I knew, and we got together for lunch to discuss the idea."

What started with a handful of pastors has now grown to a group that, at times, reaches 20. Each monthly meeting includes a roundtable discussion in which every pastor shares one item he wants to discuss. Hopson Boutot, pastor of **Poquoson Baptist Church**, was among the original handful of pastors at the beginning. He recalls, "Peter would moderate the discussion through as many of the items that we could cover in 90 minutes."

Boutot continues, "As our group grew, we began noticing that the meetings were not as profitable as before. Moderating roundtable discussion topics was becoming more challenging as the topics became less focused and less applicable to everyone attending." Boutot, Hess, and Miguel Davilla, pastor of **Hampton Roads Fellowship**, decided to provide more structure to the meetings by providing topics in advance. Now they gather monthly and discuss an article related to one of the 9Marks of a healthy church. They take turns finding the articles and moderating the discussion.

When asked about the objective of the pastors lunches, Hess replied, "Pastors are often very lonely and feel like they can't unburden themselves to others in the church because of how they might be perceived (e.g. ungrateful, unspiritual). Given that pastors bear unique spiritual stresses and temptations, it is important for pastors to have pastor-friends, who understand and care. We are hoping to build those kinds of relationships in the group as well as help one another with ministry ideas."

The common bond shared by group participants is their loose association with affirmations and denials as authored by *Together for the Gospels*. Hess shared, "We don't want these meetings to devolve into arguments about particular theological positions. Instead, we want to encourage each other to think Biblically and wisely about the way we shepherd our churches and care for our own souls."

Speaking of the personal value gleaned from participating in the group, Boutot said, "I've been a part of several pastors' networks in the past, and this, by far, has been the most valuable. I appreciate the friendships that have developed. Many of us pray for one another regularly. Some of us meet outside of the big group in order to continue to grow together. Several of the men in the group have preached in my church and were highly instrumental in helping me wisely lead my church towards greater faithfulness to Scripture."

Regional Catalyst and Church Planting Strategists in the SBC of Virginia provide many opportunities for networking and fellowship in each region throughout the year. But one component of our strategy is to see more peer initiated and peer led groups meeting regularly just like the one initiated by Hess. ■

Advice For Starting a Pastors' Group

When asked what advice they would give to fellow pastors wanting to start their own pastors' group, Hess and Boutot offered these four tips:

Require Unity

It'll be hard to cultivate this type of gathering if you don't agree on the essentials. The goal of the group is to build each other up, not argue.

Encourage Diversity

As important as it is to be like-minded, it's also important to have some level of diversity in your group. In God's providence our group includes young and old, all races, planters and revitalizers, full-time pastors, and bi-vocational ministers.

Just Start Somewhere

Start with two or three pastors in your area and see what God can do!

Pray

"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 (HCSB)

RESOURCE:

If you would like help in starting your own pastors' group, contact your regional SBC of Virginia catalyst or church planting strategist, visit:



sbcv.org



Opened Doors

"I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. (Revelation 3:8) You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me." Philadelphia was the brotherly love church. They endured many difficult situations. The Lord Jesus is comforting them by reminding them of His Sovereign authority, He is in control, He commissions, and He makes sure His people will get through the greatest trials while serving Him faithfully.

This passage can summarize what has happened lately among our Hispanic brethren.

The SBC of Virginia has been organizing Conferences in Spanish in the past years. It has been growing in number and in influence. This past September, we had a record attendance of 360 adults and 90 children. The local pastors of Richmond organized the logistics of the event. Also, **Parkway Baptist Church**, and **Kingsland Baptist Church** provided their leaders to help with children, and worship logistics. Many pastors contacted us saying they want to help with next events. There is momentum, and we have to join God on what he is doing.

“

It was the power of the church working as the body of Christ.

”

This is not a SBCV staff endeavor only, there were many hands and different languages working together to make this happen. It was the power of the church working as the body of Christ.

Churches have been working in partnership in other areas as well. Thomas Road en Español has a passionate ladies' ministry: Alabastro (Alabaster), and in this last semester

they have taken their ladies' ministry to the road. They have visited Richmond and Norfolk, where a group of ladies from different churches were waiting for them. They showed them how they do their service, from beginning to the end. Laura Guardia, from Lynchburg, explains the purpose of these trips is to equip and provide resources to the women's ministry leaders in other churches to do their own women's ministry. The fruit of these trips is that the leaders in Lynchburg had the opportunity to use their gifts and equip other women, and now the leaders of **Iglesia del Camino** in Norfolk started their own ministry in November of 2019.

Another open door happened in Appomattox. **Liberty Baptist Church** has an English a Second Language ministry. They have been ministering to immigrant workers in the local farms. Dr. David Towles attends Liberty Baptist and teaches Spanish at Liberty University. God placed in his heart to start a Spanish service at 8:00 am, and 30 people showed up to the first service! Dr. Towles asked the SBCV for help in this new program, and we contacted Pastor Sung Hoon Kim from Thomas Road en Español (Lynchburg). There was a time of prayer to find the right leader. On December of 2019 a newlywed couple from this church, Juan Pablo and Jimena Monteagudo, started traveling from Lynchburg to Appomattox to assist Dr. Towles in ministering the new group.

There is power in working together, but there is greater power in obeying together. May we be found faithful in this time and make much of King Jesus' Kingdom. "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me." ■



Puentes Abiertas

“Yo sé todo lo que haces y te he abierto una puerta que nadie puede cerrar. Tienes poca fuerza; sin embargo, has obedecido mi palabra y no negaste mi nombre. (Apocalipsis 3:8) La iglesia de Filadelfia era la iglesia del amor fraternal. Habían sufrido muchas situaciones difíciles, incluido un terremoto. El Señor Jesús los está consolando al recordarles Su autoridad soberana, Él tiene el control, Él se encarga y se asegura de que Su pueblo supere las pruebas más grandes mientras lo sirve fielmente.

Este pasaje puede resumir lo que ha sucedido últimamente entre nuestros hermanos hispanos.

La SBC de Virginia ha estado organizando conferencias en español en los últimos años. Esta actividad ha ido creciendo en número, pero también en influencia. En septiembre pasado, tuvimos una asistencia récord de 360 adultos y 90 niños. Los pastores locales de Richmond organizaron la logística del evento. Además, la **Iglesia Bautista Parkway** y la **Iglesia Bautista Kingsland** proporcionaron a sus líderes de habla inglesa para ayudar con los niños y logística de adoración. Luego de la conferencia muchos pastores se comunicaron para expresar que quieren ayudar con los próximos eventos. Hay un entusiasmo latente, y tenemos que unirnos a Dios en lo que está haciendo.

Este no fue un esfuerzo solamente del personal de SBCV, hubo muchas manos y diferentes idiomas trabajando juntos para que esto suceda. Era el poder de la iglesia trabajando como el cuerpo de Cristo.

Este no es el único ejemplo de hacer una gran diferencia a través de pequeños pasos de fe. La Iglesia Thomas Road en Español tiene un apasionado ministerio de damas: Alabastro, y en este último semestre han llevado el ministerio a crecer equipando a otras líderes. Han visitado Richmond y Norfolk, donde las esperaban un grupo de damas de dife-

rentes iglesias. Les mostraron cómo hacen su servicio, de principio a fin. Laura Guardia, de Lynchburg, explica que el propósito de estos viajes es dar herramientas a las líderes de otras iglesias para que comiencen su propio ministerio entre mujeres. Ahora las damas de la **Iglesia del Camino** comenzaron su propio ministerio en noviembre de 2019.

Otra puerta abierta se abrió en Appomattox. **Liberty Baptist Church** tiene un ministerio de inglés como segundo idioma. La iglesia han estado ministrando a trabajadores inmigrantes en las granjas locales. El Dr. David Towles, quien asiste a Liberty Baptist y enseña español en Liberty University, comenzó un servicio en español los Domingos a las 8:00 am. ¡Pensarías que es demasiado temprano para tener un servicio de lanzamiento (en realidad confieso que yo lo pensé), pero Dios nos sorprendió cuando 30 personas se presentaron al primer servicio! El Dr. Towles le pidió ayuda al SBCV en esto, y contactamos al Pastor Sung Hoon Kim de Thomas Road en Español (Lynchburg). Hubo un tiempo de oración para encontrar el líder correcto. En diciembre de 2019, un matrimonio de esta iglesia, Juan Pablo y Jimena Monteagudo comenzaron

Era el poder de la iglesia trabajando como el cuerpo de Cristo.

a viajar desde Lynchburg a Appomattox para ayudar al Dr. Towles a ministrar al nuevo grupo.

Hay poder en trabajar juntos, pero hay mayor poder en obedecer juntos. Que seamos hallados fieles en este tiempo y aprovechar para avanzar el Reino del Rey Jesús. “Yo sé todo lo que haces y te he abierto una puerta que nadie puede cerrar. Tienes poca fuerza; sin embargo, has obedecido mi palabra. ■



Virginia March for Life

On February 13, SBC of Virginia churches joined together with thousands of others to participate in the Virginia March for Life in Richmond. Despite the rain and dreary, cold weather, approximately 3,000 met together for a rally before marching multiple blocks around the Capitol building.

"We thought it was important to be here rain or shine. We just wanted to let our legislators and everybody who's listening know that we support the cause of life," said Danny Campbell, Pastor of **The Tabernacle**, who brought with him more than a dozen people from Danville.

Senator Steve Newman, R-23rd District, encouraged the crowd with a Biblical reference to Proverbs 21, "Rest assured in this, that even the king's heart, the governor's heart, the senators' and the delegates' hearts are in the hands of the Lord. He is in control of all of these things."

"We're so thrilled that rain or shine, people came from all across Virginia... to be a voice for the voiceless," said Victoria Cobb, President of the Family Foundation of Virginia, who co-sponsored the rally. "Thousands are here standing, where others can't stand. The Virginia March for Life is growing each year and more churches are getting on board. We're looking forward to years of this kind of impact."

The crowd was moved by the testimony of Chandra Jarrett, author of "What I wish I knew about abortion," who shared her personal story of abortion, "We need to change the narrative about abortion. We need to tell the truth about the trauma of abortion."

Executive Pastor, Michael Miller from **Crosslink Community Church** in Harrisonburg, brought multiple people from his church. "There is a purpose behind life and the sanctity of life. You and I know this is the human rights crisis of our day." ■

Deaf Leadership ROUNDTABLE

Join other Deaf leaders from Virginia and DC for a time of networking and encouragement.

Saturday, May 30, 2020 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Staples Mill Road Baptist Church,
Glen Allen

Virginia Deaf Church
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for lunch

Find out more at
sbcv.org/deafleadership



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National Goal: \$70,000,000

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NO ESTAMOS SOLOS 2020

DR. RAMÓN OSORIO
MOVILIZADOR NACIONAL
DE LAS IGLESIAS, NAMB

Anfitriones

Emmanuel Baptist Church e
Iglesia Bíblica Bautista Emanuel

Emmanuel Baptist Church
8006 Centreville Rd,
Manassas, VA 20111

Sábado
16 de Mayo
9:00AM-3:30PM

PARA MAS INFORMACIÓN

SBCV.ORG/CONFERENCIAHISPANA2020



Working TOGETHER

Pastor Hugo Preza, of **Iglesia Biblica Gracia Sobre Gracia** in Henrico County, was just days away from not having a meeting space for the nearly 100 Hispanic church members. As the clock began to tick, Pastor Hugo reached out and connected with Sergio Guardia, Hispanic Leadership Catalyst at SBCV, and Raúl Santamaria, Hispanic Church Planting Strategist at SBCV, for help.

Reaching out for help resulted in a partnership between Iglesia Biblica Gracia Sobre Gracia and **Staples Mill Road Baptist Church**. Pastor Jim Booth met with Pastor Hugo and offered the use of Staples Mill Road Baptist Church free of charge. After several months of meeting, both churches are grateful for the partnership.

Pastor Jim stated, “The partnership with Pastor Hugo and Gracia Sobre Gracia is going great. Even with our four worship services on Sundays, we were able to find times for them to meet on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. This seems to be working very well for both congregations. Though they have large numbers of people coming, they always leave the facility as if no one had been here. This has been an easy and enjoyable partnership so far.”

Because of partnership, a church continues to meet and reach others with the Gospel. Because of partnership,

two different congregations work together to reach their community.

“I would encourage every church to be open to hosting a solid SBCV sister church like Gracia Sobre Gracia. This kind of partnership fits perfectly with our mission as a church. If a church has space available to share, I would encourage them to let the SBCV know of their availability.”

Hugo is grateful for the SBCV and because of partnership, he knows that he is not alone. “Being associated means having found a group of people who have the same Lord, the same faith, the same feeling of carrying the Gospel to the last of the earth regardless of nationality, language, and social condition with which one can work in unity and harmony,” said Hugo. ■

RESOURCE:

For more information, visit:



sbcv.org/churchplanting

Or, contact Sergio Guardia at:



sguardia@sbcv.org

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Week of Prayer: September 20-27
Goal: \$400,000

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Points to ponder.**

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sbcv.org/52sundays2020

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BLESS EVERY HOME *Impacts* Local Church



London Bridge Baptist Church of Virginia Beach had been searching for a tool that would help them reach their neighborhoods and communities with the Gospel. So, when the Bless Every Home initiative was introduced at the SBC of Virginia Homecoming in 2018, the church staff was enthusiastic. But, Senior Pastor Greg Brinson, knew that if this tool was going to be embraced and have an impact in their church and community, he would have to lead by example. Initially, he introduced the tool to the staff, deacons, and an outreach team. He and his wife, along with this core group of leaders, signed up to be lights in their own neighborhoods. They each adopted 25-40 homes to pray for, receiving email reminders to pray for five of them daily. He followed this up with a preaching series on the four components of Bless Every Home: Prayer, Care, Share, and Disciple. Then a challenge and invitation was given to the congregation to join them in the initiative. London Bridge Baptist Church is so committed to this resource that they have contextualized logos, printed materials and an elaborate set in the church's foyer to serve as a reminder that the mission field is where the congregation lives. To date, the church has well over 200 lights, which means that at least 8,000 families are being prayed for on a weekly basis. Because the church is a partnering church with Bless Every Home, they have access to the latest demographic information as well as an alert of newcomers moving into their neighborhoods. Pastor Brinson encourages the church each week with their recorded activities and provides opportunities for the congregation to submit and share their testimonies. He recently shared excerpts of three of those testimonies.

TESTIMONY 1:

Two doors down from me is a family that I have been inviting to church for more than 10 years. Bless Every Home has caused me to intensify my prayers for this family. Saturday night before Easter, our doorbell rang at 10 p.m. It was my neighbor, asking, "When are your church services tomorrow?" We were delighted to tell him. As we arrived for Easter service, their car followed us into the parking lot. They were warmly greeted at the welcome center and the Pastor's wife was able to connect their teenage daughter with others her age.

TESTIMONY 2:

My neighbor and I have young kids in common, and we get together frequently. One night after the kids were asleep, she invited me over. The conversation focused on our personal lives, families, and faith. She wanted to know what I believed and did not know much about being a Christian. I was able to tell her how the Gospel had changed my life. She did not accept Christ that night but listened intently. I kept thinking about how I had prayed fervently for her and her family through Bless Every Home and now I am seeing the fruit of my prayers and God is opening new doors.

TESTIMONY 3:

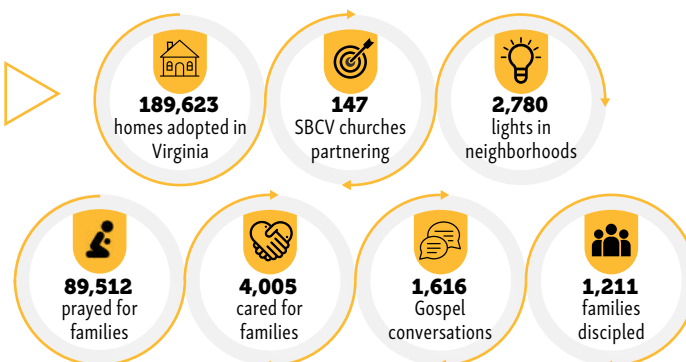
On Monday evenings, my Sunday morning Bible Study small group meets in homes. On this night, we divided into three teams based on the family composition. Bless Every Home helped us know the makeup of the families around us so there was already a background connection. We visited six neighbors, made interesting connections and had many conversations. We gathered back at my house with a bunch of prayer requests and additional information about my neighbors. We prayed over the requests and shared how awesome God orchestrated our encounters. ■

RESOURCE:

Bless Every Home is having a big impact at London Bridge Baptist Church and it can in your church as well. For more information, visit:

 sbcv.org/blesseveryhome

IMPACT



Compelled | YEC 2020

Fifty-eight students made the decision to follow Jesus Christ at the 2020 Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC). During this SBC of Virginia event, held at **London Bridge Baptist Church** in Virginia Beach, 11 students re-dedicated their lives to Christ and 125 students accepted the challenge to share the Gospel with a friend. Many shared that they experienced God's powerful presence during this two-day event in January.

YEC organizers decided on the theme of *Compelled*, derived from 2 Corinthians 5:14, which reads "...the love of Christ compels us." Pastor Brian Burgess was

the guest speaker and shared messages focused on being compelled by Christ's love and what it looks like when we are controlled and motivated by that love.

The conference also featured times of worship and entertainment from Christian artists I Am THEY and Legin, Scripture readings and dramatic presentations by Piercing Word, and music from D.J. PDOGG.

"This weekend we are going to be talking about the love of Jesus. His love for you, and His love for a lost world," said Christian artist, Legin on Friday night as he addressed the crowd of young people.

Burgess also challenged the students to remove labels that society places on young people and instead to identify with Christ. Burgess utilized the story of the woman with constant bleeding, who was healed by Jesus, found in Mark 5 to illustrate this decision.

"The problem is when you learn a label, you'll live that label and you'll love that label. I want to encourage you to know it's time to peel the label," Burgess said to the group of teenagers on Friday night. Following the message, 170 students made a decision to reject these labels by writing them on an index card and laying them at the altar.

HOPE

Becomes Life

"The Father was so gracious to us this weekend" Regional Catalyst and Student Ministry Strategist, Shawn Ames said. Never before had the staff seen so many tangible results at a YEC. ■



As the result of a revival in 1819, **Good Hope Baptist Church** in Spotsylvania was planted. For its first 41 years, the members of Good Hope assembled for weekly worship in an area school house. During the era of the Civil War, local farmers stepped out in faith to build the current church facility believing that God had greater plans in store.

Although once a vibrant church, Good Hope was struggling with an uncertain future in 2016 when Senior Pastor Gene Lancour arrived. As a former business man without prior senior pastor experience, Gene obeyed God and

came to Good Hope at the age of 60. He really did not want to serve in a rural context. Yet, with tears in his eyes, Gene heard the

God is at the center of the church now, and He is over all that we do.

Word of the Lord through specific passages of Scripture, prayer and fasting, and God made it clear to him that Gene was being called to pastor this struggling church outside the city.

Gene shared, "Good Hope was a congregation hungry for truth, and a people without a vision." The church had 25 people in Sunday worship, no missional vision and a tarnished reputation in the community. GHBC had seen four pastors come and leave over the course of 10 years. Lancour stated that he heard voices in the community stating, "that is the church that chases away their pastors."

Dr. Grant Ethridge, Senior Pastor of **Liberty Live Church** in Hampton mentored Gene and taught him to pastor by setting the vision and expectations at the beginning. As Gene faithfully preached the Word and led the church through 40 days of prayer and fasting, God birthed a vision — "Good Hope: A place where Hope becomes Life."

"The members of Good Hope have been through ups and downs, through good times and not so good times, through many members and few members. Today under the leadership of Pastor Gene Lancour the membership is rising. The fellowship is making an impact on the community because we care. The atmosphere of the church has changed. We thank God for Pastor Gene. He has made all the difference! God is at the center of the church now, and He is over all that we do. It is for His Glory that we serve the community." ~ Sharon and Dick Lafferty, members of Good Hope Baptist Church for forty years

Pastor Gene stated, "one of my favorite Bible Verses is Luke 1:37, 'For with God nothing will be impossible.'"

Truly, at Good Hope Baptist Church, hope is certainly becoming life where God is doing the impossible. ■

nextgen

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[SBCV.ORG/FUGE](https://sbcv.org/fuge)

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LUKE 14:23

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

2020

"COMPEL THEM TO COME IN. THAT MY HOUSE MAY BE FULL."



Student Fusion
WASHINGTON, DC
JUNE 22-26



Student Fusion
BRISTOL
JULY 20-24



Family Fusion
CHINCOTEAGUE
ISLAND
JULY 9-12



Family Fusion
BUCKROE BEACH
JULY 13-16



Roc 'N' Soccer

Bethel Baptist Church of Salem has invested its unique resources to reach the community through various means, including the growing popularity of American soccer. It started with a vision for being a lighthouse for the Gospel — a vision cast by Pastor Hilton Jeffreys. He said, “We have developed a lot of community relationships through our local school partnerships. We do year-round projects with them to meet needs. Our biggest project was the ‘back to school’ event for those in need, where we supplied backpacks, shoes, haircuts, and school supplies to more than 90 kids for all the Salem schools. This kind of project gets our church folk involved in ministry, but we get to build relationships with community leaders and families in need. We supply food for 60 to 80 families weekly—our food pantry does a tremendous job!”

God provided the funding for a long-planned multi-purpose facility on the church property. Building on the foundation of Bethel’s community outreach, God has given the church some unique assets, including a newly constructed gym, a soccer coach in the congregation, and a growing community interest in local soccer opportunities.

Josh Jones came to the church a few years ago and began to get involved. Eventually, he was called as a pastor on staff to work with middle and high school students. Last year, he began a collegiate ministry. Josh and his wife Kelly, along with their two children, are involved in the community in life-changing ways. The interest in local soccer programs has grown in the community in recent years.

Josh said, “Our program, called ROC ‘N’ Soccer, is a 6-week indoor soccer league for students from Kindergarten through fifth grade. Coaches and players meet each Friday night for an hour. During that time, they receive soccer instruction on a particular skill, Biblical teaching about the significance of their team names, a 30-minute game against another team and a guest speaker who shares the hope of Jesus with them, their families, and other fans in the stands. It is our hope that kids will learn several key things during their time with us, including: First, the truth that Jesus loves them, that He created them for a purpose and that He wants a relationship with them. Second, soccer skills that will serve their team well and also help them develop into strong players. Lastly, how to win and lose with integrity.”

The church has gained several families from their indoor soccer program. One father of a player testified, “Our child was on the team called the ‘Romans,’ and we came to understand that this was based on that Bible book. We went home and began reading the book during family time. Then, we started coming to the church and have since started seeking a relationship with Jesus. It’s been amazing that soccer was the door that has led us to pursue faith.” ■

Consider how your church could impact your community in such practical ways. For more information, visit Bethel’s web site:

 tinyurl.com/rocnsoccer

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)



To download prayer cards or to get more information on SBC of Virginia church planters, visit sbcv.org/planters



Dusty Carson

Church Planter

BRAVEHEART COMMUNITY CHURCH

Meeting at:

Minnieland Academy
7030 Bluefield Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Birthdays:

Dusty (August 25), Heidi (August 28)

PRAYER NEEDS:

- That Braveheart would be a lighthouse to the community through outreach
- That God would give us the blessing of reaching and ministering to the broken
- That God would provide us with musicians

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Partnering financially
- Helping with the worship team
- Helping with short-term mission projects

CONTACT INFORMATION:

braveheartchurch.com
braveheartcommunitychurch@gmail.com



K. J. Washington

Church Planter

NEW VALLEY CHURCH

Meeting at:

204 Arch Avenue, Waynesboro, VA 22980

Birthdays:

K.J. (June 28), Sarah Beth (June 25)

PRAYER NEEDS:

- For the leaders
- For the launch team
- For the people in our city

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Partnering financially
- Joining the launch team
- Sending mission teams

CONTACT INFORMATION:

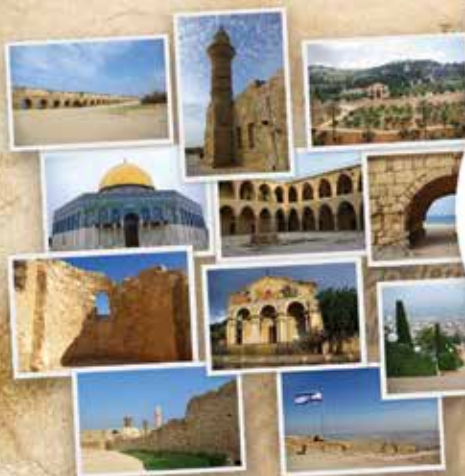
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**SBCV DESSERT
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JUNE 6-7, 2020

NAMB.NET/CROSSOVER

JUNE 7-10, 2020

SBCANNUALMEETING.NET

JUNE 8, 2020

SBCV.ORG/DESSERT



No One TURNED AWAY

In Boones Mill, more than 600 families are thankful that local churches are working together to help meet the needs of their community. Last summer, His Cupboard was launched out of the vision of nearby SBC of Virginia church, **Boones Mill Baptist Church**, and has helped hundreds of families in the Franklin County and Roanoke areas. It is estimated that they have reached 1,800 people, handed out more than 400 bibles, prayed with dozens, and had the opportunity to share the Gospel with several people.

His Cupboard Director Denise Stott told a local TV station, “We turn no one away.” She and her husband, Will, who moved to the small town last year, helped organize the clothing and food pantry with the help of **Fairmont Baptist Church** (also SBCV), community donations, and a partnership with Feeding America of Southwest Virginia. The ministry is located in a building provided by the town rent-free, but His Cupboard must pay utilities.

Those in need, only have to ask. “His Cupboard is standing in the gap with food clothing and

the Word of God. We are helping families that are falling in between the cracks,” Denise Stott said. Powerful testimonies are evidence of the differences being made:

▶ “I can’t say enough good things about this ministry. The Lord knew where help was needed. We are blessed to have this in our community. I am truly grateful because they have helped my family more than once.”

▶ A volunteer in the ministry shared... “A young mother came looking for a coat for her child. We let people know of the need and someone not only donated a new coat but several Christmas gifts for the family. In tears, she told us that this day was certainly God’s work because she was so blessed — she went on a job interview and got hired this morning. Now, she feels blessed again to see the love and care from total strangers.”

▶ Another member of the community said, “I don’t know if I could make it without them being there. It’s really hard sometimes.” Most can relate to her plight. Although she’s retired, she is now responsible for raising her five grandchildren. On a fixed income, it’s a tight stretch. She said she doesn’t qualify

for financial assistance. She comes to His Cupboard for help with groceries, snacks, and clothing for her younger grandchildren.

More and more families are coming here for help which has surprised Pastor Bob Greene of Boones Mill... “We opened mid-August, and we are just growing and growing. It just shows you how great the need is,” Stott said. “It is exciting, but it is a double-edged sword. I am excited to see people come and take advantage, but I’m sad they have to.”

His Cupboard relies on donations and its partnership with Feeding America of Southwest Virginia. The partnership allows them to purchase 100 pounds of food for \$19.

It’s amazing what God does when churches cooperate to make a Gospel difference in their community. ■

RESOURCE:

For more information, visit His Cupboard at either of these web pages:

@ tinyurl.com/boonesmillpantry

@ tinyurl.com/hiscupboard



If you were riding by Hampton High School, in Hampton, on Saturday, November 2nd around 2 p.m., you probably saw a large number of people attending a sporting event. The event was a baseball game, where the players dressed up in costumes. They weren't playing for points, per se, the teams were competing to raise food and funds for the Hunger Ministry at **Pine Chapel Baptist Church**.

This is the fourth annual Crabberween Baseball Benefit that is hosted by Danny Mitchell, who is the Coach of the Hampton High Baseball team and member of Pine Chapel Baptist Church. Danny is a firm believer that, "no one should go hungry — especially children." So, he came up with the idea for this game as a creative way to raise money and non-perishable goods for the Hunger Ministry at the church.

For the past four years, Danny with the assistance of his wife Sindi recruited former and active players from the three area high school teams. Each player must wear a costume and provide 10 can goods as a requirement to play in the game. The many spectators that show up for the game must pay their way in with a cash donation or can goods. This year, there were 33 players and 300 spectators in attendance, raising an astounding 5,063 non-perishable goods and \$3,051.

The donations filled the Fellowship Hall at the church. Those goods are then distributed as an outreach to the community.

"Even though we're a small church, our outreach is large. We take food on a regular basis to neighborhood food banks throughout the year, and this is in large part due to the 'Crabberween ministry' that has been going on for four years now," Pastor David Parker shared. "This major outreach to the local community brings in so much food and financial funds that we are able to use it for a variety of ministry projects. None of the funds go to waste. All of it is used, whether it be for the local food banks, local elementary schools, pregnancy centers, nursing homes, or for the homeless."

There is no doubt that this is more than a game not only to those who give but especially to those who benefit from what is given. When the Lord Jesus sent out the 12 on their first mission trip, He said: "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward (Matthew 10:42, NIV)." In the same way, the Lord has sent out His followers at Pine Chapel Baptist Church to reach their Jerusalem with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus by giving food to the hungry. ■





Parkview Baptist Church, Bluefield | May 15-16

Find out more at sbcv.org/arcr



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May 12, 2020 | 10:00am-3:00pm
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Speaker: Thom Rainer
Founder & CEO, Church Answers

Find out more at sbcv.org/revsummit2020

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The NOBLE MAN 2020
EQUIPPING MEN FOR BATTLE

March 14



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March 28



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RENEWED VISION

A Fresh Start



The goal of church revitalization strives for a renewed vision to fill the hearts and minds of a church so that the church can have a fresh start.

“
*I can't wait to
see what God
has in store...*
”

This renewed vision can often be an incremental change that has a ripple effect throughout the church. Other times, God can call the church to rethink its mission and relaunch with an entirely new approach. Two churches in our 2019 revitalization cohort chose the path of renaming their church and relaunching under a renewed mission.

Pastor Shevi Sloane of **Third Avenue Church**, in Danville, had struggled to reach the changing community. Third Avenue had a traditional sanctuary that would seat 800 and a large educational and administrative wing capable of accommodating hundreds. The church was built to suit a different time and era in the history of Danville. The cost of facility upkeep and the struggle of the church to reach the community led to a fresh vision. The local congregation at Third Avenue Church believed that God could lead another work to use this large facility that would be more aligned to reach the community.

In years prior, Third Avenue had been led to purchase land in Danville. They had already built a pavilion on the property and believed that one day they may relocate the church. At the beginning of 2019, the reality of relocation was becoming an agreed upon vision of the church. Within one year, God allowed the church to sell their building to another ministry better suited to reach this community.



Revitalization has allowed us to put the past behind us and focus solely on what is ahead of us.

Through this process, God wanted more than a relocation. God led the church to relaunch. Third Avenue Church was renamed **Stone Creek Church** and officially launched on Jan. 26, 2020. In one year, God has established two viable Gospel works.

Pastor Sloane said, “Two years ago, the dreams of seeing this church revitalized with a new vision and a heart for reaching the lost seemed all but a fairytale. I can’t wait to see what God has in store for Stone Creek and our continued partnership with the SBCV.”

Pastor Mark Reon of **Liberty Baptist Church**, in Suffolk, had faithfully shepherded Liberty Baptist for several years. The church assembled and discussed ways in which God could use them to be a greater witness to the Suffolk community. The initial changes started small such as enhanced community outreach events, more intentional hospitality to visitors, and facility upgrades.

The movement of the church thinking about these initial changes launched a larger conversation about the overall perception of the church in the community and how to communicate to the larger community

that a fresh vision was taking place. These discussions led to the idea of renaming and relaunching the church. After discussions, Liberty Baptist Church changed its name to **Christ First Church**. The church is striving to live out a renewed mission within the community of Suffolk.

Reon said, “On our launch Sunday, we doubled our regular attendance. Revitalization has allowed us to put the past behind us and focus solely on what is ahead of us.” ■

RESOURCE:

If you are interested in knowing more about a fresh start for your church, visit:



sbcv.org/revitalization

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



rsmall@sbcv.org

Meet the President

In November, Pastor Allen McFarland, Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church, in Portsmouth was unanimously elected President of the SBC of Virginia by the messengers to the 2019 Annual Homecoming. Brandon Pickett recently sat down for a short Q&A with “Dr. Mac” so we could get to know him a little better.

BRANDON PICKETT: *Can you tell us about your salvation?*

PASTOR McFARLAND: I met my wife in Washington DC and went with her to church. I sat in the church and being as uncomfortable as I am most of the time, I saw Romans 10:9, *If thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved.* It's very interesting that the verse says thou shall confess with thy mouth. I'm a stutterer. I don't want to confess with my mouth. And yet, God used that verse because He was going to have me make a decision that day.

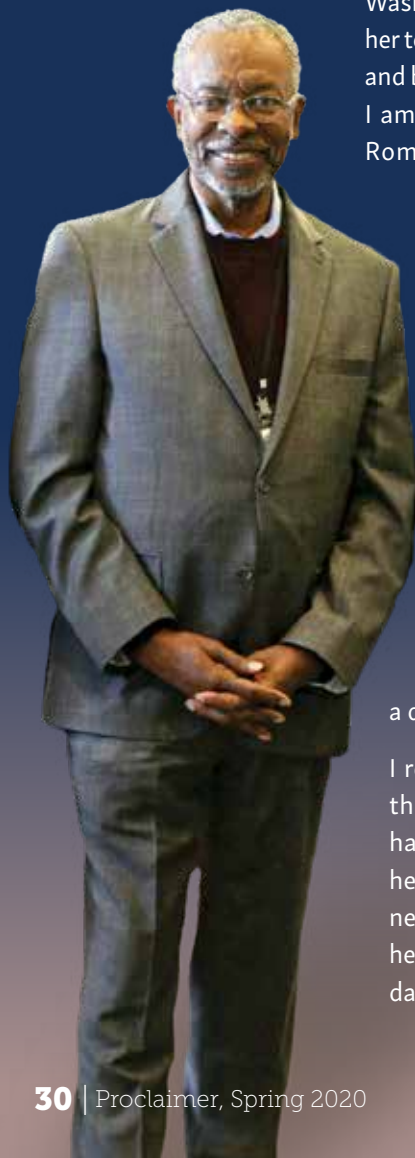
I realized that my wife was the best thing that could happen to me because of her sanctification, her godliness. I grew in the Lord with her. God blessed us with four daughters.

PICKETT: *Tell me about your calling to the ministry, how did that come about?*

McFARLAND: Well I'm always going back to my speech impediment; I joined a singing group with my wife. I never stuttered singing. I started introducing songs and enjoyed doing that. One Sunday, I came across Isaiah 52:7, *How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of those who bring good news.* I wrestled with that and thought, “God, no, no this is not for me.” But after church I talked with my uncle and with the pastor of the church. They said, “Allen, when do you want to preach?” I said, “no, no, no... I don't want to preach.” That was in '72. The Sunday that the Redskins played Miami in the Superbowl in 1973, I preached my trial sermon.

PICKETT: *Tell me about your ministry in Portsmouth?*

McFARLAND: In February 1982, I was about to graduate seminary and went to a prayer retreat where my uncle was speaking, but he asked me to speak in his place. Some people from Calvary Evangelical were there. They asked me to do a revival for them. After that, they “twisted my arm” about becoming their pastor. I would say things like ‘no, I'm going to Atlanta. I'm going to plant a church.’ You know, attending Liberty University you would get that idea of church-planting. But I went and preached again at Calvary Evangelical and in September of '82, I became their pastor. I was still living in Lynchburg so, we commuted every weekend for a year. At the time the congregation was very small. But God blessed and grew the church. This September, I will be there 38 years.



PICKETT: *How have you been able to minister to the community?*

McFARLAND: I went there seeking fellowship. I was too black for the white pastors and too white for the black pastors. So, I felt that no one wanted to fellowship with me. Why? Because I went to the wrong school, Liberty University. Back then, Jerry Falwell was not very liked in the black community. But God let me know that He called me to minister to the people and we began to do just that.

PICKETT: *Did you ever think that you would have an earned doctorate and be teaching at a University?*

McFARLAND: No sir (laughing). I have a speech impediment. In fact, there are times when I'm preaching that I still get hung up on a word or so. When I was a teenager, a firecracker blew into pieces and I lost an eye. I was expelled from college twice. So, I grew up with all of the things that would have to make me strong.

Having a speech impediment humbled me because I hate it, but at the same time God uses that. Whatever happens to me, it's God... so I have to give Him the glory.

BRANDON: *How is God using you at Liberty University?*

McFARLAND: I drive every Monday, my day off, and teach a three-hour class and drive back. Years ago, I would say, 'Dr. Falwell, how are we doing with diversity?' One day, Elmer Towns reached over and said, 'Allen why don't

you come up and teach?' And I said 'no, no, no' to Dr. Towns. I lived 200 miles away, I'm a pastor. And only Elmer Towns could say, 'Well, Allen, if you're not going to do anything — keep your mouth shut.' And that day Dr. Towns began to work things out with me and gave me a theology class. I have about 80 students this semester — some of the sharpest students in the world.

Two of my students are on staff with me now.

PICKETT: *What is your prayer for SBC of Virginia moving forward?*

McFARLAND: SBCV has been a joy. We try to get involved with everything that the SBC of Virginia touches. We need SBCV because we are not alone, and our people need to have comradery with other churches. I am very privileged to have been asked to be the president. My prayer is to have more diversity. And that's not all about racial reconciliation. I think the younger group is trying to reach the world. I'm very thankful to the Lord that I can have a voice, particularly in the black community. I'm reaching out to my community in area code 757 and to those who know me elsewhere. They're on Facebook, and they see me. They're congratulating me, and they're interested in why. So, I'm sharing with them, 'you need SBCV, you need what's going on because it'll help your church to grow.' And that's why I'm here. ■



[100 Backpacks]

William listened to the voice over the phone, weighed his options, and paused for a moment. “Let me pray about it,” he whispered.

William was inside Annual Homecoming listening to the preaching. On the other end of the phone were new friends sorting through backpacks in the cold. It had already been a long day of receiving, boxing, and sorting. William knew it was late and that the team outside had already done all that was possible.

“We don’t have it William,” said the voice from just outside. “We need at least 100 more backpacks to fill your request.” A pause hung in the air. “I looked at what we have, William, and if you just don’t go to the high school, we have enough backpacks for the elementary and middle schools.”

For years now, William has brought Christmas backpacks to the town elementary and middle school. He hoped to bless the high school, but the doors

always closed. This year was different — William received word that he could bring the backpacks and Christmas message to the high school.

“Let me pray about it,” William offered once more.

If the door was opened, surely God would provide, he reasoned to himself. As the speaker preached and musicians sang, William prayed. Outside, the team cleaned up, locked the truck for the night and headed inside for the remainder of the service.

“Bing!” The phone buzzed with the receipt of multiple text messages. “Bing!”, “Bing!”

“Hey! I arrived late tonight and have a van full of backpacks I need to unload,” the text read.

“Bing!”

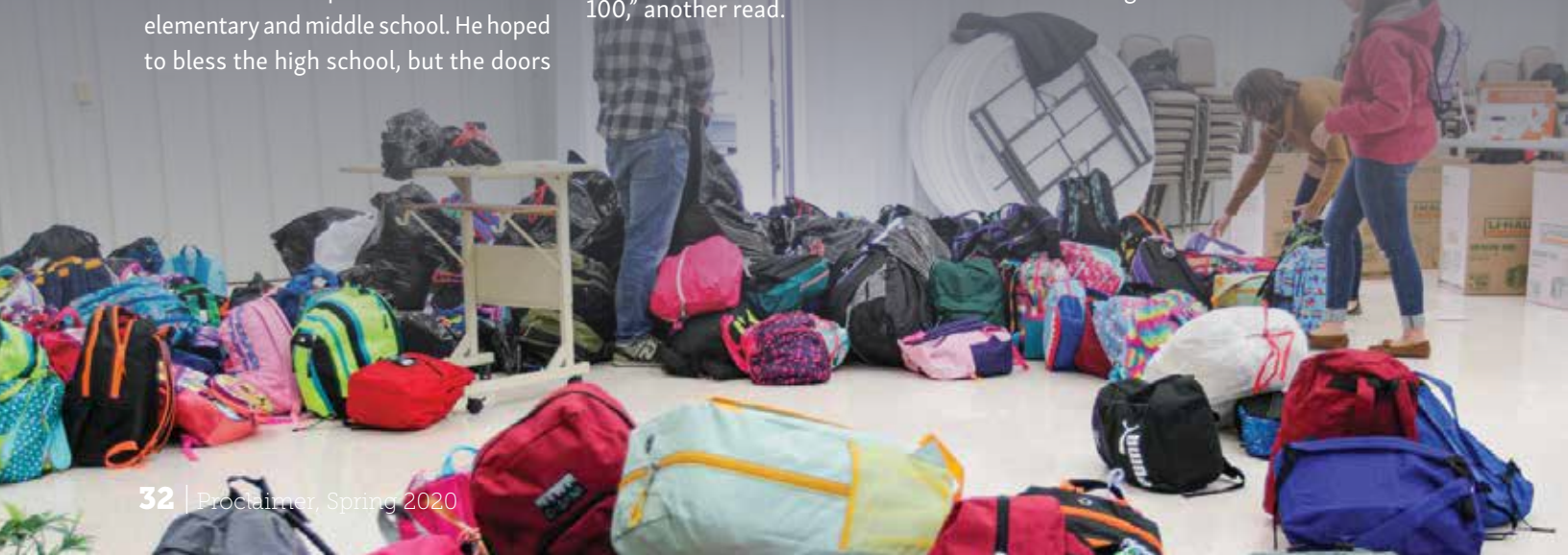
“Our church is still collecting our backpacks. We usually collect about 100,” another read.

The texts were forwarded on to William. “Praise the Lord,” he boomed. “I know God is at work at this school.”

The next week, William arrived at a meeting with the school principal. As they discussed how to disperse the backpacks, William told the story of prayer and provision. He told the principal of how the high school was going to be cut, but that God — through His church — provided. He told the principal of a loving and good God. Tears began to collect in the corner of the principal’s eyes.

“I gotta get right with God, William.” With that invitation, William joined in with what God was doing in the soft soil of the man’s heart. The local leader received more than backpacks that day — he received the grace of God.

Thanks to the generous giving of our churches through the Christmas Backpack project, a man saw the leading of a loving Savior — and followed. ■



Mission Projects

2020

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus: **FOR GOOD WORKS**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **EPHESIANS 2:10**

What are we *for* as followers of Christ? **Mission Projects** provide opportunities for families, small groups, and churches to engage their community and serve others *for* the glory of God.

FOR LIFE



March

**PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS
MARCH FOR LIFE**

FOR FAMILIES



April - May

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION



June - July

HUNGER MINISTRIES

FOR OUR NEIGHBORS



August

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE



September - October

CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS

FOR THE NATIONS



November - December

MISSIONARY CARE

BRIGHTENING LIVES during Hardships

"Due to unsafe levels of moisture and mold in government quarters, there are currently 32 families who are displaced from their family housing on Fort Belvoir in Northern Virginia, just outside the nation's capital." After hearing of their plight, **Pillar Church**, of Woodlawn, and **McLean Bible Church** teamed up to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for those service members and their families.

The Vernondale Village Neighborhood Center was transformed from a respite lounge to a 75-seat dining room – complete with turkeys, hams, and all the trimmings that were provided by church volunteers. Door prizes for Amazon gift cards were given to two winners to assist them with Christmas shopping.

Pillar Woodlawn is working with the Fort Belvoir Housing Advocacy group to provide one dinner per month at their facility located right outside the main gate of Fort Belvoir. They also transformed the Woodlawn Village Neighborhood Center on Christmas Eve for a Christmas Dinner similar to the previous holiday feast.

If you and your church would like to support Pillar Woodlawn's outreach to the military community on and around Fort Belvoir through short-term missions or a financial gift, please contact Pastor and Church Planter Brian Collison at 919-744-8500 or email brian@pillarwoodlawn.com. ■



FOCUS

keeping Christ central

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

REDISCOVER THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING
OUR EYES ON JESUS AS WE SERVE AND LEAD.

RACHEL LOVINGGOOD | AUTHOR, SPEAKER
JESSIE SENECA | AUTHOR, SPEAKER

STAPLES MILL ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
Glen Allen

JULY 31 - AUGUST 1
2020

[SBCV.ORG/FOCUS](http://sbcv.org/focus)



Equip

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Experiencing God in the Unexpected

Featuring Jennifer & Linda Barrick

MAY 2
BRISTOL

Find out more at sbcv.org/equip

WOMEN'S *Conference*

with

Jackie Hill Perry

March 20-21, 2020

Spotswood Baptist Church,
Fredericksburg

Author of ***Gay Girl Good God***
shares her story of God's rescue
from a lifestyle of homosexuality.

Learn more at sbcv.org/jackiehillperry

5,000 children in Virginia are in foster care. Children and families need the Church.



Learn how you and your church can come alongside children and families in need.

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION summit

SMITH MEMORIAL BAPTIST
CHURCH, WILLIAMSBURG

April 25, 2020 | 10:00am – 3:00pm



Keynote Speaker:
Todd Chipman
author of *Until Every
Child is Home*

REGISTER AT

sbcv.org/fcasummit2020

Purpose;

A GATHERING FOR GIRLS



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MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL | [SBCV.ORG/PURPOSE2020](https://sbcv.org/purpose2020)

MAY 15-16
2020



LONDON BRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH

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.
He gives us a plan of salvation — 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."

THE LITTLE (MEDIA) TRAILER THAT COULD



"I think I can, I think I can, I think I can," huffed the fabled train as it made its way up the winding mountain tracks. If you have ever hosted a church or community event, you know that it can feel like pulling a heavy load up a long hill. Recently, the SBC of Virginia introduced a new tool for churches to use to help with events, and it has something in common with that fabled train – it can get the job done. It is called the SBC of Virginia Media Trailer and comes packed with audio and video tools to help churches take the Gospel to the public.

Fred Unger, pastor of **North Main Baptist**, in Danville, used the trailer at a back-to-school outreach in August. "The media trailer was engaging. It attracted kids and adults to have fun playing trivia

while learning about Bible characters," he recalled.

Sean Best, collegiate minister at **Hyland Heights Baptist Church**, noted, "It is so easy to set up. It was a magnet to attract people to come hang out with us." The church utilized the large television by setting up a Nintendo Switch to play multiplayer video games. They added high-top tables and pop-up style shade tents in front of the screen to round out their temporary Student Center.

Story Church, in Virginia Beach, began meeting in July and used the media trailer to host their first public event called Warriors Way. They set-up a Naval Special Warfare-approved obstacle course with the media trailer in the middle of a 4.5 acre property. It was an outreach event to raise

awareness for active duty and veteran suicides. "It was totally worth the trip to Lynchburg to pick it up. It was simple to use. Anyone who can set up a home theater can operate the media trailer," recalled Jonathan Collier, a co-planter and pastor/elder of Story Church. "They used the media trailer to make announcements, do the morning kick-off, and had a DJ playing music all day long while the event was happening." The church added two additional speakers to the trailer's sound system to create 360 degrees of sound. At the event, a former special warfare service member called his wife and said, "I just found the church we need to come to."

Riverside Fellowship, in Forest, simply used the screen and sound system in their church parking lot for several weeks to welcome visitors and new college students to their new location. The media trailer helped college students coming back from summer break to know they were in the right place. It also added an atmosphere of worship to the parking lot.

Whether it is adding a bit of media or serving as the central communication platform for your event, the SBCV media trailer is the "little trailer that could" and is there to help you. ■

RESOURCE:

For details or to reserve the media trailer for your next event, go to:

 sbcv.org/mediatrailer





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CALENDAR 2020

MARCH

- 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 Road BC, Glen Allen
- 25 Ministry Safe Training, First BC, Roanoke
- 28 The Noble Man, Swift Creek BC, Midlothian

APRIL

- 12 Easter
- 23–25 Church Planter Network Weekender
- 25 Foster Care & Adoption Summit, Smith Memorial BC, Williamsburg
- 28–5/1 Sunday School Tour with Ken Braddy

MAY

- 2 Equip Women's Conference, North Bristol BC, Bristol
- 4–5 Executive Board
- 12 Revitalization Summit with Thom Rainer, Salem BC, Manakin Sabot
- 15–16 Purpose: A Gathering for Girls, London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach
- 15–16 Revitalization Conference, Parkview BC, Bluefield
- 16 Hispanic Conference, Emmanuel BC, Manassas
- 25 *Memorial Day*
- 30 Deaf Leadership Roundtable, Staples Mill Road BC, Glen Allen

JUNE

- 5–6 Worship & Technology Conference, Liberty University, Lynchburg
- 6 Crossover, Orlando, Florida
- 7–10 Southern Baptist Convention, Orlando, Florida
- 8 Dessert Reception at SBC
- 13–20 South Hampton Roads Mission Project (SHRMP)
- 22–26 Student Fusion, Washington, DC



Editor's Letter

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Finding LOST THINGS

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

(more information about the March for Life on page 12)

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

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





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

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

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

Breaking DOWN WALLS

Racism is a difficult issue to talk about. It causes us to reflect on our hearts and our belief. The theme for the Women's Ministry dinner at the Annual Homecoming was *Breaking Down the Dividing Walls*. Eydie Thomas, wife of **First Baptist Church of Norfolk's** senior pastor and our former SBCV president, and Doris McFarland, wife of **Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church's** pastor and our new SBCV president's wife, shared their personal journeys in dealing with the issue of racism.

Eydie and Doris began meeting almost a year ago to prepare for the talk they would give. Through these meetings God knitted together the hearts of these women from different racial backgrounds. One could see God working in their lives through their conversations. As they openly confessed their personal struggles with racism, God challenged their beliefs. "In over 25 years of ministry to women, I have never seen more open and honest communication between two women," said Donna Paulk, Women's Ministry Strategist, SBCV.

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

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

God was glorified during the Women's Ministry Dinner, it was a place where love ruled and reigned over prejudices. ■





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