

a publication of the  
**SBC**  
OF VIRGINIA

# PROCLAIMER

2015 | volume 17, issue 1

telling the stories of  
visionvirginia

**THE NATIONS**  
are our **NEIGHBORS**

*How far are you*  
**WILLING to GO**  
FOR THE  
**GOSPEL?**

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# A Worldview from Your Window

*I hope 2015 is  
off to a great  
start for you.*

For me, it started with a trip across the dateline to the South Pacific. Just as the first week of January ended, I had the opportunity to experience the **mission field of Guam** with my own eyes and ears.

I'm not sure what I expected, to be honest. I had never really given much thought to this tiny island that is just



from the **EDITOR**

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*Brandon*

a two hour plane ride from Australia, Philippines, and Japan. But what I experienced on this U.S. territory, along with our little mission/vision team, was a surprising mix of America, Asia, and third-world poverty and need.

I love it when opportunities arise to meet new mission partners in a way only God could have ordained. This happened when Pastor Rob Puckett and missionary and church planter Raye Bosi showed our mission/vision team what God is doing on Guam and the incredible spiritual need there.

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The Pacific Basin is just one of many mission opportunities that have opened to SBC of Virginia churches.

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Pastor Raye is seeing great results from using contextual tools for servant evangelism. One example is called a "Surprise Christmas Blessing." Church plant members went all over the island asking







random people for some change to help them pay for something. When someone would offer to help, the church member would give the person an envelope with \$10 and say this is your surprise Christmas blessing. This would then open the door for a short Gospel testimony and an invitation to the church. I saw the result of this with my own eyes when we stopped to film a Filipino family fishing. The woman recognized the name of the church and immediately asked Pastor Raye to pray for them. She then thanked him over and over, and she plans to visit the church soon.

You can truly reach much of the world, including China and Russia, from this one place. But it's going to take strategic partners who are willing to pray, generously give, and sacrificially go.

The Pacific Basin is just one of many mission opportunities that have opened up to SBC of Virginia

churches. Through the Acts 1:8 Network, you can both lead your church to be involved in mission activities around North America and the world as well as mentor and lead others to join you — from your community to the uttermost parts! Although, over the past few years, those from the uttermost parts have started moving into our communities. As the cover shows, the **nations are truly our neighbors!** You can now look out your window and pretty much see the people of the world. We cannot turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the lostness that is literally right next door. Please call, email, or visit our website today for more information about how you can be a part of one or more of these growing networks.



## Resource

[sbcv.org/acts18networks](http://sbcv.org/acts18networks)

## EDITOR'S NOTE ABOUT THE COVER



For each issue of the Proclaimer, we strive to choose a cover that speaks to the content inside. We chose this cover for a variety of reasons that we wanted to share with you briefly. As we continue to allow God to let us see the nations that are now all around us, it takes courage to engage them. The woman on the cover could be a believer that needs courage to approach the people in front of her. Maybe she is contemplating how to take that first step and what to say? I'm sure we've all felt that way at times. She could also be an unbeliever that feels ostracized from others because she is a foreigner. Will someone come to her to make her feel welcome and more importantly, share the love of Christ? Put yourself in this picture and ask yourself the question, "How far are you willing to go for the Gospel?"

## IF YOU HAPPENED TO DIE TODAY, DO YOU KNOW IF YOU WOULD GO TO HEAVEN?

It's **THE most important question of your life** because 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, how to be born again, in the Bible. His plan is simple! It's as easy as A-B-C!

- A** **Admit you're a sinner who needs to be saved.** *Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- B** **Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again.** *Romans 10:9, "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."*
- C** **Commit to accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord.** *Romans 10:13, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Would you be willing to pray this prayer with a heart of faith, trusting and believing what the Bible says about Jesus and His love for you?

*"Oh, God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me. I believe His shed blood paid the price for my sin, and that His death, burial, and resurrection were all for me. I now receive Him as my personal Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and for the gifts of salvation and eternal life. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."*

Take God at His Word and claim His gift of salvation. Believe and you will be saved.

## FEATURES



EVANGELISM

06



VISION VIRGINIA

10



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

13



PRAYER

17



KINGDOM IMPACT

28

# CONTENTS

- 06 How Far Are You Willing to Go for the Gospel?**  
Franklin Heights Baptist Church is pursuing to reach the Mixteco people group with the Gospel.
- 08 Hispanic Conference**  
Held at Kingsland Baptist Church, this conference addressed topics such as, How to Reach the Next Generation and How To Keep Them.
- 09 Prayer for Church Planters**  
Introducing two SBC of Virginia church planter families serving in very different areas of the Commonwealth.
- 10 Making a Difference**  
In an area where the population is only 23,597, Harmon Memorial Baptist Church baptized 91 people last year.
- 12 Kempsville Baptist Church Sponsors DC Planter**  
Sponsorship is more than an item on a church's to-do list.
- 13 More: An Interview with Margaret Feinberg**  
This spring, Margaret Feinberg will be joining the women of the SBC of Virginia for a Women's Conference at Spotswood BC.
- 17 PrayVA.Com**  
A resourceful website for those who are willing to pray or have prayer needs.
- 18 A Unique Spotlight on Missions**  
Centreville Baptist Church spotlights missions by borrowing the idea of a tailgate party.
- 21 In Line for a Backpack**  
Parents were lining up at 4 AM to receive one of the 1,500 backpacks SBC of Virginia churches provided to the Appalachia Regional Ministry as Christmas gifts.
- 23 One Day at a Time**  
Volunteers came together to build, laugh, pray, and serve God by building a structure called Harvest Fellowship Baptist Church in Smithfield.
- 25 For Such a Time as This**  
A transitional pastor's influence can be an important and strategic time in the life of the church.
- 26 Young at Heart: Carolyn and Cathy**  
You're never too old for God to save you or to be used by God. Cathy and Carolyn personally discovered this truth.
- 28 Unreal Stunts Lead to a Real Encounter**  
A unique ministry that gets the attention of all ages in order to share the Gospel.
- 30 Volunteers Are a Powerful Tool**  
Two years after Hurricane Sandy hit New York, Disaster Relief is still there rebuilding.
- 31 Legacy**  
Past generations have left a legacy of missions and ministry partnership for the glory of God as our inheritance.





# REACHING MUSLIMS

In September 2014, the Acts 1:8 Network met and more than 30 people, representing over a dozen SBC of Virginia churches, gathered to learn about reaching Muslims for Christ. Jim\*, a missionary from Ethiopia, shared about Muslim background believers (MBB) giving their lives to Christ. He shared how two villages, on opposite sides of a mountain range that had been in conflict for decades, found peace through Christ. One of the village elders, having surrendered to Christ, sent his son to live as the adopted son of the other village elder so the son could read the bible to his adopted father! This father gave his son to a rival tribal leader so his, at times enemy, could be introduced to Christ. In time, this adopted father also gave his life to Christ. What a story of loving your enemies!

There is a movement of Muslims coming to Christ across North Africa and the Middle East (NAME), and stories of dreams and visions are prevalent. We learned about villages and families whose lives have been radically changed, and discussed methods to reach more Muslims for Christ.

During the meeting, there was a time for sharing what some SBC of Virginia

churches are doing to reach these peoples with peer-to-peer learning. There was discussion, not only of reaching Muslims overseas, but right here in Virginia. Did you know that the second largest Ethiopian population in the world is right here in Northern Virginia and Washington DC? Or, that there are more than 2,000 Arab Muslims here in Richmond, many attending Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)?

The question becomes what are we, who are called Ambassadors for Christ, going to do. God has brought the nations to us. Are you willing to learn new ways to share His word? We have incredible opportunities to reach these peoples not only here, but also in other cities across North America, Europe and, yes, in North Africa and the Middle East.

Many of you attended the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming and had the opportunity to hear Nik Ripkin speak about reaching Muslims. Perhaps after hearing him or from reading the *Insanity of God* or the *Insanity of Obedience*, you have been convicted that you need to do more. You are in luck! **We will be hosting a second NAME/Muslim Affinity meeting on May 19, 2015.** There will be a time of learning and much time for networking and peer-to-peer learning. You



will have the chance to meet with others who are, or soon will be, working with the peoples of NAME.

SBC of Virginia will be launching a multi-faceted strategy for reaching these peoples in multiple cities across North America, Europe and North Africa/Middle East. This will be a long-term strategy, taking us beyond 2020. You will be hearing more about this strategy in the months and years ahead. But why not get involved now?

\* Name changed for security purposes.

## Contact

For more information on reaching the peoples of NAME, please contact Mark Gauthier at [mgauthier@sbcv.org](mailto:mgauthier@sbcv.org) or call 1-888-234-7716.





# How Far Are You Willing to Go for the Gospel?

For **FRANKLIN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**, it was to another country to pursue an unreached people with the Gospel. Franklin Heights, led by pastor Mark Griffin, pursued an unreached people group called the Mixteco in south central Mexico. The Mixteco is listed among the 6,832 unreached people groups of the world according to the International Mission Board.

However, the church discovered through International Mission Board missionary mobilizers Lloyd and Connie Rogers that there are now 5,000 to 6,000 Mixteco people who have migrated to metro Richmond over the past 12 years. The Rogers knew about the church's passion to reach the Mixteco and encouraged them to meet Pastor Fernando Mangieri with Iglesia Nueva Esperanza.

## NOW FOLLOW THIS TRAIL OF CONNECTIONS TO SEE HOW GOD IS AT WORK WHEN WE COMMIT.

In 2009, Fernando was starting a new church to reach Hispanic people in Chesterfield County. Kingsland Baptist Church helped Fernando by starting an English as a Second Language class and expanding the reach of the church's Awana program.

Odilon and Tayde' Mendoza brought their children to Awana and started attending the ESL class. Through these and personal contacts Fernando witnessed to Odilon for a year.

After a year Odilon brought his wife and two children to worship. After three weeks, Odilon came to Fernando and said, "I must profess Jesus Christ as my Savior."

Odilon gathered his friends for a Bible study in his home and after a month of studying God's Word discovered that he was supposed to marry Tayde'.

Because God so transformed Odilon and his marriage, five more families came to Christ through their witness and became part of the Bible study.

After three years of focused discipleship, Fernando recognized that God has a calling on Odilon's life. Therefore, Fernando took Odilon to an IMB *Embrace Conference*. At

the conference, they both heard of the need among the Mixteco people. Fernando asked Odilon if he had ever heard of the Mixteco people — an unreached people. He said yes, that he was Mixteco. And many that had been coming to his Bible study were Mixteco.

About the same time that the Rogers contacted Franklin Heights about the need for the Mixteco people that now live at metro Richmond, Fernando discovered that his disciple was from the Mixteco people. When Franklin Heights contacted Fernando, they made plans to do a block party to reach both Hispanic and Mixteco people. There is now a small group

gathered of the Mixteco people and Odilon is being mentored to become the church planter to ‘his people.’

Franklin Heights pursued an unreached people group in another country. God honored their faithfulness to enable them to partner with reaching them in Metro Virginia. There are more than 190 people groups in the I-95 corridor between Washington DC and Richmond. Many of these are unreached with the gospel. How far are you willing to go for the gospel? Could it be that you are needed to be a missionary at home?

Please pray for the many challenges of reaching the unreached people called the Mixtecos.

## Resources

**SBC of Virginia People Group Profiles:**  
[sbcv.org/peoplegroups](http://sbcv.org/peoplegroups)

**IMB Embrace Conference:**  
[imb.org/updates/storyview.aspx?StoryID=12442](http://imb.org/updates/storyview.aspx?StoryID=12442)

**IMB (People Group Information):**  
[public.imb.org/globalresearch/Pages/default.aspx](http://public.imb.org/globalresearch/Pages/default.aspx)

**Franklin Heights Baptist Church:**  
[franklinheights.org](http://franklinheights.org)

**People Group Missionary with SBC of Virginia:**  
 Contact Larry Black at [lblack@sbcv.org](mailto:lblack@sbcv.org)

**People Groups.org:**  
[peoplegroups.org](http://peoplegroups.org)

## HELPFUL TERMS DEFINED

**PEOPLE GROUPS:** *A people group is the largest group through which the gospel can flow without encountering significant barriers of understanding and acceptance. By this definition there are 11,489 People Groups in the world.*

### UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS IN THE WORLD

**(UPGS):** *A people group is unreached when the number of Evangelical Christians among them is less than 2% of its population. There are 6832 unreached people groups in the world where less than 2% of its population are Christians. Note: The Mixteco people group are part of this group of UPGs.*

### UNENGAGED UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

**(UUPGS):** *A people group is unreached and unengaged when there is no church planting strategy consistent with the evangelical faith and practice. There are 3264 people groups that are classified by our International Mission Board as being “unreached and unengaged with an intentional evangelism and church planting effort.*

### How You Can Pray for the Mixteco People Group of Richmond:

**Pray for God to open their hearts** to the gospel and to pray that the deceiver’s voice will no longer be heard

**Pray for God’s witnesses** (Mendozas and others) to be discerning and bold

**Pray for scripture portions** that have been translated into the Mixteco language to become available

**Pray for a multiplying church to be planted in metro Richmond** among the Mixteco that will take the gospel back to Mexico



by Sergio Guardia

Pastor de Nuevo Amanecer, Lynchburg, VA

# HISPANIC CONFERENCE at Kingsland Baptist Church

English

**A** principle of ministry is learning to move where God is moving. It makes everything better in entire ministry! As a convention, we have seen the blessing of following God in His work. This is the second conference of Hispanic churches held in Richmond, VA. with a theme we see is of great importance: *How to reach the next generation, and how should we work to keep them, and for them not to leave the church.* The largest segment of Virginia's population is young people, but the churches are not populated with this age. We need tools that will allow us to reach them in creative ways and disciple them so that their lives are relevant to the environment in which they move.

The preacher Miguel Arcila has a lot of experience reaching the youth. He challenged the attendees to present a gospel that is relevant — that our young ones can see through discipleship one to one that the Christian life is an exciting life, or as the Lord Jesus said is an abundant life. All attendees were encouraged that this goal is achievable if we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The conference was a combination between the exposition of the word and specific workshops to train the attendees. One of these workshops taught us how to train the

next generation. Brother Reinel Castaneda attended the conference from Lynchburg, VA. That morning he asked God to show him what was the next step in the church plant that his congregation wants to do in Collinsville. In his own words, God was very clear in which direction to take this work, “we must strive to reach young people, we must strive to disciple them so that they are able to reach their own generation.” These are exciting times! God is moving. Are you willing to move according to God's plan?

# CONFERENCIA HISPANA a Kingsland Baptist Church

Español

**U**n principio de ministerio es aprender a moverse donde Dios se está moviendo ¡facilita todo el ministerio! Y como convención hemos visto la bendición de seguir a Dios en su obra. Esta es la segunda conferencia de las iglesias hispanas que se realiza en Richmond con un tema que vemos es de suma importancia: Como alcanzar a la siguiente generación, cual debe ser el trabajo para conservarlos y que no abandonen las iglesias. La mayor población en Virginia es gente joven, pero las iglesias no están pobladas de esta edad, necesitamos herramientas que nos permitan alcanzarles de manera creativa y disciplinarles para que sus vidas sean relevantes en el medio en el

que ellos se mueven.

El predicador Miguel Arcila, con un vasto conocimiento y experiencia en el alcance de la juventud desafió a los asistentes a presentar un evangelio que sea relevante, que puedan ver a través del discipulado uno a uno que la vida cristiana es una vida excitante de vivir, o como diría el Señor Jesús es una vida abundante. Todos los asistentes salimos desafiados y animados a que este trabajo es posible de lograr si seguimos la guía del Espíritu Santo.

La conferencia fue un balance entre la exposición de la palabra y la preparación de talleres específicos que tenían el objetivo de capacitar de manera práctica a los

asistentes en como lograr el objetivo de alcanzar y conservar la siguiente generación. Uno de los talleres enseñaba como disciplinar a la siguiente generación. El hermano Reinel Castaneda asistió desde la ciudad de Lynchburg. Esa mañana él había orado que Dios le mostrara cual es era el siguiente paso para la plantación de iglesias que su congregación quiere hacer en Collinsville, VA. Según sus propias palabras, Dios fue muy claro en la dirección que debía tomarse para tener éxito en esta obra, debemos esforzarnos en alcanzar a los jóvenes, debemos esforzarnos en disciplinarles para que ellos estén capacitados para alcanzar a su propia generación. Estos son momentos emocionantes, Dios se está moviendo ¿estás dispuesto a moverte según el plan de Dios?



# PRAYER for Church Planters

These church planter prayer cards are available for you to view at [sbcv.org/planters](http://sbcv.org/planters). You may also view many other church planter profiles there.

*"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 9:36-38 (ESV) )*

**This passage** vividly demonstrates the love Jesus had for those who were harassed and helpless. They appeared to him as "sheep without a shepherd." His compassion could

have stopped there. However, He didn't. Instead, He immediately instructed His disciples to do something! In response to the crowd's helplessness, He gives His disciples a command. This is not a suggestion, but a command, "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

In obedience to God's call, the two SBC of Virginia church planter families' below are laborers serving in very different areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Rick

Leineweber family serves in the Virginia Beach area and the Chuck Garner family in the rural communities of Shawsville-Elliston (between Christiansburg and Salem). Would you pray that God would provide partners to help them fulfill their high calling?

Would you, your church, community group, women's or men's group, student or senior adult ministry, get involved personally with them in a partnership for the gospel?



*pray for*

**The Leineweber Family**  
Rick and Betsy

CHURCH PLANTER **Virginia Beach Missional Church**  
MEETING AT **228 N Lynnhaven Rd., Suite 130, Virginia Beach, VA 23452**

**BIRTHDAYS:** Rick (Aug. 21), Betsy (Aug. 13)

**PRAYER NEEDS:**

Pray for the launch of more small groups and for the development of their leaders.

Pray that we would remain focused on four relationships: Life with God, Life on Mission, Life in Community, Life-on-Life.

Pray for Pastor Rick as he provides skill training and expositional messages for our EQUIP Worship Services.

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!** (needs)

Prayerfully consider relocating and joining our core team or apply to serve in a summer internship.

Partner this summer with one of our missional communities to serve targeted people by: caring for the homeless at the beachfront, participating in VBS in neighborhood parks, block parties, or boardwalk and beach evangelism.



*pray for*

**The Garner Family**  
Chuck, Dana, and Logan

CHURCH PLANTER **Refuge Church**  
MEETING AT **4695 Crozier Road Elliston, VA 24087**

**BIRTHDAYS:** Chuck (Sep. 1), Dana (Oct. 27)

**PRAYER NEEDS:**

Pray that our outreach efforts will lead to gospel-centered relationships that will change lives and transform our community.

Pray that the leadership of our church will not lose focus or become discouraged.

Pray for more consistent volunteers to serve with our Sunday ministry teams.

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!** (needs)

- 2 laptop computers or tablets for our children's ministry
- New or gently used portable storage cabinets or utility carts



# Making a Difference

## LOSTNESS IN BUCHANAN COUNTY

**HARMAN MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH** is impacting its community through a variety of ministry opportunities, and the Lord is blessing the church's efforts! Harman is located in a rural southwest Virginia county called Buchanan County. God is doing some amazing things there, and He is using this church and other churches to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to its citizens. This past year, Harman Memorial baptized 91 souls for Christ. These numbers are significant in any area of our state, but for Buchanan County, where the population is only 23, 597, these numbers are huge.

When Pastor Shea Shrader was asked why they were able to see so many accept Jesus Christ as Savior, he stated "we really feel like it all begins with prayer."

"One thing our church does as a whole before any outreach event and even in planning for these events is pray," Pastor Shrader shared. "Three separate times this year, we had outreach events planned and with each of these we fasted and prayed corporately as a church. One of those was a 40-day fast, where we had at least one person and many days multiple members of our church fasting and praying for a harvest."

Pastor Shea believes God hears us when His people join together in prayer.

Many of those who were baptized at Harman this past year were over 18 years of age. According to a 2004 George Barna survey, only 23 percent of adults who were saved became believers after they turned 21 years

old. Pastor Shrader stated that many of their small groups tended to lean towards adults. They hosted several different events this past year that focused on building relationships with adults. They really rely on their members to share Jesus and their lives with their friends.

Pastor Shrader stated "a great example of this is our Sportsman group. We actually had several of our members contact men who are big time hunters and fisherman that don't attend church anywhere and ask them to help us in planning these events. One of those guys got to know several people at church and ended up attending Sunday morning services, where he gave his life to the Lord this past year. Now he and his wife are faithful workers at our church."

Harman also has a strong Children's and Youth Ministry. They offer children's church for children 3rd grade and under during both Sunday morning services. They also have a strong discipleship program on Sunday nights for all ages. The curriculum they use leads the children through the Bible chronologically. Pastor Shea stated that "every Wednesday night we have what we call family night. Everyone meets in the main sanctuary where announcements are made and do a couple of worship songs are sung. Then we have a children's message about 5 minutes or so followed by a family time of prayer. This time of prayer encourages families to go to the altar and pray as a family for whatever may be on their hearts." Pastor Shea believes that the family



needs to pray together and this is one way their church can encourage them to actively do this.

Their youth focus is on Sunday nights, where they meet from 6 to 8 PM. The first hour is a time for hanging out, playing games, and eating. The second hour is our Bible study time. This year, they also did an event once a month called Family fun Fridays. Pastor Shrader stated that, “We tried to find free exciting family fun events that could allow our church families to get to know each other better and also provide a safe environment for a visitor to come and see what church is about. We did things like a fort night, where we hauled in refrigerator boxes and each family built a fort and then we had a Nerf gun war. We had scavenger hunt night, where each family was given a list of 15 items and had two hours to collect them in our area and get back to the church. Some of the things on the scavenger hunt were a picture with another pastor in our area. Hardees coffee cup, picture with a member of their family with a long john silver pirate hat on and others. We also have a ton of events throughout the year such as trips and others things for all age groups.”

Pastor Shrader believe these are things God used this past year to make a difference in their community. Pastor Shrader was asked to share how other churches might reach



led by the Holy Spirit on what our focus and church personalities look like. I do not think there is a cookie cutter mold that works for everyone but what will work for everyone is seeking God and using the gifts of the people He has assembled together. We know our community well and most of the people in it. We know the struggles, the positives, the negatives and the personality of our area, and this allows us to identify ways in which God may be wanting to move. Often we as churches limit ourselves by becoming specialists in one area or one group of people that may limit the number of people we can reach especially in a rural area. What we have to do in less populated areas is simply obey the scripture ‘become all things to all people that we might win some.’ ”

Will you be willing to reach your community for Christ in 2015?

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**“ The most important thing is to be a Bible-teaching, spirit-lead church. ”**

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their community and this is what he said, “I really think the most important thing is to be a Bible-teaching, Spirit-lead church. We have to be what God has called us to be in our communities. It is great to get ideas and programs from others and learn from things being done. But at the end of the day, God has made each of our churches unique and, therefore, we must seek His word and be

**MAY 16**

**GLEN ALLEN,  
VIRGINIA**

**SHARE YOUR FAITH AND  
MAKE DISCIPLES THROUGH**

# BIBLE STORYTELLING

**BIBLE STORYING WORKSHOP**  
**LED BY MARK SNOWDEN**

**8:30AM-4:30PM**

**COST \$25 | LUNCH PROVIDED**

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

**SBCV.ORG/BIBLESTORYTELLING**



# Kempsville Baptist Church Sponsors DC Planter



Angel Serrano (right) is the church planter of The Father's Heart Ministry Center.

## SPONSORSHIP IS MORE THAN JUST AN ITEM ON A TO-DO LIST

**W**hen Kempsville Baptist Senior Pastor Dr. Kelly Burris heard that the SBC of Virginia was sponsoring a “DC Vision Tour,” his heart was stirred. The DC Vision Tour, held in March 2014, was a tour of the greater Washington DC area by pastors, staff, and key leaders of SBC of Virginia churches to show the opportunity to be involved in church planting activity in that area. Participants were afforded the opportunity to see different people groups that were currently engaged through church planters sponsored by the SBC of Virginia. Participants were also shown how they could become partners in reaching diverse people groups through church planting sponsorship in the DC area.

Accompanying Dr. Kelly Burris was Missions and Education Pastor Tim Zittle.

“It was incredible to see at the Vision Tour how our church could be involved in reaching internationals for Christ without getting on a plane and flying half way around the world,” Pastor Zittle shared.

“It opened our eyes to realize these people were within a three or four hour drive from our church! We were very excited about the possibility of getting involved.”

Planter Angel Serrano Jr. was one of the church planters featured at the DC Vision Tour. Pastor Serrano is lead planter at “The Father’s Heart Ministry Center,” which is a work among Hispanics in Manassas, VA just a few miles from DC.

“When we heard his story we felt drawn,” Pastor Zittle shared. “We invited Angel to come share with our church and he did. The Lord settled it in our heart, and this was how He was calling us to be involved.”

Kempsville was determined to make their sponsorship more than just an item that was checked off its to-do list.

“We realized that financial partnership is a huge part of the equation. But we wanted our sponsorship to be about more than just money,” Pastor Zittle shared.

Two weeks before Christmas Pastor Angel invited a team of people from Kempsville

“*It opened our eyes to realize these people were within a three- or four-hour drive from our church!*”

Pastor Tim Zittle

to come up and help with an outreach project his church was doing in the community. They simply called it “The Christmas Outreach Project.” It involved collecting toys that were handed out to children at an event, and the gospel was presented. Kempsville sent 49 people from their church to help with the event.

“What a great blessing it was for our folks to not only hear about church planting in the DC area, but to experience it for a day,” he shared.





# More

## An Interview with **MARGARET FEINBERG**

On April 11, 2015, Margaret Feinberg will be joining the SBC of Virginia in Fredericksburg at Spotswood Baptist Church for the Women's Conference "More."

Recently, the *Proclaimer* had the good fortune of sitting down with Margaret for a special interview. Here are her answers to some insightful and some not-too-serious questions.

**Margaret, you've been recently named one of 50 women most shaping the culture and church today by Christianity Today. What have you learned about leadership from your diverse experience authoring multiple books and teaching the Word of God?**

**M** I think the church within the United States (and around the world) faces incredible opportunities and challenges. One of the biggest and most foundational is simply grounding people in the truth that the church is worth fighting for, investing in, sticking with for the long haul. Many are throwing rocks at the church, leaving and never looking back. But the church remains the bride of Christ. She may have holes in her dress and smeared makeup on her face, but she's still Christ's bride. I want to walk among those who are strengthening and building up the church.

**What is the greatest reward in the role you serve in?**

**M** It is a joy to see people of all ages growing in their relationship with Jesus, diving into the Word, and growing in their prayer lives. Just recently, we heard from a woman who had been out of the

church for more than 30 years who said "Yes" to the Wonderstruck Bible study and now is reconnected to the church. We heard from another who came to know Christ through the *Scouting the Divine* Bible study just recently as well, and that is awesome! We hear of relationships being restored, friendships blossoming, and people hearing the words of Christ they need at just the right time. Such stories are the greatest reward.

**What is your favorite Bible story and why?**

**M** I adore the opening chapters of Genesis that describe creation. They reveal so much about who God is — His majesty, power, splendor and beauty. They reveal our God as a God of generosity, order, and goodness. They show how our God is distinct from all the other gods people worship. I've read these chapters so many times and can read them again and again because they're so rich and full and give us such a solid foundation into the great big story of God — also known as the Bible.

**How do you suggest that we mentor the next generation?**

**M** Many in the next generation aren't interested in a mentor because the word sounds scary. What they really want is someone to walk beside them, encourage them, and challenge them. They're looking for someone who is with them and behind them no matter what — who will pray for them and grab lunch or go for a walk once a month or every few weeks. Mentoring the next generation begins with you — no matter what age you are (20-80+) — reaching out to someone younger and asking, "Do you want to go to lunch?" or "Want to go for a walk one day and get some exercise?" See if there's a



Margaret was named one of the 50 women most shaping culture and the church today by Christianity Today. She is a popular Bible teacher, speaker and author. She has written more than two dozen books and Bible studies including the critically-acclaimed *The Organic God*, *The Sacred Echo*, *Scouting the Divine*, and *Wonderstruck*. Her work has sold nearly 1 million copies and received critical acclaim and extensive national media coverage from CNN, the Associated Press, USA Today, Los Angeles Times and Washington Post.

natural (unforced) connection that can be built on as you show interest in their lives and begin praying for them.

**What kind of things make you cry?**

**M** Pain and suffering in all its forms make me weep.

**Who is your biggest fan?**

**M** Forgive me if this seems like the spiritual answer, but my first reaction to this question was that God is my biggest fan. He is so for me that He sent His Son Jesus to die for me. He is cheering me on to a life of redemption and renewal that can only found in Him. He keeps sending the Holy Spirit as a source of comfort and encouragement. He is committed that the work He has begun in me. He will bring about to completion. It's harder to find anyone more for us than God. Next up is probably my husband, Leif, followed closely by our super pup, Hershey.

**Love that answer, and no it is not too spiritual but right on! So tell us, what is your favorite guilty pleasure?**

**M** Ooh! I'm a big fan of various sitcoms that Leif and I catch up on when we can via Hulu.

**What's your favorite comfort food?**

**M** I'm a chip girl. I love chips. Tortilla chips. BBQ chips. Doritos. Cheetos. If it crunches and is salty, what's not to love?

**If you could visit anywhere in the world where would it be and why?**

**M** New Zealand is on my dream list. The landscape is spectacular, and I've heard that if you look really hard you might find a hobbit.

**What is your favorite thing to do in your down time?**

**M** Hiking is one of my great joys. I love getting outdoors and enjoying the beauty of Colorado.

**What is your favorite (comfy) thing to wear?**

**M** I think one of God's great gifts to humanity is yoga pants. They're like pajamas for the day. Plus the song by Tim Hawkins is hilarious...  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrL17Dr\\_8kk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrL17Dr_8kk)

**Do you collect anything?**

**M** While some people get a great kick out of buying things, I'm the opposite. I love to get rid of stuff. The same shoppers high people get from adding to their closets or collections is the same "get-rid-of high" I get when I load a box to take to Goodwill. Sometimes my husband gets on me. Honey, did you give away our rice cooker again? Yep! So I have to work to temper my enthusiasm for getting rid of things.

**What makes you afraid?**

**M** The same things that make most people afraid – not being loved, not being lovable, not mattering. I think we all wake up with these fears most days even if we don't say them aloud. That's why it's so important to take these fears to God, to listen for His voice speaking His love over us through His Word.

**Amen to that! Now on a less serious note, who is allowed to see you without makeup?**

**M** Everyone in Colorado. I don't wear it most days.

**What else would you like us to know about you?**

**M** I'm a bit of a spiritual Dora the Explorer. I love learning more about God and, at times, will go on wild adventures like *Scouting the Divine* or try unusual experiments like those described in *Fight With Joy* in order to uncover more about the truth and depths of Scripture. When it comes to our wondrous God, we can spend a lifetime searching and pursuing and yet only have just begun.

**How can we pray for you?**

**M** I would love for you to pray for my strength and healing. This last year I've been fighting cancer, and I'd love for you to join us in praying for zero. Zero cancer cells. Zero complications. Zero pain. Zero sleepless nights. Zeros all around. Many thanks!

Margaret currently lives in Morrison, CO., with her husband, Leif, and their super-pup, Hershey. For more information about Margaret, visit [MargaretFeinberg.com](http://MargaretFeinberg.com)







More Truth, More Worship, More God

# Women's Conference

## April 11, 2015

Spotswood Baptist Church

Fredericksburg

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Registration begins at 8:00 AM

Preregistration: \$25.00 / At the door: \$30.00

Conference fee includes lunch and conference materials.



To register, go online:  
[sbcv.org/more-conference](http://sbcv.org/more-conference)

A popular Bible teacher, author, and conference speaker, Margaret Feinberg's books and corresponding Bible studies have received critical acclaim and extensive national media coverage.

*featuring  
Margaret  
Feinberg*







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& Offering for State Missions

SEPTEMBER 20–27

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## PASTORS OF SMALLER CONGREGATIONS ROUNDTABLE

May 12, 2015  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

SBC of Virginia  
Ministry Support Center  
GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA

### INCLUDES:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER,  
PANEL DISCUSSION,  
A TAKE HOME RESOURCE,  
AND LUNCH



[sbcv.org/roundtable](http://sbcv.org/roundtable)



**DO YOU NEED PRAYER? | ARE YOU WILLING TO PRAY?**  
If you answered "Yes" to one or both of these questions,  
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**Welcome** to a simple, new  
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In his book, *Too Busy Not to Pray*, author Bill Hybels states, "Prayer is the key to unlocking God's consistent and prevailing power in your life." If we want to see God's prevailing power in our lives, revival in God's church and spiritual awakening in our culture, it will only be released through the work of prayer.

This website **PrayVA.com** will be a catalyst to lead those across the Commonwealth in need of prayer to salvation, to find a church home or to share a brief prayer need that will be lifted to the Father by a group of prayer warriors.

PrayVA.com will resource those who are willing to

pray. They will be given the opportunity to pray for:

- The needs of others
- Political leaders
- Church planting missionaries

They will also be provided with resources such as:

- *How to Have a Quiet Time*
- *How to Pray and Fast*
- *52 Sunday's Prayer Guide for Missionaries*
- *Praying for Your Family*
- *Praying for Your Children*
- *Greater Things 30 Day Prayer Guide*

We are a people *too busy not to pray*. The reality is that we all need prayer and God calls us to be willing to pray. You are simply one click away from finding the greatest prevailing power source on earth through PrayVA.com. We welcome you today to click and pray.

## Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament

May 16 | 10 AM - 3 PM  
Beulah Baptist Church, Lynchburg  
Bible Drill is split into two levels of competition:  
grades 4-6 & grades 7-9  
The Speakers Tournament is for grades 10-12.

For more information, go to [sbcv.org/bibleddrill](http://sbcv.org/bibleddrill)



Raising a generation of Christ followers who hide God's word in their hearts.



# A Unique Spotlight on Missions

by Allen Pearson

Centreville Baptist Church Photographer/Writer

A glorious October Sunday came alive with a celebration of the Missions Outreach of Centreville Baptist Church (CBC).

As the sun rose, the light shined on a hustle of missionaries (the CBC Global Missions Team and other volunteers) creating a Missions Tailgate Party. Tailgate Party? Yes — a missions tailgate party. I wondered how this would work, too.

Volunteers donated the use of their pickup trucks and SUV's to host exhibits from missionaries so they could share with church members materials and news of their work. Each vehicle was decorated with items from the countries or programs they represented.

The morning began with several missionaries speaking to the Community Groups (Sunday School). Special mention goes out to Christin Casanova, former International Mission Board Journeyman, who was well received by the youth group.

The morning worship service featured guest speaker Brandon Pickett from the SBC of Virginia, who shared through video and spoken word about the work of the Southern

Baptist Cooperative Program, the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board, and the SBC of Virginia. His address included a Skype conversation with IMB missionary in Russia.

After the worship service, everyone was invited outside to the tailgate party where hot lunches and cold drinks were waiting for them at the Disaster Relief unit. The unit, identified as an “Urban Feeding Unit,” was impressive as it is one of the newer models which is smaller than prior ones but much more practical. The “Urban Feeding Unit” requires three people to operate while producing about 200 meals an hour. “This unit can meet the needs for hot food throughout the day without a huge resource commitment,” according to Jack Noble, SBC of Virginia’s Director of Disaster Relief.

After eating, a walk around the parking lot meeting missionaries or representatives gained you insight and knowledge about the their work.

Sunday evening? The focus was on the CBC Short-Term Missions Teams. Each team gave a talk and a video presentation about what they’ve done in their country, giving you the sense you were there so you were able to

visualize some of what was being done.

Milton Harding, pastor to seniors and pastoral care, said, “I am always intrigued and captured by the missionaries that come by to ‘give an account’ of what is taking place on the ground. They become the lens by which I see the Lord at work beyond the walls of Centreville, VA. Men and women whom we support via prayer and dollars now bring us the sights and sounds of the ministry arena up close. Personally for me, I always find myself shepherding the hearts of the missionaries. That’s just me. I think here at CBC it’s easy to send money and forget that while that’s important it’s essential that we spiritually pour into their lives because most don’t necessarily get the word, worship, and the fellowship that we get so my heart goes out to them in that way.”

“On Wednesday evening, we closed the spotlight with a prayer event entitled *Prayer Journey*. “Our people visited stations and prayed for SBC missions,” Bill Hatcher, outreach pastor, stated. Bill continued, “Our Missions Spotlight helped us tell the story of Southern Baptist Missions. Our theme was ‘Find Your Place in God’s



Story' with the goal of seeing our people find their place of service in missions. Our missions tailgate party gave our people the opportunity to talk with representatives from SBC of Virginia missions and CBC missions.”

How did it work? Centreville Baptist Church is always looking for unique and different ways to reach out to the community and involve the church members. The tailgate party idea came during the football season. It has become a unique way to share the missions outreach and get someone's attention who may not otherwise stop by for a church event.

Why did we do this? It was an excellent and inventive way to share about our missions work — a unique perspective to bring interest and attention to missions and how our missionaries are sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world in countries such as Haiti, Montenegro, Russia, Spain, and in New York State.

## Contact

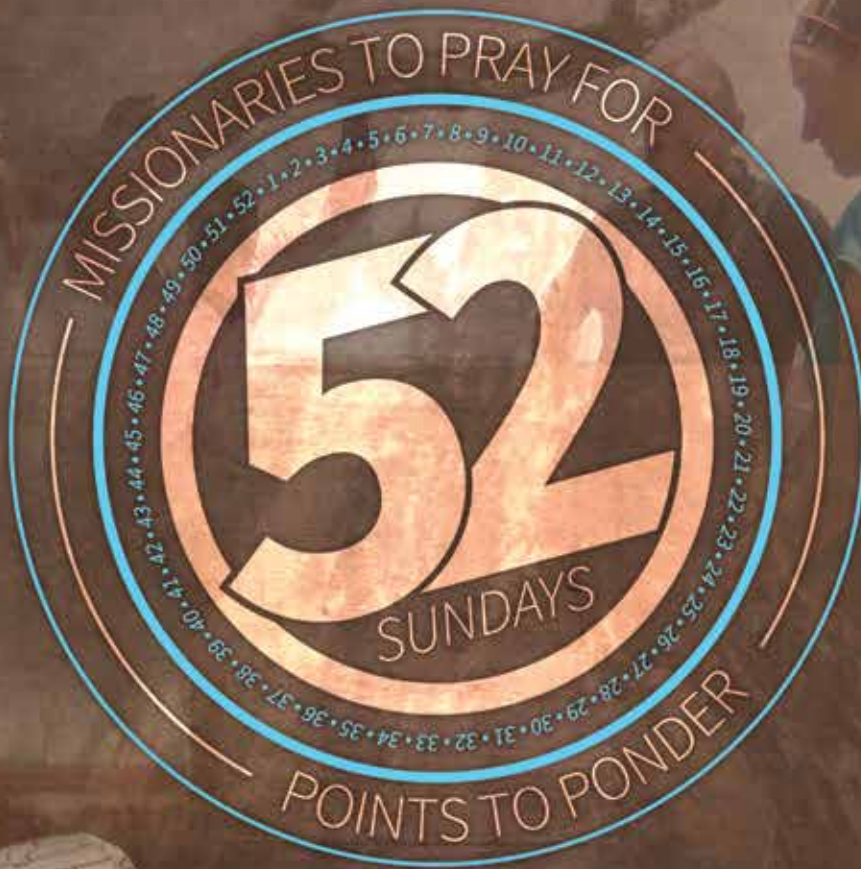
For more information on reaching the peoples of NAME, please contact Mark Gauthier at [mgauthier@sbcv.org](mailto:mgauthier@sbcv.org) or call 1-888-234-7716.

### Host your own tailgate party...

- 1 Form a team of people who have a passion for missions and for sharing it with others.
- 2 Determine a theme or point you want to “drive home” to your church members.
- 3 Consider what events have been done before at your church and what worked. Can it be improved?
- 4 Brainstorm with your team about new ideas for promoting missions.
- 5 Consider the season when you'll be hosting the event and what relates or is popular during that time. For example, fall brings the football season, which promotes popular tailgate parties.
- 6 What worship services, Sunday School classes, weekday programs, and Wednesday night programs can be utilized?
- 7 Create banners and flags representing the countries of the mission outreach represented. These can be used to mark off the area of the tailgate party or missions fair. They can serve as reminders to your church members of the countries your reaching.
- 8 Contact the mission boards for guest speakers.
- 9 Consider using media technology.
  - a. What resources do you readily have available you can utilize?
  - b. Can you have a missionary Skype in during your tailgate party?
  - c. Can presentations be done with videos or slide shows.
- 10 Create an object or small item that your church members can take with them to remember the event, such as a puzzle piece.







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**GREAT COMMISSION**  
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CHURCH'S MISSIONS TIME &  
**DEEPEN YOUR**  
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*52 Sundays is a great resource filled with weekly devotions and highlights of missionaries connected to NAMB, imb, and the SBC of Virginia. Each week, coupled with a devotion, is a challenge to pray boldly for those on the local, national, and international mission field.*

*Please partner with other SBC of Virginia churches as we come together and pray for these ministries.*

Download the booklet & other resources at  
**[sbcv.org/52sundays](http://sbcv.org/52sundays)**



# In Line for a Backpack?

*It May be the Only Gift an Appalachian Child Will Receive for Christmas*

Thousands of people get in line on Black Friday early, early in the morning to get the best deals on flat screen TV's, computers, iPads, phones, and many other items. I wonder how many of the same people would stand in line to get a backpack filled with school supplies and toys for their children. That is what happened at the Frieda Harris Baptist Center in Elkhorn City, KY. The doors opened at 9 AM, but the parents were lining up at 4 AM in hopes of receiving a backpack for their child or children. That may well be the only gift their child is going to get for Christmas.

SBC of Virginia churches were part of a nationwide effort to prepare 40,000 backpacks for impoverished children and youth in the Appalachian area. The Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia project was designed to help show the love of Christ to these children and their families. "The Christmas Story" was placed in every backpack. Many backpacks had Bibles in them.

SBC of Virginia churches provided approximately 1,500 backpacks. It was exciting to see the churches arriving at our Annual Homecoming with their cars, trucks, vans, and buses packed with filled backpacks. Each and every one of the backpacks packed with love and essential to us meeting our goal. The stories behind these backpacks were heartwarming.

The Children's Ministry at Southside Baptist Church in Chester sponsored the *Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia* mission project at their church. The church averages about 95 people on Sundays. Because of the children's desire to help others and with lots of hard work on their parts (and a few adults) these children collected 92 backpacks. Way to go children! You helped to make Christmas morning brighter for 92 needy children.

The pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Yorktown encouraged his church to put all their efforts in this project this year and they collected 123 backpacks, which was the most prepared by one church.

Then there was Memorial Baptist Church in Port Royal that averages about 30 people on Sundays, they brought 23 backpacks.

A lady stopped by our office and brought with her a backpack to give to the children. The stories go on and on of people who sacrificed to prepare the many backpacks donated.

The bottom line is that it took all of us working together to meet the needs of impoverished children living in our country and within driving distance of our homes. If you were a special someone who packed a backpack, we thank you, and please, know that you were a vital part of making a child's Christmas brighter and had a part in sharing the love of Jesus. A child may have learned about Jesus because of you.

Many thanks to our SBC of Virginia churches!



## UPDATE FROM APPALACHIAN REGIONAL MINISTRY:

Teams from Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) traveled all along the East Coast in December to deliver Christmas backpacks to more than 30,400 students just in time for the holiday season. After receiving their backpacks, these students, ranging from pre-school age to high school, had the opportunity to listen to a presentation of the Gospel resulting in 701 salvation decisions.



# One Day At A Time

**“We’re building the church every day.”** That’s the common answer that Pastor Randy Green of Harvest Fellowship Baptist Church, gives to everyone who asks the question, “When are you going to build a church building?” The question has changed now, however, as people have watched a new building rise on Harvest’s 23-acre property. The new

question has become, “When are you going to move into your new building?” People are amazed when Harvest members share about how God has provided to develop the property He provided on Battery Park Road in Smithfield, VA. When someone hears the name Harvest Fellowship they often say, “Are you the ones building that new church on Battery Park?” But the story did not begin with the first shovelful of dirt being moved.

Nansemond River Baptist Church in Suffolk felt the call to plant a church in neighboring Smithfield, sending nearly 70 members and calling Randy and Joyce Green to plant the new church. Harvest Fellowship held

their first service in 2001, bought property on Battery Park Road (another amazing God story!) in 2004 for \$525,000, and constituted in 2007.

In short order, the church paid off their debt from the property purchase and renovation of a stock auction barn on the property for office and meeting space. Using funds from their first capital campaign, site work on the property was completed, including paved parking, lighting, and utility lines. Another capital campaign was launched in 2013 to enable construction to begin on the building they have envisioned for more than a decade. The members boldly pledged by faith \$125 million to make that vision a reality.

It was at the outset of the second campaign, The Harvest is Now, that someone mentioned to Pastor Randy the name Lawrence Corley. Mr. Corley (or “Coach,” as he likes to be called) began and leads an organization out of Birmingham, AL







called Builders for Christ (BFC). Through more than three dozen projects over the years, BFC has developed a team of more than 2,000 active volunteers who serve churches by providing skilled labor, discounted materials, loaner tools, and lots of love to build places of worship for churches — primarily in pioneer areas of the United States.

In the providence and favor of God, Harvest Fellowship was approved by BFC for their 2014 summer construction project. Harvest had several tasks ahead to prepare for the arrival of more than 1,400 volunteers that would arrive over the summer. Corley donated his services to redesign the building from the original plans in order to make the design feasible for volunteer laborers and cost efficient. The 17,000 square foot building is very attractive in keeping with the architecture of the historical city.

Once the plans were drawn, permit applications were submitted and approved, and the property was made ready for construction in a few short months. By the middle of May 2014, the foundation was poured and equipment, materials, and tools began arriving on-site.

People from all over the country arrived in teams of 25 to more than 100. Each used their vacation time and paid their own

expenses to come and invest a full week to build the dream the Lord had provided the members of Harvest Fellowship. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day the church was more than 75 percent completed. As of the writing of this article (January), the percentage of completion is estimated at more than 90 percent. While many of the BFC volunteers were skilled laborers, others were simply willing servants who had never undertaken such a task. God brought together people from all over the country to fellowship, laugh, pray, and serve together. The people of Smithfield were amazed not only in the building, but in how God made it possible. They were amazed that these volunteers paid for the opportunity to work in the often sweltering humidity of a Virginia summer. Mr. Corley estimates that the volunteers have donated the equivalent of \$1 million in labor. Some of the volunteers even prayed to receive Christ while they served!

It was not just the volunteers from BFC that contributed to the erection of the worship facility. The members of Harvest have worked tirelessly as well. From serving in the kitchen preparing meals and snacks, to climbing on the roof or installing duct work, the members of Harvest Fellowship have invested not only their treasures, but their time and talent as well and are committed to continuing until the building is complete. The youth and children have even faithfully



served by cleaning, hauling materials, and decorating the building.

A unique feature to the building are the Scripture verses that have been written all over the frame and foundation during the period of construction. There's even a Bible buried in the foundation, a reminder that God's Word will always be the foundation of this church's ministry.

Everyone who hears the story will agree that it is God alone who deserves the glory for what He has done and continues to do at Harvest and beyond. The Lord has certainly been faithful to Harvest Fellowship and has proven Himself in their journey of faith. The words and wisdom of Solomon in Psalm 127:1 ring true, "Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labor in vain." Though the construction of the building will be completed by the time of this publication, I believe Pastor Randy will continue to proclaim that the body of Harvest Fellowship will continue to be built one day at a time with every disciple that is made and matured through her ministries — until Jesus comes.





# NOISE

TUNE OUT

TUNE IN

TRANSMIT

July 20-24, 2015  
James Madison University, Harrisonburg

## JOHN 10:27

MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE  
AND I KNOW THEM  
AND THEY FOLLOW ME.



SPEAKER:  
**MATT PILAND**



BAND:  
**ABOUT A MILE**

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# For Such a Time as This

## CHURCHES IN TRANSITION

### tran·si·tion

/trənˈziʃ(ə)n, trənˈsiʃ(ə)n/

noun

1. the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.  
"students in transition from one program to another"  
*synonyms:* change, passage, move, transformation, conversion, metamorphosis, alteration, handover, changeover; More

verb NORTH AMERICAN

1. undergo or cause to undergo a process or period of transition.  
"the network ought to be built by the federal government and then transitioned into private industry"

Translations, word origin, and more definitions

Typically, churches who find themselves in transition can react like this... **Oh no, we lost our pastor! What are we going to do?** What normally happens in these churches is they form a Pastor Search Committee and begin the process of looking for their next pastor. Also, they would call an Interim Pastor to stabilize the church by filling the pulpit each Sunday and performing certain pastoral duties during this transitional period. But in those situations that are not typical where the church has declined in attendance, struggled with inner conflict and have lost sight of their mission, this could be the ideal time for a unique and specially-trained shepherd who is called a Transitional Pastor. According to LifeWay — the Transitional Pastor process is a proven path that builds unity, heals hurts, promotes fellowship,

and focuses on the mission of the church. This kind of pastor is called to lead the church from when they lost their previous pastor to when they call their next pastor. (He is not auditioning to become the permanent pastor of the church but to lead the church through this transition). His role is not only to shepherd the flock but guide them through a healing process by identifying specific issues that have impacted the church and help resolve them. The main objective of this ministry is to prepare the church for their new pastor.

### WHERE CAN YOU FIND SUCH A PASTOR?

This past July, the SBC of Virginia hosted a national training offered to pastors interested in assisting churches during this transitional period between pastors. LifeWay's Dan Garland and Henry Webb were the trainers giving good, practical instruction and illustrated it with their own personal experience as transitional pastors. They shared with the group that this is a serious ministry and is not for the faint of heart. Neither is it for those retired pastors who are just looking for an opportunity to preach and to supplement

their income. Garland and Webb emphasized that this is a very critical time in the life of the church and needs someone who can give an objective view of the strengths, weaknesses and changes needed in the church. Of those who attended this seminar, there were thirty pastors who were trained and equipped for this strategic ministry. From that group, there were 22 who committed to being transitional pastors. At present, we are in the process of placing these trained Transitional Pastors with willing churches.

### WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON THE CHURCH?

This ministry can be the catalyst to the revitalization of many churches. Those churches that once were spiraling down due to a history of conflicts and forced terminations will reverse their direction and begin to grow again. The reality is that churches in transition do not have to face this time as a negative one, but rather this time of transition can be a very important and strategic time in the life of the church. One proven way this can happen is by calling a transitional pastor... for such a time as this!



Go on-mission together...



JULY 6-10, 2015  
CENTREVILLE, VA

For families who God is leading to go ON-MISSIONTOGETHER to reach Centreville for Christ.

Areas with servant opportunities:

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distribution of gift baskets to local businesses  
bottled water distribution  
food banks  
soccer camp check-in  
soccer camp refreshment team  
team or group hosting  
ministering to parents of soccer camp participants  
(conversational evangelism)



## YOUNG AT HEART YOUNG IN GOD'S KINGDOM

# Carolyn and Cathy

**“I knew I needed something in my life, but I couldn’t figure out what,”** said Cathy Adkins, an elderly lady who attends and serves at Bridgetown Church plant in Danville.

Cathy’s life had not been an easy one, but most of her problems she says, “were brought on myself. After divorcing my husband, my life spiraled down and for several years I lived my life for myself.” Cathy lived with her sister for a while but eventually moved into a retirement home. There, as she puts it, “I lived in a cocoon feeling sorry for myself.” Cathy describes her life as lonely, isolated, and angry with an overwhelming sense of being totally useless.

“Occasionally some of the other ladies in the home would invite me to their church” Cathy said. “I attended a few times, but it seemed to me that religious people just didn’t have any fun. Of course, I wasn’t having much any fun either. I knew I needed something in my life but couldn’t figure out what it was.”

Cathy was reading the newspaper one day in February 2013 when she saw an ad for a new church meeting in the theatre down town. The ad promised a different kind of church where you could come “as you are” and no one will judge you. This got Cathy’s attention because she had met a lot of judgmental people over the years. She thought it was refreshing to hear that there might be a place where she could go and not be judged for her past. Since Cathy didn’t drive, she asked her friend Carolyn to drive her to the church on Sunday. After a considerable amount of deliberation Carolyn agreed to drive Cathy to church.

As they entered the building they were greeted very warmly and directed to the guest table where they received information about the church and the

morning service. Cathy stated, “The people were so friendly, and they were happy to be at church, which was something I hadn’t seen before.” Cathy loved the upbeat music, and for the first time she understood the message Pastor Jeff Lynch presented. In fact, Cathy says, “His message was straight from the Bible & easy to understand. I truly felt the presence of God.”

Cathy continued to attend Bridgetown with her friend Carolyn, and they both grew in their understanding of the Gospel and how it related to their lives. In September, both Cathy and Carolyn committed their lives to Christ and were baptized shortly thereafter.

Cathy recalls her baptism, “I was terrified! When you are my age you aren’t sure they can get you back up out of the water and I sure can’t do it alone. My heart was



**SBC OF VIRGINIA**

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pounding, and I was about ready to bolt when I felt a hand on my shoulder.”

Pastor Jeff said to Cathy, “you are the bravest person I know, and I’m proud to be your pastor.”

Pastor Jeff says, “The church will never forget what Cathy said when she came up from the water, ‘Come on folks, it’s not that hard.’” Pastor Lynch says, “While most everyone realized the comment came from nervous energy, it has been a phrase repeated many times since.”

Cathy and Carolyn continue to worship and serve at Bridgetown. Along with preparing Sunday program brochures and attending a small group Bible study, Cathy says one of her favorite experiences is working at the Patton Street Ministry where she helps serve hot meals and shares the Gospel with the homeless. “I’ve seen lives changed and families restored. In fact, some of the families are coming to Bridgetown and even

“  
**I might be old, but  
God can still use  
me if I let Him.**  
”

...serving at the Patton Street Ministry,” Cathy says.

Pastor Lynch says, “Cathy is a demographic buster. She loves the energy and passion of a vibrant, growing church and she fits in nicely.”

When asked, what is the one thing that sets Bridgetown apart for you? Cathy says, “This is a comfortable church for real people where the Gospel is presented in a way for

everyone to understand and everyone is welcome. We do life together because we are a family.”

What would you like to say to other “young at heart” people? “Get out of the boat and try something new. We criticize Peter for sinking but most of us have never gotten out of our boat. Not long ago, I was lonely, angry, sad and felt useless. Now I have a reason to get up every morning. I might be old but God can still use me if I let him.”

**“...THE ONE WHO IS IN YOU  
IS GREATER THAN THE ONE  
WHO IS IN THE WORLD.”**

**1 JOHN 4:4B**



*Carolyn and Cathy Adkins*

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# UNREAL STUNTS

LEAD TO A

*Real* ★ *Encounter*

**Y**ou might have seen them on NBC's *America's Got Talent*. Howard Stern said they were his favorite danger act of all time. Heidi Klum named them her favorite danger act of the season. Real Encounter is an action sports stunt team based out of Springfield, MO., and has been ministering in local churches and communities for 17 years. Brad Bennett, president of Real Encounter, is a former professional motor-cross rider who answered the call to full-time ministry and now utilizes his talents for God's glory. They travel all over the world speaking in public schools and supporting the local churches by drawing large numbers

of people to their events with the sole purpose of presenting Jesus to the attendees.

Bennett describes the ministry, "As a ministry, we are made up of professional athletes and ministers in the area of Moto Stunting, Street Bike Stunting and BMX Stunt Team. We use these Action Sports elements to connect with all ages of people. The extreme stunt show is our platform, but make no mistake that Jesus Christ has center-stage in our lives as individuals and our message as a ministry."

Although they have been organized for quite some time, and several state

conventions have utilized and promoted (Missouri, Louisiana, and Kansas), and they have ministered with churches in Texas, Tennessee, and Arkansas, their venture to the east coast is few and far between. But in the fall of 2014, Real Encounter came to Virginia — specifically Chester and Chesterfield, Virginia.

The ministry was introduced to the Central East Churches by Chris Palmer, Student Pastor at Iron Bridge Baptist Church, Chester. In addition to Iron Bridge, churches partnering to organize the event were The Heights Baptist Church, Colonial Heights, Enon Baptist Church, Chester and Cornerstone Assembly, Chesterfield.





Other churches participated in the actual crusade events.

Real Encounter performed in front of 9,000 students during assemblies at Meadowbrook High School, Clover Hill High School, LC Bird High School, Matoaca High School, Salem Middle School, Curtis Elementary School, and Scott Elementary School throughout the week which led up to the big finale, Crusade Night at Thomas Dale High School.

How many students would trek out at night, bring their parents, facebook and tweet their friends? The High School gym was over maximum capacity with people standing and sitting on the floor and in the aisles of the bleachers.

It was estimated that 3,000 showed up that night, and when the Gospel was clearly presented and the invitation was given, more than 300 people responded and were escorted to the school's cafeteria

where 200 completed decision cards for church follow-up.

Chris Palmer said, "People are still talking about it. In fact, I was tagged in a tweet from a Clover Hill High School student that I have never met with the "Throwback Thursday" tag attached. It was a picture of the event and the tweet said, "Remember this? That was awesome!" Others lamented to Palmer, "We have never seen such a response to the gospel before and that it was the best thing to ever happen to Chester." Palmer also got great comments including some from principals at schools, who said it was the best assembly they had ever seen.

Who would have thought that by watching some unreal stunts, that students would have a Real Encounter with Jesus? But they did, and many would like to share their encounter with others with hopes that this ministry team will return to region.



## Resource

For more information about Real Encounter, visit [RealEncounter.org](http://RealEncounter.org)



Photo courtesy of Kurt Wilberding who snapped this Instagram photo in lower Manhattan just after Superstorm Sandy made its way through New York...

# VOLUNTEERS ARE A POWERFUL TOOL

## Two years later Southern Baptist are rebuilding in New York

Two and half years ago Hurricane Sandy slammed coast of New Jersey and New York, washing away the dreams of thousands of families along the seacoast. The response by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief was immediate having placed on the road kitchens and debris teams to be on the ground within hours after the storm passed. Southern Baptist had enough kitchens within two hours of New York City as the storm passed to produce more than 600,000 meals a day. That meant that more than 1,000 Southern Baptists were prepared to make a difference well before the 72 hours that a family should plan to take care of themselves. Southern Baptists were the first on the scene and still have not left.

A new breed of volunteers replaced by the original debris removal and feeding teams. The new team called Southern Baptist Disaster Rebuild. The typical responding Disaster Relief Volunteer is older than 55 years old and retired although most of who receive training are well under 55. Southern Baptist Disaster Rebuild is the Disaster Relief Ministry that does not require immediate

response and can be planned weeks even months in advance.

Two and half years after a disaster most, if not all, of the initial responders have gone home and left the community. Southern Baptists have stayed to bring help, healing,

in the community serving with the same passion they were two years ago.

Caison also makes it clear that, “The longer we work with a family the better the opportunity to develop a relationship and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.”

Disaster Rebuild has become a conduit of new believers into local churches and church plants.

One of the most difficult transitions that Disaster Relief experienced was a few years ago when hundreds of college students went to Binghamton, NY. The students removed debris from 60 homes and had an incredible time of ministry with each homeowner. The students made a difference, but their work and ministry could have been a

catalyst for a church plant but no system existed to have ready church planters to meet the need of a church in an impacted area.

Southern Baptist Disaster Rebuild is that vehicle to allow Southern Baptist to come and stay after a disaster so that the Kingdom of God can be expanded through ministry and church planting.

“Southern Baptist Disaster Rebuild is that vehicle that allows Southern Baptist to come and stay after a disaster...”

and hope — simply put, the hope offered is the message of Jesus Christ. According to Mickey Caison, Southern Baptist Disaster Rebuild Strategist, “Hearts are open to the Gospel of Jesus and volunteers are a powerful tool that the Holy Spirit is using in a great way.” Those impacted by the event find it incredible that once the TV cameras have left that Southern Baptists are still







# Legacy

**Do you know** the names of your great-grandparents? Recently, my son was working on a school assignment about his family heritage. His assignment consisted of having to research his family tree and discover details about past generations.

I have never thought it that unusual that I did not know the names of my great-grandparents or my great-great-grandparents. But, the thought that my son's children's children may not even know my name hits a little closer to home.

All of my hard work, all of the investment of my time and energy, even the memory of my name could be lost in less than 100 years. In fact, it is likely that little may be known about me in less than 1,000 months.

Ninety years ago a group of people made a decision that has become a legacy of lives changed, disciples made, churches planted, leaders equipped, and missionaries sent. In 1925, a little more than 1,000 months ago, people in Southern Baptist churches began to fund ministries and missionary efforts through a plan called the Cooperative Program.

Typically each month, a church sends financial support to the SBC of Virginia that is combined with support received from hundreds of other churches to provide for our joint, combined, and united efforts to plant, strengthen, and mobilize churches here, across America, and around the world. From seminary scholarships, to international missionaries, to start up funds for new churches and so forth, for almost 1,080 months churches like the ones we are a part of have enjoyed the legacy of what our great-great-grandparents named "The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists."

Even if we have forgotten the names of this past generation, their legacy of missions and ministry partnership for the glory of God is our inheritance. This is our family legacy. Working together through prayer, generosity, sending, and being sent, to proclaim the good news of Jesus and the truth of God's Word is our family legacy.

What will our generation's legacy be? In a 1,000 months they may not remember my name, but I pray I will have left a worthwhile spiritual inheritance. By the way, one of my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather's name was Cornelius. It may not matter to you, but it does to me — he is family. Each of our SBC of Virginia churches matter. We are family. Let's leave a legacy of missions that will bless future generations — whether they remember our names or not. It is the name of Jesus by which people are saved. May we be united in a bold commitment to make Jesus known for generations to come.

**leg·a·cy**  
 /ˈlɛɡəsi/  
 noun

1. a gift to a future generation; something by which you are remembered.  
*synonyms:* bequest, inheritance, heritage, endowment, gift, patrimony, settlement, birthright; *formal* benefaction  
 "a legacy from a great aunt"



*Brian Autry*

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# Empowered CONFERENCE



## Get Off Script: Live Like A MISSIONARY

The *Empowered* Conference is an evangelism and Bible conference in one. It is intended to be a statewide opportunity for us to gather as SBC of Virginia churches for worship, fellowship, and the Great Commission challenge.

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- *Reaching Out to the Strangers Next Door*
- *Jesus at His Unscripted Best*

- *Leading Churches to Live Like Missionaries*
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