

NEPAL:

An Immediate Response

It's Not What You Ride -
IT'S WHOM YOU SERVE

SHABBAT SHALOM

Battle Buddies
SERVING IN MINISTRY



contents

When an earthquake struck Nepal on April 25, every facet of life for the Nepalese was changed. SBC of Virginia churches responded within days by being on the ground in Nepal with provisions and bringing smiles to the faces of the Nepalese.



PROCLAIMER

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The SBC of Virginia is a fellowship of Southern Baptist Convention churches cooperating to assist local congregations in their task of fulfilling the Great

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Steady Now Church!

from the
Executive
Director

Recent days have been stormy and shocking in our society to say the least. Even in our SBC of Virginia family we received news of a pastor and wife being stabbed (I am grateful to update you that they are recovering. Your love and prayers for them have been gratefully received). The evil and murderous acts against our brothers and sisters in the Charleston church drive us to our knees to pray.

The action by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding marriage can shake us. SBC of Virginia, along with our Southern Baptist ministry partner: The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (erlc.com) can assist as you may have questions or seek resources.

In this article, I simply want to share as a brother in Christ and fellow minister of the gospel that the Lord desires for His Church and His saints to stay steady and on course as we proclaim the gospel.

I am reminded of how in Hebrews 13, the Bible gives several statements intended to steady and strengthen our course as the church of the Lord Jesus:

1. Let's show our devotion to God as we show compassion for people. *Hebrews 13:1-3, "Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it. Remember the prisoners, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily."* In the past few weeks I was able to see first hand youth mission teams serving the community in Central Virginia through our Fusion Camp and the Imitate Camp. Teams are ministering in earthquake shaken Nepal from SBCV churches.

2. Let's not just define biblical marriage, but let's demonstrate it. *Hebrews 13:4, "Marriage must be respected by all, and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge immoral people and adulterers."*

3. Let's seek to be stewards of God's blessings and share with others that Christ is the secret to satisfaction. *Hebrews 13:5-6, "Our life should be free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for He Himself has said, I will never leave you or forsake you. Therefore, we may boldly say: The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

4. Let's be prayerful for our church leaders. *Hebrews 13:7, "Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith."*

5. Let's focus on our unchanging and sovereign Lord as we live in a changing and unsettled world. *Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

6. Let's seek to be biblically correct even when it may be politically incorrect. *Hebrews 13:9, "Don't be led astray by various kinds of strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be established by grace and not by foods, since those involved in them have not benefited."*

7. Let's praise the Lord Jesus for His sacrifice for sins and the salvation He offers to people.

Hebrews 12:10-13, "We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle do not have a right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the most holy place by the high priest as a sin offering are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the gate, so that He might sanctify the people by His own blood. Let us then go to Him outside the camp, bearing His disgrace."

8. Let's remember that we are not home yet.

Hebrews 13:14, "For we do not have an enduring city here; instead, we seek the one to come."

9. Let's make sure we worship the Lord Jesus and are witnesses for Him. *Hebrews 13:15, "Therefore, through Him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His name."*

10. Let's keep ministering and praying. *Hebrews 13:16-19, "Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are convinced that we have a clear conscience, wanting to conduct ourselves honorably in everything. And I especially urge you to pray that I may be restored to you very soon."*

A prayer for us all:

Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep—with the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with all that is good to do His will, working in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ. Glory belongs to Him forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Scripture from Holman Christian Standard Bible



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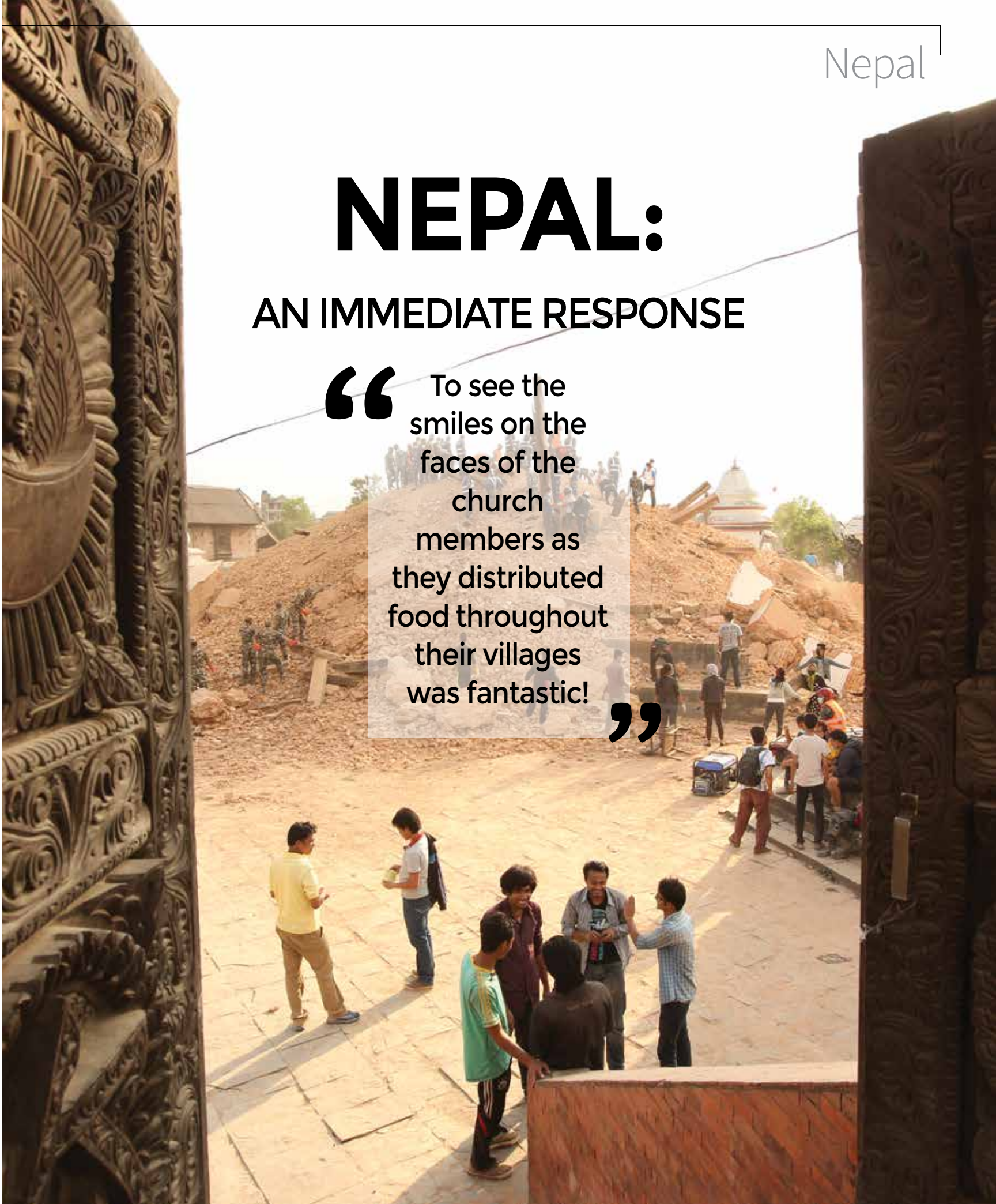
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NEPAL:

AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

“ To see the smiles on the faces of the church members as they distributed food throughout their villages was fantastic! ”



With millions impacted and more than 8,000 dead, the earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25 has changed every facet of life. Although food supply lines have broken down, bathrooms have been damaged, and homes have been destroyed, the Church is alive and well in Nepal.

Just days after the 7.8 earthquake, Disaster Relief volunteers Gene Cole from Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton and Michael Tolliver from The Heights Baptist Church in Colonial Heights were on the ground in Nepal, bringing assistance

from SBC of Virginia churches.

Partnering with Nepalese Pastor Dhan Bahadur Surketi and the Emmanuel Church in Jarang, they helped distribute food for 4,500 people. Five other Nepalese churches were also involved. To see the smiles on the faces of the church members as they distributed food throughout their villages was, in the words of both Mike and Gene, “Fantastic!” The food purchased was made possible by the designated gifts of SBC of Virginia churches. Mike and Gene watched in amazement as these Nepalese

believers smiled even about the animal shelters they were using as temporary housing. They expressed the kind of joy in crisis that only a caring Heavenly Father can provide.

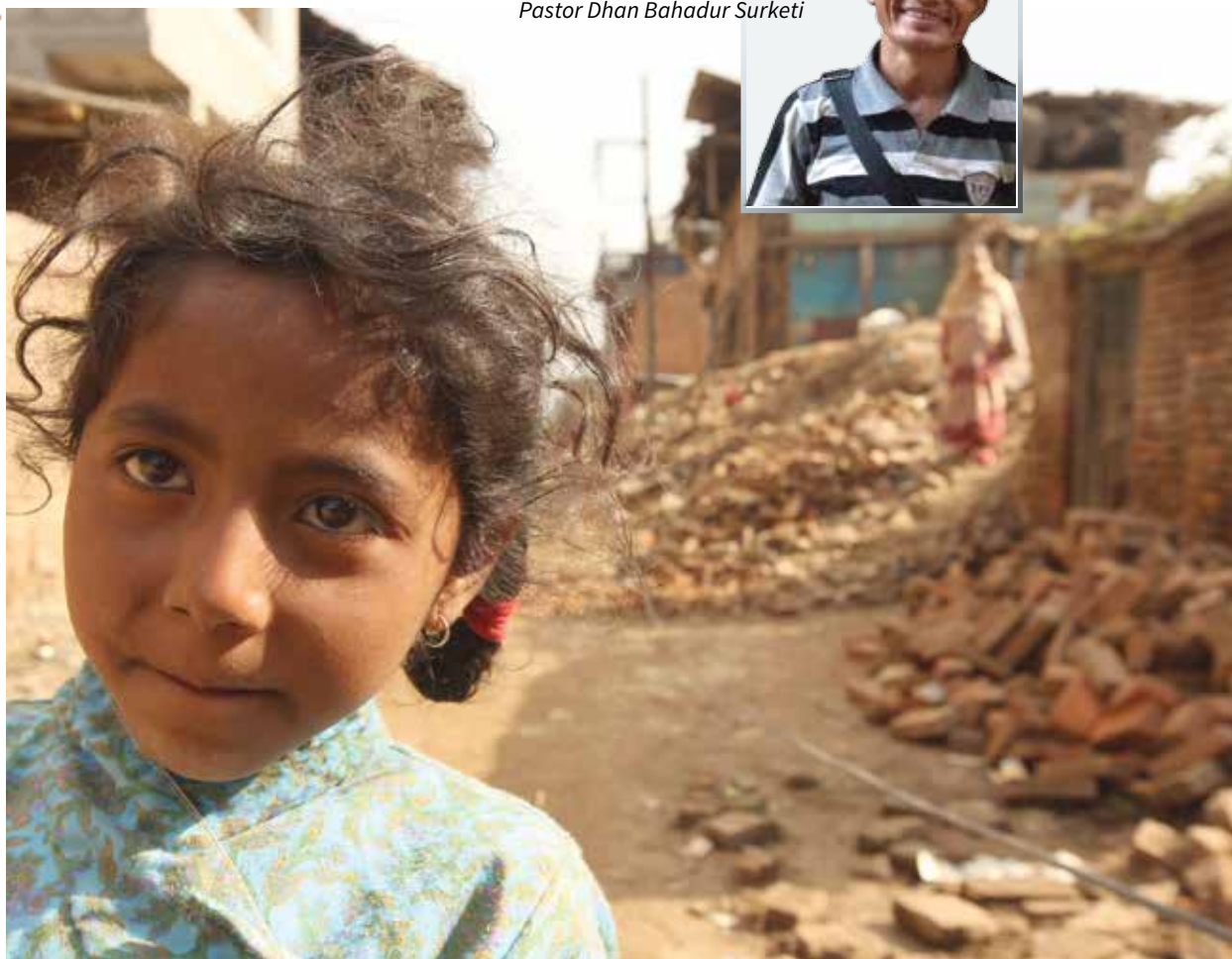
Credentialed Disaster Relief volunteers Mike and Gene have also received the international Sphere Project credential and were uniquely gifted to be a part of the Southern Baptist Disaster Assessment Relief Team. They arrived in Nepal with a doctor from Mississippi to survey the situation and determine how Southern Baptists

around the world could have a coordinated response to the earthquake.

In addition to providing direct food relief through the churches, Mike and Gene developed a plan so that Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams can come and assist the Nepalese in their recovery effort. Teams from America will be able to assist with distributing food, rebuilding water and sanitation systems, and assisting homeowners in re-purposing materials to rebuild their homes.

Three teams are mobilized for this initial response. These teams will be cleaning up debris, rebuilding a school, and assisting homeowners in repairing latrines during the summer months.

Pastor Dhan Bahadur Surketi



RESOURCE

For information on preparing to:

GO: sbcv.org/readychurch

PRAY: gobgr.org

GIVE: Designate “Nepal Earthquake Relief” on your church offering envelope or **donate online** at: sbcv.org/nepal

Nepal

These team members are hitting the ground during the monsoon season and have very few resources available to them on the ground while working, hiking, and climbing at 5,000-foot elevations.

Thank you, SBC of Virginia churches, for your fervent prayers and generosity to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. Your gifts are blessing people around the world—providing for their physical and spiritual needs.



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."*

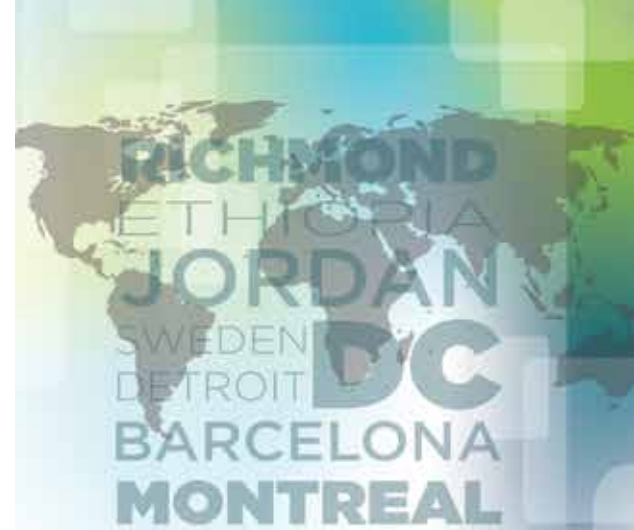
B **Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again.** *Romans 10:9, "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

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.



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to learn, love, partner,
& serve internationally
with a **UUPG***
your church
has embraced **?**

* unengaged, unreached people group



FOR INFORMATION:
sbcv.org/acts18network



It's Not What You Ride It's Whom You Serve



**He told them: “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.
Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers
into His harvest.” Luke 10:2 (HCSB)**

As “baby boomers” began to reach retirement age, the motorcycle scene dramatically changed. Many boomers were retiring with plenty of discretionary dollars and went for the big, tricked-out touring motorcycles. Although many had never ridden before, their weekends and summers are now spent on the open road.

Virginia has over 150,000 registered bikes, and half of those carry an extra rider (two-up), amounting to about 225,000 bikers across the state—many of whom care more about biker culture than church. When you talk to them, they’ll often pay lip service to “religion,” but as long as the weather cooperates, they will ride. So what do we have to do? We have to ride also—we have to go to them! Yes, that means missing the church house sometimes. Remember, “pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest” (HCSB).

Most ministries at biker events involve walk-

ing up, shaking hands, and giving out Gospel tracts. But the most effective means of outreach is to first “earn the right to speak”—having fellowshiped with them to the point that they trust you (marble runs, charity rides, etc.) or inviting them to come to you (bike giveaways at events, etc.). Those who are genuinely converted remain motorcycle enthusiasts and become the best evangelists in the ministry.

This past March, 53 men and women from SBC of Virginia churches joined 200+ additional volunteers and traveled to Daytona, FL to participate in the annual Daytona Bike Giveaway ministry. During Daytona Bike Week, motorcyclists were given the opportunity to come under the ministry tent and register for a bike giveaway if they would listen for three minutes to what God had done in the life of a volunteer. Once the volunteer shared his/her story, the visitor was given the opportunity to tell his/her life story—and most were ready and willing. The exchange was followed by a

Gospel presentation, and 429 people (out of the estimated 14,000 Gospel presentations) responded that they wanted to become followers of Christ!

The same type of ministry is conducted in Sturgis, SD each year, and SBC of Virginia teams participate as well. This year is proving to be the largest response ever—as of May 30, over 20 volunteers were already registered. God has also provided a long-time need by preparing the first Deaf biker group to attend from SBC of Virginia churches. [You can read about the Sturgis event in previous *Proclaimers* since we have partnered with the Dakota Baptist Convention for several years.]

Dallas Mills, pastor of Lifeline Fellowship in Chesterfield, VA, has a motorcycle and uses it for ministry: “I pack a lunch and ride up and down the interstate, stopping at rest stops and hanging around my bike until someone comes and says, ‘Nice bike, man,’ and the Holy Spirit takes over. I have

personally led several people to Christ this way.”

William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army, once asked, “What are you living for? Is it for the salvation of souls? If not, you may be religious, but I don’t see how you can be a Christian.” With that perspective, let’s remember the 225,000 Virginian motorcyclists, two-thirds of whom are likely unsaved. Are we willing to go after them?



RESOURCE

EMAIL: raldridge@sbcv.org
Randy Aldridge, SBC of Virginia
Evangelism Strategist

WEBSITE:
sbcv.org/motorcycleevangelism

BIKE MINISTRIES – PROVEN SUCCESS

Bike ministries have proven successful at:

Toy runs (bikers bringing toys to needy or hospitalized children)	
Children’s homes	Jail/prison ministries Parades
Bike rallies/bike fests	Nursing homes

HOW TO FORM A MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY CHAPTER

Motorcycle ministry chapters may be formed through individual local churches or by joining with other SBC of Virginia churches. Here are a few tips:

- 1. Begin with prayer.** Ask the Lord if this is what He is leading you and your church to do.
- 2. Share your vision with your pastor.** As the leader of your church, he needs to understand and share the vision to reach the motorcycle community.
- 3. Determine the ministry’s financial support**—church budget, donations, offerings, etc.
- 4. Form a leadership team** that shares the vision and passion for the ministry. Meet to develop a mission/purpose statement that will clearly communicate the goals and vision specific to your individual chapter (make sure they are consistent with your church’s goals and vision).
- 5. Be creative with your ministry.** Plan events and activities that are interesting and will attract people from outside the chapter and the church to participate.
- 6. Spend time promoting your ministry** within the church body and the community through church bulletins, newsletters, posters, newspapers, flyers, church/chapter website, etc. Most motorcycle dealers and shops even provide a bulletin board for chapter announcements.
- 7. Establish a monthly meeting** time where the group can come together for planning, Bible study, and fellowship.
- 8. Make certain that functioning members of your local church are leaders** in your motorcycle ministry. it is not a parachurch organization but a ministry of the local church.



August 1-8
2015

Bike Giveaway

MISSION
opportunity

reach bikers this summer

FOR INFO

sturgismotorcyclerrally.com
sbcv.org/sturgis

Bibles



for Southern Africa

The Bible—God’s Holy Word!

How precious is it to you?

What would you do if you did not have easy access to the Bible or could not afford to buy one? We don’t usually think about these things because most of us have several Bibles in our home or could easily purchase one. How different would your life be if it weren’t that easy to find a copy of God’s Word?

For many people around the world, obtaining a Bible is difficult, impossible, or even illegal. That is why the SBC of Virginia is partnering with the International Mission Board (IMB) and missionaries overseas to provide Bibles for those who really want and need one.

to teach people how to study the Word and seek answers for themselves. Many of these nationals will become church planters in their villages.

In a recent note, our IMB missionaries shared, “I want to express our sincere appreciation for the special gift SBCV churches sent recently to help us with our ministry needs and Bible fund. This money is helping us purchase Bibles that are being used in languages across eight countries and meeting other ministry needs. Thank you for your generous support and gifts.”

The SBC of Virginia has promoted this mission opportunity for three years and, as of June 2015, SBCV churches have given over \$34,000. Because of your generosity, over 5,600 Bibles have been purchased and distributed across eight countries in Southern Africa. Praise the Lord! You and your church are a vital part of spreading the Gospel throughout Southern Africa.

Please keep this project in your prayers. Pray that God will use these efforts far beyond man’s expectations and that many will come to know Him by having His Word in their hands. Pray that the Lord would send new volunteers to help carry out His work in that area of the world.

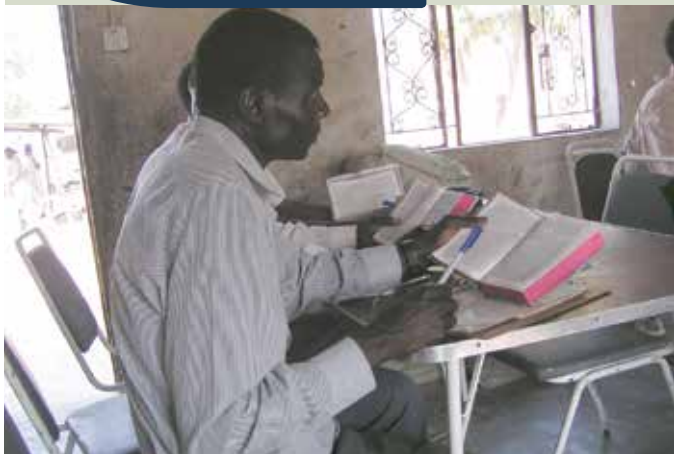
RESOURCE

website:

sbcv.org/biblesforafrica

In just over three years, SBC of Virginia churches have given over \$34,000 and 5,600 Bibles to the eight countries in Southern Africa.

In Southern Africa, Bibles are needed to assist national leaders and local believers in learning the Word of God. Bibles in the native language, Sesotho of Lesotho, are very difficult to find and, if found, are extremely expensive. For this reason, most nationals do not own one. Bibles are needed to enable our IMB missionaries





BIBLES *for* SOUTHERN AFRICA

August - September

In Southern Africa, Bibles are needed to assist national leaders and local believers in learning the Word of God. **Join the SBC of Virginia in reaching our goal of providing \$20,000 for Bibles!**

Donations may be sent by check to the SBC of Virginia office at 4956 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

sbcv.org/missionprojects



EQUIPPING WOMEN TO FULFILL THE Great Commission



Teresa Bass

"...if we are not evangelizing our communities, then our churches will die."

The SBC of Virginia's vision for women is to equip them to fulfill the Great Commission. At last August's annual leadership training at the International Learning Center, we challenged our Women's Ministry leaders to share the Gospel and engage their communities. Teresa Bass is the Women's Ministry leader at Sonlight Church in Chesapeake and has attended many of our trainings and conferences. Reflecting on a recent training, she shared, "I have been challenged with the resounding statement that if we are not evangelizing our communities, then our churches will die."

With Teresa setting the pace as their leader, the women at Sonlight are taking the opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission in their community. Sonlight's Women's Ministry hosted its first backyard movie night, which provided the opportunity to invite unsaved neighbors. Sonlight ladies also participated in The Cast, a ministry for the homeless who cannot get into a shelter. Churches in Hampton Roads open their doors to provide dinner and a night's shelter for

the homeless. Guests are normally allowed to stay until 6 AM, but on Christmas Day, they were allowed to stay all day, and Sonlight Church hosted a Christmas service at the host church for those who had nowhere else to go. Teresa was there serving and sharing the Gospel. We are thankful for leaders like her, who have a heart for the Great Commission and lead others to have the same passion.

The SBC of Virginia desires to see all Women's Ministries growing through reaching the lost. Our next leadership conference will feature a panel discussion that will give women the opportunity to talk with ministry leaders who are reaching lost women and discipling them. As women are being served in our state, let's pray that we mobilize them to reach the lost in our community and, through discipleship, see them grow and develop into leaders. Please join us in praying that together we can be agents of revival in our Women's Ministries.



CONNECTIONS Leadership Retreat

August 14-15

International Learning Center (ILC)
16492 MLC Lane, Rockville, VA 23146

For information or to register, visit sbcv.org/connections
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COST: \$99
includes lodging,
meals, materials,
and activities



Gathering Momentum

Through Changed Lives

Spiritual growth among the families of Rocky Mount Baptist Church has led to unprecedented numerical growth for this downtown congregation in Rocky Mount, VA. Changed lives like those of Reid and Becky Hodges are a clear illustration of what is taking place in this SBC of Virginia church.

Two years ago, Reid and his family would not have been found in any church. Now they attend faithfully, serve actively, and have filled almost three benches with friends they've brought with them. It all began with a simple invitation, offered by a Rocky Mount church leader who saw Reid while they were both waiting for a haircut. When the man paid for his haircut, he also paid for Reid's and his son's. Reid objected, and the man replied, "You can pay me back by joining me this Sunday at our church." Providentially, Reid had recently been entertaining a number of spiritual questions, spurred by a religion class he was taking at the local community college. Already open and searching for

answers, he accepted the invitation. He even brought his family...and they've hardly missed a service or activity since.

Both Reid and his wife, Becky, had been unchurched since their teenage years. After attending Rocky Mount for a few months, Reid got saved, and a radical transformation began. He and Becky began reading the Bible with their children, praying together on a regular basis, listening to Christian music, and studying the Bible avidly on a personal level. In fact, Reid is now part of the church outreach program. The life change in their family led to several of their friends and family joining them at the church.

"My perspective on life has completely changed," says Reid. "My personal relationship with God is my most important priority, and I feel the need share what Jesus has done in my life with others."

Thanks to several other experiences like Reid and Becky's, the church has grown from 40 to 300 in attendance in just six years. The power of a simple invitation has been repeated over and over again.

"What is happening in our church is the story of what happens when the Gospel impacts people," says Pastor Jeff Robinson. "They share that impact with their friends, neighbors, co-workers, or classmates. The Gospel is having a ripple effect in our community."

"We are grateful for the SBC of Virginia as a partner in our Gospel efforts," says Pastor Jeff. Let us all praise God for what He is doing among our partner churches because, ultimately, the SBC of Virginia is a Gospel partnership.

The Hodges family



RESOURCE

WEBSITE:

rockymountbaptistchurch.com



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New Life New Building

CALLING THE RIGHT PASTOR SPURS MARION BAPTIST CHURCH TO NEW LIFE AND A VITALIZED MINISTRY

Founded in 1893, Marion Baptist Church in Chatham, VA averaged 59 in attendance for 20 years and baptized 38 people during the same period. It was a good rural church making a difference in its community. In 2001, things started to change. That's when the church called Hank Meadows as its pastor. He left his role as youth pastor at Enon Baptist in Chester, VA to come home to Pittsylvania County where he was raised.



BEFORE

Since that time, the church has seen 202 baptisms and 190 new members join by letter. Average attendance hit 245, and the church began to overflow with people. A worship center that could easily handle 120 was being asked to hold a group twice the size. Two services were not even enough to accommodate the people.

We often hear that success in business and in churches comes down to location, location, location. Although Marion sits well off the beaten four-lane road by four miles in a sparsely populated section of the county, its location couldn't deter what God was doing. Pastor Hank credits the church with becoming an inviting church about three years after his arrival. That's when the church began seeing an average of 14 a year expressing their faith through believer's baptism and 13 joining the church by letter—some 27 people a year being added to the church family.



God used 1 Corinthians 9:22 to encourage Pastor Hank in the need to build more space: “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (NKJV). Marion Baptist Church needed to provide a place for the community to hear about Jesus. The new building would reach the lost, disciple believers, and send them out to win the world for Christ. When the need to build finally came to a vote, it was 111 to 1, with the dissenting voter believing the project was not big enough for what God was planning to do.

The development of a new building prompted the congregation to be even more intentional

about sending believers out into the harvest. They now desire to send five families out as full-time vocational servants—pastors, church planters, or missionaries. It is not enough for Marion Baptist Church to be a mission point four miles off the main road—they want to touch the world by sending their best out in full-time ministry. In 2016, they will send a missionary out to plant a church in Chicago.

God spurred the growth of a 100-year-old church to new levels with the arrival of Pastor Hank Meadows, and the new building stands as a physical testimony of what God is doing in the life of Marion Baptist Church.

AFTER



MINISTERS of *Discipleship* ROUNDTABLE

AUGUST 18 | 10AM-2PM

*SBC of Virginia
Ministry Support Center*

FEATURES:

- *Networking, Lunch, and Fellowship*
- *Roundtable Discussion with Peers*
- *Dialogue with Don Blackmore*

DON BLACKMORE

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Shabbat Shalom

Means, “Sabbath Peace”



What many don't consider, according to Rabbi Herts, is that Jewish people are an unreached people group.



If you were to visit Hampton Roads Baptist Church on a Saturday morning, you may be surprised to find a worship service taking place. Attendees would welcome you to B'nai Avarham Messianic Fellowship with the words, “Shabbat Shalom,” which means, “Sabbath Peace.” This is where Jews and Gentiles can worship Jesus the Messiah within a Jewish context.

B'nai Avarham was founded by Messianic Rabbi Michael Herts in 2005. At first, they met monthly at Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, where many of their people were members. Now meeting at Hampton Roads Baptist Church, they gather every Sabbath at 10 AM. The first, third, and fifth Saturdays of the month are for worship, and the second and fourth are for Bible study. Starting with 13 people, they have increased to an average attendance of 60-70 and are continuing to grow. They may seem like a small group compared to larger churches in the area, but they are quite large considering their target group. What many don't consider, according to Rabbi Herts, is that **Jewish people are an unreached people group**. This brings to mind the words of the Apostle John: “He came to His own, but His own people did not receive Him” (John 1:11, HCSB). B'nai Avarham has plans to change that!

The ministry of B'nai Avarham is designed to enable Jews to hear in a culturally sensitive way that the Jewish Messiah has come. Rabbi Herts explains that B'nai Avarham exists for

three reasons: *FIRST, they want to reach out to Jews that the Messiah has come. This is the main focus of everything they do. SECOND, they want to build community so they can retain their Jewish identity. In other words, they can be Jewish and believe in Jesus. THIRD, they want to encourage and train believers to reach out to Jewish people with the Gospel.* This is a large part of their plan of discipleship. To better reach their goal, they have chosen to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship and the SBC of Virginia.

To help fulfill their mission, they host a Passover service each year, usually on Easter Sabbath. Because of the number of people who attend, they have to meet at another location. This year, they met at Crowne Plaza in Newport News and had 170 in attendance. Rabbi Herts led attendees through the traditional elements of the Passover, explaining how Jesus the Messiah fulfills the Scriptures as the promised Lamb of God.

The example of Andrew when he found his brother is the heart of B'nai Avarham: “‘We have found the Messiah!’, and he brought [him] to Jesus” (John 1:41-42, HCSB).

As a Messianic congregation, B'nai Avarham is committed to finding the descendants of Abraham (and all people groups) and bringing them to Jesus!

RESOURCE

WEBSITE:
BnaiAvrahamVa.org

WELCOME TO B'NAI AVARHAM,
A MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP



Model: Missional Church

Churches desire to attract people, and worship services are usually designed with members and guests in mind. Some church services are tailored specifically for those who are not yet believers in Jesus. Pastors often encourage their members to bring unsaved guests with them to church to expose them to the Gospel in the preaching of the Word. These ministry designs are in no way improper.

The newest SBCV church plant in Virginia Beach, however, conducts its weekly gatherings very differently. A typical Sunday service at Virginia Beach Missional Church is anything but typical—from the location where its members gather to the design and purpose of their worship. At present, the new church meets at a Mary Kay

training studio, complete with pink walls accented with black and white tablecloths. But more important than the décor is the clear objective for their gathering. In the Equip Worship Service, believers celebrate what God has done through them and are equipped and empowered for missionary living through prayer and the study of God's Word. Church planter Rick Leineweber describes their service in the following way, "Instead of our members preparing all week to serve in their volunteer positions on Sunday, our members come to be equipped for the next six days of the week. Equipping is centralized on Sunday, but everything else is done through decentralized missional communities."

The goal is for church members to give birth to missional communities by utilizing a combination of their relationships and the

locations in which God has placed them. Missional communities are decentralized gatherings that begin with believers who share the same target audience/cause and who desire to partner together to reach their mission field. The groups are inclusive, seeking unbelievers to join them, thus exposing the lost to a demonstration of genuine, godly love for people and their God-given community. Pastor Rick has extensive experience as a church planter and small-groups pastor. In these roles, he has refined the skill set necessary to develop leaders to start and lead small groups of believers that grow and multiply disciples.

In an effort to provide church members with practical handles to engage in missional living, Pastor Rick has adapted a set of missional practices from pastor and author Dave Ferguson (the B.L.E.S.S. acronym):



Begin with prayer

(DEPENDENCE)

How does God want me to bless the people to whom He has sent me?



Listen

(ATTENTIVENESS)

What challenges, struggles, and pain are the people to whom God has sent me experiencing?



Eat

(HOSPITALITY)

Who will I have a cup of coffee or a meal with among the people to whom God has sent me?



Serve

(GENEROSITY)

How can I demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical way with those to whom God has sent me?



Story

(BOLDNESS)

Is the timing right for me to share my story (testimony—how Jesus changed my life) and His story (the Gospel) with those to whom God has sent me?

This approach to Gospel ministry may seem novel, but a study of the early days of the Church reveals a biblical precedent.

In the months since Virginia Beach Missional Church began meeting, its members have fully embraced missional living. Consider these testimonies:

ONE MEMBER SHARED, *For years, I invited my neighbors to outreach events at my previous church with no success. We recently did one block party in our neighborhood, and every neighbor on our street came except one shut-in couple. We dropped food by for them. Most people stayed several hours, and we made tremendous progress building redemptive relationships.*

ONE FAMILY USED *Financial Peace* to explore the potential of starting a missional community among college students in Norfolk close to their home. They hope to reengage those students during the fall semester.

ONE FAMILY OPENED their home for a “meet your neighbor” supper. Each family brought their favorite soup/chowder/chili/stew and a loaf of bread. Eighteen neighbors had a wonderful time talking with one another. The host family explained, *Each of us explored the potential of common interests that could lead to ongoing contact with one another.* A group of these neighbors planned a block party, which provided an opportunity to learn one another’s stories.

ONE MOM FOUND God’s answer to her prayer in another mom who shared her passion for ministering to moms and is now partnering with her to reach even more moms. *The teaching and equipping at our church have continually motivated me to be intentional and creative in personally reaching my community. My ‘heart love’ for ministry is with moms—helping them to know Christ, love their husbands, train their children, and manage their homes. I wanted to reach a neighborhood near my home and prayed for an open door.*

In every case, these missional believers are experiencing God’s favor in the midst of their obedience to go and make disciples. For more information about Virginia Beach Missional Church and missional communities, check out the links in the resource box.

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’” (John 20:21, HCSB).

Since the writing of this article, Pastor Rick has received a medical diagnosis that will require prolonged treatment. Please pray for his health and for the church leaders as they continue the mission and vision to plant Virginia Beach Missional Church.

RESOURCES

Videos about mission community and missional living:



We Are Missionaries : Our Transformed Identity– Caesar Kalinowski
tinyurl.com/CaesarK

The Missional Church...Simple
tinyurl.com/missional-simple

The Missional Community...Simple (Bob)
tinyurl.com/missionalbob

What Does Missional Community Life Look Like? – Jeff Vanderstelt
tinyurl.com/missionaljeff

How Has the Great Commission Lost Its Meaning in Our Culture? – Paul Tripp
tinyurl.com/GC-lostmeaning

Every Christian a Missionary – David Platt
tinyurl.com/everychristian

5 Ways to Bless Your Neighbors – Dave Ferguson
tinyurl.com/blessyourneighbors

Websites:

missionalchurchvb.org
facebook.com/missionalchurchvb
wearesoma.com

Downloadable Prayer Card:

sbcv.org/rickleineweber



A Lasting Legacy

Most people wouldn't have expected this meat cutter and television repairman to plant a church in Northern Virginia. They wouldn't have believed that this hometown boy, born in Fairfax County, would be used by God to embolden future pastors, church planters, and missionaries to take the Gospel to the far corners of the world. Yet after 40 years in the ministry of the Gospel, Pastor Lewis Holmes can

give testimony to the faithfulness of God.

In 1983, the Lord led Lewis on a journey to plant Oakton Baptist Church in Chantilly, VA. Like Gideon of old, Pastor Lew (as most affectionately call him) simply trusted and obeyed God's calling on his life. To uniquely shape the body of believers at Oakton, the Lord supernaturally provided buildings and finances and brought people from all walks of life to a saving faith in Him.

Although Oakton Baptist Church has never grown to more than 200 in membership, Pastor Lew and the church family have established a lasting legacy of developing and sending out transformed, vibrant leaders. Over the 32 years since Oakton was established, more than 20 men and their families have been discipled and sent out through the ministry of the church (including three of Pastor Lew's grandchildren).

Scott Terry, a former physical therapist and now IMB missionary to Africa:

I had the privilege of working alongside a pastor who loved the Lord, loved His Word, loved people, and had a passion to bring them together. Lew was and continues to be a mentor who takes me as I am and continues shaping me for the Lord's use. It is going to be an ongoing love for the Lord, His Word, and lost people that will see His Kingdom furthered in our part

...desire "to see everybody as a missionary in the making..."

of West Africa. The ministry of Oakton Baptist Church will partly be responsible for that.

Mike Underwood, a former brick mason and now lead pastor at Promised Land Community Church in Creedmoor, NC, testifies that when he came to Oakton, he was "in a sad spiritual state." He had been born again, yet there had been "minimal growth and maximum discouragement" in his spiritual life:

The Lord used His church (Oakton Baptist) and His under-shepherd (Lewis Holmes) to turn that around... Not long after I started attending, Lew baptized me. After that, Lew encouraged me to serve the Lord through His church. My first ministry was ushering. Lew asked



Pastor Lewis Holmes



Pastor Mike Underwood

if I would teach his Sunday School class, picking up where he left off in Revelation!

He trained and ordained me to the deaconate, (even when I tried to convince him that I was not ready), taught me door-to-door evangelism, and (although petrified) through Lew's leading, [I] preached the community Easter sunrise service. He ordained me as an elder. He counseled and married me to my wife, Angel. Lew prayed and counseled with me as I wrestled with God's calling to the pastorate. God has used many people, churches, and experiences to influence my life and ministry; however, He [has] used Lewis Holmes to make the single greatest impact on my life.

ACCORDING TO PASTOR LEW, THE FOLLOWING ARE KEY COMPONENTS TO "CALLING OUT THE CALLED"

Be faithful to God's calling in your own life

Teach them intercessory prayer

Model soul-winning and take them with you

Exhort them to excellence in following their calling

Act with courage to call them out to follow God's calling

Healthy, transformational churches—whether small or large—are those that have a system in place to raise up future leaders. By simply trusting and obeying God's calling, Pastor Lewis Holmes and Oakton Baptist Church desire "to see everybody as a missionary in the making and to complete the work that God has called them to do."



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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

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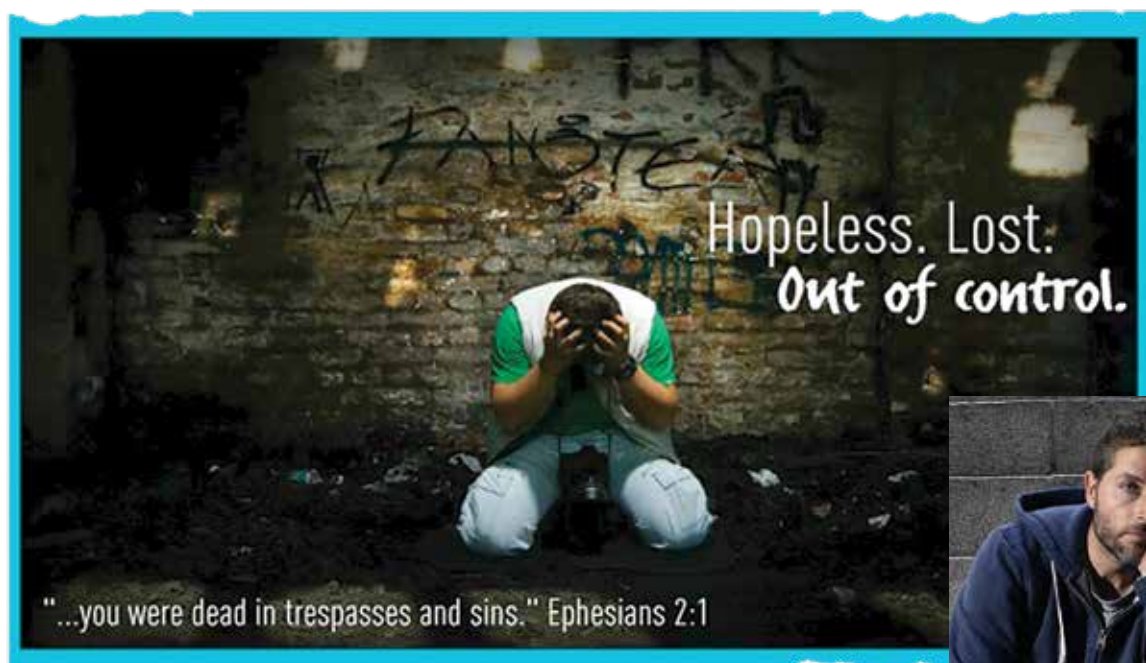
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REACHING OUT TO THE LEAST OF THESE

IN TIDEWATER

When God called Mike Ellis in 1992 to pastor Geneva Park Baptist Church in Chesapeake, VA, the church sprang into action. "We started knocking on doors and reaching the people in the community with the Gospel," shares Pastor Mike. "It just so happens that near the church, there were drug addicts and prostitutes." The Lord gave Pastor Mike a burden for these types of people and a vision for the church to be passionate about reaching them. Although God called Pastor Mike away for a season to direct a homeless shelter in Gaffney, SC, He brought him back to Geneva Park Baptist Church two years later. Within a few months of his return in 2002, the church opened Victory Home, a residence recovery program for addicts. Most ministries of this nature operate as parachurch organizations, but Victory Home is unique in that it falls completely under the direction of the local church. "We wanted to see Christ transform people's lives, and we believe that takes place best within the context of a local church. We make a distinction between reformation and transformation. It was not our vision that folks would come into our program and just make a few reforms or external changes in behavior. We believed that God wanted to radically



**“ WE WANTED TO SEE CHRIST
TRANSFORM PEOPLE’S LIVES, AND WE
BELIEVE THAT TAKES PLACE BEST WITHIN
THE CONTEXT OF A LOCAL CHURCH.**

”

transform addicts from the inside out!”

Geneva Park quickly learned that a lack in facilities was a barrier to growing the ministry. But God had a plan and was about to make a miraculous provision. Geneva Park was given the opportunity to merge with Bethany Baptist Church in Portsmouth. Bethany had a large facility and only a few attendees. Geneva Park sold its facility, and the two churches came together, retaining the name of Bethany Baptist Church and Mike Ellis as senior pastor. Funds from the sale of Geneva Park came in handy to make some much-needed repairs to Bethany’s facility and the necessary adjustments to house the ministry of Victory Home.

Constant fundraising is typical with this type of ministry, but not at Bethany Baptist Church and Victory Home. “Our residents work washing cars, repairing

homes, cutting lawns, or whatever else we can have them do to earn money for the program,” says Pastor Mike. “We teach them responsibility and work ethic. They work to support the ministry, and we provide room, board, and discipleship.” Participants in the program have intense Bible study every day. “We teach them how to live for God...how to overcome temptation; what the devil can and cannot do; what godly sorrow is that leads to repentance...ultimately, we want them to know that drugs and alcohol are not the problem. These things are symptoms of a deeper problem. When we help them understand these things, we help them understand how to walk in victory!”

Future plans include enlarging Victory Home to accommodate more residents



and expanding an apprentice program for those who sense a special call to this type of ministry. The apprentice program involves a three-year commitment of on-the-job training coupled with theological training provided through Liberty University Online.

The fruit of the ministry is evident. At SBC of Virginia’s Annual Homecoming this past November, Bethany Baptist Church received a Pentecost Award for the most baptisms per capita among SBC of Virginia churches. God is at work and souls are being saved!



RESOURCE

WEBSITES:

victoryhomerecovery.com
whereyourstorybegins.com

BATTLE BUDDIES SERVING IN MINISTRY

Pillar Church of Woodlawn

CHURCH PLANTING

While serving in the US Army at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Brian Collison felt God leading him away from active duty to prepare for vocational ministry. In 2010, he transitioned into the US Army Reserves and began attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary full time. As he approached completion of an M.Div. in biblical counseling, he was called back on active duty to serve with the Protective Services Battalion at Fort Belvoir, VA. During his time there, he recognized the need for more Gospel-centered churches in the Fort Belvoir and Greater

Washington, DC areas. While attending Pillar Church of Dumfries, VA, he began to pray that God would use his family to bring a Gospel presence to the National Capital Region and the military services represented at Fort Belvoir.

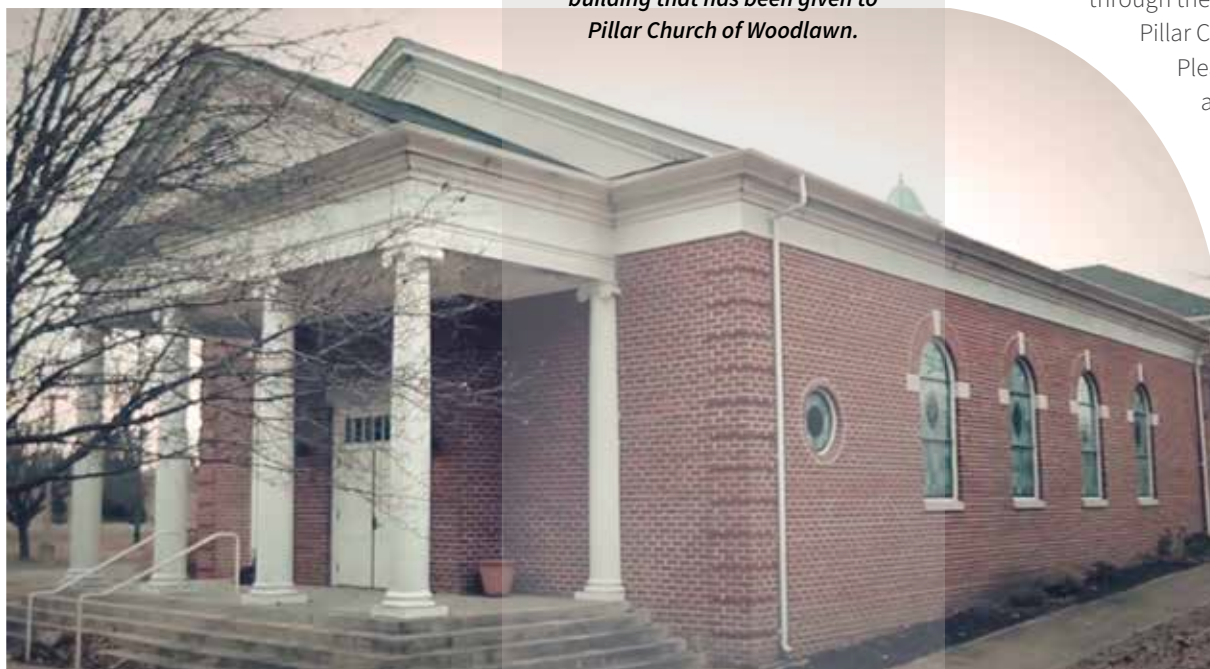
Brian began working with the North American Mission Board and the SBC of Virginia to seek training and resources for the work ahead. Upon SBC of Virginia's approval of Brian, his family moved from

Wake Forest, NC, to Dumfries, VA, where Brian began serving as a church planter apprentice at Pillar Church of Dumfries in August 2014.

Already, God has provided a meeting place right outside the front gate of Fort Belvoir near Woodlawn Plantation. In addition, Tim Parker, a former "battle buddy" and brother in Christ received PCS (permanent change of station) orders from the Army and is moving his family to Fort Belvoir to serve alongside the Collisons in ministry. Pillar Woodlawn is the first Pillar Church planted to serve a military branch outside of the Marine Corps.

God is at work in the Fort Belvoir area through the Collison family and Pillar Church of Woodlawn. Please pray for them as they seek to reach military families with the Gospel.

Just miles outside the Department of the Army Headquarters in Washington, DC, near the main gate of Fort Belvoir Army Installation, sits a historic church building that has been given to Pillar Church of Woodlawn.



RESOURCE

WEBSITE:
pillarwoodlawn.com

PRAYER for Church Planters

These church planter prayer cards are available for you to view and download at 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)

In 1956, actress/singer Doris Day recorded what would become her signature song: "Que Será, Será (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)." The song received the 1956 Academy Award for Best Original Song. The three verses of the song progress through the life of the narrator—from childhood through young adulthood and falling in love to parenthood—and each asks, "What will I be?" or "What

lies ahead?" The chorus repeats the answer: "What will be, will be."

If "que será, será (whatever will be, will be)" is true, then as Christians, a valid question for us to ask is, **"Why pray?"** Is it possible that without even realizing it, many of us have consciously or unconsciously adopted the secular mindset that "whatever will be, will be"? If so, it will devastate and destroy our prayer lives.

Let us pray as Jesus taught in Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you."

Would you please join us in praying with great certainty and diligence to our Heavenly Father, asking Him to bless and use the two church planter families below as they take the light of the Gospel to the millions who are still in utter darkness?

Would you, your church, community group, Student Ministry, or Senior Adult Ministry adopt one of these church planter families and fervently pray for them? Or, even better yet, would you adopt them as your missionaries and get involved personally with them?



pray for

The Hembree Family
Brandon and Ellen

CHURCH PLANTER
Impact Church

MEETING AT
Colin Powell Elementary School
13340 Leland Road
Centreville, VA 20120

BIRTHDAYS: Brandon (April 16), Ellen (March 3)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for God to send us new families that are moving into the area.

Pray for the mission teams coming this summer to be effective for the Gospel.

Pray for God to send us some older, spiritually mature couples to serve as mentors to young families in our church.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- Become a new ministry partner through financial giving
- Help provide three iPads for various ministries (worship, children, and greeters)
- Help provide wireless microphones for worship services



pray for

The Payan Family
Carlos, Lidia, Alan, and Josue

CHURCH PLANTER
Iglesia de las Americas

MEETING AT
3630 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501

BIRTHDAYS: Carlos (January 8), Lidia (March 17)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray that God would greatly use our family in His Kingdom work to reach many for Christ.

Pray that God will lead us to new men who are called to plant churches.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- We need a church to come alongside us and help sponsor a Hispanic church plant in Amherst, VA.
- God has led us to purchase land for a Hispanic Church Plant Center. We are praying for financial partners to invest in this project so that we might reach a greater number of Hispanics for Christ.

God Reopened the Church that Closed

CHAPTER ONE

The Apple Grove Story

Fondly known as “The Rev,” Ed Burkholder was 82 when he founded Apple Grove Baptist Church in Louisa County—the fourth church he’d planted in 75 years of ministry. Over the next 15 years, this small body of believers was able to establish a beautiful facility on the main highway in rural Louisa County. By the time Pastor Burkholder was 97, his health was failing, and he was unable to continue leading the church. With the assistance of the SBC of Virginia regional missionary staff, the church was provided with pulpit supply,

“ When did we
take our eyes
off God? ”

interim leadership, and counsel on the next steps to insure continued ministry in the community.

Within a year, Pastor Burkholder went home to be with the Lord, and it became even more evident that this small congregation would not survive. The church’s remaining membership was comprised of older senior adults who were financially unable to support a pastor and physically unable to maintain a facility. After months of agonizing, praying, and considering many options, they determined it was best to close their doors. The SBC of Virginia and its

Foundation assisted with property legalities and assumed temporary ownership of the building with the condition that another congregation would occupy the facility to reach the Apple Grove community.

Deacon Bruce Stone shared, “Some may be asking, ‘Where is God in this process?’ Well, we know that God has not changed, but the people have not been faithful. It may be a better question to ask, ‘When did we take our eyes off of God?’ The clock continued to run, and the church that was, is no more. But this does not mean God stopped working out His plan. God’s church will always be—with or without us.”



CHAPTER TWO

The Lake Anna Community Story

As Apple Grove Baptist Church was preparing to close its doors, a young church plant was meeting 10 miles away in a rescue squad building. Pastor Sam Seig and the leadership team of Lake Anna Community Church had been looking for a permanent space for worship and discipleship. The Lord not only provided a new church to inhabit Apple Grove but a new facility and a new beginning for Lake Anna Community Church. The SBC of Virginia and the Foundation helped transfer ownership to Lake Anna Community Church, and the congregation started meeting at the Apple Grove location in December 2014.



top (L-R): Tom Stanley, Sam Sieg, Bruce Stone
bottom (L-R): Sam Sieg, Tom Stanley, Bruce Stone; Tom handing over the key



CHAPTER THREE

The Lifesong Community Church Story

Lake Anna Community Church officially launched in the spring of 2015 under a new name: Lifesong Community Church. They have a heart for outreach and evangelism, even involving members, non-members, and neighbors in the church's vision and its new name.

There is excitement all around the area about the Kingdom work taking place—started by Apple Grove Baptist Church and continued through Lifesong Community Church. Lifesong has prepared for visitors and sought advice from SBC of Virginia consultants for the best use of educational space to reach children, youth, and adults.

One chapter ended as Apple Grove Baptist Church closed, but a new chapter began when God reopened it as Lifesong Community Church!

CHAPTER FOUR

still to come!



2015 MISSION PROJECTS

August – September
Bibles for Southern Africa

September – October
Vision Virginia State Missions Offering

October – November
Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia

November – December
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Learn more at
sbcv.org/missionprojects.

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SEPT
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GREEN RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

SEPT
29

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

OCT
3

SWIFT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA

Register at WWW.SBCV.ORG/CLC



Calendar

JULY

Mission Project:

Baby/Mom Kits for ARM (June/July)

- 6-10 Acts 1:8 Families, Centreville
- 20-24 Studentz Camp, James Madison Univ., Harrisonburg

AUGUST

Mission Project:

Bibles for Southern Africa (August/September)

- 1-8 Sturgis Bike Rally
- 3-5 SEND Conference, Nashville
- 14-15 Church Planter Network (Statewide)
- 14-15 Women's Ministry Leadership Conference, International Learning Center (ILC), Rockville
- 18 Ministers of Discipleship Summit

SEPTEMBER

Mission Projects:

Bibles for Southern Africa (August/September)

Vision Virginia (September/October)

- 1 Southeast, South, and East Asia Affinity Meeting
- 11-12 PLANT Part A
- 22 Europe Affinity Meeting
- 24 Church Planter Network (Regional)
- 20-27 ***Vision Virginia Week of Prayer***

OCTOBER

Mission Projects:

Vision Virginia (September/October)

Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia (October/November)

- 5-6 Executive Board
- 7 Church Planter Interviews
- 13 Worship Leaders Roundtable
- 15 Sub-Saharan Affinity Meeting
- 23-24 PLANT Part B



Don't miss out on upcoming events!

SBCV.ORG/EVENTS

Immediate Response, Forever Results



from the EDITOR

Brandon Pickett

bpickett@sbcv.org

facebook.com/brandon.pickett

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Brandon

Within hours, we were there. Truth is—Baptist Global Response (BGR) was already there...ready and prepared. In fact, they had just been recertified a month earlier to respond to a disaster just like that. They were connected to local officials, connected to local residents, connected to the area.

In fact, Fellowship Community Church of Salem, VA was on a mission trip in Nepal when the earthquake hit. "I will never forget the screams of the women as they ran down those stairs." These were the words of Bill Fuller as he recalled those four terrifying minutes of the 7.8-magnitude quake right after he finished preaching. "We joined thousands of people who were standing in the streets looking up at the buildings wondering if they were going to fall on us." After the initial quake, the team continued with their ministry plans by training, praying, installing water filtration systems, and sharing the Gospel.

How does all this happen? You!

Fellowship Community Church of Salem, VA was on a mission trip in Nepal when the earthquake hit.

Our SBC of VA Disaster Relief (DR) network responded immediately by initiating a callout about the need and opportunity to serve (see article on page 5). Within days, dozens responded. As I write this article, these dedicated volunteers are in grueling conditions at an elevation of more than 5,000 feet. Some are coming back injured, and all are coming back exhausted. But they are not coming back empty-handed—they have touched countless lives with the tangible love of Christ and the Gospel of salvation.

I get asked from time to time by those considering joining our fellowship of churches, "What is the draw—the 'selling point'?" The

answer is shown over and over again in many big and small ways. But no example is clearer than our response to Nepal. When we say we can do so much more together than we can apart, just remember that when this disaster struck, SBC of Virginia churches were already on the ground preaching Christ; SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief volunteers were trained and prepared to hit the ground with badly needed supplies and expertise; and SBC of Virginia churches at home were and are faithfully supporting it all through the Cooperative Program and the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering to make sure we are as prepared as ever...when and wherever the next disaster strikes.

Note: Please pray for our SBC of Virginia media team as we document one mission team's adventure rebuilding and helping bring hope to villages near Kathmandu. Be on the lookout for video and pictures from the field very soon.





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PRAISE TEAM

Speakers



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Floyd**

*Senior Pastor,
Cross Church
President,
Southern Baptist Convention*



**Grant
Ethridge**

*Senior Pastor,
Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton
President,
SBC of Virginia*



**Vance
Pitman**

*Senior Pastor,
Hope Church*



**K. Marshall
Williams**

*Senior Pastor,
Nazarene Baptist Church,
Philadelphia*



**Dennis
Swanberg**

*Minister, Swanberg
Christian Ministries*

Breakout Topics Include

- Urban Ministry
- Evangelism
- Revitalization
- Communications
- Legal Issues in the Church
- Missions - Acts 1:8
- Building Teams

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

sbcv.org/homecoming