



RESPONDING TO THE EEUGEE WHAT CAN WE DO?

contents

Refugees are fleeing across borders and are in desperate need to know that someone cares. Many have left thriving businesses, professional jobs and...they left with only what they could carry for hundreds of miles.



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 Commission as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ.

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from the Executive Director

No Small Suggestion

atthew 28:18-20 is often referred to as the Great Commission. As followers of Christ, we are called to "make disciples." Some form of Christ's commission is also found in other places in the New Testament, but Matthew 28 seems to be the most heralded. Christ has called us, has commanded us to proclaim the Gospel unto the ends of the earth. The Great Commission is no small suggestion!

Since the New Testament era, church and mission leaders like the Apostle Paul have called upon churches to work together to plant, strengthen, and mobilize churches so that the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed. Likewise, this past May marked the 90th anniversary of Southern Baptist church pastors and leaders adopting a strategy to unify resources for global missions and ministry (May 13, 1925). This unified and strategic missions support plan became known as the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program is cooperative partnership.

SBC of Virginia churches have the opportunity to partner together in this time-tested strategy to pray, give, and send. Through this Cooperative Program or cooperative partnership, a church is able to support a greater missionary force and have greater ministry impact. For instance, local, regional, national, and international mission fields are reached when a church provides financial support through the Cooperative Program of SBC of Virginia churches. Reasons for this plan include:

Immediate Impact. It could take years for a church to develop a missions strategy. The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program allows you to act now.

Mutual Support. We do not want missionaries having to constantly plead for resources; therefore, the Cooperative Program provides a system of mutual support so they can focus on their calling.

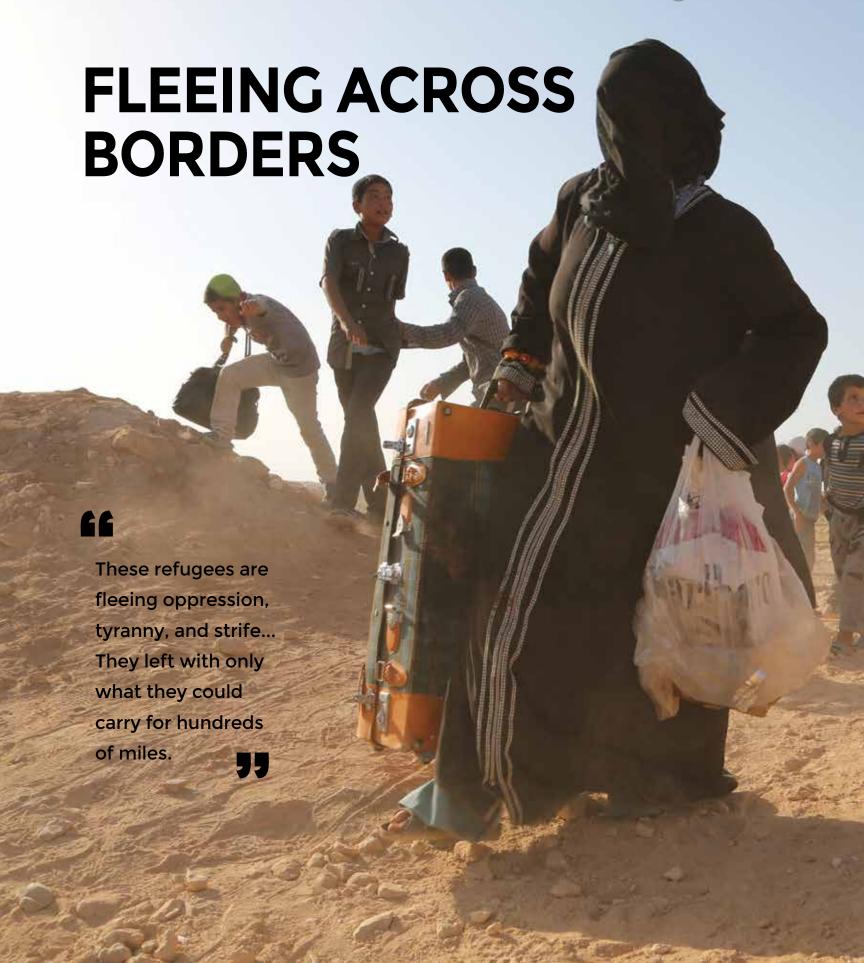


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Global Strategy. Even though the world may seem to be getting "smaller," it is still a big world with many people groups. Even in Virginia, we are seeing a multiplication of people groups right here. The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program is a strategy to reach the lost locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Personal (even though it is comprehensive). Because the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program is so comprehensive, you may think it is impersonal. But it's not. It is as personal as the boy who came to your church in the third grade, heard the Gospel, went on a high school mission trip, was called to ministry, went to seminary, was mentored by pastors, planted a church...it is personal to me because I was that boy (like so many others who have a similar story).

Refugee Crisis



THE SITUATION

The images and stories from the Middle East and Europe have been horrific—a dead toddler washing ashore in Greece, 71 bodies being found in a cargo trailer in Austria, and mothers passing their babies to those able to squeeze onto departing trains. More than 4 million refugees have fled Syria since the war began in 2011. The United Nations Agency on Refugees reports almost 1.9 million have journeyed to Turkey; 629,000 to Jordan; and 1.1 million to Lebanon, which has increased its population by one third. In September, Chancellor Angela Merkel anticipated that Germany would assist in processing 800,000 asylum-seekers this year alone. They anticipate becoming home to 500,000 additional refugees each year. These refugees are fleeing oppression, tyranny, and strife. This could very well be the greatest expansion of Islam outside of the Middle East in the history of the world. Some refugees are Christians, but most are Muslims fleeing the oppression of their Muslim brothers.

People are desperate— needing shelter, safety, and food for their families."

THE NEED

Refugees need to know that someone cares. Many have left thriving businesses, professional jobs, and lifestyles that would look fairly normal to most reading this article. They left with only what they could carry for hundreds of miles. You've probably seen pictures of parents passing babies onto trains or over barbedwire fences...notice there is often no luggage—not even a backpack or a diaper bag. People are desperate—needing shelter, safety, and food for their families.

During September, it became obvious that Christians needed a plan

to respond. The receiving European governments are assisting with food and shelter, but accounting for the emotional state of the refugees is outside of their expertise. They were eager to provide physical resources but did not have a plan for assisting with emotional and mental health, not to mention spiritual health. Foundational to helping the hurting is a listening ear. The need is for people who have the time and skills to listen. The need is for caring, evangelical Christians to go and be the emotional and mental stability this crisis requires.



Refugee Crisis

MOBILIZE NOW

The SBC of Virginia has incredible partners around the world. We have hundreds of disaster-trained volunteers and trustworthy partners in the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board, Baptist Global Response, and Canadian Global Response. Another new partner in the equation is Bibel Seminar in Bonn, Germany. Bibel Seminar provides seminary education, in partnership with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, to German pastors and church planters. They will assist the SBC of Virginia in identifying 10 churches in 10 different cities with whom SBCV churches can partner and serve. A renewed relationship with Liberty University will place students through their SEND NOW initiative into German churches.

It is through these partnerships that SBC of Virginia churches will mobilize a response to the refugees, but we need your vote of confidence. Would you give today toward meeting the needs of the refugees? Would you volunteer to be trained? Would you go? We look for all to pray, but we also need a voice of confidence by Christians stepping up to give, train, and go. Would you do so today?

The pictures need a happy ending. That baby passed onto a train needs food, a roof over her head, a diaper bag, and the Gospel. Won't you be a part of the happy ending?





SWEDEN

Sweden—with 230,000 Syrian refugees and immigrants already in place—will be the focus of a 2016 vision trip to Stockholm. Most of the refugees' physical needs are being met by the government. Christians will work alongside local churches to meet the emotional and spiritual needs. We will follow the lead of the Swedish churches in serving the refugees and immigrants. Pastor Danny Campbell of Wayne Hills Baptist Church (Waynesboro, VA) will lead out in meeting the crisis needs in Sweden. Connect with him by emailing mobilize@sbcv.org.

GFRMANY

The response in Germany will include church-to-church partnerships, with churches in Virginia sending small groups regularly to encourage, coach, and serve with specific German churches that are engaging refugees. Germany is predicted to receive over 500,000 refugees again in 2016. Teams will be needed weekly throughout the year.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Refugees are coming to Virginia. We don't know when, but they are coming. Is your church prepared?

TRAINING: GO TO SBCV.ORG/READYCHURCH

WATCH—Journey to Jesus with Muslims (6 hours)

ATTEND a Refugee Training Event (4 hours or 4 days)

ATTEND a Ready Church Training Event (1 day)

TAKE an English as a Foreign Language Class (1 day)

ATTEND a Baptist Global Response Training Event (2 days)



RESOURCE

WEBSITE: sbcv.org/refugeecrisis **EMAIL**: mobilize@sbcv.org

Tuning In TO HEAR HIS VOICE

An Ode to "Noise"

Walking a lot—(About a mile?) Every hour! (But with a smile.) Tuning out all the noise Tuning in to hear His voice

Mission Track—skips the fun Working hard in the Son Transmit now: a Gospel station Jesus' news to every nation

Some with sponges, some with squeegees Serving churches and refugees Armed with gloves, wielding rakes Willing servants for Jesus' sake

'Hundred-twenty-five pencils broken Of surrendered wills become a token With no points, erasers gone His lines remain, none redrawn

Fourteen more born again Many others confessing sin Warfare, D.E.S.I.G.N., Purity, Study: Topics hot, amid culture cruddy

Churches strong, with a boldness given Hearts aligned by Great Commission Fearless of the enemy Striving well in unity

Planting, strengthened, mobilized Many goals realized All completed by humble team All servants of King Supreme

See pics, vids, and interviews Silly games and non-green lose All are on the winning team: SBCV.org, #Noise15

his year marked our third Studentz
Camp at James Madison University.
The 345 who participated served
to make Studentz Camp 2015 a
smashing success as we explored
the theme of "Noise" and God's
invitation for disciples to tune out distractions,
tune in to truth, and transmit what we learn to
others.

The Gospel partnership of SBCV churches was evidenced as people from over 50 churches came together as participants, presenters, mission project coordinators, and camp staffers. A special thanks goes to the SBCV churches that gave to the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering, which provided partial funding for the interns across the Commonwealth who served as camp staffers.

On the second night of camp, 125 students responded to a challenge from pastor and camp speaker Matt Piland to fully surrender their will to the Lord. Matt preached about the tendency for believers to "erase" God's lines and draw new ones. Matt emphasized the need to surrender our will to God so that we are obedient to Him. Students responded by breaking the erasers off of their unsharpened pencils and placing them at the front of the auditorium. It was a powerful moment as snaps were heard across the room and people moved en masse to the front to leave their erasers. Carrying eraser-less, unsharpened pencils, students returned to their seats with a symbol of obedience and a reminder of their commitment to heed God's lines and not draw

We have record of 14 students receiving Christ at Studentz Camp 2015. One favorite story was told by the drummer of our worship band, About A Mile. He shared his encounter with a couple of students on the way back to the dorms after the final evening service. One of the students excitedly explained how he had been born again that very night. The other just listened. Our drummer felt prompted to ask the quiet student where he stood with the Lord, and as they talked, he realized this young man was wrestling with God. After talking with him for some time, the young man received Christ! We're grateful to God's Spirit and God's servant (a drummer in a





professional Christian band) for continuing to work after the camp service ended. The truth is, God's Spirit is always at work, and He invites us to join Him as we tune out the noise, tune in to truth, and transmit what we hear from Him to the world around us. May we heed the invitation and be found faithful in obedience as we seek and serve King Jesus.



RESOURCE

DAILY HIGHLIGHT AND SERMON VIDEOS:

sbcv.org/studentzcamp

We Are All Called

66

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO MISSIONS-TO BE ON MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITY. ~ Hunter

"

This was the testimony of Hunter, a student who participated in the 2015 SBCV Fusion Mission Camp June 21–25. He was one of 138 students who came from around the state to spend a week of their summer helping others in the Richmond area. While these teenagers worked for God's glory, He was working in their lives.

- "I learned this week how to witness and how important it is to witness—and that sometimes you could be affecting where people spend eternity." ~ Hannah
- "The mission isn't over when the week is over. When you go home, the mission continues. You still have to do God's will—that never ends!" ~ Brandon

God used groups of students to share His love by

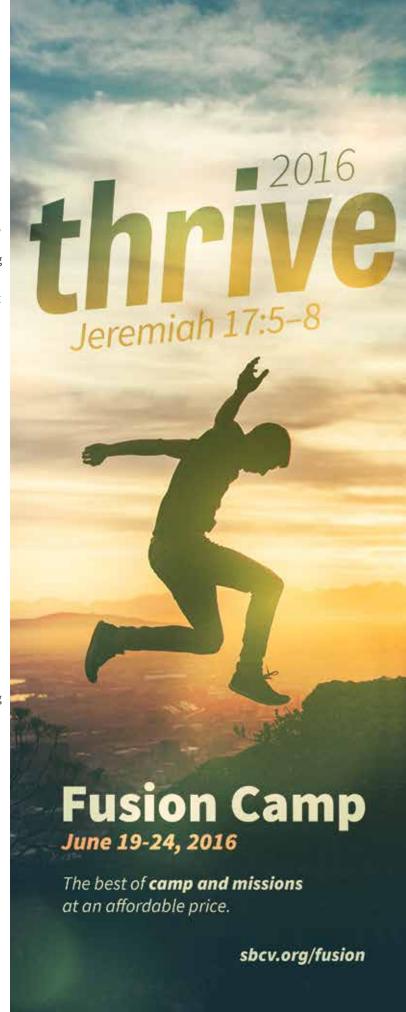
- Cleaning and maintaining the primitive garden at Henricus Historical Park, where the Virginia secretary of agriculture held a press conference the next day
- Chaperoning at-risk kids on a trip to the zoo, which helped the children gain life experiences to lend context to reading assignments
- Setting up and running a block party for Bellwood Elementary School
- Doing yard work for people in need
- Running backyard Bible clubs (one for children who live in a hotel)
- Doing neighborhood probes with SBCV Church Planting
- Remodeling a church plant's storage area (Thanks to the students, the place once known as "The Dungeon" is now clean and organized!)
- Delivering goodies and praying for public servants around the city of Richmond—at hospitals, police stations, and fire departments
- Running a sports camp for a Hispanic church plant
- Sorting books to prep them for Little Free Libraries (libraries set up in impoverished communities for children without access to books during the summer)

The Lord accomplished all of this through 138 campers from 8 churches, along with 10 *Vision Virginia* interns. The hours of service blessed those being served and assisted the ongoing strategic ministries of five local SBCV churches.

Spiritual highlights included the salvations of at least one child at the backyard Bible club and one Fusion participant. Students also had the opportunity to meet church planter Louie Gibbs and hear his vision for reaching the lost in Portsmouth. Students and leaders laid hands on and prayed for him.

Events like Fusion leave lasting impacts. Garrett Hendrick, who serves as an intern at The Heights Baptist Church in Colonial Heights, received Christ at an SBCV Youth Evangelism Conference years ago. Fusion's speaker, Jonge Tate, is the pastor/planter of Bedrock Community Church in Bedford. Two high school girls at Fusion recalled how they served with his church seven years ago as middle schoolers on the Mission Track at SBCV Studentz Camp. Bedrock will launch its fourth church plant this summer. Only the Lord knows how far the effects of this year's Fusion Mission Camp will go.

Special thanks to Kingsland Baptist, Bermuda Baptist, and Ironbridge Baptist for hosting the students and to Smyrna Baptist for lending Fusion their talented musicians to lead worship.



Working Together For the Gospel H.E.R. Shelter

his summer, the Women's Ministries of six SBC of Virginia churches in the Southeast Region partnered to bring the Gospel to a domestic violence shelter. The H.E.R Shelter (Help and Emergency Response) is located in Portsmouth, VA and works to help women and children overcome the ravages of domestic violence. They also help bring healing to women subjected to the horrors of

rape by their partners. Among female homicide victims, 1 in 3 is murdered by her current or former partner.

When looking into the faces of the mothers and children of H.E.R. Shelter, it's evident they desperately need God's love. Working together, the partnering Women's Ministries were able to minister to the mothers and children at the same time.

Their prayer when planning this outreach was that God's hope could be brought to those in seemingly hopeless situations. As the mothers began to hear the "God stories" and messages of hope from the volunteers, tears started welling up in their eyes. Six, prompted by the Spirit's leading, responded to the Gospel.

When the SBCV ladies left the shelter, there was joy in the atmosphere. Hugs were plentiful, and children were laughing and playing. It's truly a time to rejoice when God illuminates hearts that had once been darkened by abuse.

The volunteers from Sonlight Church, Kempsville Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, Riverside Baptist, Alexander Baptist, and the Village Church who partnered with the SBC of Virginia Women's Ministry were essential to making this outreach a success!

The vision of the SBC of Virginia Women's Ministry is not only to bring the Gospel to the darkest places but also to pray for the victims in these places. There are more slaves in the world today due to human trafficking than at any other point in human history, with an estimated 27 million in bondage across the globe. Every 30 seconds, someone becomes a victim of modern-day slavery. We can make an impact on this problem through prayer.

The SBC of Virginia has developed a 12/31 prayer guide for human trafficking and has enlisted 12 SBC of Virginia Women's Ministries to pray daily using this guide. Our goal is to pray for the victims of human trafficking for one year (May 2015-April 2016). Please join us in prayer. Let's pray to end human trafficking around the world!

OVERCOMING THE RAVAGES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

human trafficking. The statistics for women caught in the brutal web of domestic violence and human trafficking are shocking. Each year, more than 4 million women experience physical assault and







RESOURCE WEBSITE:

sbcv.org/women



12 Churches Commit to Pray for 31 Days 12/31 Prayer Guide

PRAYER GUIDE FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control other people for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex or forcing them to provide labor services against their will. Violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics are used to trap victims in horrific situations every day in America. All trafficking victims share one essential experience—the loss of freedom. (Polaris Project)

There are more slaves in the world today than at any other point in human history, with an estimated 27 million in bondage across the globe. Every 30 seconds, someone becomes a victim of modern-day slavery.

- Day 1: Pray God will burden us to pray for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Day 2: Pray for the Gray Haven safe house: Pray they would have financial provision, materials, and equipped staff to deal with all issues victims face with human trafficking.
- Day 3: Pray for God to save those being rescued.
- Day 4: Pray for God to protect the rescuers.
- Day 5: Pray for the men who traffic the girls to repent and receive Jesus.
- Day 6: Pray for God to give the rescued victims healing and restoration.
- Day 7: Pray for awareness around the world of the issues of human trafficking.
- Day 8: Pray for the children who are being used from modern day slavery.
- Day 9: Pray for Precious to God Ministries as they mentor women who are victims of sexual exploitation.
- Day 10: Pray for our churches to get involved in the issue of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Day 11: Pray for protection and financial support for Courtney's House, a ministry for exploited children.
- Day 12: Pray for the families of the victims of trafficking, and pray for the rescue of the victims.
- Day 13: Pray for 100 churches to pray for human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Day 14: Pray for God to bring awareness of the tricks used to lure women into human trafficking.
- Day 15: Pray for madams and housemothers who run massage parlors. Pray their hearts would be broken and they would turn to Jesus.
- Day 16: Pray for God to dismantle trafficking rings.
- Day 17: Pray for God to increase the number of safe houses in Cambodia.
- Day 18: Pray for godly mentors for victims of trafficking and sexually exploitation.
- Day 19: Pray for God to raise up safe houses in every city.
- Day 20: Pray for city-wide prayer movements in cities in the United States for victims of human trafficking.
- Day 21: Pray for safe houses to have access to God-centered materials for the victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Day 22: Pray for God to raise up volunteers and funding for Established Footsteps Ministry.
- Day 23: Pray for women who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation to find safe and legal employment.
- Day 24: Pray for God to give tender hearts to our state leaders for the victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
- Day 25: Pray for materials to be available to women in our poorest countries about human trafficking.
- Day 26: Pray for God to burden our hearts to go help victims of human trafficking when it is possible.
- Day 27: Pray for the staff in Arbor House, a safe house for victims of trafficking.
- Day 28: Pray for unified efforts to help rescue victims in human trafficking.
- Day 29: Pray for the small organizations on the ground in dark places dedicating their lives to loving, serving, and restoring women and children rescued from sexual exploitation.
- Day 30: Pray for the Gospel witness in the darkest places where human trafficking exists.
- Day 31: Pray for the victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation not to lose the will to live.

ESTABLISHED FOOTSTEPS MINISTRY (three ministries)

CONTACT: Shani Miller | establishedfootsteps.com/livinglight

Cherished: Outreach to local strip clubs | Jail Friends: Outreach to women in prison | Building Bridges with Books

PRECIOUS TO GOD (three areas of involvement)

CONTACT: Loree Becton | precioustogod@verizon.net (email)

Precious to God: Working with women who have been sexually oppressed | *Beside*: Mentoring with women who have been oppressed and sexually exploited | *City-Wide Prayer*: Coming together for prayer

UNION MISSION MINISTRIES (multiple opportunities to serve)

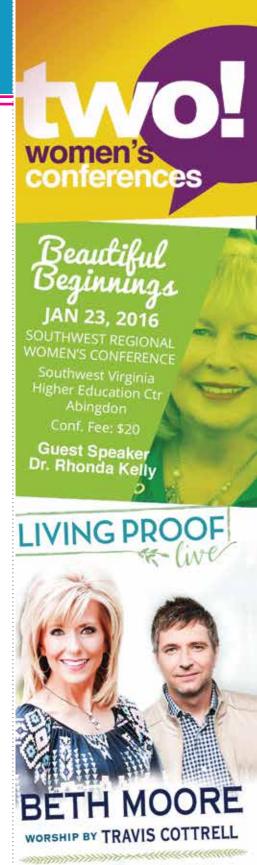
CONTACT: Jill Gray | unionmission.org

Women's Shelter: Working with women exposed to sexual exploitation and human trafficking

STRAIGHT STREET (multiple ministries)

CONTACT: Keith Farmer | straightstreet.org

Teen Mops | Angel Tree | Youth Ministry | Street Ransom Outreach: Bringing awareness of human trafficking



NORFOLK, VA

EARLY REGISTRATION \$59 LIFEWAY.COM/LIVINGPROOF





Just a Mom

...and wife, counselor to young moms, women's Bible study leader, worship team member, part-time employee at the International Mission Board

hen asked her role, Marcela Mangieri replied, "Just a mom." But when she describes an average week, it's clear she carries out many roles. She is the wife of Fernando Mangieri (church planter/pastor of Iglesia Bautista Conexion in Chesterfield, VA), the mother of two children, a counselor to young moms, a women's Bible study leader, a worship team member, and a part-time employee at the International Mission Board. How does she manage it all and stay grounded in Christ? We thought we'd check in with her to find out.

What role gives you the most fulfillment?

Marcela describes her roles as a mom—caregiver, nurturer, and instructor in the ways of the Lord. She loves watching Joel and Sarai grow up in Christ. Joel wants to be a pastor like his dad. At the young age of nine, he is already involved in ministry every week. He helps set up for church, plays drums in the worship team, and serves as a greeter. Sarai wants to be a pastor's wife like her mom. She came to faith in Christ when she was four through watching her parents live out their faith. At eight years old, she assists with the preschoolers and serves as a greeter.

Marcela quickly adds that she finds great joy in "seeing people's lives change." She describes young women and moms who were far from God but are now walking with Christ and serving the Lord and their families. These blessings are what make sacrifices in ministry worthwhile.

How do you keep your marriage healthy with so many demands on you and your husband?

Marcela says that the time after the children go to bed is when she and Fernando catch up on the day. Communication is essential since they are going in so many different directions. The children also spend two to four weeks each year in Texas with their grandparents, which is good for the children and for their parents' marriage. The family also enjoys doing things together outside of ministry activities.

► What causes the most stress for you?

"Time—[I] need more time—learning how to live with priorities and squeezing things in, such as laundry. I have had to declare some things not to be as important as they once were." With a smile, she shares that the house is not as well kept as she would like, but she has helped the children and Fernando learn to do more. She is learning to adapt to change and rest in the fact that God has a plan. Part of her role is to help the children understand change. Over time, she has learned to see change as good over time and not to be discouraged by short-term changes

How have you dealt with so many expectations from others?

Marcela describes an initial struggle with expectations but has resolved, "[I am] to please God. He is the One to please, not the expectations of family, church people, [or] outsiders...I lay everything beside God's Word. I was not called to be a great cook, Mrs. Everything—so I had to get out of my comfort zone. Some expectations and needs were God's plan to grow me. I had to learn how God was using me. Not every pastor's wife is the same. We are all different, in different life stages, roles, and gifts."

No matter what your role(s), remember to view your life through God's Word and rely on Him to help you.



RESOURCE

BOOK:

The Church Planting Wife: Help and Hope for Her Heart by Christine Hoover

Simplemente una Madre

uando le pregunte a Marcela Mangieri cual era su rol, ella respondió "simplemente una madre." Pero al describir lo que sería para ella una semana típica fue evidente que tiene más de un rol. Ella es la esposa de Fernando Mangieri (pastor y plantador de la Iglesia Bautista Conexión en Chesterfield, VA), es la mamá de dos niños, consejera para madres jóvenes, líder de estudio bíblico, parte del ministerio de alabanza, y trabaja medio tiempo en el IMB. ¿Cómo hace para coordinar todo esto y estar conectada a Cristo? Nos propusimos fijarnos bien y ver que podíamos encontrar.

¿Cuál es el rol que te da mayor satisfacción?

Marcela se describe sus roles como: madre, la que cuida y nutre, la que instruye a los niños en los caminos del Señor. Le encanta ver como sus hijos Joel y Sarai crecen en Cristo. Joel quiere ser un pastor como su padre. Apenas tiene nueve años y ya está involucrado semanalmente en el ministerio. El ayuda a preparar todo lo que se necesita para el servicio, participa en la percusión de la alabanza, y además está entre los que dan la bienvenida. Sarai quiere ser la esposa de un pastor como su mamá. Ella vino a Cristo a la edad de cuatro años por el testimonio de vida de sus padres. Tiene ocho años y ayuda en el ministerio de pre escolares y sirve en el ministerio de bienvenida.

Marcela agrega rápidamente que le da mucho gozo ver la cambiada de las personas. Describe la vida de jóvenes y madres que estaban lejos de Dios pero que ahora están caminando con Cristo y sirviendo al Señor y sus familias. Estas son las bendiciones que hacen que los sacrificios ministeriales valgan la pena.

¿Cómo haces para que tu matrimonio se mantenga saludable habiendo tantas demandas tanto para ti como para tu esposo?

Marcela nos cuenta que luego que sus niños se van a acostar ella y Fernando aprovechan para ponerse al día en todo lo que pasaron en el día. La comunicación es clave dado que están yendo en tantas direcciones distintas. Los niños pasan de dos a cuatro semanas cada año en Texas con los abuelos; esto ha resultado ser muy bueno tanto para los niños como para el matrimonio. Como pareja ellos también disfrutan de hacer cosas juntos fuera de las actividades ministeriales.

¿Qué te causa más estrés?

"El tiempo, o la falta de tiempo. Aprender a vivir con prioridades y tratar de meter cosas para hacer normales como la ropa sucia. Tengo que decidir que algunas cosas no son tan importantes como lo fueron alguna vez. Con una sonrisa nos confiesa que la casa no está tan cuidada como ella realmente



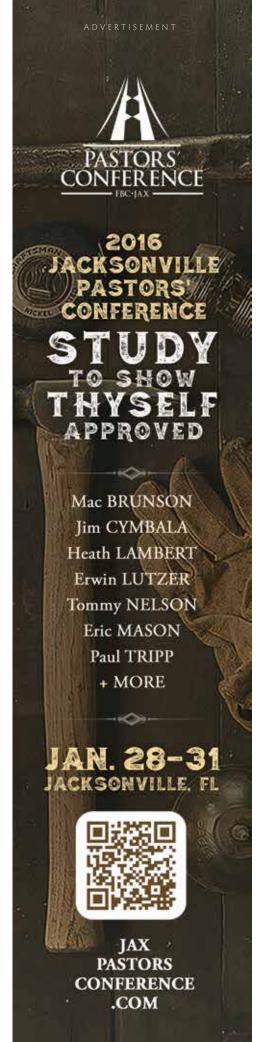
quisiera, pero ella ha podido enseñarle a los niños y a Fernando a hacer más. Está aprendiendo a adaptarse al cambio y descansar en el hecho que Dios tiene un plan. Parte de su rol es que sus hijos entiendan los cambios. Con el tiempo ha aprendido a ver los cambios como algo bueno en la perspectiva de todo el tiempo, y aprendió a no desanimarse con los cambios a corto plazo.

¿Cómo has manejado las expectativas de otros?

Marcela nos cuenta una lucha inicial con las expectativas hasta que decidió pensar: "Debo agradar a Dios y sólo a El, no las expectativas de mi familia, de las personas de la iglesia, o de los que miran de afuera. Filtro todo con la Palabra de Dios. No fui llamada a ser la gran cocinera, Sra. Sabelotodo, así que tuve que salir de mi zona de comodidad. Algunas expectativas y necesidades eran parte del plan de Dios para que yo creciera. Tuve que aprender como Dios me estaba usando. No todas las esposas de pastores son iguales. Todas somos diferentes, estamos en diferentes etapas, roles, y tenemos diferentes dones."

No importa tu rol(es), recuerda que debes ver tu vida a través de la Palabra de Dios, y confiar en El para que te ayude.







Reaching Thousands at the Raceway!

a rare occurrence for Bristol, TN to receive visitors from all over the world—but when it happens, you know it's a NASCAR weekend!

"We have all 50 states and 27 countries represented around Bristol, and we will have over 250,000 people at the raceway during race weekend," says David Wilson, pastor of El Shaddai Baptist Church and executive director of Bristol's Raceway Ministries.

Once called "the greatest mission field per square inch in the world" by Jeff Byrd, former general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway, NASCAR races in Bristol are a prime opportunity to reach the lost. Bristol Raceway Ministries exists for that purpose. "The Lord has called me to this ministry," Pastor David explains. "If the Lord is bringing people from around the world to our back door, then my church and I want to be on mission for Him."

Bristol Raceway Ministries began serving race fans in 1992 and has continued to grow. Pastor David has a desire for all local churches to participate by providing 10 people from each to volunteer with Bristol Raceway Ministries. Opportunities include providing campground ministries and church services at 14 campgrounds; running 18 golf carts to shuttle people to/from the campgrounds; and setting up14 booths inside the track and 2 booths

We have all 50 states and 27 countries represented around Bristol..."

outside the track to give away Bibles, literature, cookies, and drinks. Members from El Shaddai Baptist Church and Euclid Avenue Baptist Church also provide shuttle services to race fans who've had a loved one taken to Bristol Medical Center due to sickness or injury. They also work with hospital chaplains to provide support to the patients and their family/friends.

"The first time I participated in an event with Raceway Ministries, I was scared to death," says Margaret Barker, a member of Euclid Avenue Baptist Church. But God gave her the strength to share the love of Christ with those attending the race, and she has been involved in the ministry ever since. Her church packaged and distributed over 800 bags of cookies to race fans. "The cookies can be a drawing point to get people to our booth," she explains, "so we can give them some spiritual literature and hopefully have a spiritual conversation with them."

Is the Lord bringing people from all over the world to your back door? Are you willing to reach them like the local churches in Bristol? God has placed each of us in a specific mission field—how will you reach the lost near you?



RESOURCE

WEBSITE:

bristolracewayministries.org

Church Planting at Home REDEEMER CITY CHURCH

athryn is one of thousands who come to Washington, DC for an internship. While there, her co-worker, Adrienne, asked her to go to Starbucks...but not just for a coffee—for church. Kathryn enjoyed the people and the atmosphere and kept coming to this "coffee shop church" called Redeemer City. One day, a church leader named Kenneth had lunch with her and Adrienne and talked about Jesus and the Good News of salvation through Him. Kathryn wanted what they spoke of and accepted Christ as her Savior! In a few weeks, the church plant outgrew Starbucks and moved to a local hotel, where Kathryn was baptized in the swimming pool as her church friends cheered her on.

Over the last 20 years, Washington, DC has seen a dramatic increase of young adults, professionals, and families moving to the city. Unfortunately, the presence of indigenous, biblically faithful, and Christ-exalting churches in DC has simultaneously declined.

Enter Steven Lee, planter/pastor of Redeemer City Church. Steven grew up in the Washington, DC area and later attended the University of Maryland, where he met his wife, Tiffany. He received his master's from Dallas Theological Seminary and served in a church planting residency program at Prestonwood Baptist. After sensing God's call back to the East Coast to plant a multi-ethnic church, Steven and Tiffany returned to DC.

The Lees' roots in the DC area run deep. Steven's dad has been a professor at Howard University since the 1960s, and his mom just retired from the University of Maryland. Additionally, Tiffany grew up in Baltimore, so she is no stranger to Metro DC. Steven and Tiffany are raising four children (Shania, Silas, Sawyer, and Stephan) and planting a church in the nation's capital.

Washington, DC is a diverse city in every way imaginable and is home to a variety of types of people. Redeemer City Church is focusing its outreach on five groups:

- 1. COLLEGE AND GRADUATE
 STUDENTS at the area's colleges and universities (universities like Howard, Gallaudet, John's Hopkins, George Washington, and Georgetown)
- 2. NATIVE DC RESIDENTS, like Steven Lee—life-long residents of the District. They are vitally connected to the city and have seen and experienced the rapid changes.
- 3. **ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONALS**—people who are typically older and have achieved success in business; economically able to live and raise families in the city's center.
- 4. YOUNG, URBAN PROFESSIONALS—characteristically single and within the 21–40 age range. The growth of this demographic is largely responsible for the increase in the population. This community is usually multiethnic and religiously pluralistic.
- 5. CREATIVE CLASS—a mixture of blue- and white-collar workers, including those in the arts, editing, media, design, technology, etc. The DC area is home to high-tech companies like Google and Sirius Satellite.

Kathryn represents the young, urban professional. Once her internship was over, it was time to leave DC and return home. After the congregation prayed over her and asked the Lord's continued blessing and guidance, she told them how they had been her family while she was in DC. Now she leaves as an ambassador for Christ, taking His salvation message home with her.

Editor's note: Please pray for Redeemer City Church, which began holding public services on September 13, 2015. They are eager for partners to pray, send short-term mission teams, give financial support—or move to DC and join the team!

RESOURCE

WEBSITE: redeemerdc.org



Throughout the year, the SBC of Virginia offers a number of opportunities for churches to partner in support of local, state, national, and international missions. Through mission projects, you and your church can have a key role in reaching the world.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Church Plant Equipment for Lithuania

MARCH

Hikers' Supplies for Trail Days

APPH

Bedding for Students in Guam

MAY

Military Appreciation Month

JUNE - JULY

Shoes for Barnabas Global Link

AUGUS'

College Connection and Move-In Day

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
Christmas in
Appalachia Backpacks

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER Bibles for Homeless Women

Learn more & get involved at: sbcv.org/missionprojects





SBC of VIRGINIA

ANNUAL 2015
HOMECOMING

Strong churches

with a bold commitment

to the Great Commission.

NOVEMBER 8-10Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton

Dynamic speakers, incredible worship, challenging breakout sessions, and a memorable time of fellowship are expected for this year's Annual Homecoming. We are looking forward to sharing this time with you. *Mark your calendar now to join us!*

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dennis Swanberg



K. Marshall Williams



Ronnie Floyd



Vance Pitman



Grant Ethridge

SUNDAY EVENING

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Music: Liberty Baptist Praise Team Not Easily Broken Message: Dr. Dennis Swanberg

DESSERT RECEPTION

EVERYONE INVITED

MONDAY MORNING

8:30 AM - 11:45 AM Breakout Sessions

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH*

Theme: Evangelism

MONDAY AFTERNOON

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Music: Liberty Baptist Praise Team Messages: Dr. K. Marshall Williams

GREAT COMMISSION DINNER*

Theme: Making Disciples, Planting Churches with Dr. Ronnie Floyd | EVERYONE INVITED

WOMEN'S MINISTRY DINNER*

with Guest Speaker Loree Becton and Music Provided by Amy Harris

MONDAY EVENING

6:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Music: Jason Crabb Messages: Dr. Ronnie Floyd

Dr. Brian Autry

TUESDAY MORNING

8:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Music: Liberty Baptist Praise Team Messages: Dr. Vance Pitman Election of 2016 SBC of Virginia Officers

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH*

Theme: Missions and Disaster Relief

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

1:00 PM - 2:45 PM

Music: Liberty Baptist Praise Team Messages: Dr. Grant Ethridge

* FREE BUT REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MUSIC LED BY



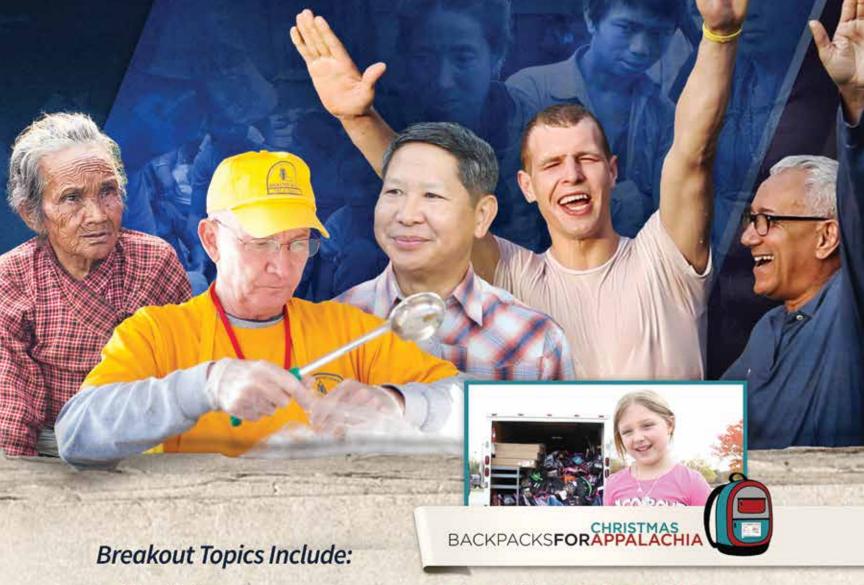
Jason Crabb



Liberty Baptist Praise Team



Not Easily Broken



- **Urban Ministry**
- Evangelism
- Revitalization
- Communications
- Legal Issues in the Church
- Missions Acts 1:8
- **Building Teams**
- Reaching Your Jerusalem/Community
- Men's Ministry

Childcare for up to 5 years of age (registration requested) and deaf interpretation available during general sessions.

These children need your help!

SBCV is part of a nationwide effort to provide Christmas backpacks for impoverished children in Appalachia. There are children within driving distance of your home who will not receive anything for Christmas if we do not help.

Toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and a Gospel message will be included with every backpack. A special collection area will be available during Annual Homecoming.

Learn how you can get involved at sbcv.org/backpacks

Homecoming Meals Included!
Thanks to generous giving from sponsors and through the
Cooperative Program, meals are provided free to messengers
and guests! (Registration required. See website for details.)



FROM TRANSITION TO TRANSFORMATION

"Change is situational, transition is philosophical, but transformation is spiritual," says Dr. J. Lindsay Sadler. After pastoring four churches, three of which were in transition, God led Dr. Sadler to retire from First Baptist Church in Charlottesville, VA to officially minister in the capacity of a transitional pastor. "[The role of] transitional pastor is a ministry designed to bring healing and change to a church," he shares. "Hundreds, if not thousands, of churches are either plateaued or on the verge of dying." For his first transitional pastor assignment, the Lord led Sadler to Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC) in Manassas, VA, a church that needed both transitional help and transformation.

Elder Frank Pablo explains, "[We] had lost [our] pastor in 2010. Sadly, attendance decreased, morale was at a low and, worst of all, the church was not unified to move forward as one body. Although we had pastoral support in the form of associate pastors, the unity we sought eluded us."

The story of EBC demonstrates the endeavor of a transitional pastor and the church transformation that God orchestrated through his ministry.

DR. SADLER DESCRIBES THE JOURNEY:

The Condition Assessment

"Churches have different problems, but the root of their problems stems from three common conditions:

- 1. Relationships among the members
- 2. Leadership void
- 3. Idols (an idol is an idea, ministry, or tradition for which the church sacrifices to keep alive)

"EBC's relationship issues were twofold. Church staff and certain members were at odds, as were the school
staff. Second, relationships between the older and
younger members were not healthy. Preaching on
grace, forgiveness, and love helped members move
forward with one another. In addition, counseling
members and teaching them to forgive and show
grace strengthened relationships as well.

"When I arrived at EBC, the most noticeable area lacking was leadership. Staff, deacons, Sunday

School classes, and the school board were not serving their proper functions, and business meetings were handled poorly. Due to lack of oversight, the church went from around 550 in 1999 to 180 in 2013. My question was, 'Why hadn't anyone stopped the erosion?'

"The church/school relationship was unhealthy, and EBC's idol was its school. The school was leading the church instead of the church leading the school. Monies from staff retirement and the church budget were taken to keep the school open. We made some staff changes and reduced the school's age range from K-12th grade to K-3-5th grade."

The Call

EBC's worship pastor, Scott

"Knowing that I wanted to minister in the transitional pastor area, I went through the SBC training. In addition, I wrote, *R.E.S.C.U.E.: A Church Navigational System for Transformation.* I used this system most of my years as a senior pastor. A month after retiring, the Lord opened the door for me to be the transitional pastor at EBC."

David, recalls, "The R.E.S.C.U.E. ministry was a great joy to have at our church. Dr. Sadler engaged the church by first explaining the R.E.S.C.U.E. paradigm. Then he gently walked with the church through each of the six letters of the process."

Dr. J. Lindsay Sadler

The Cure

Frank Pablo states, "From the very beginning, Pastor Sadler made it clear to the church that before a new senior pastor arrived, EBC needed to have its heart and mind postured in such a way that [we] would be ready and prepared to receive a new pastor and his family. Additionally, the church needed to be ready to carry on its ministry within the church and in the Manassas community and beyond while the new senior pastor [adjusts to his role] and acquaints himself with his new church family. In other words, the new senior pastor should not be coming in to lay a new foundational work but to come into a foundation that had already been laid."

EBC is now a stronger and healthier church because of these foundational changes that took place through the ministry of Dr. Sadler:

- Changed business meetings to ministry conferences (two per year)
- Created ministry rallies to evaluate progress of the church (two per year)

Change is situational, transition is philosophical, but transformation is spiritual."

- Created vision/mission statements, deacon handbook, personnel handbook, new member workbook, and procedural guide
- Revised and approved bylaws and constitution
- Incorporated the church
- Upgraded the church website
- Established an elder body and expanded the deacon body
- Reformed the school from K-12th grade to K-3-5th grade

- Began the process of calling the next pastor
- Established two churches (Korean church and Arabic fellowship) and continued relationship with Hispanic church already existing

Scott David shares, "The church has experienced healing, restoration, and renewal beginning with the church leadership and spreading out throughout the whole church body. The R.E.S.C.U.E. ministry is more than just a transitional tool. The R.E.S.C.U.E. ministry serves as a mechanism/means of God's transformational power."

A New Day at Emmanuel Baptist Church

Since new senior pastor Tim Ma has arrived, it's evident that the Spirit of God is at work in this congregation. EBC had not seen a baptism in nearly a year, but multiple baptisms have now taken place in just three months. A church that was once in decline is now seeing steady growth.

"We're really focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible," says Pastor Ma. "By God's grace, we are able to concentrate on outreach and discipleship. At our last service [9/8/15], three people came forward for baptism. This happens when the Lord is present. Dr. Sadler did a good job moving the church from agendas towards authentic ministry. That's important these days. Now we're studying the Scriptures, praying, breaking bread, and fellowshipping (Acts 2:42). By God's grace, the church will develop and grow. Please pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will help us and nurture us at Emmanuel. At the end of the day, Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches (John 14:5) we serve the Lord in the Kingdom."

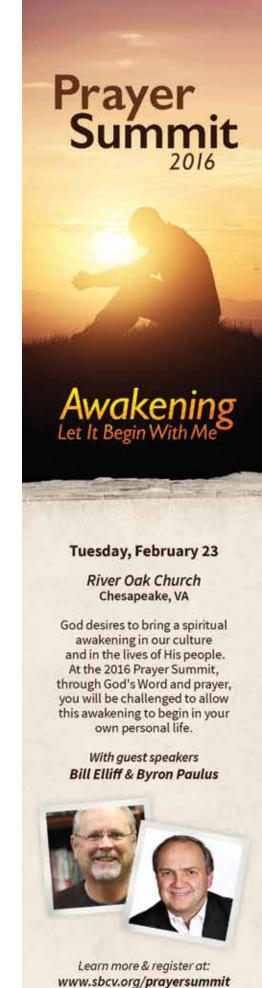
RESOURCE

websites:

rescuemin.com ebcnva.org sbcv.org

email:

contact Dr. Lindsay Sadler at rescuemin@icloud.com.



Campus Church Planting

essie was a senior at **Christopher Newport** University in Newport News when she first heard about Catalyst Church, an SBC of Virginia church plant. It wasn't the on-campus Bible study that caught her attention or the deep-fried Oreos that Catalyst offered at the football games. It was her sister, a student at neighboring Old Dominion University, who had gotten plugged in at Aletheia Norfolk (another SBC of Virginia church plant) years earlier and had heard about Catalyst Church from her pastor, Jamie Limato. Some two years later, Jessie joined a group of volunteers to provide childcare for a night of worship at Missio Dei, a soonto-be-launched SBCV church plant targeting Norfolk State University.

Aletheia Norfolk at ODU connected a student to Catalyst Church at CNU in Newport News who, in turn, became a regular volunteer for the preview services of Missio Dei at NSU. Networks matter. Generational church planting matters. And in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, God has developed generations of collegiate church plants.

Of the 8.3 million people in the Commonwealth of Virginia, well over 500,000 are college students. Students coming from various backgrounds and upbringings. Students coming with various dreams and baggage. Students coming to various spiritual environments and making major life



decisions. As they wrestle with and come to conclusions about these life decisions, many are doing so with no input from the local church. They're seeking advice and counsel from people with no more life experience than their own and who often lack a biblical worldview. In many cases, the church has vacated the campus.

The Apostle Paul had a deep desire to take the Gospel to the populated cities and thereby reach the culture. If Paul were alive today, it wouldn't be a stretch to think he would strategically set his sights on college campuses. Where is the next round of politicians and policy-

makers? Where is the next round of educators who will spend 30 to 40 years of their lives investing in and educating young people? Where is the next round of entertainers and movie makers who will seize the imagination of a cultural audience? Where is the next round of business men and women who will go to cities all over the world and impact culture? They're on college campuses in the classroom, heading to the dining hall, playing ping-pong in the student lounge, or gathering for Frisbee on the great lawn. The question facing the Church is clear—how will we get the Gospel to them?

Aletheia Norfolk's Story

Campus: Old Dominion University

Jamie Limato and his family moved to Norfolk in 2008 after being trained and sent out by both the Pillar Church Network and the Aletheia Church Network. With the support of these networks and the SBC of Virginia, Aletheia Norfolk outgrew the Limatos' living room and launched Sunday gatherings in 2010 on the campus of Old Dominion University. In 2011, the SBCV connected Jamie with Jeff Mingee, who was serving as the youth pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Yorktown and felt called to plant a church. Jamie met with Jeff and his team; provided guidance and counsel; shared the successes and mistakes of Aletheia Norfolk; and even donated pipe-and-drape curtains to help the new plant get started.

Catalyst Church's Story

Campus: Christopher Newport University

Jeff Mingee and a team were sent out in 2012 by Bethel Baptist Church to plant Catalyst Church on the campus of Christopher Newport University. Catalyst began holding public services in August of 2012. Just months later, they sent to Southeast Asia their first mission team, which included two college students. A favorite outreach event of the Catalyst family is serving deep-fried Oreos at the CNU home football games. They've been able to disciple, baptize, and mobilize college students from CNU, the local campus of Thomas Nelson Community College, Hampton University, and even the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg.

Missio Dei Church's Story

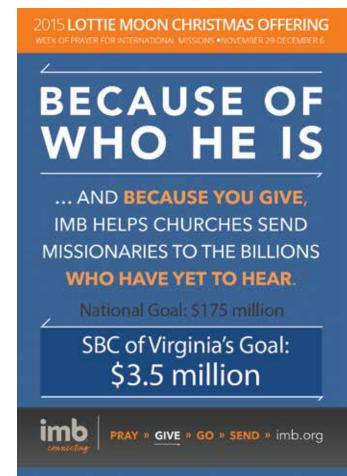
Campus: Norfolk State University

In late 2013, Charles Shannon began serving as a church planter apprentice at Hampton Roads Fellowship. In early 2015, he transitioned to Aletheia Norfolk to continue his apprenticeship and further develop his

plan to start a Gospel-centered church near the campus of Norfolk State University. Aletheia Norfolk and Catalyst Church are partnering to assist Charles and Missio Dei as a third-generation collegiate church plant. Charles and his core group are currently gathering on Fridays to sing, pray, and learn from God's Word as they prepare to start a collegiate church plant in the city of Norfolk.

God is moving on college campuses around Virginia. He's actively seeking students who have been pursuing joy without Him. He's opening the eyes of those who've been deceived by the enemy's lies. He's captivating the hearts of students who are realizing the depth of God's love. Students just like Jessie are being won, baptized, discipled, and sent out. Jessie is now a community group leader at Catalyst Church and is currently helping disciple others who are wrestling with who Jesus is and whether He should impact their lives.

On Sunday, August 30, a college student sat in the pew of Catalyst Church and wept. She hadn't been to a church in 10 years and longed to know the Good News that provided the people there with hope and purpose. College campuses are filled with young people just like her. If Gospel-loving Christians don't pursue her, someone else will. If SBC of Virginia churches don't do the difficult work of planting collegiate-minded churches, we'll forfeit this generation. While every square inch of Virginia is our mission field, there is a particular opportunity on and around college campuses for us to be **Strong Churches with a Bold Commitment to the Great Commission.**



REACHING ROUTE 58 for Christ

English

So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day..."

Joshua 4:12

Reinel Castañeda (left) and Rolando Guardia (right)



olando Guardia and Reinel Castaneda are two veterans in God's labor force. They are both in their 60s and have these important qualities in common: passion and vision. Rolando is the pastor of Nuevo Amanecer Danville, the Hispanic congregation planted in 2010 by Nuevo Amanecer Lynchburg. Reinel came from Colombia some years ago and is part of the leadership of the Lynchburg congregation. Both have a passion for prayer and for asking God to work through them. The two felt led by the Lord to meet every Wednesday ask Him to move and show His vision for the Hispanic community in their area.

After Pastors Rolando and Reinel prayed together for several months, a new family began attending Nuevo Amanecer Lynchburg. They traveled all the way from Collinsville (almost a two-hour drive) to find a church home. The family seemed to be enjoying the congregation but asked the pastor if there was a church closer to them. They were connected right away with Pastor Rolando of Nuevo Amanecer Danville and began attending there. They soon shared with him that there were other Hispanic people in Collinsville who needed a church—in fact, there were six such families.

Again prayer came into action, and after months of getting together with the Collins-

ville families every Friday, Pastors Rolando and Reinel felt it was time to find a place to start Nuevo Amanecer Collinsville. The Lord connected them to Pastor Michael Harrison of The Community Fellowship Church in Collinsville, who gladly opened the church's doors to these brothers. Since the new church began meeting at The Community Fellowship, both congregations have worked together on various outreach opportunities as one body in Christ.

Pastors Rolando and Reinel just attended their first Church Planter Network and brought some new leaders with them. From this group of leaders, two are traveling from Lynchburg to Charlottesville every weekend to support and strengthen another Spanish-speaking church plant. The vision is to soon fill Route 58 with multiple Hispanic congregations.

When Pastor Reinel preached his first sermon at Nuevo Amanecer Collinsville, he addressed his partner in prayer and said, "Rolando, if Caleb and Joshua conquered the Promised Land in their 80s...compared to them, we are teenagers—let's do this!"

We can join all of these brothers in their passion to reach others with the Gospel by praying for them and by considering supporting this great and passionate vision: "¡La 58 para Cristo!" ("Conquering Route 58 for Christ!")

Español

Alcanzando la Carretera 58 para Cristo

einel Castaneda y Rolando Guardia son dos veteranos en la obra de Dios, los dos tienen mas o menos sesenta años, y los dos tienen algo en común: pasión y visión. Rolando Guardia es el pastor de Nuevo Amanecer Danville, la congregación Hispana plantada en 2010 por Nuevo Amanecer Lynchburg.

Reinel Castaneda vino de Colombia hace algunos años y ahora es parte del liderazgo de la congregación de Lynchburg. Ambos han demostrado una convicción por la oración y quieren ver a Dios obrando a través de ellos. Ellos cuentan que recibieron un llamado de Dios para orar juntos cada miércoles en Danville para que Dios

Ahora pues, dame esta región montañosa de la cual el Señor habló aquel día"

Joshua 4:12

muestre cual es Su visión para alcanzar a los Hispanos de su área.

Después de unos meses de orar, una familia vino a la congregación en Lynchburg. Habían viajado casi dos horas buscando un lugar para congregarse. Hablaron con el pastor para ver si habría alguna congregación más cercana a ellos. Se los puso en contacto con el pastor Rolando de Danville, y mientras se congregaban allí esta familia compartió que había un grupo en Collinsville que estaban como ovejas sin pastor. Reinel y Rolando entendieron esto como el llamado de Dios para buscar a estas ovejas y fue grande su sorpresa cuando se encontraron con unas seis familias que alguna vez fueron parte de una congregación que ya no estaba porque el anterior pastor había caído en inmoralidad.

Otra vez la oración tuvo un lugar central, y después de unos meses de estar reuniéndose con estas familias cada viernes, decidieron que era el tiempo de Dios para encontrar un lugar para congregarse los domingos. Dios conectó a estos hombres con el pastor Michael Harrison de The

Community Fellowship de Collinsville. El pastor Michael se gozó de la oportunidad de abrirles las puertas para que se congreguen y ofreció todo tipo de ayuda. Desde que están en ese edificio han participado en trabajos en conjunto con la congregación de habla inglesa y juntos como un Cuerpo en Cristo han hecho actividades de alcance a la comunidad en la ciudad.

El Pastor Reinel y el Pastor Rolando asistieron recientemente a su primer entrenamiento de plantación de iglesias, y trajeron consigo nuevos líderes. De ese grupo, dos líderes están viajando desde Lynchburg a Charlottesville cada fin de semana para apoyar y fortalecer una iglesia Hispana. La visión es poder llenar a mediano plazo el corredor de la carretera 58 con nuevas plantaciones de iglesias.

Cuando el Pastor Reinel predicó su primer sermón de Nuevo Amanecer Collinsville, le habló directamente a su compañero de oración y le dijo: "Rolando, si Josué y Caleb hicieron esto en sus ochentas... comparados con ellos, ¡somos unos adolescentes!"



MAKING NOISE

SBC OF VIRGINIA DEAF PLANTERS

Ever wondered why the word *deaf* is sometimes capitalized? Are *Deaf and deaf* the same?

"There is a difference between Deaf and deaf," says SBC of Virginia catalytic church planter John Wyble. "The Deaf community sees the deaf as people who have lost some or most of their hearing but still communicate from a hearing perspective." The Deaf community, however, is a people group with its own language and culture. While interpretive ministries within the local church are critical to the deaf, interpretation is not sufficient to present a culturally

accurate Gospel message to the culturally Deaf. American Sign Language (ASL) is not the English language interpreted; rather, it is a language in every respect just like Spanish, French, English, etc. There are cultural differences that make it difficult for the hearing community to accurately translate the message.

The culturally Deaf are a mission field and a mission force. Deaf church planters are being empowered as *indigenous planters by the SBC of Virginia to reach the culturally Deaf community. We now have five SBC of Virginia Deaf church plants and three **small groups in the Commonwealth. There are also several Deaf candidates in the application process to become church planters.

Surprisingly, the five SBCV Deaf church plants represent 10% of all of the Deaf churches in North America! According to the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf (SBCD), there are a total of 50 Deaf churches tasked with reaching the 3 million culturally Deaf in North America. SBCV's five Deaf church plants have 100,000 to reach in the Commonwealth. This is a monumental task and can only be accomplished by calling, training, and empowering Deaf planters. Meeting locations are the greatest need for Deaf churches, so we must also have willing sponsor/host churches.

The SBC of Virginia supports two Deaf catalytic church plant-

ers: John Wyble in Waynesboro and John Folker in Richmond. These men have planted multiple churches and are proven leaders. Wyble is a "leader at large" with the SBCD, and Folker served two years with the International Mission Board (IMB) as the Deaf affinity liaison. These men are assisting with the Deaf work within the SBC of Virginia and have been critical in helping us understand church planting within the Deaf culture.

In April 2014, the first SBC of Virginia Deaf Network meeting took place in Lynchburg at the Innovative Faith Resources office. Nine Deaf leaders from around the Commonwealth met

SBC of Virginia catalytic church planter, John Folker



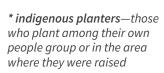
A FEW IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

As you can see, Deaf church planting is growing in the SBC of Virginia, and you can be a part of this exciting ministry.

- 1. **PRAY** for God to call Deaf planters to reach the 100,000 Deaf people in the Commonwealth.
- 2. **EDUCATE** your church about the need for Deaf ministry and specifically for Deaf churches—and help people understand the difference between the two.
- 3. **ASK** God to reveal to you the Deaf in your community.
- 4. **A MISSION FORCE**—if you have Deaf families in your church, see them as a mission force and empower them to reach their peers.
- 5. **OPEN YOUR CHURCH** to be a host for a Deaf fellowship.
- 6. Do a people **SEARCH THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA** to identify Deaf organizations or locations where the Deaf fellowship.
- 7. Begin to **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS** with the Deaf. Trust must first be earned before you can engage the Deaf culture.
- 8. **CONTACT YOUR AREA CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGIST** for assistance. He will be able to direct you to the resources you need. If you're unsure who the strategist is in your area, email churchplanting@sbcv.org.

around the topic of evangelism and discipleship within the Deaf community. They have held several meetings since then and continue to encourage each other in this critical ministry.

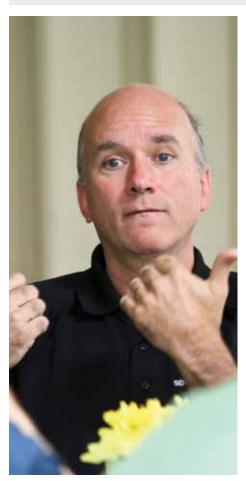
Another way that the SBC of Virginia invests in church planters is through statewide Church Planter Network (CPN) meetings twice a year. At the March 2015 CPN, we offered our first breakout specifically for Deaf leaders. The track focused on discipleship and personal growth, and 16 grateful Deaf planters and wives attended. Stephen Newell is the church planter of Overmountain Deaf Church in Abingdon, VA. His wife, Tricia, said about the Deaf breakout, "That was the first time in a long time I could eat a meal and be fed spiritually without waiting on children." At our August 2015 CPN, IMB missionary Mark Sauter led the Deaf breakout.



**small groups—in the process of becoming church plants (have not yet had a public launch service)



churchplanting@sbcv.org



SBC of Virginia catalytic church planter, John Wyble

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."

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.

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. ••••••

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Solomon discusses the importance of friendship and the value of people working together. In those verses, he illustrates the importance and advantages of teamwork. He says in verse 9 that "two are better than one" and then aptly illustrates why this is true in verses 9 through 12.

In The Bible Exposition Commentary, Dr. Warren Wiersbe artfully describes why this is true:

"Vs. 9 Two are better than one when it comes to **working** (two can get more work done, share the load, and be an encouragement to each other)

Vs. 10 Two are better than one when it comes to walking (whether a fall be physical or spiritual someone is there to help lift you up and restore you)

Vs. 11 Two are better than one when it comes to **warmth** (each person provides warmth and comfort)

Vs. 12 Two are better than one when it comes to watchcare (one might be overpowered, but two can better defend themselves, but if two travelers are better than one, then three would fare even better) At the end of verse 12 he talks about a *threefold cord*. One cord could be broken easily, two cords would require more strength; but three cords woven together could not be easily broken." Imagine SBCV church planting as

three cords woven together: 1) one cord representing our matchless and amazing God, 2) the second, SBCV church planters, and 3) the third, the churches that pray, assist, and give through Vision Virginia, the Cooperative Program, and sponsorships to provide for these planters. We are three cords working together in a strong partnership to fulfill His Great Commission.

Would you be willing to lead your church into a partnership with one of the dedicated church planting couples below (or one of our other SBCV church planters) by adopting them into your missionary family? They need you to be that third cord that will strengthen and help them as they take the Gospel to the millions who are still in darkness.



Hampton Roads Fellowship

604 Hilton Boulevard Newport News, VA 23605

BIRTHDAYS: Miguel (February 27), Cassie (December 16)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray that we will be able to connect with new people and families moving into the area.

Pray for us to reach both unbelievers and young believers and connect them to discipling relationships within the church.

Pray that we will continue to be a faithful witness of Christ and the Gospel in the Hampton Roads area.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- Share our church vision with others in Hampton Roads.
- Send mature individuals or families to serve with us.
- Be a prayer and/or financial supporter of Hampton Roads Fellowship by visiting www.hrfellowship.org/donate.



Church

Ruckersville, VA 22968

BIRTHDAYS: Aaron (June 4), Joy (May 30)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for our need of a worship leader and a Student Ministry leader.

Pray for our church to be effective in community evangelism.

Pray for our Life Group multiplication and development.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- 15-passenger van for our Student Ministry
- Funding for two wireless mics: \$1,000
- Funding for promotional materials and our outreach ministry at Christmas: \$2,000



he SBC of Virginia's Acts 1:8 Families event was scheduled to take place in July. This annual mission project, designed to afford families the opportunity to participate in mission work together, had typically been held in the Appalachian Region. This year's project, however, was slated for the DC area to help Impact Church, a church plant in Centreville, VA, offer a soccer camp as a community outreach. With registrations for Acts 1:8 Families lacking by June, the SBCV made the difficult decision to cancel the project.

Enter Bethel Baptist Church in Chesapeake, VA. When they learned the project had been cancelled, their hearts were grieved. For previous Acts 1:8 Families events, Bethel members have made up a greater portion of the team than any other church, and several families have attended every year.

Mission Project Revived

Those families had a passion for this year's mission too and approached their pastor, Dr. Marcus Bridges, to ask, "Can we possibly resurrect this project?"

Pastor Marcus contacted church planter Brandon Hembree at Impact Church, and the project suddenly came back to life. Fifteen people from Bethel quickly signed up to go, and details were coordinated for a July 9–12 trip. The Bethel team and members from Impact Church distributed flyers in the community to advertise the soccer camp and share about Impact Church. The Bethel team helped with the soccer camp and also went door to door, giving away watermelons and inviting people to Impact Church.

"I am so proud of our people and their heart for mission work," says Pastor Marcus.

"They have really embraced the concept of families doing mission work together and did not want to see this project die."

Church planter Brandon Hembree was most grateful. "We appreciate our partnership with the people at Bethel. They really stepped up and, as a result, we were able to invite hundreds of people to Impact Church and ultimately to Jesus Christ. We had several visitors the following weeks because they received a watermelon or church invitation, and they got to hear the Gospel!"

"Planting churches in the DC area requires all hands on deck," says Hembree, and Bethel Baptist Church provided many hands to help. Their diligence helped Impact Church, blessed the community, and made an eternal investment.

ARE YOU CALLED TO PASTORAL MINISTRY?

ARE YOU READY TO BE EQUIPPED?

Raimed in honor of Johnny Hunt. SEBI'S padwate and senior paster of First Bagtist Church of Woodstock, GA



Earn your BA & MDiv degrees in 5 YEARS

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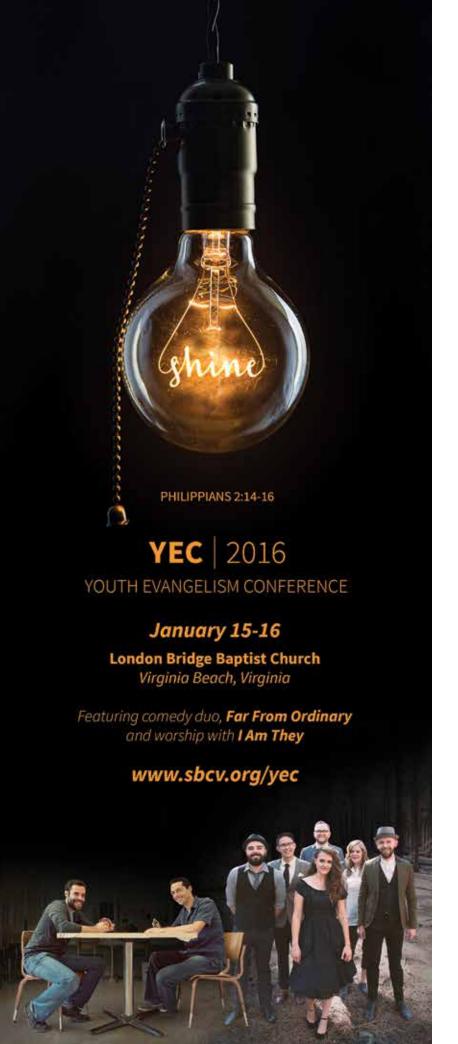
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BECAUSE HE CAME, WE GO









Calendar

OCTOBER

Mission Projects:

Vision Virginia (September/October)

Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia (October/November)

5-6 Executive Board

15 Sub-Saharan Affinity Meeting

23-24 PLANT Part B

NOVEMBER

Mission Projects:

Christmas Backpacks for Montreal (October/November)
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (November/December)

8-10 Annual Homecoming, Liberty BC, Hampton

26 Thanksgiving Day

29-Dec. 6 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering/Week of Prayer

DECEMBER

Mission Project:

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (November/December)

10 Church Planter Network (Regional)

24 Christmas Eve

25 Christmas Day

JANUARY 2016

Mission Project:

Church Plant Equipment for Lithuania (January/February)

15-16 PLANT Part A

15-16 YEC

19 Young Pastors' Summit

23 Women's Ministry Conference

28 Church Planting Network (Regional)

Women's Ministry Taskforce Meeting

FEBRUARY

Mission Project:

Church Plant Equipment for Lithuania (January/February)

20 Women's Ministry Fit 2 Lead Conference

Prayer Summit (River Oak Baptist Church, Chesapeake)

26-27 PLANT Part B





66

Don't be a dud, deliver a spud!"



No Immunity from Building Community

astor Fred Unger's motto for his congregation, "Don't be a dud, deliver a spud," might be tongue-in-cheek, but the North Main Baptist Church family in Danville, VA clearly heard and responded to their pastor's challenge: "We must build community to reach the community." Nearby families on North Main Hill soon learned that church members cared enough to visit, introduce themselves, pray with them, and give them a bag of potatoes. The potatoes were a way for the church family to reintroduce themselves to their neighbors around the church property.

Early in the year, mission chairman Anthony Porch and Pastor Fred were discussing ways to touch the community. Topics ranged from the problem of hunger to a vacant piece of land the church owned adjacent to the property. Plans quickly sprouted as a member with a tractor volunteered to till the soil. A handful of sowers were picked, and a potato garden was planted. The summer heat and the right amount of rain allowed an almost six-fold increase in potatoes.

On harvest day, 68 people from North Main and Nuevo Amanecer Danville (pastored by Rolando Guardia) dug into the field to discover that 250 pounds of sprout potatoes had become over 1,375 pounds of quality eating potatoes. Over the next few weeks, the potatoes were cleaned, sorted, bagged, and labeled by scores of volunteers.

The celebration truly began as church members from North Main and Nuevo Amanecer went into the neighborhoods to meet the community with bags of potatoes in hand. The neighborhood families appreciated the potatoes, and the churches fulfilled their goal of connecting with those nearby. Needless to say, no one could remember a time when people knocked on their door with a bag of potatoes and an interest in their lives.

The potato garden allowed people from ages 6 to 80 to participate in loving on their community. Teenagers were especially helpful because of their strong backs and desire to serve, and the young ones loved getting in the dirt to search for the last few potatoes. Ultimately, the churches discovered a community wide open to engagement.

Pastor Fred's challenge of "Don't be a dud, deliver a spud" communicated that there is no immunity from building community—everyone can do it!



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Brandon

We Can Help. We Must Help.

e just marked another anniversary of September 11, 2001. For those old enough to remember, I'm sure you recall where you were at the time. I was watching it on TV at home before heading in to the local news station to report on local ties to the tragedy. I remember the horror of that day and the days immediately after. I remember the grief. I remember the fear.

There was a rampant fear of Arabs around the country...more specifically, a fear of Muslims. We were waiting for the next shoe to drop. For many, that fear still exists. But it doesn't have to.

For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment."

2 Timothy 1:7

We now have an opportunity rarely seen before.

Millions are running from the Middle East. It is becoming the greatest migration in modern history. Millions are choosing to leave everything and everyone they've known. After weeks and sometimes months of traveling by all means of transit, they are just now experiencing a new environment and a new home. This means they are open to a new way of life and just may be wide open to the Gospel.

We can help. We must help.

First, we need to help those who need the Gospel—Muslims. For many fleeing North Africa and the Middle East, they are fleeing from their Muslim brothers. If they believed the same type of Islam as ISIS, they would still be there—fighting side by side. By partnering with European churches, we can have a hand in sharing Christ's love with thousands who need to see Christians in action.

Remember the prisoners, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily."

Hebrews 13:3

Second, we need to help our Christian brothers. Christians are under 1st-century persecution right here in the 21st century. Johnnie Moore, former senior vice president of Liberty University, recently wrote an eye-opening book called, *Defying ISIS*. He asks a poignant question: "Why are they so willing to die for what we have so much trouble living for?"

We can help. We must help.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith."

Galatians 6:10

Many pundits and scholars are questioning helping the refugees. I just read an editorial today pontificating about how many of these people have actually already fled their homeland and are now leaving Turkey or countries in that vicinity. As Christians, though, we can't always worry ourselves with the geo-political situations. We have to see through that fog to the people





themselves. The mothers, fathers, and children. We have to go back to the simple biblical mandate to love others...especially during times like these.

Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter."

Proverbs 24:11

I love Paul's words to the Thessalonians regarding Timothy and why he was sent to them during times of extreme persecution:

And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith, so

that no one will be shaken by these persecutions. For you yourselves know that we are appointed to this."

2 Thessalonians 3:2-3

You will be hearing more about opportunities to partner and mobilize in this effort. Thank you for praying about how you can make an eternal difference in the lives of hundreds and thousands. I look forward to being on the mission's front lines, side by side with you, as we together serve, strengthen, and share for His Kingdom.

* All Scripture references are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible.







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