



# PROCLAIMER

2016 | volume 18, issue 2

telling the stories of  
visionvirginia



# contents

Virginia Global Response—meeting human need around the world through God-given Gospel opportunities.



**PROCLAIMER**

**Executive Director**

Dr. Brian Autry

**Associate Executive Director  
Editor**

Brandon Pickett

**Communications Director**

Ishmael LaBiosa

**Design**

Patti Spencer

**Copy Editor**

Christina Garland

**Contributors**

Randy Aldridge, Caroline Anderson,  
Brian Autry, Larry Black,  
David Bounds, Cheryl Chadwick,  
Don Cockes, Ronnie Floyd,  
Makayla Sykes, Milton Harding,  
Gary Horton, Ron Kidd,  
Brandon Pickett, Sue Sawyer,  
Darrell Webb

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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



*Brian Autry*

Brian Autry  
Executive Director

SBC of Virginia  
bautry@sbcv.org  
facebook.com/brian.autry.70  
@brianautry

# Five Providential and Proven Principles

As SBC of Virginia marks 20 years of Gospel partnership, five principles have been a providential and proven foundation for our work together. They serve as a basis for how we work together in a cooperative effort to reach regionally, nationally, and globally in the saving name of Jesus. They are the basis around which we build and do ministry.

**FOUNDATION.** Our foundation is the Word of God. The *Baptist Faith and Message 2002* states, "The Bible has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error for its matter." Our partnership of churches was founded upon the belief in the inerrancy of Scripture. Even though the currents of culture may change, our foundation is solid.

**FELLOWSHIP.** Our fellowship is built on healthy relationships. The SBC of Virginia model of regionalization, decentralization, and personalization is becoming a model for the rest of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our fellowship knows that our relationships have a purpose—the advancement of the Gospel of Christ. Our fellowship is about Gospel partnership.

**FOCUS.** Our focus is strengthening the local church. As our purpose statement reflects, the entire purpose of the SBCV is to assist the local congregations in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission. The individual in the local body is the vessel that God uses in bringing the lost

to Himself. Therefore, strong local churches are imperative to the success of the Gospel in our mission field and, as such, is an emphasis of the SBCV.

**FUNCTION.** Our function is to assist churches in the mission of making disciples. Our goal is to aid churches with the resources, support, and assistance to reach those ends. Churches are made up of Christians who are empowered and equipped to know Jesus and make Him known.

**FUTURE.** Our future includes church planting and church revitalization. We see church planting as a key strategy to make disciples of Christ. We also know that churches may need revitalization. Our ultimate mission is to make disciples. We believe that church planting is a vital part of that mission. We also recognize that churches can be strengthened, mobilized, and revitalized to make disciples.

Because nations still need to be reached and the Gospel still needs to be preached, let's continue to work together in Gospel partnership. Not alone!

# EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVES ON THE MISSION FIELD OF ROANOKE



“ They're open to hearing the Gospel. They're willing to hear the Gospel. And there's a great need for the Gospel to be shared. ”

Those are the words of Tracy King, lead pastor at Truth Fellowship Church, a church plant in downtown Roanoke. On May 3, this plant had the help of dozens of SBC of Virginia Executive Board members and staff to love on its community.

“Our convention is about connecting churches and connecting churches with people and sharing the Gospel,” said Pastor Tim Hight, chairman of the board. “It’s wonderful that we can do this for Tracy.”

This outreach event featured feeding units set up to provide food for nearly 400 people, as well as inflatable rides and games for children. The best thing that came out of the event was having 20 people accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior after hearing the Gospel preached.

“We’re just seeing God do some great things in people’s lives,” shared Pastor Tracy. “People getting saved, getting baptized, becoming a part of church, lives changing.”

Ministry work is nothing new to the pastors who volunteered to help, but this event was the first of its kind for the SBC of Virginia Executive Board members as they gathered for a couple of days of meetings at First Baptist Church in Roanoke.

“It’s the power of partnership,” said Dr. Brian Autry, SBCV’s executive director. “It’s churches working together...to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and reach out to this community like all communities that near to hear about Jesus. Often an open door will come when we share the love of Christ by doing something fun like this and meeting some needs.”

The Executive Board meeting, held May 2–3, highlighted stories of how God is working through His people in ministries like church planting, Disaster Relief, and international outreach. Places like Nepal, Greece, and Barcelona are familiar places to SBC of Virginia churches. Over the last year, hundreds of volunteers have followed God’s calling to serve in these locations to help and share the Good News.

At the board meeting, a new initiative called Virginia Global Response (VGR) was introduced. Through VGR, the SBC of Virginia will connect churches with the SBC and other Gospel partners to streamline relief efforts. For the last few months, churches have been serving refugees from the Middle East and North Africa along the Greece-Macedonia border by providing hot tea, food, clothing, and a chance to hear that God loves them. (Learn more about this new ministry on page 35.)

The Executive Board also received some encouraging data at its May meeting:

- Since the 2015 Annual Homecoming in November, 12 churches have requested partnership and affiliation with the SBC of Virginia.
- Annual Church Profile data from 2015 reveals an increase in the following areas since 2014: baptisms up by 3.3% to 6,896, memberships by 2.0% to 227,134, and weekly worship attendance by 3.4% to 125,010.
- Since October 2015, 8 new church plants have launched, 6 new small groups have begun, 13 church planters have been approved, and 6 church planter apprentices have been approved.
- For the first time, SBCV churches in 2015 gave above and beyond the *Vision Virginia* Missions Offering goal:

Churches gave \$274,225 to surpass the 2015 goal of \$250,000 by \$24,225.

The board unanimously approved the 2017 *Vision Virginia* goal to be set at \$350,000. This is a \$75,000 increase over the 2016 goal of \$275,000. The increase will help support additional ministry work like Virginia Global Response and church planting efforts. The board also approved a \$3.5 million goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

# Now Is the Time to Bring Prayer Back into Our Lives and the Church

by Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Senior Pastor of Cross Church in Springdale, AK and Former President of the Southern Baptist Convention



In fact, faith is built up greatly when we pray with and for one another. I regularly pray with and for others. My ongoing daily prayer list is continually changing. *Prayer builds faith in my life.* It creates expectancy for God to move in the situation.

### 3. Prayer is action.

When you start your day with God, you are taking action upon your day. When you pray anywhere about anything, you are taking action.

Oftentimes, we take matters in our own hands. Our impulsiveness or impatience shows we are depending on ourselves and not upon God. Please remember: Prayer is not inaction; but prayer is your greatest action.

**Clearly understand:** The greatest action you can take is prayer. This does not eliminate other actions. It is a matter of priority and prominence in your life. If a person needs a job, we do not simply pray for a job, but also take the action of trying to find a job.

### NOW IS THE TIME TO BRING PRAYER BACK INTO OUR CHURCHES

Christians want prayer back into the schools; however, we ought to bring it back into the worship services of our churches first! Most churches spend more time in their worship services promoting the ministries of the church than praying. Jesus wants His church to be a house of prayer for all the nations!

**P**rayer is often the last action people take. Should not prayer be the first choice we make? Why should it take a bad diagnosis, a major business loss, or a big problem to move prayer up in our daily action plan? How important is prayer to you?

I believe now is the time to bring prayer back into our personal lives and the worship services of our churches.

### WHEN WE PRAY

In our independent world, we must refuse to declare independence from God. *Dependence on God is essential.* Therefore, consider these thoughts on prayer and its importance in your life:

**1. When we pray, we are depending on God. When we do not pray, we are depending on ourselves.**

Therefore, pray. Talk to God daily. Talk to God throughout the day. Carry on a continual communion with God.

Talking to yourself may make you feel better, but only God can help you through your life. Talking to others

may provide counsel, but Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor. He will counsel you, coach you, and be your constant through your life. Bring prayer back into your life.

### 2. Prayer is faith.

*When you pray, you are declaring absolute dependence on the Lord!* Therefore, pray whenever you need to exercise any level of faith, because prayer is faith. *When you pray, you are trusting in the Lord completely.*



When is the last time you experienced an entire Sunday morning worship service dedicated to prayer? Has this ever occurred? Has prayer received more than a small focus in any worship service you have attended recently?

If not, why not? If we are not filling God's churches with passionate prayers that are focused with purpose, what are we filling our church worship services with? Could it be that we are not filling God's churches with prayer because we are not seeing that our greatest need is the power of God to intervene in our life, church, and nation? Could it be because we do not connect the deep need for prayer with the greatest need—to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the nations?

## FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF PRAYER SERVICES

Churches of all membership sizes have and are committing entire worship services on a given Sunday to the ministry of prayer. There are four characteristics of an effective prayer service:

- 1. Biblically based:** Each prayer time needs to be based on a teaching time from God's Word. We stand on His Word, not on our words or passions.
- 2. Prayer-focused:** Each prayer time should be focused on principles like repentance, revival, surrender to the Lordship of Christ and the filling of the Spirit, spiritual awakening, and reaching the world for Christ beginning in your own community.
- 3. Spirit-led:** Worship and prayer moments should be led as God's Spirit leads, not necessarily the order of service.

**4. Worship-expressed:** Hymns and worship songs are given to us to express our worship of Jesus Christ as our Lord. These can be powerful expressions as transition moments, moving from one prayer time to the other.

## JUST IMAGINE

Just imagine what could happen in your church if an entire Sunday morning service was turned into a prayer service. You could experience God move in ways unlike you have seen in a while or may have never seen before. People could come to Christ. Personal repentance could result in a releasing of the Spirit upon your church, unleashing the church to worship and ministry. Here is a website with sermons and prayer services from Cross Church as well as other pastors and churches: [pray4awakening.com/southernbaptists](http://pray4awakening.com/southernbaptists). Please feel free to use any of them as you plan your services.

## HERE IS WHAT I DO KNOW: IF WE DO NOT PLAN TO PRAY, WE WILL NOT PRAY!

It is past time for us to prioritize prayer personally and in the church. *For far too long, we have seen what we can do; it is time for us to see what God can do.* This can only happen when we pray.

Acts 4:31 says, *"When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God's message with boldness."*

## EACH DAY

- Make prayer your first choice.
- Realize that when you pray, you are

demonstrating great faith in God.

- Live like prayer is important to you.
- Make prayer a priority in your church.
- In your life and in your church, pray like it matters.

*Now is the Time to Lead,*  
**Ronnie W. Floyd**

.....  
Reprinted with permission, *Decision Magazine*.

## RESOURCE

### WEBSITE:

[pray4awakening.com/southernbaptists](http://pray4awakening.com/southernbaptists)



**OCT 2**

# DAY OF PRAYER

*Jesus proclaimed that "[His] house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Mark 11:17, NKJV).*

The SBC of Virginia invites you to lead your church to join us on Sunday, October 2, 2016, to commit the entire morning worship service to the ministry of prayer.

In Luke 10:2b, Jesus exhorted His followers that *"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest"* (NKJV).



On OCT 2, we will ask the Lord to send out laborers into His harvest, and we will seek His face for revival in our churches and spiritual awakening in our nation.

# CHURCH REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 13

**HYLAND HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
11452 WARDS RD, RUSTBURG, VA 24588

## GUEST SPEAKER:

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# visionvirginia

*2016 Week of Prayer  
& Offering for Missions*

A GOAL  
OF **\$275,000**  
**100%** OF WHICH WILL GO  
DIRECTLY TO

**EQUIPPING THE MISSION FORCE OF VIRGINIA  
FOR THE MISSION FIELD OF VIRGINIA** *and the world!*

# What is ***VISION VIRGINIA?***

## ***Vision Virginia is a missions offering.***

Similar to Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong, 100% of the gifts given through *Vision Virginia* go directly to the mission field. The fund supports dozens of ministries, including the things that are listed in the eight days of prayer.

## ***Vision Virginia is also a call to pray.***

It is a call to pray for these ministries, the people serving in these ministries, and the work of the Lord in Virginia and around the world.

## ***Vision Virginia is the people.***

*Vision Virginia* only exists because people do—people who need to hear the Gospel and people who serve in churches all across the state. God loves people, and His mission is to love, serve, and disciple them to look more like Him every day.

## ***Vision Virginia is reaching the WORLD.***

Virginia is a mission field to be sure. But the churches of the SBC of Virginia can be an awesome mission force to reach not only locally but also around the globe. It's allowing God to open our eyes to opportunities through an Acts 1:8 strategy.

### **MINISTRIES SUPPORTED INCLUDE:**



**STORIES, RESOURCES, GIVING, MINISTRIES, & MORE: [sbcv.org/visionvirginia](http://sbcv.org/visionvirginia)**

# Persecuted in America

## ERITREA: A NEW COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER DECLARED THE END OF ALL RELIGION

Mimi grew up in a nation that had been at war for decades. In the midst of strife, she became a follower of Jesus Christ. At the end of Eritrea's war with neighboring Ethiopia, a new communist government came into power and declared the end of all religion. Eritreans had been an Orthodox Christian people, but now Bibles were taken up and destroyed; houses of worship had to register and were then closed. The Church went underground.

Mimi was arrested and told she must deny her faith in Jesus Christ or go to prison.

She refused, so she was sent to the prison of a shipping container without heat, air conditioning, or many of the essentials of life. The good news is that she was confined with Helen Berhane (see story below). Helen is a Christian music artist and was also a target of the communist government. Mimi and Helen were beaten, starved, and denied medical care.

Through a miraculous turn of events, Mimi was released and escaped with her family through the neighboring country of Kenya. They gained asylum in the United States and now live in Northern Virginia. Before

her arrest, Mimi had not been an outward Christian, not living her faith or sharing it with others. Something changed after her imprisonment with Helen. Though they had no copies of the Scriptures, Helen had God's Word hidden within. She disciplined Mimi and taught her to love Jesus in ways that she had not known...yes, in prison.

Today, Mimi is an active member of an SBCV church (unnamed for security). She teaches children the Bible, helps with bookkeeping, and actively shares her faith. After coming to the US, she led her parents and her children to faith in Christ. She

**HELEN BERHANE** was a member of an evangelical Christian church in Eritrea, which was persecuted by the government. She was arrested May 13, 2004, after she released an album of Christian music. The government wanted her to sign a pledge to cease all evangelical activities, but she refused. She was kept at a military camp, imprisoned in a shipping container. (Mimi, mentioned in the article above, was imprisoned in the same container). Helen was beaten and tortured and had no access to medical care. She was not allowed to contact family or legal representation.

Amnesty International advocated multiple times for her release, along with that of several other female prisoners. They had not been charged with any crimes nor brought before a court.

Eventually, after severe punishment, Helen's right hand and leg were paralyzed. Because of her injuries, the Eritrean regime allowed her to go home in October 2006, almost two and a half years since she was arrested. Helen was granted asylum in Europe and continues serving God openly.

She tells her story in a book she recently wrote, *Song of the Nightingale*, describing the appalling conditions and horrendous torture she and others were forced to endure for refusing to deny Jesus Christ.



models a Christ-centered life before her husband (a new and growing believer) and among those she serves. For Mimi, it took prison and losing much of what she held dear for her to live out her faith.

Sadly, the arm of the Eritrean government has extended through its embassy in the US and now threatens any new Eritrean churches and its members. The embassy denies visas for its Christian citizens to return and visit family. They also attack Eritrean churches in the US through propaganda.

A Christian activist noted, "...the government of Eritrea has decided to export its

rule of terror to the Eritrean-American communities in the Diaspora... in the United States.... [Another observer put it this way]: 'It appears that the appetite of Eritrea's ruling regime to terrorize its citizens is not satiated by the subjugation of those unfortunate enough to live within Eritrea's borders. It is not contented with denying them religious freedom; freedom of assembly or freedom of expression. It wants to extend the police state outside its borders—all the way to the United States.' The Embassy of Eritrea in Washington, DC, departing from all diplomatic conventions, has set itself up as headquarters for the government's campaign of intimidation and terror. From

there, it has deployed its auxiliaries and enforcers of the ruling party to harass the clergy of the Eritrean Orthodox Churches throughout North America."

Our Eritrean pastors and its members with SBCV have been denied visas to return for family funerals. This has defined the extent of Christian growth and membership of our Eritrean churches. Please pray for our leaders and those who are coming to faith in Christ.

## RESOURCE

WEBSITE:

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



# Eritrea

**Nationality:** Eritrean

**Languages spoken:** Tigrinya, Arabic, and English

**Religions:** Ethiopian Orthodox, Muslim

## Information on the group in DC:

In the Washington, DC Metro area, there are approximately 40,000 Eritreans. The exact number is difficult to pinpoint because Eritreans are easily confused with Ethiopians. Many Eritrean refugees came to America in the 1990s, following the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

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# VIRGINIANS

## Vessels for Christ's Compassion in NEPAL

Mark Henderson,\* from Colonial Heights, VA, is a partner in an environmental construction company. He came to provide disaster relief in a rural village in Nepal. (IMB photo by Chloe Lewis.)

by Caroline Anderson, writer for the International Mission Board (based in Asia)

NEPAL — The village of scattered homes clinging to the side of a mountain is a hidden gem—remote and difficult to access. But those who do make the journey are treated to views of carefully sculpted, mountain-terraced fields of rice and millet and a panoramic of the Himalayas.

The April 2015 earthquake couldn't destroy this region's beauty. Four Southern Baptist volunteers said the earthquake closed the chasm between Christians, Hindus, and Buddhists.

The SBC of Virginia made a one-year commitment to help a region of Nepal after the earthquake and sent volunteer teams to provide disaster relief.

The volunteers' service throughout the past year spoke volumes to the village—especially because the Baptist Global Response (BGR) teams didn't show favoritism. The volunteers helped everyone, regardless of religion. Because of this, Christians were seen as kind and compassionate.

Stephen Cooper\* was on a plane five days after the earthquake hit to help assess the damage. He and his wife, Elizabeth, returned several months later to spend

several weeks deconstructing fallen buildings, rebuilding a school building, and passing out blankets and medicine. Fellow Virginians Mark and Diana Henderson\* came to serve alongside the Coopers.

Missions are a part of the fabric that bound the Hendersons together.

"We met on a missions trip, we got engaged on a missions trip, now we're celebrating our first anniversary on a missions trip," Mark said.

It was a no-frills anniversary with the couple camped out in a tent on the side of the mountain. To bathe, Mark held up a tarp by a public water fountain so Diana could take a splash bath.

Likewise, the Coopers celebrated their anniversary on an airplane.

The Nepalese director of the school said without the volunteers' help, the children would have nowhere to meet.

"We are thankful for the Southern Baptist(s) of Virginia," said Muni Pariyar,\* the school's director, who is not a believer. "With the grace of God and the help of Southern Baptists of Virginia and BGR, children are able to return to school."

total of 2,400 people, and they heard six families are believers.

Through the Coopers and the Hendersons' care and concern for villagers, the mood of the village changed. The tension between Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians had been almost palpable. Ostracism, persecution, and arguments divided the village and made life difficult for the Christians.

BGR came to their village, which is off the beaten path, and the SBC of Virginia faithfully sent volunteer teams. During the weeks the Coopers and the Hendersons spent in the village, they served selflessly and offered to pray for the sick. Many accepted this offer.

"What we hope is that they see God's love and His compassion," Elizabeth said.

Villagers asked them why they came. "Because Jesus said to help others," the Virginians answered.

"We believe we are all brothers and sisters," Elizabeth told them.

Villagers also saw the volunteers' devotion to the Lord. Elizabeth pointed to the spot where she had her quiet times. It overlooks a verdant valley and misty mountains of the neighboring country. As she read her daily devotion, men and women would walk by, stop, and inch forward to see what she was reading. She had opportunities to tell them.

"God is so clearly working here," Elizabeth said.

Before the earthquake, there was a lot of persecution. Before, Hindus wouldn't acknowledge Christians.

"God really works through disasters. ...He puts people in a position to listen and be



"People in this village won't forget how people from other countries came here to help," another leader from the school said.

The Coopers and Hendersons said there are 300 families in this area, a

Schoolchildren in a village in Nepal gather to thank volunteers from Virginia who came to help rebuild their school. (IMB photo by Chloe Lewis.)

Schoolchildren in a village are able to return to class thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the SBC of Virginia. (IMB photo by Chloe Lewis.)

open, more so than under normal circumstances,” Elizabeth said. “This went from a village...against Christians to one that is open.”

The Coopers and Hendersons have empowered local believers. They’ve given them an open door to their community.

“We’re temporary. We help encourage. We can help build relationships because they are curious, but it is the Nepalese believers who are here and going to be doing the real work,” Elizabeth said.



\*Name changed

This article appeared in The Baptist Press, May 2, 2016.  
Reprinted with permission.

# The Journey Continues

## ESL English as a Second Language

In the NOV/DEC/JAN 2014–2015 edition of the *Proclaimer*, we shared a story about an SBCV church member who began teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at her church. Through that ministry, she built a relationship with Kim\*, a Central Asian believer, whose husband and family were not yet Christians. Over the course of time and their continued friendship, Kim invited her ESL teacher to join her on a trip to her home country to help her share the Gospel with her unbelieving family.

God continues to do such an amazing work through this ESL teacher, and we wanted you to enjoy reading in her own words how the journey continues.

*“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land” (Isaiah 1:19). This promise from God has proven true in my life, especially this past year, after spending six months in an Asian country! This came after God gave me a willingness and obedience to go across the world as a volunteer and teach English as a Second Language (ESL)! From one Asian couple attending an ESL class in my church, God opened doors for me to spend one month in their city sharing the Gospel, then recently six months, and now I’m preparing to return for one year.*

*“The last six months were spent sharing Jesus with everyone I met, living life there as I do here. God enabled me to meet people in restaurants, subways, on streets, in schools, and places where I lived. With each one, God gave me the opportunity to tell my story and then share the Gospel. Many heard about Jesus for the first time! One woman said she had heard about Jesus but was waiting for someone to come help her know more. How blessed I was to see her big smile when I told her God sent me to help her! She later professed Jesus as her Savior!*

*“God provided [ways] for me to volunteer in many varied capacities, which enabled me to*

*share the Gospel. Because of the ESL training SBCV provided here, which afforded teaching opportunities there, I was able to interact with all ages—kindergartners to adults. God especially opened doors with university students and young adult couples. I also had the privilege of ministering to ‘Ms’ (missionaries) and ‘MKs’ (missionary kids).*

*“God took one bad situation and turned it for good! Some MKs worked hard to plan a summer English camp; however, no one showed up! God led us to prayerwalk in place of holding the camp. The result—we met some students and shared a little with them. It was a divine appointment. The next day, one of the students and her friend met us for lunch. There (at a Buddhist restaurant) we shared our stories and the Gospel. Both girls prayed that day to receive Jesus as their Savior. They brought more friends as we continued to meet together, and some of them received Christ.*

*“God gave me the ‘best from the land’ by providing protection for me when I was lost, providing living places, providing friends to help me along the way, and by providing guidance in leading others to Christ. I had the added blessing of laboring/fellowshipping with our workers there and assisting local national believers. I never knew what each day would bring, but God always provided an abundance of joy as He brought people for me to tell about Jesus!*

*“In May 2016, I will return for one year. God is again allowing me to ‘eat the best from the land,’ as my role will be to help believers there prepare for cross-cultural ministry by teaching them English! I do not know what else is ahead for me in this next year, but I am excited for what God will do with ‘willingness and obedience!’”*

\*Name changed



**Resource**  
sbcv.org/esl

A photograph of a young girl with pigtails, wearing a pink and white striped shirt and pink pants, walking away from the camera on a paved path. She is carrying a blue and green backpack.  
A large, vibrant red bow is positioned in the center of the right sidebar, set against a dark blue background.

Join SBC of Virginia in our  
**SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER**  
collection of

**Christmas Backpacks  
for Appalachia**

Central Appalachia has 100 of the poorest counties in America in the 10-state region served by the Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM). A new backpack filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, candy, etc. for children for Christmas—how exciting for boys and girls! ARM will share this gift of love along with the Gospel with children living in poverty throughout Appalachia this Christmas.

Share the gift of love and the Gospel with a child in need this Christmas.

A photograph of a group of children, mostly girls, smiling and posing together in what appears to be a school or community setting.

**do 2016 Mission Projects**

Learn more & get involved at:  
**sbcv.org/backpacks**



Milton Harding

## So What's Cooking IN CHRISTENDOM

*The cultural delicacies of idolatry are being prepared in the kitchens of human thought, baked in the ovens of human intellect, offering generous portions at the buffets of human deception, and consumed by man's insatiable appetite for human ignorance.*

— **Pastor Milton**

**H**as God not said, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:2-3, NASB)?

Good old-fashioned secularism—the land of Egypt, the house of slavery. It is pretty obvious that Christendom continues to order its meals from the menu of what the culture craftily calls "most delectable." It burdens me to see how insensitive and numb shepherds and sheep alike have become to the things of God and His instructions to His people. Ultimately, accountability for setting God's table and serving His meal falls on the leaders of the Church, primarily pastors.

Paul states in I Corinthians 6:12, "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable." What we preach and teach, how we conduct worship, and the content of our worship are important and particular to God and fall on church leadership. In the Old Testament, God was very clear in His message to the prophets for Israel and her leaders, "... do not learn the way of the nations..." (Jeremiah 10:2, NASB). The "way of the nations" is flavored with evil, man-centered philosophy, ideology, and methodology designed to produce idols and not true worship nor true disciples—better known as the "next best thing."

We've become gluttonous in our thinking that somehow we can mix worldly ways (Egypt) with the things of God and remain consecrated to the Most High God. We've been captured by the deception of the enemy that says, "If it's good for 'Egypt' (culture), then it's good for Christendom too." Not according to Scripture. Jesus stated emphatically that His Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). God reiterates the same

instructions in 2 Chronicles 12:8 when He spared Israel from experiencing His full wrath to teach His children "... that they may learn the difference between My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries." The two kingdoms have nothing in common.

Brothers, take heed. Let us prepare and be prepared by feasting on God's Word and being in communion with Him through prayer and personal transformation as we boldly deliver the Word of God, not only from the pulpit but through every church artery that carries the truths of biblical instruction for growth to God's people. We must listen intently and proclaim boldly His heart concerning our worship, programing, use of social media and its content, etc. All of these things we use in some way to teach, influence, persuade, and reflect Jesus to our congregations. Therefore, we must obey the voice of God as He feeds us that we might feed His sheep. God bless you all, and stay strong in the Lord!

### ADVERTISEMENT

**Awesome August**  
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**Nights**  
2016

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**5 GREAT NIGHTS at 7p.m.**

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5204 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA

combined choirs, Kempsville Baptist & Fellowship Baptist, Moyock, NC

#### SPEAKERS



**AUG 1**

**Dr. Brian AUTRY**  
SBC of Virginia  
Glen Allen, VA



**AUG 8**

**Dr. James MERRITT**  
Pastor, Cross Pointe  
Church & Touching  
Lives Ministry  
Duluth, GA



**AUG 15**

**Dr. Jeff LaBORG**  
Fairview  
Baptist Church  
Corrytown, TN



**AUG 22**

**Dr. Fred LUTER**  
Franklin Ave.  
Baptist Church  
New Orleans, LA



**AUG 29**

**Dr. Jeff CROOK**  
Blackshear  
Baptist Church  
Flowery Branch, GA

#### SPECIAL MUSIC:

#### GUEST MUSIC LEADER:

Rev. Mark Brady, Fellowship Baptist, Moyock, NC

# DAYTONA BIKE GIVEAWAY

During Daytona Bike Week in Daytona Beach, FL, motorcyclists are given the opportunity to register for a bike giveaway if they listen for three minutes to what God has done in the life of a volunteer. Once the volunteer shares his/her story, the visitor is given the opportunity to tell his/her own life story—and most are ready and willing. The exchange is followed by a Gospel presentation.

This year, 409 people (out of the estimated 4,500 Gospel presentations) responded that they wanted to become followers of Christ! In the six years that SBC of Virginia churches have been participating, an estimated 23,000 people have heard the Gospel and 2,600 have prayed to receive Christ as Savior.

Volunteers from First Baptist Church of Roanoke, London Bridge Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, and Southside Baptist Church in Suffolk headed to Daytona Beach March 4–13 to help with this evangelistic opportunity.

*I was so blessed by the Daytona mission trip. Many mission trips have us work with our hands building things or cleaning things, being the hands and feet of Jesus, which is wonderful. But with Daytona, you get to speak the Gospel and tell people the Good News of Jesus Christ. You get to share what Jesus means to you and how He alone has changed and*

*impacted your life. The joy I felt sharing and having people receive the Good News is immeasurable. To be a part of plucking just one soul out of darkness and into the glorious light is incredible.*

—Jana Lewis

*For the past six years, I've had the privilege of going on our church-sponsored mission trip to Daytona during Bike Week and volunteering to help give a new Harley Davidson motorcycle away. The motorcycle is the draw to get folks under the tent. For the opportunity to win the bike, you have to listen to someone's three-minute testimony. Many times, those three minutes turn into a life-changing experience.*

—Tom Armbrister

*The biker or motorcyclist who attends Bike Week is just your average run-of-the-mill person. They could be your next door neighbor. They come to Daytona looking for something—anything but Christ. For many, hearing the Good News about Jesus Christ was definitely not on their bucket list of things to do while in Daytona. For others, it's tears of joy as they ask Christ into their life.*

—P. Ashley



## Resource

WEBSITE:

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



WELCOME RIDER

# STURGIS

Bike Giveaway

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

**AUGUST 6-13**  
**2016**

**REACH BIKERS**  
THIS SUMMER

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
[sturgisbikegiveaway.com](http://sturgisbikegiveaway.com)  
[sbcv.org/sturgis](http://sbcv.org/sturgis)

## RIDE FOR THE UNBORN

The SBC of Virginia  
invites you to the  
2016 Ride for the Unborn

Saturday  
September 10, 2016

The Heights Baptist Church  
in Colonial Heights, VA

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

# Hispanic Church Planter REACHES MANY

by Makayla Sykes, writer for the North American Mission Board

Fernando Mangieri is a third-generation pastor's kid who has three older brothers and an uncle who also serve as pastors. "I did not plan or want to be a pastor, but God called me," said Mangieri. Since he was called to the ministry at the age of nine, he has had the vision to be a missionary pastor.

Born and raised in Argentina, Mangieri moved to Mexico in 2000 to attend seminary. "My original plan was to move back to Argentina and then leave from there to a different country as a missionary," said Mangieri. "But while I was in Mexico, God spoke to my heart. Plus, I met my wife. So I stayed in Mexico working at the seminary, planting churches and helping the students as the seminary chaplain."

Mangieri also worked with the Mexican Baptist Convention and the Mexican Missionary Board until his family received

SBC of Virginia. The first church he planted was in December of 2009, with 19 people in attendance at the first service.

"My church planting strategy is prayer," said Mangieri. "We want to capture God's vision so that we can move in His direction. We just have to trust that we will be connected to the people who are ready to receive the Gospel. He has always been faithful to that."

Six and a half years later, Mangieri has planted four Hispanic churches across Virginia. His first church, Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza (New Hope Baptist Church), was in North Chesterfield. In 2011, he planted another Nueva Esperanza in Petersburg, VA. Both churches continue to thrive.

"I have always had a burden in my heart for all of the ethnic groups in Mexico. One day, an IMB missionary called me and asked about

the large number of Mixtecs in Richmond," said Mangieri. "I found out that I already had a man that was Mixtec in my church, and we realized God was already working."

Shortly after, in 2013, Mangieri planted a church specifically to reach the Mixtec people in Richmond. They continue to meet in a small trailer and are able to worship in their heart language. Mangieri's latest church plant is called Iglesia Bautista Conexión (Connection Church), in Chesterfield, which was planted in 2015 and already has around 80 people meeting each Sunday.

"Our passion is to plant churches and really to raise up pastors," said Mangieri. Due to this, they also started a Bible institute in

Richmond, using the curriculum through the Bible Training Center. The Bible institute focuses on raising up future pastors and equipping them to eventually shepherd their own churches.

"I like the materials we use because it allows us to train the pastors, make sure they are doctrinally sound, and insure that the churches are going to be doctrinally sound as well," said Mangieri.

Their strategy is to prepare pastors for the churches planted through the Bible institute. About 50 percent of the students who attend the institute are people whom Mangieri was able to evangelize, baptize, and disciple himself.

"The hardest but most precious thing is to have people who have become a part of your church family leave and go plant another church," said Mangieri. He continues to follow the Lord by planting churches and raising up men to reach the Hispanic people of Virginia.

*Originally published at namb.net, May 5, 2016. Reprinted with permission.*

**Resource**  
**WEBSITES:**  
[sendme.namb.net](mailto:sendme.namb.net)  
[lifeonmissionbook.com/vive-en-mision](http://lifeonmissionbook.com/vive-en-mision)



*The Mangieri family*

*Photo courtesy of Donna Ange*

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**“ I ASSUMED THE LORD WAS ASKING ME IF I WAS READY TO DIE FOR HIM. I TOLD HIM IF I HAVE TO DIE, THEN I WILL DO IT. ”**

---

violent threats for spreading Christianity. Mangieri and his wife were forced into hiding for two weeks with their children—a 2-year-old and a 6-month-old.

"I assumed the Lord was asking me if I was ready to die for Him. I told Him if I have to die, then I will do it," said Mangieri.

Soon after, God opened the door for Mangieri to be a missionary in the United States, serving as a Hispanic church planter. Mangieri said that through it all "the Lord just told me to stand still and know that He is God."

Upon arriving in the United States, Mangieri became a catalytic church planter with the



# Celebrating 20 Years



It was 1996. No Facebook. Tweet what? Google may as well have been some strange game. No iPod, no iPhone, no iPad. Oh, and Amazon only sold books. Much has changed since 1996 when the SBC of Virginia was constituted as a convention of Southern Baptist churches.

But some things have not.

**Jesus Christ.** *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8)

**The Word of God.** *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."* (Isaiah 40:8)

**Jesus is the only Way, and the people need Him.** *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"* (John 14:6)

**The church is vital and will be victorious.** *"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:18)

**Our mission is to reach the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.** *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

strengthening and  
mobilizing churches  
to make disciples  
and plant churches

I was a 26-year-old new seminary graduate, serving as a student pastor in Virginia Beach. As my pastor, other pastors, leaders from churches, and representatives from the national Southern Baptist Convention gathered at Grove Avenue Baptist Church for our constituting, I watched as men and women stood strong in their conviction that God's Word is inerrant and joined together in cooperation to advance the Gospel of Christ. Much would change in my life in the coming 20 years—my wife would bless me with three children; we would be a part of planting

a church; we would have many different experiences, many joys, and a few tears—but some things have not changed: The Lord Jesus. God's Word. The importance of His Church. Our mission. The blessing of Gospel partnership.

SBC of Virginia family, turning 20 years old means something. It means we are no longer a "teenager." SBC of Virginia has been blessed with a solid foundation. We have been blessed with a healthy DNA and a good family life. Now is the time for us to step up to challenges and opportunities before us as a vibrant coalition of Southern Baptist churches. As long as the Lord Jesus tarries in His return, may we be ever more committed as a Gospel partnership to strengthen and mobilize churches to make disciples and plant churches among our neighbors and the nations.

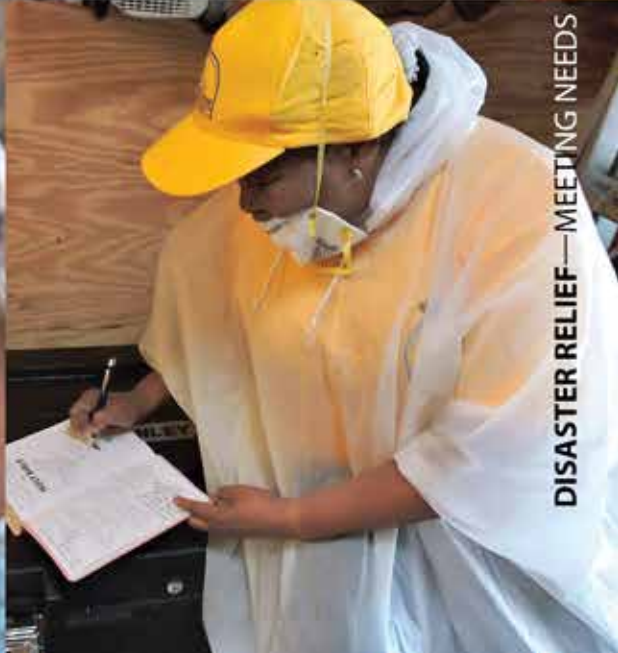
I close with the words I heard Doyle Chauncey say in 1996, as they still ring true 20 years later: *"Let's work together until Jesus comes, always in His strength, always for His glory. Together we can make a difference in Virginia and beyond! And in the end it will truly be worth it all to have given our time, resources, and individual loyalty to the One who gives us eternal and abundant life through His Son, Jesus Christ."* ~ Doyle Chauncey, September 16, 1996, SBCV Annual Meeting

A stylized signature of Brian Autry in black ink.

Brian Autry  
Executive Director, SBC of Virginia

NEPAL—REBUILDING AND BRINGING HOPE





REFUGEES—FLEEING OPPRESSION

MIXTECO—AN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP IN RICHMOND

MISSION FIELD—PACIFIC BASIN

BIBLES—FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

MONTREAL—REACHING THE LOST

ACTS 1:8 NETWORKS—SHARING THE GOSPEL

DISASTER RELIEF—MEETING NEEDS

**1985**  
3 Fellowship Groups  
conservative pastors  
met in 3 fellowship  
groups with no  
statewide  
conservative  
organization or  
networking



**1989**  
First Annual Virginia Bible  
Conference  
approximately 410 were present  
at the first Bible Conference held  
in Salem, VA



**1990**  
Second Annual Virginia Bible Conference  
the second conference was held at Grove  
Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.  
The keynote speaker was Dr. Adrian  
Rogers.



**1995**  
Study Group  
Formed  
the Executive  
Board of the  
SBCV formed a  
special study  
group to  
research the  
options and  
possibilities of  
forming a new  
state convention



**1997**  
SBCV Constitution  
Ratified

1985

1990

1995

2000

**1988**  
The Baptist Banner Launched  
to keep Virginia Baptists  
informed of issues. *The Baptist  
Banner*, with T.C. Pinckney as  
editor, was launched



**1993**  
Vote Approved to Form Fellowship  
on January 28, 1993, over 1,000  
people from 217 churches met at  
Old Forest Road Baptist Church in  
Lynchburg and voted to form a  
fellowship (not a convention) to be  
called the Southern Baptist  
Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV)



**1993**  
Official Launch  
In September of 1993,  
almost 400 gathered at  
Grove Avenue Baptist  
Church to officially launch the  
fellowship of Southern Baptist  
Conservatives of Virginia



**1996**  
First Executive Director  
in March 1996, Dr. Doyle  
Chauncey was confirmed  
unanimously as the first  
full-time executive director



**1996**  
Fellowship to State  
Convention  
in September 1996, the  
group met at Grove  
Avenue BC and voted for  
the fellowship to become  
a state convention,  
comprised of 469  
registered messengers  
from 91 churches



**2000**  
Decentralization  
put forth at the annual meeting  
Grove Avenue Baptist Church  
a recommendation for  
decentralization and deployment  
state missionaries in ministry and



**2001**  
in November  
Disaster Relief  
start serving



**1996**  
Acknowledged by the  
SBC Executive Committee  
in October 1996, the Southern  
Baptist Convention Executive  
Committee acknowledged the SBC  
of Virginia as a new state convention



**1996**  
Church Planting begins  
the SBC of Virginia begins its  
efforts for planting churches

Strong Churches  
with a Bold Commitment  
to the Great Commission



**2000**

**Liberty University partners with SBCV**  
Liberty University creates a partnership with the SBCV, providing scholarships for members of SBCV churches and allowing the convention to have two members on the Liberty Board of Directors.



**2002**

**Decentralization Adopted**  
Ministry areas, each with a church enrichment missionary and a church planting strategist



**2003**

**6 Ministry Areas**  
decentralization increased to 6 ministry areas

**2006**

**10 Years Old**  
SBCV celebrates 10 years as a state convention

**2007**

**CP Goal Surpassed**  
in 2007.  
Cooperative Program gifts surpassed \$9,000,000



**innovative faith resources**

*Watch your vision take flight*

**2011**

**New Offices**  
the SBCV moved into its new Ministry Support Center (debt free)

**2011**

**Media Entity Launched**  
the SBCV created Innovative Faith Resources as a ministry resource service

**2012**

**Leadership Change**  
at its spring 2012 meeting, the Executive Board unanimously and enthusiastically voted for Dr. Brian Autry to be the next executive director. Autry began in his new role on May 16.

**2014**

**Urban Feeding Unit**  
unit purchased that served over 3,000 meals in the first 60 days

**2016**

**Virginia Fuge Week**  
in partnership with Lifeway, a record number of students will be attending this new camp experience at Liberty University

**2015**

**Vision Virginia**  
state missions offering for Vision Virginia surpasses \$250,000

**2014**

**First Empowered Conference**

**2005**

**2010**

**2015**

**2001**  
tion  
g at  
was  
the  
st of  
reas

**2003**

**NAMB partners with SBCV**  
a partnership is formed for church planting in the Greater DC area



**North American Mission Board**



**2008**

**Leadership Change**  
at its spring 2008 meeting, the Executive Board unanimously and enthusiastically approved the search committee's recommendation for Dr. Jeff Ginn to serve as the new executive director (succeeding the retiring Doyle Chauncey).

**2006**

**7 Ministry Areas**  
in July 2006, SBCV moved to 7 ministry areas



**2014**

**First Prayer Summit**

**2014**

**701 Salvation Decisions**  
as a result of the collection of backpacks for Appalachia

**2013**

**SBCV Mapping Center Created**

**2013**

**First Hispanic Conference**

**2005**

**Eagle Awards**  
79 Eagle Awards were given to churches sponsoring church plants



**2002**

**Disaster Relief**  
2002, SBCV relief volunteers working in the field



**2006**

**500 Churches**  
SBCV reaches a milestone in 2006 with 500 churches having affiliated with the convention

**2006**

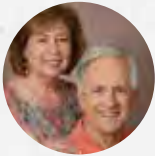
**100 Church Plants**  
by the year 2006, 100 church plants had been started



# Happy Anniversary!

Sharon and I are looking forward to attending SBCV's Annual Homecoming this November in Roanoke to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SBCV. This will be our first visit back to Virginia since we moved to Florida in 2014, and we are excited to return to celebrate what God has done and continues to do through the churches of the SBCV.

It seems like only yesterday that the SBCV was founded and organized as a state convention.



Many critics predicted that the convention would not last, but God had another plan. Not only did the SBCV survive, it thrived. Today, there are many more churches, and the future is

brighter for even greater impact and ministry advancement. We rejoice in what God has done in the last 20 years and can't wait to see what God has in store for SBCV in the future.

We have a deep love and appreciation for the SBCV and SBCV churches. We are indeed grateful for the people who touched our lives in such a meaningful and significant way. We hope many of you are planning to attend Annual Homecoming. We plan to be there, and there is no better place to make or renew friendships than to attend SBCV Homecoming.

Your friends,

*Doyle and Sharon Chauncey*

Happy Anniversary, SBCV! Twenty years of Kingdom building is a significant milestone. Nell and I send our warmest greetings and highest commendation for all that the Lord has done through the united efforts of the churches of the SBCV across the past two decades.

The vantage point from which I view the SBCV is unique. I have had the privilege of being a pastor within its fellowship, a board member, an officer, and a staff member.



The more intimate my connection to it, the better it has always looked! Now, although we cheer you on from a distance, we still feel the "ties that bind our hearts in Christian love."

From you I take courage, faith, and innovation. In each of these you are pioneers and pacesetters. The effects of your efforts are felt locally and globally. Should Jesus tarry His coming, may the next 20 years be even more fruitful than the past!

In a few scant months, the SBCV will gather in Roanoke for the 2016 Annual Homecoming. Dr. Autry has extended to Nell and me an invitation to join you there. Thank you, Brian! Nell and I can hardly wait! The celebration will, no doubt, be glorious and a foretaste of that greatest of all homecomings soon to come!

*Jeff and Nell Ginn*

When I began serving with the SBCV, the convention was just four years old. I was attracted to the idea of a church planting convention where churches were planting churches in order to fulfill the Great Commission.

Shortly after my arrival in Virginia, we began a process of reorganization, which resulted in the decentralization of the ministry. We rejected the idea of a large bureaucracy in Richmond and instead put the missionaries in



the field near the churches. It was an idea ahead of its time! State conventions across the US have looked to the SBCV as a model, as they have had to move towards decentralization.

I am grateful for the tremendous team of missionaries that God put together, many of whom continue to serve the churches today. It was the highest performing team I have ever been a part of.

Looking ahead to the next decade, in which formal relationships are being replaced by informal networks, my prayer is that the network of relationships between the churches will remain strong, innovative, and effective as they partner to fulfill the Great Commission in Virginia, North America, and to the ends of the earth. May God keep His hand on the missionaries and churches of the SBCV and may the miracles continue! God bless Dr. Autry, the missionaries, and the churches of the SBCV.

*Geoff and Debbie Hammond*

## Through the Years

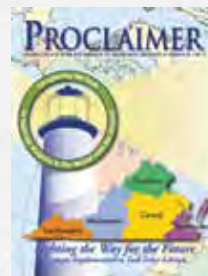
with the *Proclaimer*, the flagship communication piece of the SBC of Virginia

1998



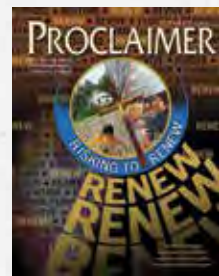
*Proclaimer* is launched

2002



from newsletter to magazine (page count 16)

2004



Awarded *Best in Print* from PIVA (readership avg 8.5k)

2005



new look and a move from events-driven to storytelling

2009



a bold change in cover appearance (page count 24)

2011



new look, plus a page size increase: 9" x 10.875"

2012



online library created and paid advertising begins (readership avg 16.5k)

2015



cover change (page count 36, readership avg 19k)



1993



2003



2006



2014



2002



2002



2009



visionvirginia

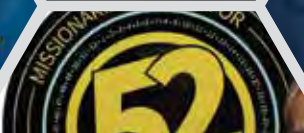
2016 Week of Prayer  
& Offering for State Missions  
SEPTEMBER 18-25, 2016

ENDING THE MISSION  
FORCE OF VIRGINIA  
\$275,000  
100% OFFER

SBC of VIRGINIA  
ANNUAL 2016  
HOMECOMING



2011



2003



2003



2004



2005



2006



2007



August 7-8th, 2008  
Liberty Baptist Church  
Hampton, VA

SBCV STUDENTZ



2013



2012



March 11, 2014  
Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton





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Bold Commitment to the  
Great Commission

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# PRAYER for Church Planters

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

If you grew up in church, you probably heard men and women come from foreign mission fields and quote Romans 10:15, “And how are they to preach unless they are sent?” (ESV). They would use this verse to speak of their need for partners who would support them and their ministry through prayer, personal involvement, and financial support. It was certainly appropriate to quote this verse from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Roman believers. If anyone knew about going on missionary journeys and needing a support

team, it was Paul. He knew that the only way to reach the world with the Gospel was with the body of Christ involving everyone—those who would go and those who would serve as senders.

Paul also asked, “How are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Rom. 10:14, ESV). Yes, there must be a preacher—a missionary, a pastor, an evangelist, a church planter, or a lay person—someone who is a proclaimer of the Good News. “And how are they to preach unless they are sent?” (10:15, ESV). Paul pointed out that there are others

besides those who go who must be involved in reaching the world for Christ—those who are serving as senders. Senders are equally important. In the SBC of Virginia, we call these churches and folks partners!

The church planters/missionaries shown below and every other SBCV church planter has a critical need for strong partners who will assist in fulfilling the Great Commission. Will you or your family, community group, or church partner with one of these couples in fulfilling God’s call to plant a strong, healthy church?



pray for

## The Santamaría Family

Raúl, Marisol, Sara, Mia, and Samantha

CHURCH PLANTER

**Iglesia Bíblica  
Bautista Emanuel**

MEETING AT

21770 Beaumeade Circle #140  
Ashburn, VA 20147

**BIRTHDAYS:** Raúl (February 3), Marisol (July 27)

### PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for a different place to meet that would better accommodate and meet our needs.

Pray for partners to intercede on our behalf so that we might have an effective ministry in all of our church ministries and outreach.

Pray for our Theological Institute that is re-opening this year.

### HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- New ministry partners are needed for involvement and financial giving
- Laborers are needed to help the church reach its Jerusalem



pray for

## The Connelly Family

Rob, Ashley, Jimmy, Joshua, Hannah, and Ruth

CHURCH PLANTER

**Uptown Church**

MEETING AT

33 West Main Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**BIRTHDAYS:** Rob (September 9), Ashley (December 15)

### PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for the new believers in our fellowship to grow in Christ.

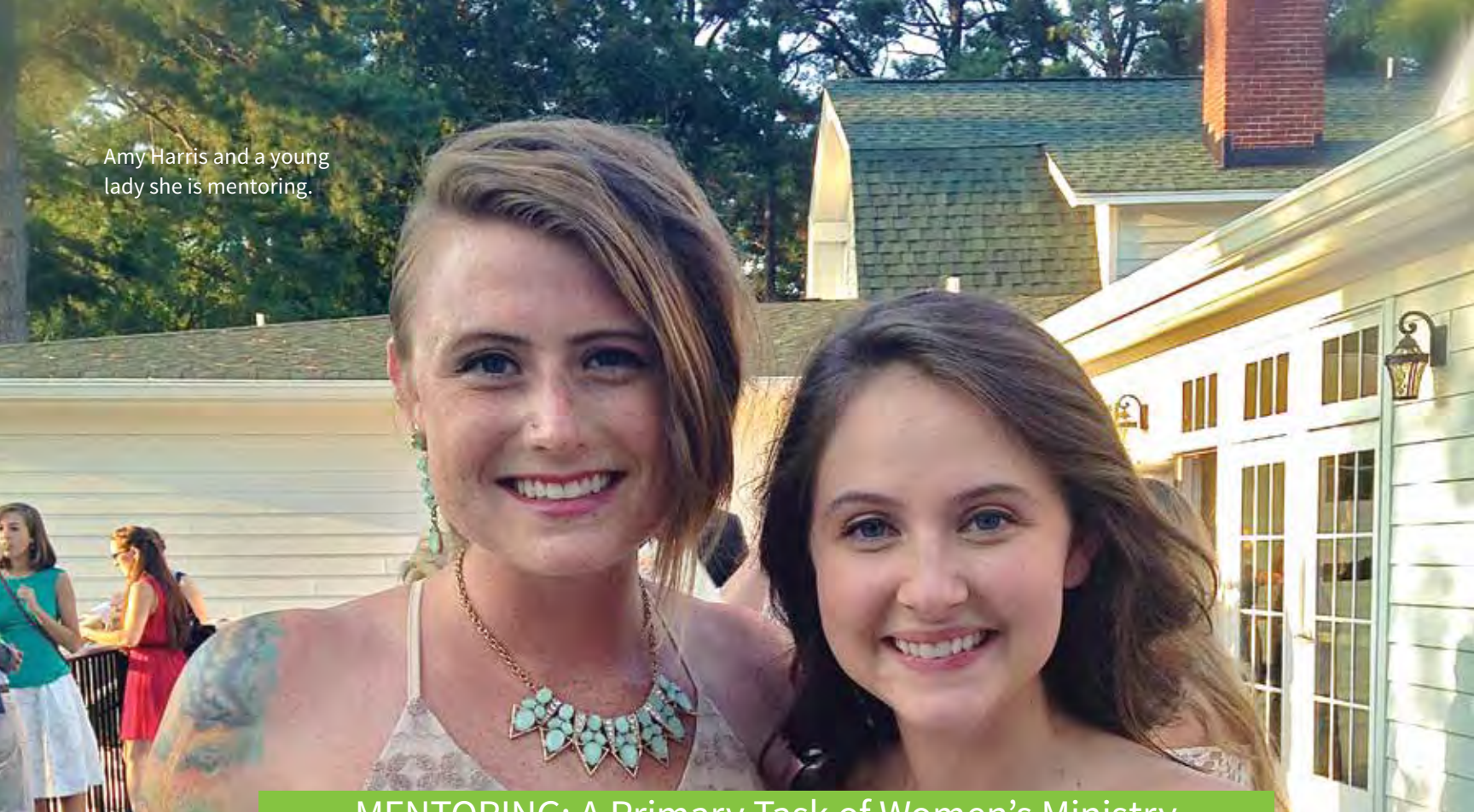
Pray for God to provide new partner churches and individuals to stand with us.

Pray for continued opportunities for us to reach the lost in our area.

### HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- New churches and individuals are needed to partner with us and invest in our ministry financially
- Committed prayer partners are needed

Amy Harris and a young lady she is mentoring.



## MENTORING: A Primary Task of Women's Ministry



# Mentoring FOR SUPPORT AND GROWTH

**W**hen Donna Paulk began her role as the Women's Ministry strategist for the SBC of Virginia, she confessed that she was overwhelmed with the task of supporting Women's Ministry for over 600 churches. Donna was excited, but said she wondered if she could do the job. Within months, however, God sent a mature Christian woman whose experience, insight, and emotional support greatly encouraged her as she began this new chapter in her life.

### Mentoring Provides Support

This mature Christian woman was Lisa Bryant, former Women's Ministry

director for Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, and her support was critical and timely. Lisa prayed for Donna and gave her invaluable counsel for her new role. God used Lisa to equip Donna to fulfill her calling as a Women's Ministry strategist.

### Essential for Growth

The goal in sanctification—becoming progressively more and more like Christ—is the same for every Christian. However, the road of sanctification is not the same. Donna said that her road has been a mixture of joy and pain. She has

experienced the joys of marriage and parenting and has faced the devastation of the death of a child. Donna has experienced times when money was not really a problem and times of financial



*Lisa Bryant and her husband, Mike*

stress. Throughout it all, one thing remained constant: God has sent older godly women as messengers of hope to stand with her through the good times and difficult times. During each season of her life, they reminded Donna of God's truth. The Holy Spirit used the truths these ladies shared with her to grow her in the likeness of Christ.

## God's Strategy

Titus 2:3-5 makes this abundantly clear:

*Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

— Titus 2:3-5, ESV

In light of this passage, we must pray for God to give us younger women to mentor in the faith. This has been a constant prayer of Donna's for 20 years, and God has always answered this prayer. Donna has watched young women grow in their relationship with Christ and then go on to help other women grow in their relationship with Christ. First, we start as a spiritual mother to one. Then our influence grows as that one becomes a spiritual mother to another. When this happens, we become spiritual grandmothers and great-grandmothers. If Women's Ministries are to thrive in the future, mentoring/discipleship must continue to be the primary task of the ministry. In this way, we can build future leaders who will shape ministries and missions while they live out the love of God in the world.

## For All Ages

### AMY'S STORY

*"During my last several years of college, I attended an all-women's Bible study.*



*The leader, an incredible, godly woman, mentored me throughout those years. She would invite me over on weekdays, and we would drink coffee and talk. Her main goal was to serve me, so she listened, prayed, and offered advice and encouragement.*

*"Now, as a leader at Aletheia Norfolk, I continue to receive mentorship and mentor other women through discipleship (Matthew 22:36-40; 28:18-20). These relationships are intentional, filled with prayer, accountability, learning, and encouragement, and a time to grow in Christ together through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*"As a young leader of women, I would like to encourage all women to approach these intentional relationships with a disciple's heart, free of judgment and filled with love. It's important to avoid the mindset of wanting to 'fix' a fellow sister—we can't 'fix' people. But you can be bold and let the Lord work through you, with the power of the Holy Spirit, as you disciple other women by intentionally serving, listening, praying, and learning together."*

Amy Henderson Harris has a deep love for teaching, learning, music, and creativity. She currently gets paid to live out one of her passions—teach elementary-aged students! Amy serves alongside her brothers and sisters in Christ at Aletheia Norfolk, where she

has the blessing of co-leading the Music Ministry with her husband, Jackson. By faithfully using her gifts, Amy encourages and empowers women to seek Christ, to be grounded in His truth and Word, and to live a bold life, obedient to His calling.



## RESOURCE

WEBSITE: [sbcv.org/women](http://sbcv.org/women)

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP RETREAT**  
**AUGUST 5-6**  
International Learning Center  
Rockville, VA

For info or to register, go online to: [sbcv.org/women](http://sbcv.org/women)

# CANCER MOM

Susan B. Parris is a mother, pastor's wife, and cancer survivor. At the age of 34, Susan received a breast cancer diagnosis that turned her life upside down.



**Cancer is a great teacher,  
but God is the ultimate  
Promise Keeper.**

Susan B. Parris is married to Dr. Stan Parris, who is the senior pastor of Franklin Heights Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, VA. Stan and Susan have been serving churches in Virginia for the past 20 years. Besides her role as a mom and wife, Susan is the vice president and marketing director of TruPoint Bank. She roots for the University of Georgia, where she graduated cum laude.

## Excerpt from *Cancer Mom*

*Have you ever felt regret after making a decision? Stan and I thought that our opportunity to move was perfect for us to fulfill our goals for our family and for our careers. But, through Haggai, God told us to stay where we were. Instead of building a new house for myself, God's plan for us was to help build a new church in Vansant. I didn't understand this decision at the time. I felt dreary and empty, like the cold, February weather. I'd been saving a new pair of shoes I'd bought to wear on our first Sunday at the new church. Now I walked into worship at Vansant wearing those shoes, feeling like a great opportunity had just walked by my life. Soon, however, I would discover the power of God's sovereignty. He had a plan. He always does. This experience was building a foundation to teach me two truths about life. One, God's Word is powerful and He speaks to us through His Word. Second, friends are essential in the journey of life. I would need both*

*in just a few short months. God would once again speak to me through an Old Testament prophet and use my deep friendships in utterly amazing ways. Eight months after making the decision to stay at Vansant, I heard the words I'll never forget, words no human being wants to hear. Earlier the doctor had said, "You have nothing to worry about." But on October 20, 2004, the doctor said, "You have cancer."*

At 34, Susan had just gotten her children settled into kindergarten and preschool when she received a breast cancer diagnosis that turned her life upside down. *Cancer Mom* chronicles her courageous battle with cancer, a clinical trial, and the power of God's presence in her life.

Cancer is a great teacher, but God is the ultimate Promise Keeper.

*Cancer Mom* is available in both paperback and Kindle on Amazon.com. Susan is available to speak to church and civic organizations.



## RESOURCE

**Contact:** Susan Parris

**Email:** [susan.parris@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.parris@yahoo.com)

**Facebook:** *Cancer Mom* by Susan Parris

# CHILDREN ON MISSION

EUCLID AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH IN BRISTOL

## It's never too early

to start teaching children about missions. Thanks to Susan Thompson and other leaders at Euclid Avenue Baptist Church in Bristol, the children there start learning about missions at an early age. "Ms. Susan teaches us about missions each week," says Payne, a young boy in her class.

Over the years, many of the children have come to Susan to share that God has laid a burden on their heart to reach those who are hurting. Last spring, four boys—Payne, Harrison, Philip, and Eli—told her God wanted them to pack bags of food for the homeless. Susan told the boys she would pray and that they should pray to see if this was what God was saying. The next week, they came back to her again about this calling. They had even come up with a name for their ministry—"Fantastic Food Supply."

"Sometimes adults dismiss children when they come to them with ideas," notes Susan, "but [I've realized] over the years that God speaks to the hearts of children as well." These boys knew the Lord was speaking to them.

Payne explains, "You can drive down through Bristol and



see homeless people digging in the trash, and they need food of some sort and they need Jesus in their lives. So we thought we needed to do something." After seeing the need, the boys started planning how they could meet it.

Harrison recalls, "We started Fantastic Food because we felt God wanted us to help others...[and] when we see someone who is hurting, God tells us to go and help them and to not worry about ourselves."

Their vision was shared with the church, and members young and old immediately began bringing food. The donations were then collected, bagged, and distributed to the homeless. Harrison

shares, "We put Bible verses in the bags, and we hope they will come to know Jesus."

Eli was excited to participate in the distribution. "I actually got to go give them the food bags, and they were glad to get it."

Fantastic Food Supply isn't the only way Euclid Avenue's children are serving in missions. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' Sunday School class made

mats for the homeless out of

plastic grocery bags. Audra, a student in the class, shares, "We made [the mats] because our Sunday School teacher, Ms. Kim, said there were lots of homeless people in our area sleeping on the ground. So, for one of our service projects, we decided to crochet mats for them to sleep on. ...We do

missions projects so we can help people who are in need and tell them about Jesus."

Solomon tells us in Proverbs 22:6 to "Train up a child in the way he should go..." Let's apply Solomon's words of wisdom and train our children to be on mission. It is never too early to begin.



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



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# Taking the **GOOD NEWS** TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

by Cheryl Chadwick

## Imagine the joy

in watching a room full of excited children hearing the Good News of Jesus! Their enthusiasm is contagious as they sing and do motions to high-energy Christian music. They laugh and lose their breath as they participate in a relay race that teaches them a Bible verse. They take a seat and listen attentively to Bible and missions lessons through vibrant illustrations projected on the wall. Finally, the children get back on their feet for an action-packed review game that helps them remember and apply the eternal biblical truths they just learned.

Where do you think this room full of excited children is located? Children's Church? Vacation Bible School? No, this is all happening as part of a Good News Club (or GNC) in the gymnasium of a public school!

The concept of Good News Clubs was developed by Child Evangelism Fellowship, a ministry dedicated to reaching children for Christ. GNCs are becoming increasingly more common across America with over 6,000 clubs formed since the early 2000s. The SBC of Virginia reaches

thousands of children each week through 42 clubs sponsored by 30 SBCV churches.

GNCs' purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel, disciple them in the Word of God to strengthen their moral and spiritual growth, and get them involved in a local church. Many Christians may be surprised to learn that churches can spread the Gospel at a public school. Thanks to the Supreme Court's decision in 2001, Christian clubs are allowed to meet after hours in public schools on the same terms as other community groups. "We have the opportunity," says Mat Staver, founder and president of the Liberty Counsel, "to take the undiluted Gospel into the public school." GNCs present a powerful and remarkable opportunity we should not take for granted."

"Serving in Children's Ministry 20 years, I've been involved with many beneficial children's programs. But the Good News Club is different," says David Short, children's pastor at

**Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg.** "The Good News Club isn't a program, it's a movement. Spotswood started its first GNC five years ago with six children at the first meeting. There are currently 1,000 children each week attending GNCs in the Fredericksburg area in over a dozen public elementary schools. The only way to explain the Good News Club phenomenon in Fredericksburg is to say that we are witnessing a great movement of God."

Michael Fitzgerald, senior pastor at **Clifford Baptist Church in Amherst**, shares the same excitement. "I have been the pastor at this church for 33 years, and this is one of the greatest ministries I have seen." Clifford Baptist's GNC has seen many children saved and a number of them baptized. The church has also started a van ministry to pick up GNC children for Sunday services, and some of the children's families have become regular attenders.

**Bermuda Baptist Church in Chester** has also sponsored a Good News Club. "GNC is the vehicle that allows the Gospel to be shared in our public schools," shares Pastor Pete Hypes. Even teachers have seen a difference in the children. "[I have seen] firsthand," says the school's art teacher, "the difference that the Good News Club has made. It has blessed our children over the past three

years with Bible stories, songs, fun activities, and prayer. [The volunteers] have taught the children the importance of respect, forgiveness, and goodwill towards others, and this has had a positive effect on how they relate to their peers at school."

**Enon Baptist Church in Chester** runs two weekly Good News Clubs, reaching 150 children. Scott Gilchrist, associate pastor for children, recognizes that because the majority of children are not connected to a church, GNCs provide a great opportunity to share the Gospel with children who may not otherwise hear it. In the past three years, Enon's GNCs have had 30 children come forward to discuss their salvation and 20 to 30 children have visited the church. Enon has even had the blessing of baptizing three of its Good News Clubbers.

"Most recently," says Pastor Gilchrist, "we gave Bibles to every child in the club. It was absolutely wonderful to see the joy in the kids' faces and voices as they held their Bibles. Kids who had never had a Bible came back the next week and excitedly talked about how they had been reading it. To have some of the children say that they had read some of it with their parents, which they had not done before, was the best. It has been awesome to have all of the kids singing out praises to the Lord at the beginning of every club. One of the memories that I will always hold is the prayer culture that has developed. There was a teacher from one of the schools who was diagnosed with cancer. At the end of club, several of the students got together, formed



a circle, and just started praying for her to be healed. This was not led by adults; it was led by the elementary children. We have many parents who stay and sit with their children through the club and become regular attenders.”

**Monumental Baptist Church in Petersburg** has been involved with a Good News Club that meets in the mornings before school begins in Prince George County. Duane Guridy, associate pastor of music, shared a story from one of the volunteers. This volunteer will never forget the time a fourth grader told her that she had been begging her parents and grandparents to take her to church but they never would. She asked if the Good News Club could “count” as her church. This volunteer has also had the pleasure of helping a student accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. “God has done so many amazing things in our club,” she says, “and even though I may groan when the alarm goes off at 5 AM on Friday morning, there is no place I’d rather be.”

**Nansemond River Baptist Church in Suffolk**, which sponsors GNCs at four elementary schools, saw up to 12 children make a personal decision for Christ in one year. These children have been vigilant in spending time with God each day through a “quiet time quest.” Nansemond River uses its clubs as an outreach tool by inviting each unchurched family to church services and special events.

One of the most recent SBCV churches to get involved in the Good News Club ministry is **Parkway Baptist Church in Moseley**. Although Parkway just started its club this past October, they already have 40 children attending. Even better, within the first few weeks, two children prayed to make Christ their Savior, and many others came forward to ask questions and

reaffirm their faith.

Not only are the participating churches energized through the clubs, the children and families impacted are excited and grateful. One mother said her son loves getting up every Friday to go to GNC. Since he started attending, his manners have improved, and he has even taught his parents things about God. He loves his new friends at GNC, and it’s the highlight of his week.

A third grader who attended GNC recently made the comment, “I like [Good News Club] because we get to learn about God and how he died for us. Plus, it’s just fun.” Another child, who comes from a difficult home situation, said about GNC, “These are the best days of my life!”

For children from Christian families, learning about God at GNC helps them realize they are not the only believers in their school. For other children, GNCs are the first opportunity they’ve had to hear the Gospel. After hearing the story of Jesus, one eight-year-old asked, “What is a cross?”

GNCs provide churches with cost-effective outreach and discipleship opportunities, and help is readily available from Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) if you are interested in participating in this great mission opportunity. “CEF can provide a strategic plan, materials, training, support, and mentoring,” says John Luck, the state board chairman for CEF. “[CEF] can also contact the school, provide liability insurance, and conduct background checks for your club.”

If you are ready to see children’s lives changed and churches grow through Good News Clubs, contact Amy Haines (contact information below).

Let’s share the Good News of Jesus Christ with children and their families!



## RESOURCE

Amy Haines, Local CEF Director  
amyahaines@gmail.com | (804) 690-8763

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- A  
B  
C

**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.”*

**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.**

# A Miracle IN THE HARVEST



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## SOUL FOOD MINISTRY

*feeding the hungry*

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Looking over the harvest field of thousands of Spanish-speaking people in the vicinity of Woodstock, VA (12% of the town's population), Pastor Banks Swanson's heart became burdened. He wondered how his predominately Anglo congregation at Shenandoah Community Fellowship could reach them with the Gospel. Pastor Banks shares, "I would hate to stand before God knowing that our church did not do something to reach these people with the love of Jesus."

In January of 2012, Shenandoah Community Fellowship began Soul Food Ministry. God gave church member Kara Miller a desire to help feed the hungry beyond the church's annual Christmastime outreach. Kara explains,

*Over the past four years, the Soul Food Ministry has grown from serving 35-50 meals once a month at the church to delivering 400 meals twice a month to folks in need! Through the gifts to the SBC of Virginia Vision Virginia Offering, God has multiplied our efforts to minister to our community. While we were on deliveries to these lower income neighborhoods, it became apparent that though there was a great need for physical food, there was an even greater need for*

*spiritual food for one particular group in the community—the Hispanic population. The food that we delivered twice a month was simply a key to open a door to a greater purpose—being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing the world His love.*

A burden for the Hispanic community drove not only Pastor Banks but other SBC of Virginia pastors in the Shenandoah area to join in prayer. They prayed for six months that the Lord of the harvest (Luke 10:2b) would send a Hispanic man of God to partner with them to reach Spanish-speaking people with the Gospel. God answered their prayer through a family from the Shenandoah area who had met a godly Cuban couple 13 years prior while on mission in that country.

Through a number of amazing circumstances, God brought Manuel and Yuneisy Ferradas to the United States and eventually to the Shenandoah area. Pastor Manuel recalls, “We started thinking about coming to the US in 2013, but the impossibility in human eyes was big, [but] God gave us the visas when human hands were short and the impossibility was huge.” The Lord led Manuel and Yuneisy to join Shenandoah Community Fellowship, where they immediately became involved in the Soul Food Ministry, helping deliver meals.

Pastor Banks and the church family embraced this precious couple as their own family and supported their call to plant a Hispanic church. After completing the immigration process, Manuel and Yuneisy launched Valle de Dios Iglesia Bautista Hispana (Valley of God Hispanic Baptist Church) on the afternoon of Sunday, April 12, 2015 at Shenandoah Community Fellowship.

By knocking on doors with Pastor Banks, Pastor Manuel was able to meet Spanish-speaking people, build relationships with them, and show them Christ’s love. Prior to the first service at Valle de Dios, he had more than 80 contacts with whom he was sharing the Gospel.



Pastor Manuel baptizing

Although this infant church may only have 12–25 in attendance on a Sunday afternoon, the miracle of salvation has already come to this small congregation. In early 2016, all four members of the Rodríguez family confessed Jesus as Lord and were baptized by Pastor Manuel.

Miranda Rodríguez shares her family’s story:

*We met this church through the granddaughter of Pastor Banks Swanson and began a friendship with them. After the arrival of Manuel and Yuneisy, we came and began to hear the teachings of the Gospel. Although we had heard it on other occasions, it was not until now that we took the step of commitment in our faith accepting Christ as our Lord.*

*We like to go to the church family on Sunday because we are filled with joy to hear the Word and share in giving thanks to God for all the things He has done for us. It is a great joy to go to [Valley de Dios] Hispanic Baptist Church. It doesn’t matter that we are just a few in number, we are still in the presence of God.*

The Rodríguezes are growing and sharing their faith with others where they work, live, and play.

“Every Spanish speaker in Woodstock knows Manuel,” says Pastor Banks. Shenandoah Community Fellowship and Valle de Dios have gained the reputation in the area as “the ones who deliver food” and care for their community. God is glorifying Himself through this miracle in the harvest fields of the Hispanic population in Woodstock.

Please join Shenandoah Community Fellowship and Valle de Dios in praying that harvest will continue.

PRAY that the Lord will continue to expand the Soul Food Ministry.

PRAY that Valle de Dios Iglesia Bautista Hispana will continue to make disciples.

PRAY that the Lord will multiply the two churches’ efforts through new small groups being planted to reach the Hispanic population in the Shenandoah area.

If you are burdened over the ethnic population outside the doors of your church and desire a partnership to reach them with the Gospel, contact Larry Black, SBC of Virginia’s church planting people group strategist (lblack@sbcv.org).

## Familia Rodríguez

Conocimos de la Iglesia por medio de la nieta del pastor Banks Swanson y comenzamos cierta amistad con ellos. Luego de la llegada de Manuel y Yuneisy nos fueron presentados y comenzamos a escuchar las enseñanzas del evangelio. Aunque habíamos escuchado en otras ocasiones no fue hasta ahora que dimos un paso de compromiso en nuestra fe aceptando a Cristo como nuestro Señor.

Nos gusta ir a la Iglesia en familia los domingos porque nos sentimos llenos de alegría al escuchar la palabra y compartimos dándole gracias a Dios por todas las cosas que ha hecho por nosotros. Es una alegría tan grande ir a la Iglesia Bautista Hispana no importa los poquitos que somos porque a los ojos de Dios somos mucho y El está en medio de nosotros.

### RESOURCE

WEBSITE: [vallededios.org](http://vallededios.org)

## 2016 Virginia & DC VISION TOURS

### DATES & LOCATIONS

**JULY 6-7** **HAMPTON & NEWPORT NEWS**  
Deer Park Baptist Church  
NEWPORT NEWS, VA

**AUG. 4** **CLINTWOOD**  
Huddle House  
CLINTWOOD, VA

**SEPT. 8** **WYTHEVILLE**  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
WYTHEVILLE, VA

**SEPT. 12-13** **METRO DC & NOVA**  
Pillar Church of Woodlawn  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

**SEPT. 14-15** **CHESAPEAKE, NORFOLK, PORTSMOUTH, & VA BEACH**  
The Village Church of Portsmouth  
PORTSMOUTH, VA

**SEPT. 19-20** **SHORT PUMP & MANAKIN-SABOT**  
SBC of Virginia  
GLEN ALLEN, VA

**SEPT. 21** **METRO DC & I-95 CORRIDOR**  
Image Church  
WOODBIDGE, VA

**OCT. 25-26** **COLONIAL HEIGHTS, HOPEWELL, & PETERSBURG**  
Bermuda Baptist Church  
CHESTER, VA

**OCT. 27-28** **METRO DC BELTWAY**  
Calvary Road Baptist Church  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

The Virginia and DC Vision Tours are designed to assist churches and potential church planters in experiencing firsthand 10 prioritized communities where people are underserved with the Gospel and new churches are needed.

To register, visit  
[sbcv.org/vadcvisiontours](http://sbcv.org/vadcvisiontours)



# Without Walls

When the Lord Jesus commissioned the early disciples to be His witnesses, He not only intended them to go around the world but also across the street to their Jerusalem. Jesus never intended His followers to stay within the confines of the church building. He envisioned a church without walls.

Menchville Baptist Church in Newport News is seeking to be such a church. Pastor Jim Weston had a unique vision to reach the community—a vision with three purposes:

**MEET** a heartfelt need  
**INVOLVE** as many members as possible  
**IMPACT** the community

From this desire came an evangelistic emphasis to reach the first responders of their city.



For two days last August, 800 gift bags were delivered to every Newport News police officer, firefighter, EMT, and 911 dispatcher by Menchville's church members, who prayed with and for the recipients they met. These were moments of great encouragement for those who lay their lives down daily to protect and serve their community.

Jesus never intended His followers to stay within the confines of the church building.

The project began months before with hundreds of members of Menchville working as a team to prepare for the community event. There were those who donated items or money to purchase items. There were those who stuffed gift bags with gum, bottled water, applesauce, nabs, cookies, raisins, Mentos, candy bars, Cheez-It crackers, a granola bar, tissues, and a business card that included the church's information and a Bible verse. There were also those who delivered the gift bags.

Having policemen and firemen within the congregation proved helpful in gaining access to reach the community's first responders.

The recipients could not have been more grateful. The chief of police and fire chief each sent a special letter of thanks for Menchville's kindness and support. One precinct even sent a thank-you card signed by all of the officers. There were also Facebook posts from grateful hearts, including the following:

*Thank you, Menchville Baptist Church, for taking time out of your day and dropping off a bag of thanks to all of the officers. They also shared a prayer with us asking God to provide wisdom and safety to us. Their love and support are greatly appreciated in light of the current state of our nation and the misguided few who wish to make war against society and its police. Thanks again and God bless you, Menchville Baptist!*

*Menchville Baptist Church stopped by the station today to pray for us and to drop off a goody bag for every detective/officer. My bag is looking a little light due to me emptying out all the chocolate. Wouldn't want that to melt. Thanks, ladies!*

The effects of Menchville's kindness have extended beyond what they expected. Not only were the first responders blessed, the church members who participated were too. Menchville's story has even inspired other churches to do the same. One church in Gloucester is currently making plans to reach out to the first responders in its "Jerusalem."

Menchville Baptist Church is an example of a church without walls, one of reaching out instead of staying in!

## RESOURCE

WEBSITE: [menchvillebaptist.com](http://menchvillebaptist.com)



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# VIRGINIA GLOBAL RESPONSE

## WHEN NEED MEETS GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY

The refugee  
The hungry  
The orphan  
The immigrant

The list could go on and on. Each is an example of a humanitarian need but with an amazing Gospel opportunity.

Josh McDowell once said that at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Baptists split into two camps:

- ① Those who wanted only to preach and share the Gospel with no humanitarian efforts.
- ② Those who wanted to provide humanitarian help with no Gospel witness.

McDowell said that both sides suffered with one side too hard and one side too soft. No spiritual power on one side—no human kindness on the other.

The truth is that we need both sides of that century-old debate. We need the foundation of biblical truth along with the outstretched arm of humanitarian effort.

The biblical examples are numerous. Jesus told those around him over and over that we should not turn our back on those who need us the most.

“... I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.”  
*Matthew 25:40\**

“Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”  
*Matthew 5:42\**

He said to “Give a cup of cold water”... but do it in His name! (*Matthew 10:42; Mark 9:41*)

This is why the SBC of Virginia is starting what is being called Virginia Global Response—a humanitarian effort with an evangelistic purpose. The goal is to share the Good News of the Gospel where God leads—the vehicle is humanitarian efforts. We’ve been doing this locally and nationally through Disaster Relief since 2002. Now we are taking it to the ends of the earth with the help of the SBC and Gospel partners.

We’ve seen again and again what happens when SBC of Virginia churches reach out to the needy in their own backyard or across an ocean.

This summer, a major baptism service for hundreds of former Muslims is being held in Germany at a church where SBCV mission volunteers have been working alongside national church leaders.

In Nepal, a local pastor was able to baptize new believers on land given by village leaders—leaders who, only five years before, persecuted and tortured this pastor. SBCV mission volunteers have been on the ground there since a major earthquake one year ago, and their work has softened the hearts and minds of those who have seen them toil in the soil for so long.

SBCV mission volunteers have been the hands and feet of Jesus on the Greece-Macedonia border since October of 2015. Dozens of former Muslims have come to Christ, and hundreds have been touched by the Gospel as they’ve made their way along the refugee road.

When thinking of Virginia Global Response, think of the Good Samaritan. A man is beaten up by the world and left for dead. A certain Samaritan sees him and makes sure he has medical care and provisions. Wealthy, political, and religious people stay on the other side of the street. They are either too busy or want nothing to do with getting their hands dirty. The Samaritan makes a decision to cross the street and make a personal difference in his life. The Samaritan had no other motivation other than care and love. Oh, and not only does he help his immediate needs, he keeps up with him afterwards. Yes, he does follow-up ministry!

In this parable, he was the only one to care—the only one to help. SBC of Virginia churches, we can be the ones to help and make an eternal difference. We can do it together, and we can start now!

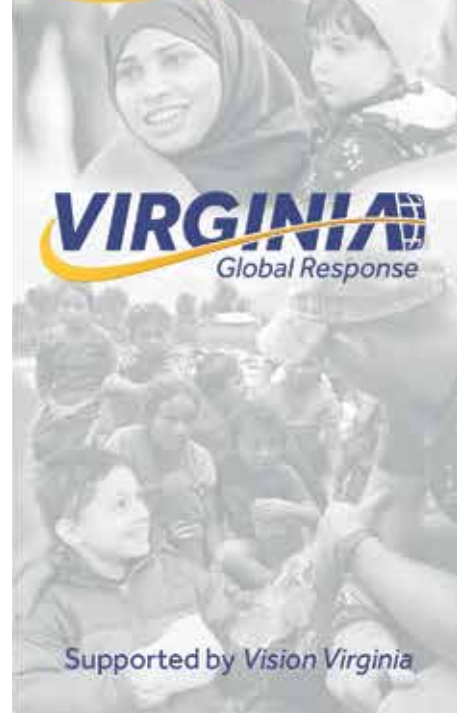
### Virginia Global Response

*God so loved the world!* SBC of Virginia churches are working together to reach Virginia and beyond with the Gospel. We are using God-given opportunities to meet human needs, which will allow us to share the Gospel message. Pray for God to move even more churches to join together to reach the lost in places like Greece, Barcelona, and Nepal...and beyond!

*\*Scripture references are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB).*

Meeting human need around  
the world through God-given  
Gospel opportunities.

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



**VIRGINIA**  
Global Response

Supported by Vision Virginia

## Historic. 2016

That was the word many were using to describe the presidential election at the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis. It started with three candidates.

After the first ballot, it was down to two candidates, Pastor Steve Gaines from Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN and Pastor J.D. Greear from The Summit Church in Raleigh, NC. After the second ballot, there was still no winner because neither candidate received more than 50% (due to some disqualified ballots). That, itself, was historic. But then just before a third vote was taken, Pastor Greear voluntarily withdrew his name and put his support behind Gaines. Greear told the convention that he prayed the night before and believed “We need to leave St. Louis united.” He made the motion for Gaines to be elected by acclamation.

Gaines said he, too, had decided internally Tuesday night to withdraw but agreed to serve as president after a conversation with Greear. “There’s no way God is not doing something in all of this.” Gaines also said, “If the devil was trying to divide us, he failed and failed miserably.”

It truly was a unique moment in SBC history—a moment that shows how we can



from the **EDITOR**

## Brandon Pickett

bpickett@sbcv.org  
facebook.com/brandon.pickett  
@brandonpick

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon".

“If the devil was trying to divide us, he failed and failed miserably.”

unite, not behind a pastor or president, but behind the mission to win souls and share God’s love with a world dying to hear the Good News of salvation. It was another example that what unites us is so much greater than what divides us.

## Historic. 1996

That was the word many used in 1996 when a fellowship of pastors and churches joined together to form the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV). It was the first time something like that had happened in the history of the SBC. What made this movement truly unique, though, was that it wasn’t as much what they were against that caused them to coalesce—it was what they were for. These

pastors and lay leaders didn’t rally around a man. They united around the inerrancy of Scripture and the importance of sharing that message through strengthening churches, supporting missions, and planting churches. They believed that half of all monies given through the Cooperative Program should be



*March 1996, Doyle Chauncey confirmed unanimously as the first full-time Executive Director of the SBCV*

sent to global missions, national missions, and continuing seminary education through the SBC. That relatively small original group has grown to nearly 700 churches. Those foundational principles are still with us today and are even more firmly planted:

**Biblical Truth | Local Church | Global Mission | Gospel Partnership | Fervent Prayer**

The clarion call is still with us, the mission is still before us. The challenges are as great as they were in 1996 but so are the incredible Gospel opportunities. Only God knows what the next 20 years hold, but I’m sure it will be historic.

*More than 7,000 messengers gather at America’s Center in St. Louis for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The theme of the 2016 meeting was Awaken America. Photo by Van Payne, courtesy of Baptist Press.*





**52 SUNDAYS** is a powerful missions resource filled with weekly devotions and highlights of missionaries connected to our SBC Great Commission partners. 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 missionaries.

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



Don't miss out on upcoming events!

[SBCV.ORG/EVENTS](http://SBCV.ORG/EVENTS)



## Calendar

view the online calendar at [sbcv.org/calendar](http://sbcv.org/calendar)

### JULY

*Mission Project:*

**Shoes for Barnabas Global Link (June/July)**

- 4 Independence Day
- 11-15 Fuge Camp Virginia Week (Liberty University, Lynchburg)
- 21 Urban Affinity Meeting
- 28-31 Family Fusion

### AUGUST

*Mission Project:*

**College Connection and Move-In Day**

- 5-6 Women's Ministry Leadership Retreat
- 6-13 Sturgis Bike Giveaway
- 12-13 Church Planter Network – Statewide
- 16 Americas Affinity Meeting
- 26-27 Reaching the Nations in North America

### SEPTEMBER

*Mission Projects:*

**Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia (September/October)**  
**Vision Virginia State Missions Offering**

- 1 Asia Affinity Meeting
- 9-10 PLANT Part A
- 10 Ride for the Unborn
- 13 Revitalization Conference
- 18-25 **Vision Virginia Week of Prayer**
- 22 Church Planter Network – Regional

### OCTOBER

*Mission Project:*

**Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia (September/October)**

- 2 Day of Prayer
- 3-4 Executive Board Meeting
- 6 Church Planter Interviews
- 8 Kidz Blitz (Children's Evangelism Event)
- 14-15 Pastors, Staff, and Wives Retreat
- 21-22 PLANT Part B

### NOVEMBER

*Mission Project:*

**Bibles for Homeless Women (November/December)**

- 12 Crossover Roanoke
- 13-15 Annual Homecoming (First BC, Roanoke)
- 20 Harvest Sunday
- 24 Thanksgiving

**visionvirginia**

Your prayers and gifts through the Cooperative Program and Vision Virginia State Missions Offering enable and empower ministries around Virginia.

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

# Crossover Roanoke

## GIVE THE BEST GIFT OF ALL THIS YEAR

...the gift of sharing the Gospel! Join believers from all over the Commonwealth in the first-ever Crossover event.

A 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a big milestone in anyone's life. And it's no different in the life of the SBC of Virginia. God has been so good to us over these two decades. It's such a joy to see the fellowship, discipleship, and missions activities of the churches of the SBCV continue to grow and develop not just in Virginia but worldwide.

When you celebrate 20 years, there are some traditional gifts that you can give: china, emeralds... even platinum. But what if you were to give the best gift of all this year—the gift of sharing the Gospel? Right before the SBC of Virginia's Annual Homecoming in Roanoke this fall, you will have the opportunity to join believers from all over the Commonwealth in the first-ever Crossover event, Saturday, November 12. You will be assisting local church plants and churches with all kinds of evangelistic activities.

Please make plans now to come to the Roanoke area a little early this year and join us as we blanket the Valley with the Good News of the Gospel!



**CROSSOVER**  
ROANOKE '16

*Share the Gospel.*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**  
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

*Join local church plants and churches as they share Christ's love across Roanoke through door-to-door evangelism, block parties, prayer, motorcycle evangelism, children's puppet ministry, serving free meals, and more.*

*Together we can cover a city in love and transform Roanoke with the Gospel. #NotAlone*

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



ANNUAL 2016  
HOMECOMING

Strong churches  
with a bold commitment  
to the Great Commission

# NOT ALONE

For 20 years, SBC of Virginia churches have partnered together to make disciples and plant churches for Jesus Christ. Join us for an inspiring Annual Homecoming 2016 as we celebrate what God has done and look forward to what He will do through this dynamic fellowship.

You are NOT ALONE.



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH, ROANOKE  
November 13-15, 2016

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

#sbcvhome

featuring



Paige Patterson • Dave Earley • H.B. Charles  
J.D. Payne • Dhati Lewis • Bryan Smith





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4956 Dominion Boulevard  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
888-234-7716 | 804-270-1848  
[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)  
[proclaimer@sbcv.org](mailto:proclaimer@sbcv.org)

OUR MISSION IS TO  
**STRENGTHEN  
& MOBILIZE  
CHURCHES**  
*to MAKE DISCIPLES*  
**& PLANT  
CHURCHES**  
*for JESUS CHRIST  
through GOSPEL  
PARTNERSHIP*

