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PROCLAIMER

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NOT ALONE

contents

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The *Proclaimer* tells about the amazing things God is doing through His Church in Virginia and around the world. It is provided free of charge due to your generous contributions made through the Cooperative Program. To subscribe, go online: sbcv.org/proclaimer

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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Not Alone: More Than a Slogan

In his book, *Going Solo*, sociologist Eric Klinenberg noted the following statistics about the new trend of living alone:

- In America, 32 million people live alone, representing 28 percent of all households.
- In cities like Atlanta, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, and Minneapolis, 40% or more of all households contain a single occupant.
- Five million people in the United States between ages 18 and 34 live alone—10 times more than in 1950.
- The largest category of single people is the middle-aged group (ages 35-64).
- The US is not unique in these trends. In Paris, half of all households contain single people, and in Stockholm, the rate tops 60%.

Klinenberg also notes that this trend of being alone spills over even into

families living together. He writes: “Those in large suburban homes often splinter into private rooms to be alone. The image of a modern family in a room together, each plugged into a separate reality, be it a smart phone, computer, video game, or TV show has become a cultural cliché.”

I understand we can all need some alone time. But the Bible makes it clear that followers of Christ need fellowship. For example, the Apostle John wrote, “that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3, ESV). Likewise, churches benefit from partnership.

Since the New Testament era, church and mission leaders like the Apostle Paul have called upon churches to work together to plant, strengthen, and mobilize churches so that the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the SBC of Virginia as a state Baptist convention, an example of Gospel partnership. We

form a coalition of churches for the Great Commission.

As a Great Commission coalition, we plant churches.

With more than six million lost people in Virginia and Metro Washington, DC, we must work together to increase our disciple-making capacity and plant churches that proclaim the Gospel.

As a Great Commission coalition, we strengthen churches.

Healthy churches and strong leaders are needed to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In an effort to help strengthen the disciple-making capacity of local churches, we are focused on the priorities of leadership development, pastor wellness, and church revitalization as we move forward.

As a Great Commission coalition, we mobilize churches.

The Great Commission involves movement—going. A key to healthy church life and strengthened churches is for churches to be mobilized in Christ’s mission. Mobilizing churches to make disciples of all nations is important because each church can, should, and must obey the Lord’s command to make disciples. Thank you for being a part of this Great Commission coalition. *Not Alone*—it’s more than a slogan!



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Autry".

Brian Autry

Executive Director
SBC of Virginia

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Rising Church

LOVING GOD AND THE COMMUNITY

The mission of **Rising Church**, a church plant in Leesburg, VA, is to love God and the community. Its lead pastor, Jason Lamb, is passionate about sharing the Gospel—both in word and deed—and seeing God transform the people of Leesburg. Jason is no stranger to Northern Virginia. His father, a retired colonel in the US Army, was stationed in Northern Virginia, which is where Jason grew up.

With the mission of planting Rising Church, Jason, Neva, and their three sons moved back to Virginia from Tennessee, where Jason had been serving on staff at a local church. They have seen God move in mighty ways to reach Leesburg. Part of their strategy in reaching their community is to have in-home small groups. The other part of the strategy is to find ways to serve the people of Leesburg. “We have been blessed by several mission teams this summer, who have partnered with us in providing our community with four VBS camps, one sports camp, door-to-door spiritual surveys, block parties, and our Fourth of July Outreach,” says Pastor Jason.

Each year, Rising Church takes a weekend for what they call Love Leesburg (#loveleesburg), an effort designed to directly serve the community with special projects. This year, Love Leesburg included a school supply distribution through which over 100 children were equipped with backpacks and school supplies. The next morning, which was a Sunday, the congregation took on three unique serving opportunities:

- 1 **VISITING RESIDENTS** at a local nursing home,
- 2 setting up **REFRESHMENT AND PRAYER STATIONS** on the Washington & Old Dominion Trail, and
- 3 providing **LAWN CARE** for a pregnant mother with two young children whose husband had been

deployed overseas for several months.

Serving the local school district has also been a hallmark of Rising Church from the beginning. Pastor Jason has been blessed to utilize mission teams from several church partners, including First Baptist Church of Norfolk and Virginia Beach Beacon Baptist Church. Other partners include several SBC churches outside of Virginia.

Jason Lamb and Rising Church appreciate the power of this year’s Annual Homecoming theme, *Not Alone*. “There is no way that we could have done what we have been able to do these past two years had it not been for partnerships we share with other churches,” shares Pastor Jason. “We are better equipped and empowered as a church plant because of their prayers, encouragement, mission teams, and financial support.”

By God’s grace, Leesburg is being transformed by the Gospel because of Rising Church’s faithful service to the community and because of SBCV churches’ faithful contributions to this church plant, the Cooperative Program, and Vision Virginia.

RESOURCE

WEBSITE: therising.cc

TWITTER: [#loveleesburg](https://twitter.com/loveleesburg)



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CPN WEEKENDS: A Solid Investment



Church planter Rick Leineweber (r) enjoys networking during a CPN weekend.

King Solomon's words ring true: "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him

"...a time for networking among planters from various cultures."

up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, HCSB). These sage words are commonly applied today in the activity of networking. Webster defines networking as "the cultivation of productive relationships" and includes "the exchanging information and services." Ed Stetzer noted in his doctoral dissertation that the long-term viability rate of church plants is strengthened when certain realities were present. Stetzer's study proved that church planters who participated in peer networking with other church planters led church plants that were ultimately healthier.

The SBC of Virginia has been providing peer-to-peer networking opportunities for SBCV church planters for close to 15 years through what we call Church Planter Networks (CPNs). It is one way we assist our churches in their church planting—in helping the planters and plants to be healthy and more productive in making disciples and planting new churches.

In recent years, we have offered more frequent CPNs on a smaller, more intimate scale in each geographical region. Simultaneously, we have begun offering our statewide CPNs less frequently but on a grander scale and in a central location for planters from every region to attend.

Starting in August 2014, we reduced our state-level networks to two times per year and moved them to a two-day weekend format. These changes have allowed us to reach and include the increasing number of bi-vocational church planters, as well as the planters' wives. We've held these Church Planter Network weekenders at locations such as the Newport News Marriott at City Center, the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, the DoubleTree in Charlottesville, and the Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa in Short Pump. These enriching weekend experiences for church planting couples are made possible by the

generous gifts of our churches to the Cooperative Program—an investment that has made a qualitative difference in church planters' families and a quantitative difference in the making of disciples.

The networking and information shared at CPNs center around biblical exposition and exhortation, best church planting practices as gleaned from the testimonies of experienced planters, and topics related to personal and family enrichment. At times, the men and women stay together for combined sessions, but more often are divided into separate groups that speak more specifically to topics relative to their personal enrichment and ministry roles.

These CPN weekenders have also provided a time for networking among planters from various cultures. Each CPN offered in the last two years has included breakouts and teaching specifically for either Hispanic planters, Deaf planters, or both. These culture-specific tracks allow for much-needed networking and fellowship among these planters, who are often spread throughout the Commonwealth and DC.

On behalf of every SBCV church planter and your SBCV Church Planting Team, thank you, churches of the SBCV, for investing so richly in those obeying the Father's call to plant the Gospel across Virginia and Washington, DC.



PLANTER TESTIMONIES

James Taylor Jr.

Church Planter, The Village Church of Portsmouth

The CPN has helped me grow as a pastor as far as leading and it has also allowed me to learn how to be a better family man while pastoring. I honestly have been learning how to balance loving my family and congregation properly with guidance.

Corey Smallwood

Church Planter, New Life Baptist Church, Fort Defiance

There are so many unknowns in church planting—so many details that vary from plant to plant. As a planter, I walk away [from CPN] encouraged by the wisdom and support of those who have gone before me. I know that I am not alone in reaching the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah Sluss

Church Planting Multiplier, Grace Fellowship Baptist Church, Haysi

The CPN helps me as a pastor because it's sitting down with fellow laborers and encouraging each other. It refreshes me to go get back in the fight, knowing my fellow brothers are doing the same thing all across Virginia and the world.

Billy Gwinn

Church Planter, Northwood Fellowship, Saltville

At times, I feel alone in the ministry God has placed before me, but with the SBCV and CPN weekenders, I can see I'm never alone and that many have walked the path I am struggling down now.

Ryan Patterson

Church Planter, Harvest Fellowship Church, Gretna

[CPNs provide] hope and assurance that we are not alone in this but thought of and supported!

Jason Lamb

Church Planter, Rising Church, Leesburg

The time of fellowship around the tables, the seminars, [and] the content are always very timely, and [CPNs are] an incredible time of equipping and encouraging. It's been a great opportunity for my wife and me to get away together. In the midst of church planting, so much of it falls on our shoulders together as husband and wife, so to be able to have that time to rest and reflect on what's going on in church planting and be filled up to continue on in the journey—but to do that together—is a huge blessing for us. ...It's great to get to connect with other brothers and sisters in Christ who are on similar journeys. There are different stories, but to know that we get to spend time with other brothers and sisters who are walking that same walk and encourage one another—it's great to get to network and journey together.

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These church planter prayer cards are available for you to view and download at sbcv.org/planters. You may also view many other church planter profiles there.

PRAYER for Church Planters

"Then Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

Matthew 28:18-20 (HCSB)



pray for
The Adachi Family

CHURCH PLANTER
**All Peoples
Community Church**

MEETING AT
Eagle View Elementary School
4500 Dixie Hill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

BIRTHDAYS: Kenji (July 2), Christine (October 28)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw all people in our community to the Lord Jesus so that they may know His saving grace.

Pray that the beauty of the Gospel would be manifested in our diversity and that we would be united as one body.

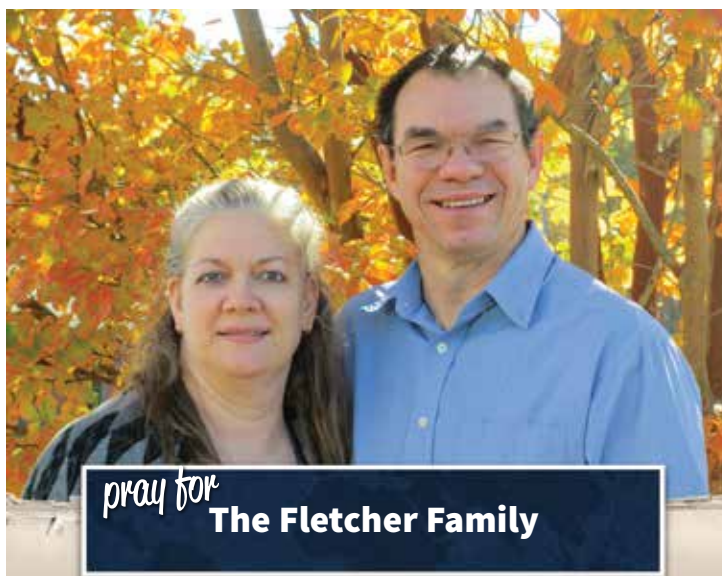
Pray for our members, that we would mature in Christ and live on mission for Him, impacting where we live and work.

Pray that we would be a blessing to the school staff, teachers, and students and that they would be a blessing to us as well.

Pray that God would raise up a diverse staff team to help me in my weaknesses so I can focus on my strengths.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- Financial partners
- Staff help: worship pastor, associate pastor
- Mission teams to help with seasonal outreach events



pray for
The Fletcher Family

CHURCH PLANTER
**Southern Deaf
Fellowship**

MEETING AT
Bethany Place Baptist Church
1501 S. Providence Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236

BIRTHDAYS: Ed (March 19), Lisa (September 21)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray that God would open opportunities to reach Deaf people throughout the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights area.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

- Partner churches who want to see the Deaf reached in their heart language
- Financial partners

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Milton Harding
Pastoral Relations
Associate

Should Not the Shepherds Feed the Flock?

Recognize the question in the title? It is found in Ezekiel 34:2. God expressed His unhappiness with the shepherds in the land because they weren't "feeding" (ministering to) His sheep. Their condition was unacceptable and God issued a strong admonition to the shepherds. In short, the sheep were not being cared for or were a flock "as without a shepherd." Spiritually speaking, God assessed the sheep of Israel as being unfed. They were sick and not strengthened, diseased and not healed, scattered and not brought back, lost and not sought after (Ezekiel 34:4). God was not pleased with the ministry He had entrusted to the shepherds.

Would we pass God's test today with the flock He has given us? In the New Testament, Jesus, being moved with compassion, observed God's people in a similar state—they were "distressed" and "dispirited," functioning "as sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). Brothers, if we're honest with ourselves about the Church today, I believe we'd have to say she's pretty unhealthy. The Church today is spiritually sick, diseased, scattered, and lost.

Our role as God's shepherds requires us to nurture (feed) the body of Christ. We must spend "body life" time with sheep in addition to leading them. The writer of Hebrews makes this very clear: "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering

the result of their conduct, imitate their faith." Jesus said, "...the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice" (John 10:3-5). Sheep recognize the voice(s) of those who care for them and the genuineness of the intimacy is such that "strange voices" (unsound doctrine, teaching, and methodologies) are ineffective in causing sheep to stray from truth.

Finally, Paul's heartfelt and emotional exhortation to the elders from Ephesus defines clearly what pastors should do: "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Pastors must insure that personal spiritual maintenance takes place in their own lives. The church is dependent upon and is desperately in need of spiritually healthy shepherds. We must be in the Word and the Word in us beyond just putting a sermon together or leading Bible studies. Our lives must reflect that we've been with Jesus in word and deed. The Word is what we live, breathe, and eat—it is our life! Paul then says to be on guard for the flock. We are overseers of their souls as we feed (care for) them and protect them with our very lives. Also, note a key word in the text: among. We are "overseers" "among"

the flock, placed there by the Holy Spirit. Being among the flock allows and fosters a time of intimacy and caring for sheep. Though the Church does not belong to pastors but to Jesus, we are under-shepherds of sorts with a call to the stewardship of Jesus' sheep. In light of that, we are not to lord our leadership over the flock with a Gentile mindset or ways (Mark 10:42). God is the God of relationships—intimate relationships—and He desires a oneness of true love in our relationship with one another and with Him.

Brothers, we live in a day and time when shepherding souls is not only a must but a God-given mandate. The stakes are too high in the culture to let sheep wander unfed as without a shepherd. Healthy sheep in cultural darkness are what God had in mind when Jesus pronounced us as the "light of the world," the "salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13-14). We have been empowered by God to fulfill the calling to shepherd souls. Let us find ourselves passionately feeding ourselves so we can feed (care for) His sheep as we expectantly await His return.

*Scripture references from the New
American Standard Bible (NASB)*



RESOURCE

EMAIL: mharding@sbcv.org

More People Have Internet Access, and It Matters to Missions



Written by the editorial staff of the International Mission Board

Reprinted with permission.

Subway cars in Tokyo constantly erupt in a symphony of ring tones. The majority of the travelers on any given train have a phone out or earphones in on the daily commute.

WeChat, a social media messaging app, has 762 million active users in China, while 93% of South Korean smart phone owners use the instant messaging app, KakaoTalk.

Facebook has more than 1.7 billion users worldwide, generating 4.5 billion “likes” every day, and 1.03 billion of those users actively employ the mobile app on a daily basis. Every second, five new profiles are created.

The Weibo user base—600 million people deep—amazingly united an American man with his stolen phone. The resulting friendship between the American man and the Chinese man who unwittingly bought his stolen phone made the American an overnight celebrity on Chinese social media. The same Chinese social media users also helped unite an Australian runner with a dog that ran a marathon through the Gobi Desert with him.

According to a Pew Study, 15% of American adults have used an online dating service or mobile app, up from 11% in 2015. Instead of turning to friends and family to set them up on dates, those

The point of all of this information is that there are a lot of active, engaged users on social media, and the numbers continue to grow. They see great value in online interaction. The proliferation of Internet access, social media outlets, and other forms of online interaction are leading to new ways of thinking about relationships. In some cases, people seem to be abandoning tangible, local connections for those they find online.

Like it or not, this is a developing cultural reality—one our churches need to understand. People interacting in this way will necessarily change the way we are able to connect with them for the Gospel. To be sure, increasing Internet access around the world will have a growing effect on how we engage in missions.

In some ways, that growth is positive. Because of the burgeoning connectedness of our world, we have access to the nations literally at our fingertips. We can build relationships with people from all over the world without leaving home.

On the other hand, that growth presents challenges. We must really work

people have chosen to go online. It's not only dating, but in a much greater way, education, work, and even worship are happening online.



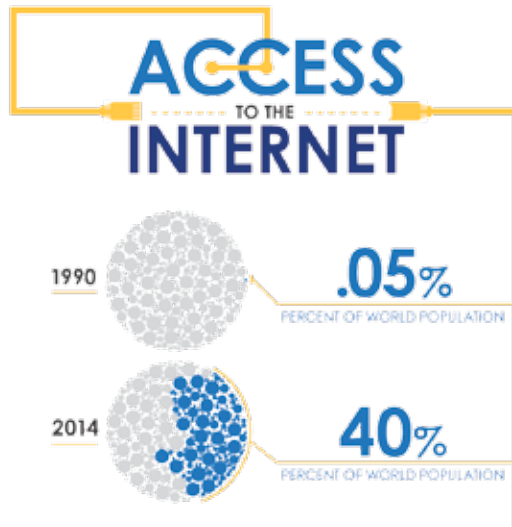
strategically to understand how people use online tools and engage them meaningfully. We can't make half-hearted attempts at engaging a rapidly growing, online-native generation and expect them to wholeheartedly respond.

In the coming days, how will you and your church address the reality that right now, you can connect with more than 40% of the world's population online? And it's only growing (see the infographic below).



RESOURCE

WEBSITE: imb.org



SOURCES:

International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ITC Development Report and database, and World Bank estimates.

CIA World Factbook — www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/xx.html

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Gospel seeds planted

Freedom for the Nations

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH 2016

AN INTENTIONAL OUTREACH EVENT TO TOUCH
THE COMMUNITY WITH THE GOSPEL

On a hot summer Saturday, a one-year-old SBC of Virginia church plant in Prince William County reached more people than it could have imagined.

Led by Pastor T. Jay Williams, nearly 40 volunteers from **Freedom Community Church** (FCC) gathered at their meeting space—Penn Elementary School in Woodbridge, VA—to host an outreach event they called Back to School Bash 2016. The church has been intentional in building a healthy relationship with its host school and developing a heart to reach the community with the Gospel.

FCC worked diligently to prepare for the event. Hundreds of publicity flyers were mailed to the community, and advertisements covered the pages of

social media. The church prayed for God to do a great work through this community outreach.

They invited local organizations and businesses, including Sweet Frog, Prince William County Health Department, Prince William County Nutrition Services, two local hair salons (to give free haircuts), and one home clothing business to donate their time and services. Eleven local businesses helped fund the event.

FCC purchased 300 backpacks and filled them with school supplies to

distribute to elementary students in the area. They worked with the school to make sure those with the greatest needs received backpacks. Through their continued positive relationship, the school administration and staff of Penn Elementary School know that Freedom Community Church cares for them.

Local Businesses Invited

Sweet Frog, one of 11 local businesses that helped fund and participate in the event.





Different Nations and Religions

More than 700 neighbors from different nations and religions came to join in the fun.

The day of the event, FCC volunteers, including SBCV block party intern Allison Webb, wore matching red FCC shirts, ready to serve their community. The team held a rally to get energized about what God was going to do. They walked around and prayed with people in the community who were lining the sidewalk before the event. The volunteers prayed together as a team, asking for the presence and power of God to be evident at the Back to School Bash.

“Our leadership was blown away by God blessing our hard work of preparation,” says Pastor T. Jay. The leadership thought it would be a great success to serve 300 at this first-ever event. But God, by His amazing grace, brought over 700 people to the Back to School Bash! Neighbors from different nations and religions came to join in the fun of games, bounce houses, snow cones, and popcorn. Physical blessings like haircuts, clothing, and medical services were extended to them as well. Visitors had the opportunity to make wordless Gospel bracelets at the craft table, where FCC volunteers shared the Good News.

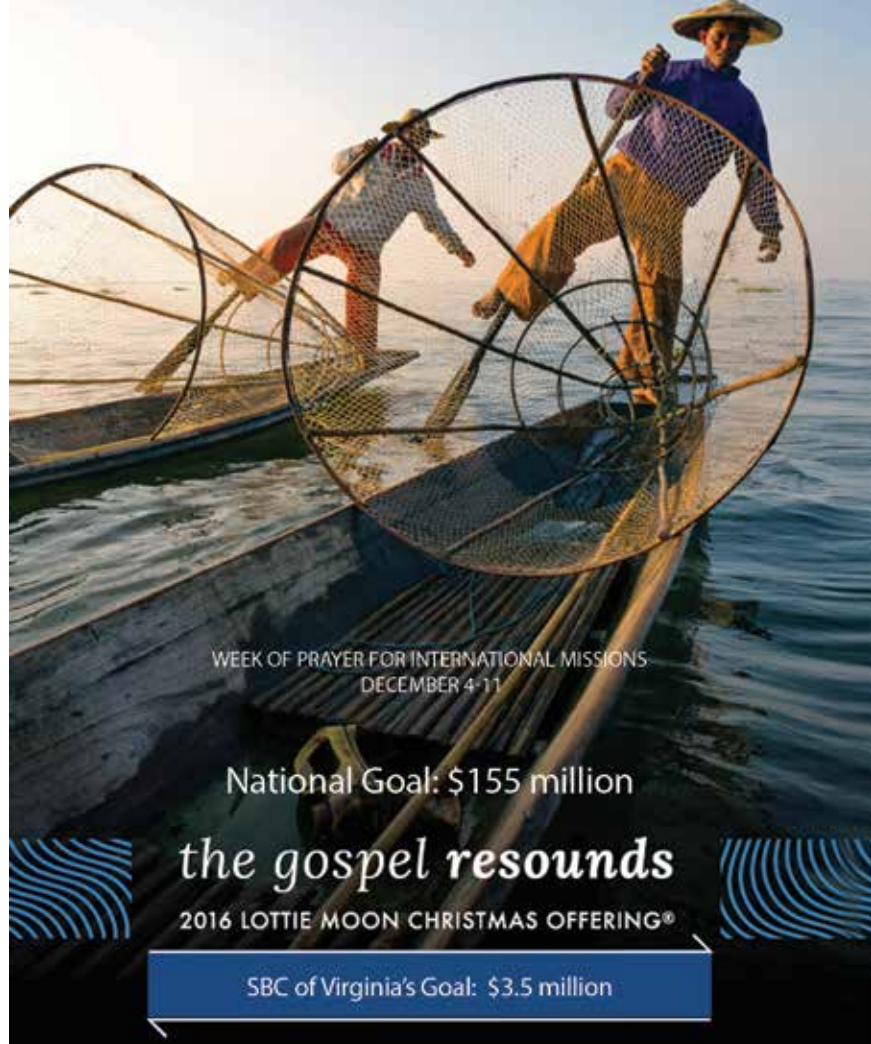
Guests could also visit a dedicated tent to ask for prayer and for more information about Freedom Community Church. “We were surprised that many asked for prayer for themselves or for their families and filled out prayer request cards,” says Pastor T. Jay. “One child came to the tent and said, ‘Will you please pray for my parents?’ This touched all of the FCC volunteers.”

Praise the Lord for the many Gospel seeds that were planted in a terribly unreached area and for the two new families who have started attending FCC since the block party bash!

Pray that the seeds will take root and flourish and that this new church plant will grow and multiply for the glory of God. Your church may want to consider partnering with Freedom Community Church as they seek to bring “Freedom for Life” by sharing the Gospel in Prince William County.

RESOURCE

Website:
findfreedomtoday.org
Email:
tjay@freedomcc.net



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

It's **THE most important question of your life** because YOUR ETERNITY depends on your answer. God says that in order to go to heaven, you must be born again. He gives us a plan of salvation, how to be born again, in the Bible. His plan is simple!

It's as easy as A-B-C!

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

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

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

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

ONE KISS REVEALS AN ETERNAL IMPACT

by Brandon Pickett, Associate Executive Director, SBCV; and Tim Cokes, Mission Team Member

It was just supposed to be a short meeting during a long first day on the mission field. We climbed to the third floor and walked into the small apartment that was home to two refugee families who'd just arrived in Athens. Near

the beginning of our time together, one of the men pulled a book down from the shelf and kissed it. It was a beautiful sign of allegiance and thankfulness. Before he went any further, we knew this meeting wouldn't be short or ordinary. This Iraqi refugee shared his family's story with us in a slow, soft, and careful way, like you would tell a bedtime story to your child.

Imagine taking your family on a vacation away from home.

You take some of your belongings, but not everything. Now imagine that a war overtakes your hometown while you're gone, and you can never go back. That became reality for these families. They fled their homeland two years ago because of ISIS and have been on the run ever since.

When asked about what caused them to turn from Islam and turn to Christ, our new friend responded with one word: love. His family and his new friends' family had heard of love and peace coming from a deity, but they

actually experienced it with the Christians ministering to them. They said they had never heard of such a love that someone would die to save them. They finally heard about that love at a refugee house in northern Greece. Up to 30 refugees there are ministered to each week, and there are plans to increase that number to 60. Volunteers from that ministry also go over to a nearby camp to assist with food distribution, which helps about 400 people each week. These efforts are partially supported through

“When asked about what caused them to turn from Islam to Christ, our new friend responded with one word: *love*.”



NOT ALONE

“...I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.”

Matthew 25:40

Virginia Global Response and your gifts to Vision Virginia. (To learn more about Virginia Global Response, go to sbcv.org/vgr)

This husband and father of two children went on to share that the book he kissed wasn't just any book—it was a Bible, which was signed on the inside cover by a mission team from First Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA. He told us that because of the witness of that team and other SBCV teams, he and his wife realized what true love is and later asked for someone to lead them to faith in the one true God—the Lord Jesus Christ! They were then discipled and baptized.

This salvation scene has been miraculously repeated over and over along the refugee road. SBC of Virginia churches have been right there to share the hope and love of God face to face. Sometimes these teams can only share a quick word of hope along with some humanitarian act. Sometimes they get to know a person or family over time so that their words and actions build trust—a trust that leads to a life change.

God is moving in places like Greece, Nepal, Barcelona, and even in Virginia. To find out how you and your church can be involved in this and other life-changing mission opportunities, go to sbcv.org/vgr or email us at vgr@sbcv.org.

Editor's Note: Watch and learn what happened when Sky View Missionary Baptist Church from Fancy Gap, VA took a mission team along the refugee road. You'll see how they helped, what they learned, and why they will never be the same: sbcv.org/skyview

Before this edition went to print, we received an update on the family in this story. They were moved to a refugee camp, and their condition has gone from bad to worse. They are now living as a persecuted minority in a filthy and cold environment, where illness and corruption run rampant. Our Southern Baptist network has been able to connect them with a local body of believers there who continue to minister to them.



“ Virginia Global Response provides an opportunity for churches to mobilize to share the Good News of Jesus as they meet the desperate needs of people. It is taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth while wearing work boots. ”

— Dr. Brian Autry, Executive Director



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Living His Mission

VILLAGE CHURCH AT MIDLOTHIAN

by Steve Gentry, Lead Pastor of Village Church at Midlothian

THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, 'IF ANYONE WANTS TO COME WITH ME, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.'

MATTHEW 16:24 (HCSB)

In 2008, a team of nine moved to Midlothian, VA to plant a church with a focus on worshipping Jesus and living His mission. In September 2009, **Village Church** began holding public services. Their mission was to worship God by helping as many people as possible become fully devoted followers of Jesus. By God's grace, the church has grown to hundreds gathered weekly for corporate worship and in groups that meet in homes, restaurants, and coffee shops throughout the week.

The people of Village Church are exhorted to live within



two tensions. The first is that they are pushed outside of the walls of the church to live for Jesus in the community. The second is that they are encouraged to be a part of the culture of discipleship within the church. The Sunday worship experience and group gatherings are meant to offer environments to

equip Christians to go live the mission and be connected to discipleship within the church.

NOT ALONE

To reach the culture while staying rooted in the local church, there must also be an example of Gospel partnerships with other churches. Church planting is

not about breaking molds as much as it is about extending a legacy. Before Village Church began meeting publicly, it partnered with the SBC of Virginia, Grove Avenue Baptist Church (Richmond, VA), and Parkway Baptist Church (Moseley, VA).

Through the SBCV, Village Church had the support of an entire family of churches committed to the integrity and proclamation of the Gospel. This Gospel partnership served as an encouragement to the church and a reminder that they could accomplish more through cooperation than alone. Village's partner



churches provided much-needed support, including mentoring, fellowship, financial resources, and support from church members.

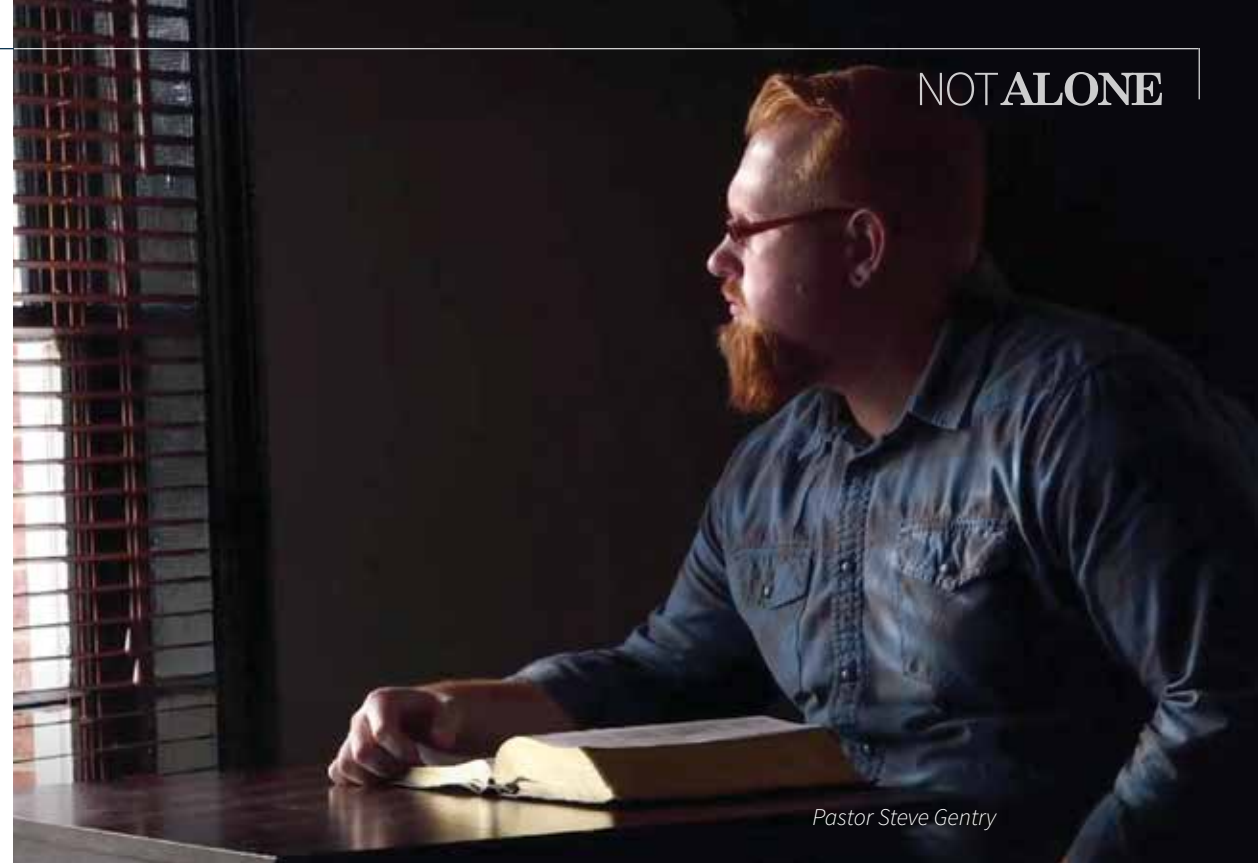
“This was a team effort,” explains Village Church lead pastor Steve Gentry. “The mentoring and relationships provided were vital to the strategy and growth of Village Church. In every step, we knew that we were never alone in every season.”

These partnerships have helped the church further its vision by building relationships and partnering with other churches as much as possible.

PLANTING ROOTS

Since its inception, Village Church has changed locations four times. The first few years were spent in a portable setting, beginning in an elementary school cafeteria then expanding to a middle school auditorium. After leasing and renovating an aging, abandoned church building, Village Church purchased a full-time facility in the heart of Chesterfield County. The theme of cooperating with other churches was seen in this purchase, as it involved three different churches purchasing different facilities in order for the move to work.

In May 2015, Village opened its new facility to plant roots deep within the population of Midlothian in an era where many churches are forced to move out of population centers to buy land.



Pastor Steve Gentry

“Staying within the population was non-negotiable. We wanted to stay where the people were to live up to our mission statement of ‘as many people as possible,’” shares Pastor Steve. The partnership with the SBC of Virginia proved valuable during this purchase, as the advice and network established aided the church in navigating these waters. “Without the partnerships and relationships within the SBCV, we would not have been able to plant roots within our area in this way to commit to this community over the long haul.”

A VISION FOR MULTIPLICATION

With a DNA of partnership from the beginning, Village Church has always sought to be a multiplying church. They are involved in international missions and also partner with church planters in the US. Village has helped start

six new churches so far through financial, relational, and logistical support.

“Our vision for the mission of Jesus must be larger than what we can do ourselves. Partnering with new church plants enables us to reach people with the Gospel all over Virginia and beyond,” explains executive pastor Nate Schlomann.

Village is committed to forming a culture of multiplication. From its vision of partnership to its plans to send out teams from within the church to start new churches in Richmond and beyond, they are fashioning their mission to make disciples of Jesus.

“Multiplication is accelerated through forming Gospel partnerships that work together towards that end,” says Pastor Steve. As Village continues to reach Midlothian, its work is multiplying far beyond.

RESOURCE

WEBSITE: villagechurch.cc

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NOT **ALONE**

ON MISSION **FOR GOD**

SBC OF VIRGINIA CHURCHES RESPOND



SBC of Virginia churches have responded to mission projects in overwhelming ways over the years. Thank you! Many people have come to know the Lord through these projects, and lives have been changed. We wanted to update you on a few of the projects that have already taken place in 2016:

CHURCH PLANT EQUIPMENT FOR LITHUANIA

As of the end of August, we had received more than \$2,600 for this project, and the fund continues to grow. These gifts will be extremely helpful as we endeavor to help plant a church in Lithuania. You can still donate to this fund.

HIKERS' SUPPLIES FOR TRAIL DAYS

We received a large quantity of supplies—enough to meet the needs

for Trail Days at First Baptist Church in Damascus *and* send supplies to Troutdale Baptist Church to be used in its ongoing ministry to people hiking the Appalachian Trail.

BEDDING FOR STUDENTS IN GUAM

We received the following report from Guam: *I am the Dean of Student Development at Pacific Islands University. We wanted to extend a huge thank you for the care packages sent to our students.*



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



God's Love from a Diaper Bag



Hikers' Supplies for Trail Days



Children's Hygiene Kits for ARM



Military Appreciation Month



Shoes for Barnabas Global Link



Bedding for Students in Guam



Christmas Backpacks for Children in Appalachia



Bibles for Homeless Women

sbcv.org/missionprojects

SBCV churches sent new and used shoes to people in India. More than 5,500 pairs were donated. Ruthann Barton, Mitzi Penaranda, and Jane Scott help load the truck with donated shoes.





SBCV churches sent military appreciation packs to our service members at home and overseas.

This was a resounding success in our eyes. We feel so blessed that the SBC of Virginia churches felt led to participate in this endeavor. Practically all our students come from extremely low-income families and [have] very little support once they arrive here on Guam from their islands. We are their family, and it is a real blessing for others to partner with us to show God's faithfulness and love in their lives. The students were delighted and surprised when we gave them the packages from Virginia. We received upwards of 30–35 boxes. You can imagine the joy and gratefulness I felt when we started receiving these packages from the SBC of Virginia. Thank you!

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Although this project is hard to measure, we received several emails and calls from churches expressing their appreciation for the SBC of Virginia reminding them about Military Appreciation Month. Several churches shared ways that they reached out to the military in their area to show their care and appreciation for our military's service.

SHOES FOR BARNABAS GLOBAL LINK

When we promoted this project—helping plant churches in India by donating new and used shoes—we had no idea how overwhelmingly SBCV churches would respond. At the time of this writing, over 5,500 pairs of shoes had been donated, which will result in over \$11,000. This amount will train at least 275 house church pastors in India. House churches are the most effective way to reach the 1.28 billion people in India who are without the Gospel. If you donated shoes, you are a part of the Gospel being shared in India.

These are just a few of the ways that SBC of Virginia churches have been involved in spreading the Gospel through missions in the first part of 2016. Start planning now to be involved in missions in 2017 through praying, giving, going, or doing missions. God wants to use you!

RESOURCE

WEBSITE: sbcv.org/missionprojects



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sbcv.org/crossoverroanoke



THEME
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 November 13-15, 2016

SUNDAY EVENING

5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Music: **First Baptist Roanoke
 Praise Team & Not
 Easily Broken**

Message: **Paige Patterson**

DESSERT RECEPTION

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MONDAY MORNING

8:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Breakout Sessions

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH*

Theme: *Revitalization*
 with Guest Speaker **Frank Page**

Childcare up to 5 years of age
 (registration required) and
 Deaf interpretation available
 during general sessions

MONDAY AFTERNOON

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

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Messages: **J.D. Payne
 Dave Earley**

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MONDAY EVENING

6:45 PM – 9:00 PM

Music: **Charles Billingsley & LU Praise**

Messages: **H.B. Charles
 Brian Autry**

DESSERT RECEPTION

AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

TUESDAY MORNING

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Music: **Charles Billingsley**

Messages: **Dhati Lewis
 Bryan Smith**

Election of 2017 SBC of Virginia Officers

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Charles Billingsley



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



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



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sbcv.org/backpacks



do 2016
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Projects



#StillMakingMuchofHim

HOW ONE YOUTH GROUP'S TRIP TO CAMP TOOK AN UNEXPECTED DETOUR TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM

Travis Wash is the associate pastor at **Fox Hill Road Baptist Church** in Hampton, VA. He has been ministering to the youth of the church for six years. One of the overarching themes of his ministry comes out of John 3:30, where John the Baptist responded to his disciples' concern that he was losing influence because of Jesus' increasing popularity. John replied, "He must increase but I must decrease."

One of Travis' ongoing prayers for his students is that they remain loyal to Christ through the good and the bad. Travis knows about adversity. As a child, he was exposed to drug addiction and alcoholism in his home. He now ministers to many students who are familiar with these kinds of struggles—either personally or through their friends. His heart's desire is that the students stay loyal to the Lord no matter what happens to them. "Jesus promises trials and adversity. How we respond reveals how authentic our relationship is," explains Travis. "How they respond...says a lot to a world that says there is no god."

Given the ministry's focus, it's no surprise that when Travis had a t-shirt created for his youth group, John 3:30 was featured, along with the hashtag, #MakingMuchofHim. Hashtags are the social-media equivalent of bumper stickers—they can range from meaningful to trivial and, like bumper stickers, their meaning can quickly be forgotten. But as Travis and the youth group at Fox Hill Road Baptist were about to show when they pulled out of the parking lot on July 11, 2016, "Making Much of Him" was more than just a hashtag to them.

The caravan of vehicles was traveling to Lifeway's Fuge Camp in partnership with the SBC of Virginia. The camp was being held at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, and Travis was driving the third of three church vans that left Hampton early that morning. Four of the students in the van with Travis were making their first-ever trip to camp! They were about 15 minutes away from camp when the route called for Travis to turn off of Highway 460. As he slowed down for the turn, he was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer.

"In an instant, the van was shot right out of my sight," recalls Joey Stickle, one of Travis' chaperones and the driver of the lead van. "I ran down the ramp only to find that after he got rear-ended, he was pushed across the road and had a head-on collision with another 18-wheeler."

The two impacts left Travis unconscious and the students with



injuries ranging from minor to serious. Travis and the five students with him were taken to the hospital by ambulance for treatment, while the crumpled 15-passenger Dodge van sat in the highway, one of its doors lying 20 feet away, having been placed there by the emergency extraction crew. Those passing likely wondered, *Did anyone survive this accident?* Fortunately, God's mercy was on display that day. The most serious injuries were a broken femur (requiring surgery) and a concussion. Three others had minor injuries.

Everyone's first concern was for the health of their friends. Both the students and adults were upset and, understandably, things became chaotic pretty quickly. The chaperones promptly organized the group and followed the ambulances to the hospital. The next few hours were a flurry of doctors, nurses, students, parents, pastors, and others scurrying around to give care to Travis and the injured students.

Some wondered if there would be any interest in camp, especially from those involved in the accident. Soon it was clear what the students wanted. When the "all clear" was given by doctors, the uninjured students made their way to camp and quickly became part of the event. Even the student with the broken femur eventually made it to camp, enjoying a ride in a wheelchair powered by any one of several friends. Only one of the students was prevented from attending. Per concussion protocol, she had to be isolated from loud noises, so she returned home after being released.

Considering the severity of the crash, God's protection was evident. What impressed many in the hours after the crash was that the students retained their desire to connect with God and hear from Him at camp. Over the coming days, the youth group would receive a lot of attention—from doctors, nurses, parents, church members back home, chaplains, university officials,

media outlets, and convention staff. Travis became concerned that the highlight from camp would be the accident, but in the weeks that followed, the attention shifted from the accident to what God did through the accident.

Carson Ash, a student who observed the crash, reflects, "It showed me that your life can change at any moment, and if your heart isn't right with God, it might be too late!"

Joshua Hartung, whose sister, Katelyn, suffered the concussion, shares what God showed him through the accident: "It showed me that God can protect my loved ones, and I thank Him for that."

India Bone, who sat in the front passenger seat of the van that was hit, shares, "It showed me that making much of Him matters because He always looks out for us, even in our roughest times. He is always by my side."

Once back at the church, the youth group had a chance

to give a camp report.

Travis and the youth had the entire service in which to share. Interim pastor and SBCV regional missionary David Bounds recalls, "The service was tremendous... the youth have been a great encouragement to the church...God has done a work in the life of the church."

Just a few days after the accident, Travis posted a thought-provoking and penetrating question on Facebook: "If it were the outcome that many feared, would you still praise Him?!" Although it's a question no one wants to consider, God calls us to live in light of eternity. That means we must answer the question honestly. Our answer says a lot about the authenticity of our relationship with Jesus. Are we #MakingMuchofHim?

RESOURCE

Websites:

sbcv.org/studentz

fhrbc.com

Facebook: facebook.com/FHRBC

Firefighters and EMTs attend to the needs resulting from a collision on Highway 460 in Lynchburg, VA on Monday, July 11, 2016. In the van was a youth group from Fox Hill Road Baptist Church on their way to Fuge Camp being held at Liberty University.



nextgen

Summer Highlights

For 2016, Fusion Mission Camp moved to the Valley Region and was held June 19–24. The theme of the week was *Thrive*, based on Jeremiah 17:5–8. The gist of these familiar verses is that the one who trusts in man is under a curse, but the one who trusts in God is under His blessing, “like a tree planted by a stream.” Churches, staffers, and students lived out these verses with gusto, and we saw our smallest number of attendees make the largest impact of any other Fusion week so far. Through the ministry projects, 28 people made decisions for Christ. Among the students who came to camp, 15 made decisions as well (four of those being first-time decisions to follow Jesus). Mission teams helped local churches make inroads into the community by investing hundreds of man-hours at an elementary school, apartment complex, community center, and in local neighborhoods.

After Fusion, SBC of Virginia joined with LifeWay to sponsor Fuge Camp’s Virginia Week at Liberty University July 11–15. Of the 1,100 students who participated in Fuge, over half were from SBCV churches, including the camp speaker, Cliff Jordan (pastor at Movement Church, Richmond, VA). SBCV’s Next Gen Team focused on ministering to youth leaders and developing mission projects in local churches, church plants, and community organizations. SBCV churches led the way in helping students make connections in the city of Lynchburg and surrounding areas. All told, 10 people received Christ through ministry at a local park, along with hundreds who received a ministry touch through service projects done in the name of any one of several participating churches. At least 75 students received Christ, and hundreds responded to challenges during the preaching services.

SBC of Virginia’s NEXT GEN TEAM:

DON COCKES, Team Leader & Collegiate Strategist

SHAWN AMES, Student Strategist

MINDY MCCORD, Next Gen Administrative Assistant



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WHY WE GO

Listen to someone's three-minute faith journey and be entered to win a motorcycle—sounds like a pretty good deal, right?

For a number of years, volunteers from churches around the US have headed to Sturgis Bike Week or Daytona Bike Week to share their stories with those willing to listen. But do the hopeful raffle winners pay attention? Is the investment worthwhile?

Over the years, 22,852 presentations of the Gospel have been recorded at Daytona Bike Week. From those opportunities, 2,604 people prayed to receive Christ and were referred to a local church where they live.

In Sturgis, 27,000 presentations of the Gospel have led to 6,100 praying to receive Christ.

In total, the Gospel has been shared 49,852 times, and 8,704 names have been written in the Book of Life.

Through these ministries, more than 4,000 volunteers from around the country have been mobilized to share the Gospel with men and women who are far from God.

Bob Clardy, a volunteer at Sturgis this summer, shares what he and Buck Hill (associate executive director

of the Dakota Baptist Convention) experienced one night:

Wow! I can't describe what just happened other than to say glory to God! After everyone had left the Sturgis Bike Giveaway site and Buck and I had settled down to a cup of coffee before going to bed, we heard a loud knock at the door. We went to the door and there stood a couple with tears streaming down their faces and gripped in fear saying that they had heard a three-minute testimony from Melanie (from Georgia) and they hadn't been able to rest since. Tony and Marie were led back to our camper to close the deal with their relationship with Christ. They are no longer lost, they are no longer wandering, but God led them from Arizona to Sturgis to be with servants of His so that their lives could be changed. They had a heart transplant that night and are walking on air! Praise God! Thank you for praying!

The after story is that Tony brought his mother by the next morning. She shared with us that she had been praying and sharing with Tony for the last 10 years and was grateful that he had finally listened to someone.

Tony shared with us that they would be going back to Arizona and getting



Watch the video at:
sbcv.org/motorcycleevangelism

married so they could make [things] right before God, [and that] they were coming back next year to have us do the big ceremony at Sturgis. Everyone is invited to a wedding in Sturgis, August 2017.

Over the past 10 years, God has used SBC of Virginia churches to pray for and volunteer at these ministry opportunities, where the spiritual fruit has been astonishing. Just this year, 3,085 people heard the Good News, and over 242 became Christians. Only God knows how the other 2,843 will respond in the coming days. Thank you, SBCV churches, for your participation in this evangelistic opportunity!

...this is why



RESOURCE

WEBSITE:

sbcv.org/motorcycleevangelism

CATCH the Vision

THE POWER OF PARTNERING

How does a church in Seaford, VA come to partner with a church plant in the Metro DC area?

Pastor Michael Howard of **Seaford Baptist Church** in Seaford, VA had a burden for church planting. Knowing his church was not ready to plant, he wanted to support a church plant preparing to launch. Pastor Michael had a vision not to just send money but to build a long-term relationship with a church plant.

With a love for Washington, DC and a burden for church planting, Pastor Michael and his wife, Katie, signed up for the North American Mission Board's Catch the Vision Tour. What they didn't realize was that they were about to have an encounter with the Lord. The host pastor, Dr. Drew Landry of Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, started the tour by challenging the group about building their own churches by addition versus multiplying the Kingdom through church planting. During the tour, the group experienced DC firsthand, met with church planters, and saw communities in need of churches. At one location, they were supposed to meet

in a community center, but there was a last-minute cancellation. With the change of plans, they ended up in the living room of church planter Kenji Adachi, who was preparing to start a new work in Fairfax County.

God spoke to the Howards' hearts as Kenji spoke of his vision for the Fairfax community. He shared that within a one-mile radius of Eagle View Elementary School (where the new plant would meet) there were 20,000 people. Kenji used the words *dense* and *diverse* to best describe Metro DC. Even though he is from Osaka, Japan, Kenji didn't want to start a church that solely targeted Asian Americans. He and his wife, Christine, wanted a church that would reflect the entire community. They have spent the past year preparing to plant **All Peoples Community Church**, which exists "to love all peoples, serve all peoples, and equip all peoples with the life-giving hope of Jesus Christ."

Upon hearing this vision, the Howards knew God wanted Seaford Baptist Church to partner with All Peoples Community Church.



In the days ahead, Pastor Michael would make another trip to Fairfax with his staff and key leaders in the church for their own vision tour to confirm God's calling. Kenji also preached at Seaford. The church caught the vision and committed to help financially. Seaford sent a team, led by Pastor Michael, to help with a block party the day before All Peoples held its first services on Sunday, September 18. That Sunday happened to be "National Back to Church Day." The selection of the date was a strategic move—that on that special day, when people would be invited to try church again, there would be a place in Fairfax, VA where *all people* would be invited to a church that is designed for *all*.

The Apostle Paul said of the church at Philippi that he prayed for them "because of [their] partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:5, HCSB). Seaford Baptist Church has the same heart—to partner with All Peoples Community Church from the first day and beyond.

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FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH

Takin' It to the Schools

Over 300 volunteers from the Roanoke Valley came out for the “Takin’ It to the Schools” service project, where they helped local schools in a variety of ways—all because **Fellowship Community Church** (FCC) in the Roanoke area wanted to help prepare local schools for the students to return. The volunteers rolled up their sleeves and cheerfully faced the task.

FCC projects included cleaning up school playgrounds, landscaping, remodeling staff lounges, and painting hallways. They even created and stocked supply closets to keep teachers from having to purchase items themselves. FCC provided the shelving and supplies and will restock the closets throughout the year as teachers use the supplies for needy children. All in all, the church spent \$24,000 on this outreach opportunity.

John Sharp, the pastor at Fellowship’s Southwest Campus, brought his children to help with the event. He told WSL TV in Roanoke, “Teachers can teach best, students can learn best in a clean,

happy environment, so we want kids to have a blast in the playground. We also believe that serving should be part of the fabric of us as human beings.”

Volunteers worked to clean up Burlington Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary, GW Carver Elementary, Glenvar Middle, and Fairview Elementary. Three school principals have started attending FCC since the church began ministering at their schools.

The day after the project, the church collected more than 800 student backpacks and took them to 20 local schools. The following week, a team of volunteers from FCC assisted Roanoke City Schools in distributing backpacks and school supplies at the Back-to-School Extravaganza to some of the neediest students in the city of Roanoke.

Bill Fuller, missions pastor at FCC, explained the church’s reason for this type of outreach:

Jesus commanded us to serve those in need. In Roanoke City Schools alone, 590 homeless children attend classes. The average teacher spends \$1,000 out of

pocket for school supplies each year for her class. Few pastors can say they spent \$1,000 to buy Sunday School supplies each year out of pocket. Students cannot learn and teachers cannot teach in an environment where students do not have the resources they need.

If a child cannot read, they cannot read the Bible. We believe our service will create goodwill. Good deeds create goodwill that leads to an openness to the Good News. This comes from Acts 2:45–47. Many Christians protest that prayer has been taken out of the schools. It is more significant that Christians have taken themselves out of the schools. In the words of Tony Evans, ‘It is time to stop protesting and start planning.’

Churches have been given an open door to go inside public schools and serve the staff and students as long as they respect their regulations. Beginning this fall, FCC will put volunteers inside schools throughout the Roanoke Valley with the belief that, as they serve these students and teachers, they will have countless opportunities to meet family needs. In the process, they will have the freedom to answer questions, especially when asked, “Why?”

Would your church consider adopting your local schools for the long haul and committing to help the staff and students have an excellent educational experience?

RESOURCE

WEBSITE: fcclife.org

Beautiful Beginnings

2017 WOMEN’S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

“EMBRACED BY GOD”

With special guest, **Babbie Mason**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Rosedale Baptist Church, Abingdon

SBCV.ORG/BEAUTIFULBEGINNINGS



One Nail At a Time

Salem Baptist Church in eastern Goochland County envisions relocating to a property it purchased years ago on Route 250, an extension of Broad Street. Led by Pastor Zack Zbinden, they've been using the land each Christmas to host Bethlehem Walk, an evangelistic outreach to the community, which has seen thousands of visitors over the years.

“WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH THEM WHEN THE BUILDING IS COMPLETE.”

The church sets up a simulation of the town of Bethlehem, complete with Bible-period costumes and animals. Visitors

receive a guided tour and a Gospel presentation.

Today, adjacent to the location for Bethlehem Walk, stands a beautiful shell of a building that has sprung up over the past year and a half. Because of its stewardship convictions, the church has chosen to build by using volunteers. In seeking assistance outside of their own church family, they have enlisted an organization called Nail Benders.

Pastor Zack says, “[Nail Benders has] been instrumental in the foundation and core structure, which has made it easier for our

members and volunteers to jump in to do the finishing work.” Over the past two summers, other churches have brought mission teams to help complete the vision God has given this congregation.

One of those SBCV churches is River Oak Church (Chesapeake, VA), which has assembled two teams. Volunteer Craig Carlton says River Oak has loved participating in the project. “We have fallen in love with Pastor Zack, built relationships with the congregation, worshipped with them, and attended a Bethlehem Walk presentation. We also love serving in this area. We have dry-walled, mudded, sanded, and painted.” He adds, “We look forward to coming and celebrating with them when the building is complete.”

Pastor Zack testifies, “It might have been a slow process for man, but God’s timing is perfect. The Lord has been in this project one nail at a time.”



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Worship Leader:

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Speaker:

Nate Dooley

Worship Leader:

Christian Baxter



Bible Outreach Project



SBC of Virginia missionaries Reggie Hester and Randy Aldridge traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 8–15, to participate in the Outreach Bible Project during the Olympic Games. The ministry is designed to put Scripture into the hands of as many lost people as possible and present a Gospel witness as opportunities arise.

They joined a team of 32, who, together, distributed 40,000 Bible portions (the Gospel of John and Romans) the first week. By the end of the Olympic Games, Outreach Bible Project volunteers had distributed a total of 70,000 portions of Scripture. The passages were translated into 20 different languages, but the main focus was Portuguese, the primary language in Brazil. The project is driven by laymen and has many similarities to the Southern Cross Project, with

which SBCV churches have been involved for many years. The team lodged at the Brazilian Baptist Convention Mission Training Center. A local Baptist church, where the group worshiped on Sunday, hosted the team and provided interpreters.

One unique feature of the ministry was a conversation starter—a pin that resembled an official Olympic pin. In place of the Olympic rings were a series of fish in different colors relating to a Gospel presentation from the Scripture. It is customary to trade pins during the Olympics, so offering a pin as a free gift was well received. Once the pin was in hand, a small card was presented to explain what the different colors meant in relation to the Gospel.

During the event, 39 people prayed to receive Christ as their Savior and thousands of Gospel seeds were sown. We know that God

promises His Word “shall not return to [Him] void” (Isaiah 55:11, NKJV).

Reggie Hester shares the Gospel with an athlete at the Olympic games.



English

IF THERE, WHY NOT HERE?

THE QUESTION most pastors ask about mission trips is, “If my members come back so excited about what happened there, why won’t they do those things here?”

Would you consider some answers to this puzzling question as you travel with me on a mission trip to Bolivia?

STRETCHING OPPORTUNITIES

As we prepared for our trip, certain team members were asked at random to prepare their testimonies to give to large groups of students. Nick was selected to share his journey of faith. Nick had never shared his story in public, so he asked many of us to pray for him as he prepared. When we heard him, it seemed as if he had spoken in public many times. Then there was Chris, a carpenter, whom God used mightily in speaking about personal brokenness and how God still uses broken people. I wept with joy as I listened, and I wondered, *Could it be that these men lacked opportunities like this at home?*

LOSTNESS THERE

The center where we stayed trains young adults in how to be bold with their faith and make disciples. They are sent out each week to communities where there is a great need for the Gospel. In other words, they are sent out to practice what

they are learning each week. In these communities, there are children living on the street, abused and unloved. Other children are with families but lack many basic needs. We saw the Gospel at work, and we saw witnesses living out what they had just learned. They truly believed that these people needed the Lord and that the Gospel would transform them. They also provided food for hungry bellies. In the States, people are also lost and the Gospel still has the power to change lives. *Do we train believers here and provide them with opportunities here to apply what they’ve just learned?*

IMPOSSIBLE SETTINGS

On one of our outreach days, we went further up the mountain to an open-air market to do an evangelism program. However, the enemy didn’t want us to be there. While we were preparing to set up, a wreck occurred, which caused a small riot. As we quickly removed ourselves from the chaos, it dawned on us what was happening, so we huddled up and prayed against spiritual warfare. God performed two miracles from the wreck, resulting in two new villages becoming open for the Gospel. We didn’t have time to do the program we intended, so our leader divided us up into teams to go through the market

sharing Gospel tracks and witnessing when we could. In 45 minutes, we regrouped and learned that God had just saved 34 people. *The enemy is at work here in the US as well, but do we recognize his activity and trust God for bold faith and victories that will glorify Him?*

TRAVEL AND COST

The cost of the trip required some sacrifice—about the cost of a family vacation to the beach. The travel time was about 11 hours, not counting layovers. We caught early and red-eye flights to save money. It was difficult to sleep on the plane, but we got to know and make friends whom we never would have met otherwise. It’s amazing how sacrifice and discomfort can be used by the Lord in our lives.

I witnessed and walked by faith more on this trip than I have at any other season of my life. I am grateful to Pastor Sergio Guardia at Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer (Lynchburg) and Tim Grandstaff, missions pastor at Thomas Road Baptist Church, for this stretching opportunity.

Would you be willing to plan mission opportunities “there” and here that will result in disciples living out bold faith?

English



Español

Si Pasa Allá, ¿Por Qué No Acá?

Una de las preguntas frecuentemente hechas a los pastores acerca de los viajes misioneros es: si mis miembros regresan animados por lo que ocurrió allá, ¿por qué no hacen las mismas cosas acá?

¿Considerarías algunas respuestas a esta enigmática pregunta mientras te nos unes en un viaje misionero a Bolivia?

OPORTUNIDADES DE EXPANSIÓN

A los miembros del equipo se les pidió preparar su testimonio para compartirlo con grupos grandes de estudiantes. Nick fue seleccionado para compartir su testimonio personal. Ahora, Nick nunca había compartido su testimonio públicamente, por lo tanto, nos pidió que orásemos por él mientras se preparaba. Después de escucharle hablar hubieras pensado que no era la primera vez que compartía su historia. Luego teníamos a Chris, un carpintero que Dios usó poderosamente para hablar acerca del quebrantamiento personal y el modo en que Dios usa a seres quebrantados. Lloré gozoso al escuchar y me pregunté, *¿Será que estos hombres no poseen oportunidades como estas en su tierra natal?*

LA PERDICIÓN DE ALLÁ

El centro donde nos hospedamos prepara jóvenes para la formación de discípulos y el compartir la fe valientemente. Cada semana estos jóvenes son enviados a comunidades donde existe una necesidad inmensa del evangelio. En otras palabras, eran enviados para practicar lo que habían aprendido cada semana. Estas comunidades albergaban a niños maltratados y desamparados que vivían en las calles. Otros niños formaban parte de una familia de escasos recursos y sin acceso a ciertas necesidades básicas. Vimos el evangelio en acción y a testigos poniendo en práctica lo que había sido implantado en ellos. Realmente creían que las personas necesitan al Señor y el evangelio los transformaría, y si, estos testigos proveyeron comida a los hambrientos. En los Estados Unidos, la gente esta igualmente perdida

y el evangelio tiene el poder a cambiar vidas. *Y, ¿entrenamos y proveemos a los discípulos con oportunidades de aplicar lo que han aprendido?*

ESCENARIOS IMPOSIBLES

Uno de los días de alcance decidimos subir la montaña. Nos detuvimos en un mercado al aire libre para comenzar un programa de evangelismo, pero el enemigo quiso impedir que estemos allí. Mientras nos preparábamos para acampar ocurrió un accidente que causó un pequeño motín. Rápidamente nos retiramos del caos y el suceso, que todavía era muy reciente. Nos agrupamos y comenzamos la lucha espiritual a través de la oración. Dios realizó dos milagros posteriores al accidente que resultaron en la apertura al evangelio de dos nuevas aldeas. No contábamos con tiempo para llevar a cabo el programa, entonces, nuestro líder nos dividió en equipos para compartir folletos por todo el mercado y para testificar cuando se diera la oportunidad. En 45 minutos, regresamos para escuchar que Dios había salvado a treinta y cuatro personas. *El enemigo también está al asecho en los Estados Unidos, pero ¿reconocemos su actividad y confiamos en Dios para tener una fe intrépida y victorias que lo glorifiquen?*

EL VIAJE Y EL COSTO

El costo del viaje requiere hacer algunos sacrificios—lo mismo que un viaje a la playa durante las vacaciones. El tiempo de vuelo fue de 11 horas, sin contar las paradas. Volamos bien tarde en la noche y temprano en la mañana para ahorrar dinero. Es difícil dormir en un avión, pero llegamos a conocer personas que, de otra manera, nunca hubiésemos conocido. Es gracioso como el sacrificio y la incomodidad pueden ser usados por el Señor para moldear nuestra vida.

En este viaje mi testificar y mi caminar por fe fueron mayores que en cualquier otro viaje o temporada en mi vida. Estoy agradecido con el pastor Sergio Guardia de la Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer y con Tim Grandstaff, pastor de misiones de la Iglesia Bautista Thomas Road,



Español

por la oportunidad de expansión a través de dicha misión.

¿Planearías oportunidades misioneras “allá” y acá que a su vez resulten en el vivir con una fe intrépida?

Stepping Out in Faith



...thankful for God using the SBC of Virginia Foundation to help us realize our dream and fulfill God's plan and purpose for Calvary Baptist Church.



With the help of volunteers and funding from the SBC of Virginia Foundation, Calvary Baptist Church was able to move into its new building on September 4, 2016.

At a Wednesday night prayer meeting in February 2008, Calvary Baptist Church members in Pound, VA came together to ask the Lord for wisdom regarding building a new facility. For five years, they had been meeting in a rented space that only accommodated 50 to 60 people in the worship area. After much prayer, the church decided to build.

"We have slowly seen God move His hand over this project since 2008," says Pastor Ron Leach. "...through the provision of finances to people miraculously showing up to help in this building process—whether it's a contractor or a tradesperson to donate their time in the building of our new facility. We had a master plumber show up and say he believed the Lord would have him do the work on our building for no fee." All he requested was lunch, a helper, and materials. Other individuals felt called to give financially. Throughout the entire building process, God provided.

At one point, when the funds were almost depleted, the building team gathered in a desperate plea of faith: "Lord, we don't know if we are going to get the loan from the SBC of Virginia Foundation, but we have a construction team coming from Alabama, and they need to know today whether or not they should come." The Calvary team told the group from Alabama to come but admitted they may not have the funds to buy materials. The Alabama

mission team stepped out in faith and decided to come anyway.

Three days after that decision, says Pastor Ron, "the SBC of Virginia Foundation notified us that we had been approved to receive the loan. This was a God thing since...the bank would not even consider the loan. We are so thankful for God using the SBC of Virginia Foundation to help us realize our dream and fulfill God's plan and purpose for Calvary Baptist Church."

The SBC of Virginia Foundation was glad to be a part of the Lord's provision. "We are here to help our churches reach their God-given vision," explains Eddie Urbine, SBCV treasurer and secretary for the foundation.

Baptist Builders were also a godsend. "If we had not received their help, we could not have moved into the building on September 4, 2016. ...Not only do they know what they're doing, they have the heart of a servant. Steve, one of the volunteers, had a bad illness and didn't really need to be here, but he desperately wanted to be a part of serving the Kingdom of the Lord. They had to make him leave the project for a scheduled doctor's appointment because he did not want to leave. Baptist Builders were some of the best servants I have ever seen, and we learned a lot from them."

Retired electrician Ron Chit Khin kept up his electrical certification and was able

Church members gathered to pray for wisdom.





REACHING OUT TO SOUTH FORK AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

to supervise and help with the electrical work at Calvary. His work was essential to the project. Pastor Ron testifies that funds were tight, and “Ron Chit Khin volunteered all of his time as an effort to the Lord. Sometimes we had to encourage him to take reimbursement for the supplies he had purchased. We would not have been able to have completed this building without the help of Brother Ron. Plus, we also learned his personal story—how the Lord used missionary Adoniram Judson to lead his great-grandfather to the Lord in Burma many years ago. Ron was not just a worker who came to help; he has become a good friend of ours.”



Services were held in the newly constructed building in September.

“Time after time, the Lord used this slow process to teach us to trust in Him,” shares Pastor Ron. “As a matter of fact, this building was a big risk. What we are hoping is God will use [it] and the people [of] Calvary Baptist Church to reach out to South Fork and the surrounding area. It’s a poor community, and people are moving away because of our bad economy, but I believe God is calling us to minister to those who still live here.”

Everything practically says, ‘Don’t do this,’ but God has provided miraculously for us...we have the space now to reach this community for Him. Pound is the last little town in Virginia as you head to Kentucky, and He wants to use us to make Himself known to our little part of Virginia. I am so glad the church is grabbing that vision as we move forward for Him.”

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Three Words

WHATEVER WHENEVER WHEREVER

Au Revoir! Ron and Linda Kidd often used this French phrase for goodbye when they served as missionaries in France, but they've had to use it recently to part with family and friends in Virginia.

At the end of August, the Kidds packed up their belongings, plugged their new address into their GPS, and set out for Montreal, Quebec in Canada. The decision to leave the United States was not an easy one, but it was God ordained.

Making transitions is nothing new to this couple. For 52 years, Ron and Linda have served the Lord in ministry work—49 of those years, as husband and wife. Ron began in ministry as a youth pastor. From there, God led the couple to Paris, France.

"When we arrived, I didn't know a word of French," says Ron. They spent two years in language school, which, shares Ron, "was a hard experience, but it's something we've always been thankful for because once you have it, you never lose it." Ron and Linda put their French skills to use for 15 years there sharing the Gospel.

After feeling the Lord calling them back to the US, Ron accepted a position as the Southeastern

Kentucky Area director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The couple later ministered at Swift Creek Baptist Church in Colonial Heights for more than eight years in student ministry work. In 2005, Ron and Linda joined the SBC of Virginia missions and church planting team—an area of ministry for which they shared a passion.

"Being a part of the SBCV has been wonderful," says Ron. "Working together with the SBCV family, enjoying fellowship, growing together, laughing together, and sometimes even crying together, has been a very rewarding experience. We're a real brotherhood and a very close-knit family."

The SBC of Virginia has a mutual respect for the Kidds. "Both Ron and Linda show by their lives and testimonies what it means to be true followers of Jesus Christ. They exemplify servants and always keep the local church as the highest priority in ministry," says Brandon Pickett, SBCV's associate executive director. "It's been such a joy to serve side by side with them for these years."

As content as the Kidds were in their ministry at the SBCV, God had another change in the works—one that would use all of their training and experience to invest in His Kingdom in a new

RESOURCE

EMAIL: ronlindakidd@gmail.com

“

He may be calling you to go somewhere to serve Him with your gifts and talents. Don't be afraid.

Aller! Go for it!

”



August 31, 2016—Moving Day—Ron and Linda on their way to serve in Montreal

place. In January of 2015, Ron was reading a devotional and praying when God spoke.

“It was a still, small voice, just in my spirit—the Lord saying, ‘Do you love Me and trust Me enough with your future that you would be willing to say three words: whatever, whenever, wherever?’ Could I really say that?”

“I remember praying and saying to the Lord, ‘To the best of my ability to know my heart, yes, I will go, and I will do whatever, whenever, and wherever.’ After that, I went to my wife, and I said, ‘Lin, this is what I did—how do you feel about it?’ She said, ‘I agree with you 100%. As much as we love them, I don’t want our children or grandchildren ever to come before Jesus.’ And so we made that decision together.”

The Lord later revealed where He wanted the Kidds to go. At a NAMB SEND Conference, Ron met with the leadership of SEND Montreal. He shared Linda’s and his desire to serve in a Francophone ministry, using their language skills, abilities, and gifts to serve as missionaries.

“I didn’t know it at the time,” Ron says, “but they had been praying for someone to come and do planter care ministry—exactly what we had been doing with the SBCV. They invited us to join their vision tour. During that visit, the Lord confirmed that this was the place where we needed to be.”

Ron and Linda will provide planter care ministry for all of Quebec, coach and mentor church planters, and attend and serve in a young church plant called Renaissance.

Charlottesville Community Church is the Kidds’ sending church.

As they serve as Mission Service Corps missionaries by faith and raise their own support, Ron and Linda will use their gifts and talents to strengthen church planters and their families. Their ultimate goal is to see many Quebecois come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

At a time when most couples their age would consider retiring and relocating to a place that’s warm and carefree, Ron and Linda have chosen to obey God’s call of “whatever, whenever, and wherever,” even to a place where temperatures can reach minus 30 degrees!

“Just because you have gray hair and you have some years behind you, doesn’t mean you can’t continue to serve the Lord

and have an effective ministry,” shares Ron. “You can continue to serve Him, and the Lord will open doors. Personally, I want our grandchildren to know that Nana and Bop love them very, very much, but we love Jesus, and we are still investing our lives for Him.”

Pickett asserts, “Our thoughts and prayers go with the Kidds to Montreal, where they are perfectly equipped for the ministry opportunities that now lie in front of them. I’m sure a number of our churches will get to work with them again as they travel there on short-term mission trips.”

Ron and Linda admit they’ll miss their family and friends in the States, but they are looking forward to the family God will give them in Montreal. “It can be scary, but Linda and I have both once again really learned to walk by faith. It is exciting to see Him provide and open doors that we had no idea He would open.

“Not everyone is called to go to Canada, but He may be calling you to go somewhere to serve Him with your gifts and talents. Don’t be afraid. Aller! Go for it!”



A team from a SEND Montreal partnering church and an SBCV church plant (Impact Church of Centreville, VA) spent close to a week serving the community. Also pictured is Aaron Boswell, church planter/lead pastor of Renaissance Church of Montreal.

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A No-Excuse Response

In June 2016, floods ravaged the western portion of Virginia and parts of West Virginia. Hundreds of homes were impacted, and scores of families lost loved ones. The event made national news several days in a row, which made the needs known.

Families needed assistance to reclaim their homes and possessions. They needed food and support. But who would go and serve? Most people who heard the heart-wrenching stories probably thought, *How can I help?* Some prayed, some donated money, and others donated their time.

From 53 SBC of Virginia churches, 156 people responded to the Disaster Relief callout. Each volunteer made sacrifices to go: some had been through recent medical procedures (some quite serious); some had to arrange for their loved ones' care while they were away; some rearranged their schedules and took time off from work; and some overcame their nervousness about

doing DR work for the first time and not knowing anyone on the team.

They sensed the Lord's calling, and they found a way to overcome their obstacles. They were the hands and feet of Christ during the Disaster Relief response, and much was accomplished!

In western Virginia, volunteers conducted door-to-door assessments and made ministry contacts with 91 homeowners! The team mucked out 19 homes, which included removing belongings, removing drywall and floors, pressure-washing the home, and applying a mold inhibitor. Multiple individuals committed to returning to a relationship with God.

At the West Virginia location, SBCV kitchens prepared over 60,000 meals, which were served by our partners to those impacted by the flash floods. Your teams prepared twice the total meals of all of the other feeding sites in West Virginia combined!

They were the hands and feet of Christ during the Disaster Relief response, and much was accomplished!

Families were fed, homes were cleaned out, and the Gospel was shared—all because volunteers chose to obey the Lord's leading, despite conflicts that could have easily kept them home. We praise the Lord for SBCV Disaster Relief volunteers, and we know there are hundreds more who prayed for the teams, homeowners, and first responders. Perhaps next time will be your time to go!



RESOURCE

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APRIL 29
NORTH

get the latest information at sbcv.org/dr



from the **EDITOR**

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Brandon

Not Alone

BIGGER THAN TWO LITTLE WORDS

You may be asking, “What does *Not Alone* mean?” Or, more importantly, “What does *Not Alone* mean to me?” This is a theme we introduced through a Cooperative Program (CP) video last year, and it’s a theme we will be exploring over the next three years throughout the life of the SBC of Virginia.

Last year, the Innovative Faith Resources team produced a CP video that begins with a little boy talking about how dark and lonely the world is...but he knows there is hope, healing, and light. The boy is saving his money in a piggy bank to give to God and to others. The video ends with the boy reassured that when he gives to his local church, his contribution, though small, is added to the gifts of thousands upon thousands of other Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. That’s why he can say, “I’m not alone.” The purpose of the video was to show that Southern Baptists can do so much more together than we can ever do on our own. The *Not Alone* theme that started here in Virginia is now being utilized by the Southern Baptist Convention around the country to promote the Cooperative Program.

For a pastor who feels like he is on an island—ministering in a vacuum and unnoticed by the world—these two simple words can have significant meaning. To know he is not alone can mean the difference between surviving in ministry another year or, like so many others, forfeiting his calling for another profession or another place. The strength of the SBCV mission partnership can come alongside him with training, networking, fellowship, and so much more.

As we seek to reach our world for Jesus Christ, we are *Not Alone*. With the sheer magnitude of worldwide lostness, it’s comforting to know no church is alone in reaching places like

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» **London, Dubai, and Chang Mai**, through the INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD’S GLOBAL CITIES INITIATIVE

Not Alone isn’t limited to one meaning. Why? Because each of us has a different calling, ministry, and mission field. And that’s the beautiful thing about this mission fellowship we call the SBC of Virginia. God is bringing us together to reach our world for Christ and let the lost know that they too are *Not Alone*!

LOST GENERATION



“If you are in your 20s in the UK, there is a 97% chance that you have never met a follower of Jesus in your entire life.”

Calendar

view the online calendar at sbcv.org/calendar

NOVEMBER

Mission Project:

Bibles for Homeless Women (November/December)

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

DECEMBER

Mission Projects:

Bibles for Homeless Women (November/December)

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

- 4-11 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 8 Church Planter Network-Regional
- 24 *Christmas Eve*
- 25 *Christmas Day*

2017

JANUARY

Mission Project:

Church Plant Equipment for Lithuania (January/February)

- 7 Women's Conference "Beautiful Blessings" (Abingdon)
- 10-11 SPHERE Training (Liberty University)
- 13-14 YEC (London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach)
- 17 Young Pastors Summit (Ministry Support Ctr, Glen Allen)

FEBRUARY

Mission Project:

Church Plant Equipment for Lithuania (January/February)

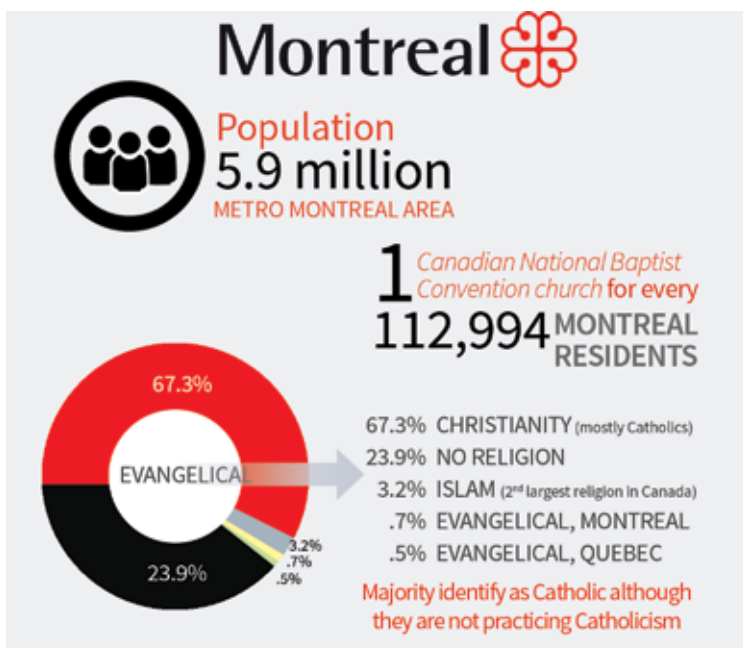
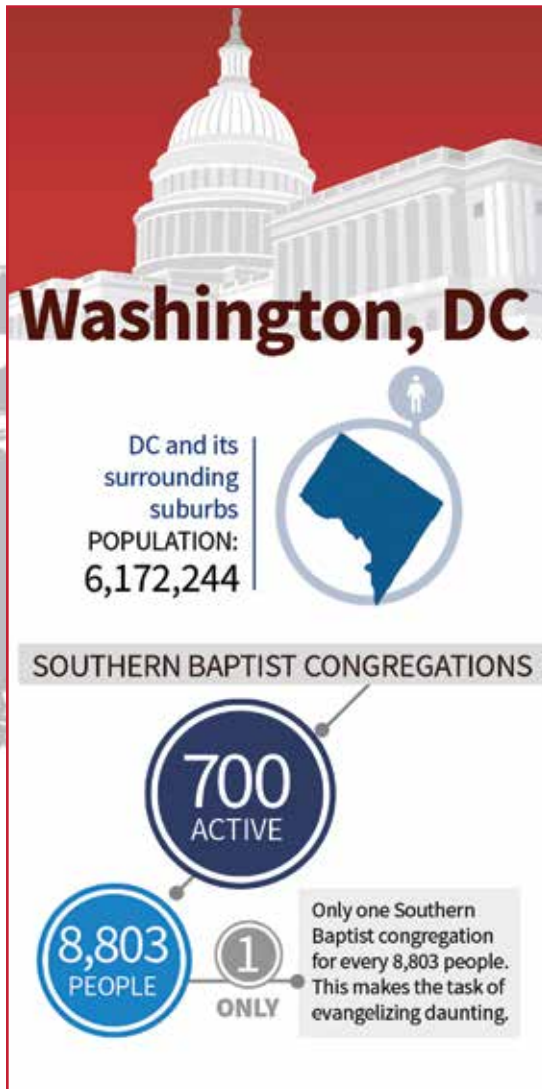
- 4 Women's Ministry Fit 2 Lead Conference (Ministry Support Ctr, Glen Allen)
- 7 Pastors of Smaller Congregations Summit (Ministry Support Ctr, Glen Allen)
- 10-11 Student Pastors Retreat (Williamsburg)
- 23-25 Bi-Vocational Pastors Event (Ministry Support Ctr, Glen Allen)
- 25 DR Training (Southeast)

MARCH

Mission Projects:

Hikers' Supplies for Trail Days / Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

- 3-4 Women's Conference "U-Lead" (North)
- 5-12 Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer for North America
- 7 Prayer Summit (The Heights BC, Colonial Heights)
- 11 SBCV Kidz Leaders' Conference and Super VBS Clinic (Swift Creek BC, Midlothian)
- 16 Ministers of Discipleship (Ministry Support Ctr, Glen Allen)
- 17-18 Ignite Men's Conference (Lynchburg)
- 24-25 Valley Student Conference (Roanoke)
- 25 DR Training (Central)
- 31-Apr 1 Statewide Church Planter Network





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For more information, please visit:
sbcv.org/prayersummit

DR. DONALD WHITNEY
*Professor of Biblical Spirituality & Associate Dean
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

DR. GORDON FORT
*Senior Ambassador for the President,
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