Equipping Church Leaders

The SBCV 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.
**Editor’s Note**

There is nothing worse than being asked to do something and feeling like you don’t know how to do it. You feel helpless, scared, and often a little angry because no one is helping. Sometimes in the church setting we are guilty of recruiting volunteers without providing adequate training and the same feelings abound.

We desperately need dedicated and trained volunteers in all our churches, and summer time is a good time to be equipping leaders for the next year. This issue of the Proclaimer tells the stories of churches that have taken the job of training volunteers seriously. Several articles bear testimony to the value of attending an SBCV training event. Our annual Church Leadership Conference will be on August 19 & 20 at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights.

If you will invest a few minutes getting someone to come with you for training, it will yield benefits in the life of the trainee right away and also for eternity.

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Pastors, Staff & Wives Retreat

**September 9-10**

at Wintergreen Resort

Remembering & Renewing

**Guest Speakers:**

Harold & Barbara O’Chester

The O’Chesters have led the largest men’s and women’s retreat ministry in the SBC.

**Arrive EARLY** to take advantage of the available resort activities:

- Skylift Ride with mountain view
- Miniature golf
- Lunch with your Area Missionary (dutch treat)
- Golf, Tennis
- Spa, Fitness (exercise, pools, hot tubs, steam rooms, saunas)
- Private Accommodations

Buffet Dinner, Continental Breakfast, Buffet Lunch

Check in Time: 4-6 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m.

**Cost for first 50 paid couples: $220**

$240 after the first 50 paid registrants

Only 80 spaces, so get your payment in early!
2005

JULY
11–15  SBCV YOUTH CAMP — Liberty University, Lynchburg

AUGUST
9–10  YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (YEC) — Liberty Baptist, Hampton
19–20  CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — Mt. Pleasant Baptist, Colonial Heights
25  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (statewide)

SEPTEMBER
9–10  PASTORS, STAFF & WIVES RETREAT — Wintergreen
11–14  EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (CW) — The Tabernacle, Danville
11–18  WEEK OF PRAYER for State Missions
24  CHURCH TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE — Fellowship Community Church, Salem
26–29  FAITH CLINIC — Kingsland Baptist, Richmond
29  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)

OCT
7–8  HARVEST FOR THE LORD Women's Conference — Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke
27  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)

NOV
14–15  SBCV ANNUAL MEETING — Grove Avenue Baptist, Richmond

2006

JAN
26  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)

FEB
17–18  SWAT RETREAT (Eastern)
23  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
24–25  SWAT RETREAT (Western)

MAR
12  FRIEND DAY — SBCV Churches
13  EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
24  STUDENT PASTORS/DIRECTORS RETREAT
30  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
31–Apr1  VBS CLINICS

MAY
20  BIBLE DRILL

JUNE
11–14  PASTORS’ CONFERENCE, Southern Baptist Convention — Greensboro, NC

4  NOT A COOKIE CUTTER CONFERENCE
Last year’s Church Leadership Conference was tailored to meet the ever-changing needs of local churches. This year every church whose desire is to move to excellence in ministry should plan to attend the Church Leadership Conference scheduled for August 19 and 20.

5  DRY BONES RISE AGAIN
A Testimony from SBCV Basic Training for Church Planting
Shaun Matako discovered a new passion for church planting during the four days he attended the Basic Training for Church Planters.

9  TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TRAINING
Gathered around coffee cups, more than 43 pastors and missionaries prepared themselves to guide churches through the critical time of being between pastors.

13  PASTOR BAPTIZES IN IRAQ
J.D. Moore, pastor of Union Baptist Church, is serving in Iraq where he’s bringing the Gospel to soldiers and baptizing in a make-shift baptistry in this desert combat zone.

14  I’M TIRED OF LIVING A LIE
Two souls saved, one man baptized and a marriage restored...all from a simple haircut and prayer!

15  MUCH MORE THAN A LAYMAN
Volunteers from all walks of life are making a difference by investing their time and talents in Kingdom work, and it is through their efforts and willingness that the Kingdom of God is advancing.
Leadership Training Yields Life Impact

Where do you turn when circumstances and tragedy leave you alone and searching? When Tammy’s (not her real name) husband left her and her children… she was looking for encouragement, support and love. She found just such a place in the Sunday School ministry of Poquoson Baptist Church. But this warm, inviting atmosphere didn’t just happen by accident… it was the result of intentional training! In fact, all of Poquoson Baptist Church began a regular leadership meeting after training with SBCV staff in October 2004. The church was challenged to see Sunday School as an open group, a means for bringing people into the church. Prior to that time, Sunday School was seen simply as a means of mentoring Christians and not as an open door ministry.

These regular times of leadership training and the resulting renewed focus on small group relationships have led to numerical and spiritual fruit. Recently, Poquoson Baptist had 200 in Sunday School for the first time in the history of the church! Leadership training has proved critical because it gives continuity of vision amidst the constant turnover of military families. Debbie Johnson, a member of Poquoson, said, “Bring us up and send us out to form more classes. That’s what we do.” Leaders who have been in place for years are more excited than ever before, according to the pastor, John Pouchot. “It is like the church has experienced a radical change in its thinking; a paradigm shift is taking place. This has been a direct result of our focus on leadership training and development.”
Church LEADERSHIP Conference
August 19-20
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Colonial Heights

Equipping Leaders for the Work of Ministry

Friday: 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m. Session 1
6:30 p.m. Rally
7:15 p.m. Session 2
8:30 p.m. Session 3

Saturday 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. Session 4
10:15 a.m. Session 5
11:30 a.m. Rally
1:30 p.m. Session 6

Workshops Include:
- Sunday School Growth
- Evangelism and Outreach
- Church Health and Growth
- Preaching & Pastoral Ministries
- Music and Worship
- Technology
- Church Administration
- Church Planting
- Home & Family
- Ministries
- Missions
- SWAT

Keynote Speaker:
Ron Pratt

Ron Pratt is national events planner for the LifeWay Conference Centers at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention
MYRA TRENT, VBS DIRECTOR OF MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, just west of Phenix, said the reason she attended the State VBS Clinic last year for the first time was to “get some good ideas for decorating.” She went on to say, “If I can just add one more idea to my creative list, it will make VBS all the better. What I like about the VBS training is that it encourages you to do what God has called you to and the church has enlisted you to do. It is not a chore, it is an opportunity!”

To make sure she seized the opportunity, this year Trent brought eight other leaders with her to the VBS training at Hyland Heights Baptist in Lynchburg. Her enthusiastic personality was well received when she kiddingly made training mandatory for her leaders! “Of course it wasn’t, and they knew that I was kidding, but they also knew my heart and the importance I placed on training and being equipped to lead one of the most exciting VBS ever,” said Trent. Catching her vision and passion for VBS was Pastor Joey Anthony and their youth minister, Chris Kessler, along with their wives, as well as some other key leaders. “It’s a jump start to the VBS season. It gets your excitement going,” said Anthony.

In a church that averages approximately 140 in worship, it is exciting to see the growth that has taken place in VBS attendance. Enrollment was 80 just six years ago. Last year 181 were enrolled with 13 first time decisions for Christ.

Ramblin’ Road Trip: Destination — Jesus

Midway Baptist is anticipating another jump in VBS attendance this year. The early preparation makes it possible to concentrate on the most important aspect of VBS, and that is outreach to the unsaved and unchurched in the community. Their prayer and aim is that others would join them on this year’s Ramblin’ Road Trip: Destination — Jesus.
Dry Bones *Rise Again*

A Testimony from SBCV/NAMB
Basic Training for Church Planting

**FROM THE DESK OF:**

*Dr. Shaun M. Matako*

April 4, 2005

Dear SBCV,

I want to share with you what a blessing the Basic Training for Church Planters was for me. I really didn’t realize how much those four days would impact my personal walk with Christ, rekindle my fire for evangelism, and discover a new passion for church planting.

In my own personal walk I had been going through the “valley of dry bones”. I had just come out of a season of ministry that had left me more depressed and discouraged than I had ever been in over ten years as a pastor. There were times over the past several months that I had looked at my calling and wondered, why was God allowing this season in my life.

When Jodi and I arrived in Glen Allen for day one, we were reserved but excited. Having been a pastor for ten years I really thought I could be more of a help to all these young and new “Church Planters”. It took all of about thirty minutes for me to realize that God had brought me here for a reason and that He was about to breathe “new-life” into these dry bones.

Basic Training helped me to realize that God does want to use me, but He wants to lead the decision making process. Basic training showed me how to see God’s vision for our community and also His mission to reach the people within it. Since Basic Training, I’ve had more personal witnessing opportunities and our church membership has grown dramatically through personal evangelism.

So thank you. I believe these dry bones have risen again!

In Christ’s Service,

*Signature*
Week of Prayer for State Missions and the SBC of Virginia State Missions Offering

September 11-18, 2005

Goal: $175,000

**HOW will this offering be used?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Three Portable Baptistries/Church Planting</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Portable Churches/Church Planting</td>
<td>$64,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster Relief Equipment</td>
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<td>Appalachian Trail Ministries</td>
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<td>Summer Ministry Interns</td>
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<td>Evangelism Response Center TV Ads</td>
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For more information go to www.sbcv.org or call 888.234.7716
Imagine more than a 1,000 years of collective wisdom pastoring churches in one room! For four days, pastors and state leaders gathered around coffee cups for Transitional Pastor Ministry training. Now, imagine having that collected wisdom in your church during the critical time when you are between pastors. As too many churches have experienced… this can be a tenuous time filled with uncertainty. The question often raised from its members is, “What do we do now?” One great opportunity is securing a Transitional Pastor. A Transitional Pastor provides spiritual leadership in guiding a church through the time between a pastor leaving until the calling of a new pastor.

Well-known and gifted Southern Baptist Convention leaders partnered with Lifeway and the SBCV for a four day conference that was attended by 43 pastors and missionaries. These men are experienced, God-called servants who are proven pastors and leaders. The Transitional Pastor Ministry Training has now prepared these men to guide churches through stages of transition. They are now able to assist the churches in ministry, help church leaders renew vision, mend broken relationships, and prepare the church as they call a pastor.

With the coffee cups cleaned and back in the cupboards, these men are ready to serve.

Want More Information?
Contact the SBCV Church Enrichment Missionary for your ministry area or call 888-234-7716 if you would like to know more about Transitional Pastor Training.

Pastor Scott Harris is passionate about FAITH. He says that because South Norfolk Baptist Church members are FAITH trained they are able to accomplish their God-given task of reaching out to their community.

“First, FAITH has increased the number of people involved in our weekly outreach program. This semester we had 39 adults and 13 youth involved in visitation. Over the past two years we have equipped 93 people to share their faith.”

The FAITH evangelistic method trains people to share the Gospel and gives them the opportunity to share their faith. It also provides a group of Christians who will encourage and hold each other accountable.

Harris also said, “FAITH has increased our impact on our community. With the increase of people involved in visitation, we were able to make more visits. This past semester we made 469 personal visits. That translates into 469 ministry opportunities. Six people were led to Christ!”

Pastor Harris says FAITH training has led to something South Norfolk Baptist calls “soul-consciousness.” “They are more aware of the eternal destination of the people around them. There is now a more concerted prayer effort to reach those who do not know Jesus. This has had a direct effect over the entire ministry, which has led to the church experiencing growth in our Sunday School and Worship attendance.”

For the past 2 years God has blessed South Norfolk Baptist Church with an increase in baptisms: 51 more in 2003 and 42 more in 2004. FAITH can work for your church too!
Women from 420 churches in 21 different states came to Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg to listen to Nancy Leigh DeMoss lead the “Revive our Hearts” conference. More than 2,300 women packed the sanctuary. The SBCV teamed with Thomas Road to coordinate and host what turned out to be Demoss’ largest conference ever! But the true results lie in the changed hearts and lives behind the numbers.

Here are a few of the comments received from conference attendees:

“Praise God for this miracle that He has worked in my life this weekend, removing much bitterness and contempt that I’ve held toward my husband for so many years.”

“Thank you for renewing a pastor’s wife’s heart that was weary and worn.”

“My heart was truly touched and revived at this conference. I am not the same as when I came... the Holy Spirit was here.”

“A friend in my Bible study group was saved at this conference! Amen!”

“I have been saved for almost 20 years and been to many conferences, but I do not know if I have ever felt such conviction, or rather, seen so clearly how far away I am from God and how close I could be.”

Sue Sawyer, women’s ministry coordinator for the SBCV, put it this way, “God’s spirit moved in an awesome way and women responded by going to the altar, making situations right with friends who were with them, phoning husbands or parents to seek forgiveness, or going to the prayer room to pray with a counselor. There were also ten ladies who received Christ and twelve who received assurance of their salvation. Praise the Lord!”
HOW do you balance dynamic discipleship with effective evangelism? This was one of the main topics at this year’s Student Pastor Retreat and College Metro. Almost 60 youth and college pastors along with their wives came together for two days to learn, network and relax.

One of the country's foremost youth pastors, Bubba Thurman, was the guest speaker, along with his wife, Amanda. Thurman serves at Lake Pointe Baptist Church in Rockwell, Texas, where they typically average 1,000 teenagers per Sunday. Youth pastors went away with practical principals and basic strategies to grow their youth groups, regardless of the size of the church.

“Awesome job this weekend! This is a first-class training event and other youth pastors should take advantage of it. Bubba was fantastic, and my wife was truly blessed by Amanda. Plus, the 24 hours away from the children was really nice,” said Pat Fiordelise, Youth Pastor of Kingsland Baptist Church.

Phil Mitchell, SBCV Studentz Coordinator, says the Retreat/Metro is an invaluable event for every youth pastor and college minister in the state. “Besides bringing vibrant and effective youth pastors to Virginia for quality encouragement and enlightenment, SBCV youth pastors and leaders are able to build relationships with other ministers so when questions or struggles come, they have others to turn to.”

That relationship building is one reason many of the youth pastors come back to this retreat year after year. Greg Palmer, Adolescent Pastor of The Tabernacle, feels it’s something that you can’t get anywhere else. “Although we see some of our fellow SBCV Youth Pastors from time to time at state events, we don’t normally get the opportunity to fellowship. The Youth Pastors’ Retreat is a unique setting where these men and their wives can get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere. My wife loved the “break-out” sessions with Amanda. The weekend reminded me that “iron truly does sharpen iron.”
Jon Rissmiller served as minister of youth at Southside Baptist in Suffolk for more than six years. During that time, he heard his pastor, Stewart McCarter, constantly cast his vision that Southside plant a church. As Rissmiller prayed, his pastor’s vision became his vision and he felt impressed that God wanted him to pastor this new church plant that McCarter had been talking about.

Rissmiller initially fought this overwhelming burden. But, after much prayer, he spoke out one day at the start of a staff meeting. “Pastor, you’re sinning. You say we need to plant a church but we haven’t done it!” McCarter replied, “We’ve been praying for a pastor of that church before we start one.” With tears in his eyes, Rissmiller said, “God wants me to be that pastor!” After praying together as a staff and rejoicing in the providence of God, McCarter called Delton Beall, SBCV Church Planting Strategist for the Southeast Ministry Area. They began the process of sending out Rissmiller and 16 other families to plant Abundant Hope Baptist Church.

McCarter and Southside Baptist were fully committed to the process… to the point that when Rissmiller went through Basic Training for church planting, McCarter attended with him. He even helped watch Rissmiller’s children so nothing would stand in the way of this new church being planted. The 16 families sent from Southside have included very prominent leaders… including the women’s ministry director, the church treasurer, the church drummer, and several prominent laymen. And God has truly blessed Southside Baptist through this process. Despite sending these families out, attendance at Southside has remained steady, as has tithes and offerings. Abundant Hope had over 60 present at their first service.

Please pray for both churches, as God uses them to build His kingdom!
Union Baptist is no stranger to the combat in Iraq. Several of their own are serving there, including their pastor, J.D. Moore. His chaplain ministry was highlighted at the SBCV Evangelism Conference in March. More than $400 was given at the conference for a coffee house called the Oasis, a place started by Moore, where soldiers can gather away from the battle.

After coming home for a brief “sabbatical,” J.D. is again serving in Tikrit, Iraq until November. J.D. understands his mission is spiritual combat, bringing the Gospel to soldiers at a point in their lives when they are open to God’s provision. He leads a Friday night Bible study on Revelation and keeps evangelism at the forefront. Listen to what J.D. said about a recent baptismal service in the Iraqi desert:

“Baptizing obedient Christians is always an exciting event, especially when it presents a challenge to find a place deep enough to immerse the baptismal candidates. We have found a very inventive way of baptizing the saints here. We found a casing, in which a jet engine was shipped to us, and placed plastic in the split container for it to hold water. The only way to get enough water into the make-shift baptistry (without pouring pint-size bottles of water all day long) was to find a water truck. God provided the truck and we filled up the baptistry. The congregation stood around the tank and we began our baptisms. It was great! God is moving in a great way here, and you all are a part of the success—thank you for your prayers.”

For recent updates from Pastor Moore, go to www.unionbaptistchurch.net and select “Chronicles of Pastor J.D.”
Two souls saved, one man baptized and a marriage restored… all from a simple haircut.

Sound incredible? Well, it is! But that’s the story of a church member of Pioneer Baptist in Max Meadows.

Gayle is a hair stylist at a truck stop off Interstate 81 in Wytheville. One April morning, a truck driver named Steve came in with a normal request for Gayle… he wanted his head shaved. The conversation started off quite normal… but when Gayle started talking about her faith in Jesus, things changed forever — for both of them.

Steve said he had no interest in religion, mainly because he couldn’t understand the Bible. Gayle called her pastor, Neal Hawks, and asked if he would bring Steve a modern translation. While waiting Gayle continued to witness and learned Steve was having marital problems. (This hit close to home for Gayle.) She told him that after accepting Jesus as his Savior, he should go to church, read the Bible and pray with his wife, if he wanted his marriage to last. When Hawks arrived, he began to share God’s forgiveness, using the very Bible he had just brought to Steve! With tears streaming down his face, Steve repented of his sin and made Christ his Lord.

Two days later, Gayle’s husband, Philip, awoke on the couch — which had become a normal event. He argued with Gayle and stormed off to work. Gayle continued to pray, asking God to perform a miracle in their marriage, knowing that if something didn’t happen soon, it would end.

Later that morning the Lord burdened Philip to visit his pastor. Hawks assumed Philip was there to talk about his marriage problems but to his surprise Philip began to confess, “I’m tired of living a lie. I need to give my life to Christ.” Hawks led Philip to Christ and the following Sunday Philip was baptized along with two others!

Onancock Baptist Church on the Eastern Shore of Virginia has found a way to challenge its members about missions while introducing the community to the mission field.

At its last mission conference, two members of Onancock gave their lives to missions. The church also increased its Cooperative Program giving and missions involvement on a local level. But one unique feature of the conference was combining missions and aviation for the entire community to see. More than 700 people at the Accomack County Airport enjoyed airplane and helicopter rides, children’s activities and missionary information stations. They also heard about the work of JAARS, a ministry of Wycliffe Bible Translators. The pilots for the JAARS also spoke at local school assemblies and demonstrated a number of technologies being used on mission fields around the world.

This September, Onancock Baptist Church will again sponsor a mission conference that will include “Missions at the Airport.” The conference’s theme will be “The Incorruptible Seed” based upon Colossians 1:6.

Missions at the Airport is an opportunity that can take place at many of the regional airports throughout the Commonwealth. If you are interested in learning about how you could bring this unique ministry to your community, contact John Madden at Onancock Baptist Church.
Much More Than Just A Layman

From the Executive Director

Doyle Chauncey

Volunteers involved in ministry often say this about themselves, “I am just a layman.” My primary purpose in this issue is to elevate to its rightful place the sacred and noble ministry of hundreds and thousands of men and women volunteers in SBCV churches. These volunteers tirelessly and sacrificially invest their time and talents in Kingdom work, without financial remuneration. A second purpose is to reaffirm our commitment to assist our affiliated churches in providing volunteers the very best training possible. We will do whatever it takes to help churches equip and train these special people to serve Christ productively and with excellence.

I am a paid, full time Christian worker. And I am grateful beyond words for the gifted, hard-working, creative paid staff with whom I work. But the Kingdom of God cannot advance through the efforts of paid Christian workers alone. That hope rests on the willingness of volunteers from all walks of life — doctors, lawyers, construction workers, students, senior adults, etc.

Jesus deliberately made a strategic decision when He invited Peter, James, John and the other disciples to help Him spread the good news of the Kingdom. He could have built His ministry in other ways. He could have remained a solo act. But Jesus chose to advance His work primarily on the shoulders of ordinary people who live in the real world of family, business and community. He believed the same skills used to make clay pots, herd livestock and bake bread could be used to advance the Kingdom of God.

Whether God has blessed you with forty hours a week of discretionary time, or whether you can barely snatch forty minutes a month from your overloaded schedule, you have the potential to make a difference in your corner of the world. What about it? Is it time for you to get up from the grandstands, crawl over a couple of benches, suit up, and get out on the playing field? I guarantee it’s far more exhilarating to be a participant than a spectator. Why watch others change the world when you can join them?

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Honors Jack Noble

The North American Mission Board honored Jack Noble, volunteer co-director, for the SBCV Disaster Relief Ministry, as one of the ten recipients of this year’s Special Service Award. “Under Jack’s leadership, the convention’s disaster relief ministry has grown from its inception in 2002 to include more than 500 trained volunteers. The ministry includes a shower unit, mobile feeding unit, command unit, and nine chainsaw units.” (BP)

According to co-director Mark Gauthier, “Jack’s dynamic leadership has had an immediate and long-lasting effect. Jack’s heartfelt response to hurricane Andrew epitomized his service to the Kingdom of God. After Andrew hit, Jack led a team from his church to respond. Upon his return home, he and his wife, Rhonda, felt the Lord leading them back to Homestead, FL. They sold their house and belongings, bought an RV, and moved to Homestead, staying on church property, and ministering to the church members and pastors. They remained there for several months, until the pastors had their homes rebuilt and were prepared to minister to their churches.”

Like most of our Disaster Relief volunteers, Jack exemplifies a servant’s heart. Through his tireless efforts, more than 500 trained volunteers stand ready to respond. In addition to serving as the Co-Director of the SBCV Disaster Relief, Jack also serves as Minister of Education of North Main Baptist Church, Danville, VA.
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Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, Proclaimer, 4101 Cox Road, Suite 100, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

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