A Double Scoop Please!

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of DOUBLE HONOR, especially they who labor in the Word and doctrine."

I Timothy 5:17

Pastor/Staff Appreciation!
Recently, I heard about a survey of pastors done by Fuller Seminary asking what skills their congregations expected them to have mastered. Apparently these pastors listed 76 different responsibilities they were meant to be good at! Not only that, but their abilities in each of these areas were measured against the person who was the best denominational leader at that activity. Being a pastor or staff member is not an easy task, but to be called by God to serve in vocational ministry is the greatest privilege you could imagine.

In this issue of the Proclaimer, along with churches throughout America, we celebrate October as “Pastor/Staff Appreciation Month.” The articles honor those who serve in our churches and will give you some great ideas of special things you can do for your pastor and staff this month. September is the month for our State Missions Offering. It gives you a chance to educate your church about missions in Virginia, pray for missionaries, and make a gift to our State Missions offering. On the center pages you will find a tear out card that you can keep near your Bible and be reminded to pray for State Missions. Thanks for taking the time to read this issue.

To God be the Glory!

Geoff Hammond
Senior Associate Director
### Dates to Remember

**SBCV CALENDAR**

For more information, please contact us at sbcv@sbcv.org or call 888-234-7716

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2005</th>
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#### SEPTEMBER 2005
- 9-10  PASTORS, STAFF & WIVES RETREAT — Wintergreen
- 11-14 EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (CW) — The Tabernacle, Danville
- 11-18 WEEK OF PRAYER for State Missions
- 23-24 SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING (MW) — Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke
- 24  CHURCH TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE — Fellowship Community Church, Salem
- 26-29  FAITH CLINIC (CE) — Kingsland Baptist, Richmond
- 29  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)

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<tr>
<th>OCT 2006</th>
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- 1  CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SW) — Euclid Avenue Baptist, Bristol
- 7-8  HARVEST FOR THE LORD Women’s Conference — Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke
- 7-8  CHILDREN’S CONFERENCE (CE) — Swift Creek Baptist, Midlothian
- 15  MEN BE MEN CONFERENCE (CW) — Evergreen Baptist, Appomattox
- 21-22 SBCV/NAMB VISION TOUR
- 27  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
- 14-15 SBCV ANNUAL MEETING — Grove Avenue Baptist, Richmond

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<tr>
<th>JAN 2006</th>
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- 26  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
- 27-28  DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (SE) — Kempsville Baptist, Virginia Beach
- 17-18  SWAT RETREAT (Eastern)
- 23  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
- 24-25  SWAT RETREAT (Western)
- 12  FRIEND DAY — SBCV Churches
- 13  EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
- 24-25  STUDENT PASTORS/DIRECTORS RETREAT
- 30  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
- 27  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
- 20  BIBLE DRILL
- 25  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)

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<tr>
<th>APR 2006</th>
<th>JUN 2006</th>
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</table>
- 12  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
- 11-14 PASTORS’ CONFERENCE, Southern Baptist Convention — Greensboro, NC
- 29  CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
- 10-14 STUDENTZ CAMP

### Contents

**4 Honoring Your Pastor & Staff**
Your pastor and staff is worthy of a double scoop! Suggestions for expressing your personal appreciation.

**5 Southeastern Extends Education**
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is making it easier for students by offering graduate level classes at eight extension centers up and down the east coast.

**7 I Want to Thank My Mentor!**
The vital role of a mentor cannot be overstated. The support, prayer and time of a seasoned minister is invaluable to anyone young in the ministry.

**12 Church Planter Network**
Church Planter Network (CPN) is an event that gathers together church planters and SBCV staff. It’s the place where high-energy servants find support and encouragement for a 24/7 ministry.

**13 Not a Loss, but a Kingdom Gain!**
A pastor and his family responds to God’s call by leaving for the mission field to minister to the Mixteco Indians in Mexico.
When you have eyed ice cream flavors for some time and finally find just the right one, the next best thing is to say, “Make that a double scoop!” When it’s handed to you, the smile grows wider as you admire the mountains of pleasure awaiting your taste buds. Ice cream has to be one of God’s special gifts to mankind. That double scoop is your reward for cleaning your plate, finishing your chores, or reading your “honey-do lists”. You feel extra special when you turn away from the 99 flavors with your double scoop.

Pastors are a gift from God, but how special do they feel? One study of 301 clergy revealed: 66% feel lonely and isolated. According to Edward Bratcher (The Walk on Water Syndrome, Word, 1986, p. 109), “The typical pastor feels no one cares for him and his development.” This ought not be! God’s Word says in 1 Timothy 5:17, “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the Word and doctrine.”

Your pastor and staff are worthy of a “double scoop!” How can you make your pastor and staff feel extra special? October is Pastor/Staff Appreciation Month and here are some suggestions:

**SPEAK PERSONALLY** with your pastor and staff, express your personal appreciation for their ministry.

**SPEAK PUBLICLY** of your pastor and staff by leading your church to have a day of appreciation for your pastor/staff, their wives and families.

**SPEAK PRAYERFULLY** in leading your church to send prayer notes for each day of the month to your pastor/staff, their wives and families.

**SPEAK OPENLY** by taking the time to introduce your pastor and staff to one of your friends, neighbors or someone where you work. Introduce him by saying, “this is my pastor, associate pastor, minister of music, etc.”

**WHATEVER YOU DO, MAKE IT A DOUBLE SCOOP, PLEASE!**
When I began my duties as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, I was acutely aware that the stage was set for unprecedented growth. Charged with the awesome task of continuing the great work God was already doing at Southeastern, I began charting a course that I believed would honor God, encourage students, and engender positive Christian growth.

One of the most important aspects of leading a seminary is increasing the school’s endowment. From these funds, the school constructs new facilities, maintains current structures, pays salaries, and most importantly, provides needed scholarships for students. With the rising costs of education, from which seminaries are not exempt, it is becoming increasingly difficult for students to attend school on a full-time basis. Therefore, you can imagine the joy that I experienced when I learned of the incredible investment that Virginia Baptists were making in the lives of our students, and consequently, in the Kingdom of God.

Just in the two years that I have been at Southeastern, the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia have invested more than $60,000 in scholarship funds and assisted more than fifty students. To put this in perspective, this investment represents a greater award per student than any other contributing convention, all of which have been operating for longer periods of time than the SBCV. Cooperating churches in the SBCV have great reason to be proud of the contribution they are making in the lives of students preparing for ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention. As President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, let me express how grateful I am for your servant’s heart and readiness to give for Kingdom purposes. Thank you for supporting us. Thank you for trusting us. It is my prayer we will always be found worthy of your confidence.
On any given day, you may find SBCV pastors and staff gathered at a local church or restaurant for a cluster fellowship. Even though the fellowships seem to be centered on a shared meal… this opportunity for building relationships consists of much more than eating.

Rev. Daniel Collins, the new pastor of Oaks Memorial Baptist in Dry Fork, commented on the Danville Pastors/Staff Fellowships. “The fellowships are very beneficial. It helps build relationships among ministers. We can share stories and gain advice because there is such a blend of new and seasoned pastors.”

Within the hour and a half gathering, a pastor may receive a packet containing details of upcoming SBCV sponsored events or Southern Baptist Convention benefits and emphasis. The fellowship is a great way to inform pastors and staff of upcoming mission partnerships, statewide opportunities, regional conferences and leadership training. It’s also a good monthly reminder that the SBCV is available to assist them on a personal level or assist their church directly. It is not unusual for a new book release to be highlighted or to have a guest speaker that will encourage, challenge, and help equip them for ministry.

On special occasions, pastors and staff wives are the honored guests. The Pastor/Staff Fellowships are indeed much more than fellowship and good food.

Editor’s note: Please encourage the pastor and staff in your church to attend the nearest SBCV Pastors/Staff Fellowship on a regular basis.

Strengthening the Volunteer Minister of Worship

Today in many SBCV churches, we have “tent-makers” who serve as volunteer and part-time paid Ministers of Music & Worship. These volunteers devote much of their time and talent to their churches. Many of these have been set apart by their natural musical talent, either in singing or in playing an instrument. The majority have limited or no training as Ministers of Music or Ministers of Worship. Most begin their ministry out of a deep sense of need and call. But they are valuable to the health of the church and need the church’s help to grow in their ministry.

A church that is blessed with the ministry of a Volunteer Minister of Music/Worship should see to it that he has opportunities to receive up-graded training in his ministry at church expense. This will be an investment in the minister’s life as well as in the ministry of the church. God will be blessed and His church strengthened. Opportunities for growth may be found in many different areas:

■ Local schools/colleges
■ State conferences, such as the SBCV Church Leadership Conference
■ Ridgecrest Conferences for musicians
■ Special workshops provided by the SBC Seminaries

The Volunteer Minister of Music/Worship should take at least one study session per year to improve his skills. The continued education process for these servants is vital for healthy worship services, music ministries, music education and even the pastoral ministries of the church. As a Volunteer Minister of Music strengthens his skills… his ability to counsel choir members, teach instrumentalists, plan exciting and innovative worship services, and work more effectively as a staff member will increase. Volunteer Music Ministers need their local church to help them be the best they can be for the Lord’s work. We give thanks for these important servants of the Lord.
Finishing Well

Robert Edward Sherrill isn’t the first pastor of Pecks Baptist Church in Bedford and he won’t be the last! For 31 years, he has faithfully served as under-shepherd for this vibrant church. When he retires this fall, Bob and his wife, Mary, will leave a legacy worthy of the rich history and heritage of this rural church, which dates back to 1895.

Bob, an expository preacher, said the legacy he wants to leave would be a desire in the hearts of people to hear the Word of God. More than half of the present congregation has grown up under his pastorate.

Remembering his first two years as pastor, Bob recalled that there were no additions to the church. After much prayer, he asked God to let him know if Pecks Baptist was his place to serve. He asked God to give him at least one person to join the church and at least one person to give his heart to Christ. On the fifth Sunday of the month, one person joined the church and one person came to faith in Christ. The following month the church saw 13 new believers give their hearts to Christ, baptized into the fellowship and become part of the church.

When asked what advice he would give to someone following in his footsteps, Bob answered with two priorities that a young pastor must have for a long and fruitful ministry. First, “It does not matter how you build your ministry if you neglect to love and give priority to your family.” Second, “It does not matter how much energy or how many ideas you have. What will last is the solid foundation that you leave by preaching the Word of God. As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of them who preach the gospel of peace, and bring good tidings of good things.’” (Romans 10:15)

We honor Bob Sherrill and all SBCV pastors who finish well.

I Want to Thank My MENTOR!

My name is Wayne Kestner and I am the pastor of Saltville Baptist Church. The vital role of a mentor cannot be overstated, especially for a young pastor without a seminary education. I can’t imagine starting out in ministry without the teaching and admonition of my spiritual father, Dr. Don Paxton. He was there to encourage, support, and rebuke me. Pastor Paxton was always available to help me understand difficult passages of scripture, keep me from chasing insignificant issues of no eternal consequences and to give me a needed “way to go” when things went well. He also encouraged me to stay in the fight when I felt like “throwing in the towel”.

Pastor Don taught me theology… but he has also taught me how to be a shepherd, pastor. I learned from him where and when to stand during a funeral service. I also learned how to conduct myself in a hospital room, whether it was the birth of a baby or the passing of a grandmother.

While I thank God for his leadership, the most important principle instilled in me was the inerrancy of the scriptures and the centrality of preaching to the worship service. He taught me the old fashioned art of exposition and that there is no substitute for spending time in the study of God’s precious Word.

I thank God for my mentor! And, I urge anyone young in the ministry, if you have a mentor call him and thank him; if you don’t, then find one! I would also encourage any seasoned minister to find a young man and pour himself into him… your experience, support, prayer and time will be invaluable to him. I can think of no better way to multiply your ministry!
How will this offering be used?

- **Disaster Relief Equipment**: $35,000
- **Portable Churches for Church Plants**: $64,500
- **Portable Baptisteries for Church Plants**: $7,500
- **Land/Buildings for Church Plants**: $25,000
- **Summer Ministry Interns**: $26,000
- **Evangelism Response Center TV Advertising**: $12,000
- **Appalachian Trail Ministries**: $5,000

Questions?
- Email: sbcv@sbcv.org
- Toll free: 888.234.7716

State Missions Offering Week of Prayer

September 11-18

Goal: $175,000
Keep this bookmark readily available. TEAR AND PRAY

State Missions Offering
Week of Prayer

Sept. 11-18

Goal:
$175,000

How will this offering be used?

- DISASTER RELIEF EQUIPMENT: $35,000
- PORTABLE CHURCHES FOR CHURCH PLANTS: $64,500
- PORTABLE BAPTISTRIES FOR CHURCH PLANTS: $7,500
- LAND/BUILDINGS FOR CHURCH PLANTS: $25,000
- SUMMER MINISTRY INTERNS: $26,000
- EVANGELISM RESPONSE CENTER TV ADVERTISING: $12,000
- APPALACHIAN TRAIL MINISTRIES: $5,000

SUNDAY :: SEPT 11
JEREMY HENDRICK  
JOHN KOCH  
RANDY ALDRIDGE

MONDAY :: SEPT 12
ACTS 2 MINISTRY  
DON MATTHEWS  
PHIL MARTIN

TUESDAY :: SEPT 13
NAETHAN HENDRIX  
DARWIN SOKOKEN  
STEVE BRADSHAW

WEDNESDAY :: SEPT 14
JON RISSMILLER  
PHIL MITCHELL  
LARRY BLACK

THURSDAY :: SEPT 15
CRISTIAN PABLO  
BILL WENNERSTEN  
STEVE REID

FRIDAY :: SEPT 16
TALLY WILGIS  
DON COCKES  
DELTOR BEALL

SATURDAY :: SEPT 17
DOYLE CHAUNCEY  
GEOFF HAMMOND

SUNDAY :: SEPT 18
CHURCH PLANTING, STATEWIDE

(pictured left to right)
It’s sometimes hard to be the new guy on the block. But for Pastor Chad Brady of Capron Baptist, the SBCV New Pastor Orientation helped his transition into the Senior Pastor role... and into the SBCV.

“I grew up in Virginia and I knew that there was a conservative Baptist convention. But now, after meeting Doyle (Chauncey), Geoff (Hammond), and Carl (Weiser), it gives me a clear conscience to know the convention our church is supporting is well organized. This helps me to encourage our church to continue giving even more to the Cooperative Program.”

The pastor orientation is held for pastors and staff who are new to the SBCV. During their time at the Glen Allen Mission Support Center, they learn what’s going on around the state, find out what’s ahead and also fellowship.

“It was good to be able to get together with other ministers who are new to the SBCV,” said Pastor Rob Edwards of Tucker Swamp Baptist. Edwards has been at the church about a year and has had ties with the SBCV even before that. But this meeting was beneficial for him because he got to see the faces behind the voices, “I enjoyed meeting more of the people who work in the SBCV office and hearing their vision.”

Edwards says the SBCV does a great job of promoting its activities. But being able to have that one-on-one contact with the SBCV staff was very helpful.

Brady agrees, “This event was well planned and well organized. The information was very helpful to me as a new pastor, as well as being new to the SBCV. I got very excited about how our church (Cooperative Program) money is being used.”

If you are a new pastor in an SBCV church or your church just joined our fellowship, please contact your area missionary to find out when the next SBCV New Pastor Orientation will be held.

New Pastor Orientation

Sponsored by:
The Women’s Ministries of Cave Spring Baptist Church and the Women’s Ministry of the SBCV

For more information go to www.sbcv.org or call 888.234.7716
Thoughts of APPRECIATION from a PASTOR’S WIFE

Instead of hearing from the SBCV president, this time you will hear a perspective from his wife on the blessings of being in the ministry...

What a privileged life I’ve had serving alongside Carl for 25 years. It certainly has not been an easy job, but the blessings have far outweighed the heartache that can accompany our role. In appreciation for our ministry, we’ve been given everything from home-grown tomatoes to exotic cruises! The thing that has meant the most to me is the sacrificial love behind each gift. I remember times when our children were small, there would always be those “special few” that would take care of them when needed. We’ve been invited to family get-togethers where they actually made us feel as if we were members of their own family! What a blessing it has been when we were allowed to make the church parsonage our home. What a joy it has been to be a special part of weddings, births and other momentous occasions. I treasure the times God has allowed us to be with families during difficult grieving times. I’ll never forget the way my church prayed for me during a life-threatening surgery. I believe that because of those prayers, God saved me.

The best gift was when our church members allowed me to be myself and loved me for that. It took a few years to figure out the role I felt God was leading me to take as a pastor’s wife, but once I did, the members respected my decision.

Yes, I have been blessed in this highest of callings. God has equipped me to not only “perform” this calling… but to love it. My prayer for you as a fellow pastor’s wife is to first, find out what God wants you to be doing in your church… and then do it! For those who are church members, allow your pastor’s wife to be who God called her to be and love on her and her family every chance you get.

Debby Weiser
Wife of Carl Weiser,
SBCV President

SWAT Retreat 2006
Feb. 17-18
Holiday Inn Patriot
Williamsburg
and… Feb. 24-25
Hotel Roanoke

Special Guest: Cheryl Record

Thoughts of APPRECIATION
from a PASTOR’S WIFE

Instead of hearing from the SBCV president, this time you will hear a perspective from his wife on the blessings of being in the ministry...
Eleven out of twelve months of the year, church planters gather together with SBCV staff for an event called Church Planter Network (CPN). Recent conversations with some of our church planters reveal that the CPN is the place where these high-energy servants find support and encouragement for a “24/7” ministry.

Marco Smith, church plant pastor for Living Proof Baptist Church in Williamsburg, said, “I remember one day, a few months after my wife became ill, that I was about to drop from the emotional roller coaster of not only the effects of her illness, but the highs and lows of church planting. The church planter pastors gathered around me and laid their hands on my shoulder and prayed for my wife and me. I will never forget the prayer time we had that day. Church planting is not easy but the support and encouragement we receive from the SBCV staff, as well as other church planters, during our monthly meetings is a great blessing.”

Naethan Hendrix, church planter of Church in Quantico, says the training and testimonies challenge him to stay focused on what is important and not to get sidetracked. He is able to hear ideas about what is effective in other church plants.

Dallas Mills was a lay leader at Heartland Community Church and was mentored to become the lay pastor at Heartland by Lee McConnel. They attended the CPN together which Mills described as one of the most exciting things he has experienced in his more than 35 years as a Christian. He said that this is the place for answers and experiencing relevant training. But the most important benefit of the CPN, according to Dallas, is (new) churches helping other (new) churches. Heartland is living out that principle now by sending their pastor to plant another church, providing materials and financial support.

**relevant training**

**GROWING THE KINGDOM**

**PLANTING NEW CHURCHES**

**SEEING THE PEOPLE**

**GPS**

October 21-22
Washington, D.C.

**People Focus Group:**
African Americans,
Africans, and Caribbean Islanders

**Who Should Attend:**
SBCV Pastors, Minister of Missions,
Church Mission Leaders,
and On Mission Lay People

**Purpose:**
For SBCV church leaders
to see the activity of God,
to start new churches to reach
African American’s, African, and Caribbean Islanders
throughout Greater Washington DC.

**Goal:**
To enlist churches to sponsor at various levels church plants in the Greater Washington DC ministry area.

For more information contact the SBCV at 888-234-7716 or sbcv@sbcv.org

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**MEN be Men**

**Central West**

Saturday
Oct. 15
9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Evergreen Baptist Church
Evergreen, VA
(Appomattox area)

**Keynote Speakers:**
Dr. Gene Mims
Dr. Vander Warner

**Cost:**
$10 pre-registration
$15 at the door

To register or for more information call 434-352-5716.
When a pastor resigns, most churches go through a time of grieving, just as they would if they lost a loved one. This process was greatly reduced at Little River Baptist Church; not due to a lack of love, but due to understanding God’s greater plan. Pastor Anthony Conner and his family were appointed as missionaries with the International Mission Board (IMB)!

The church responded to this call with incredible support, realizing that it was not a loss, but a mission opportunity for their church to expand the Kingdom. “Little River is now in the business of sending out missionaries and that is an exciting place to be. Not only have we sent him, but we look forward to partnering with him in his mission work,” said John O’Connell, lay leader at Little River.

The church began their support with prayer. Prayer cards were handed out, allowing members to commit to praying for the Conners regularly or daily. They are also posted on the weekly prayer list. As the Conner family went to the IMB Missionary Learning Center (MLC) for training, support continued through regular e-mail contact and personal visits. One Wednesday night the whole church, including children and youth, went to MLC. It was a time of rejoicing and missions education as church members toured the MLC.

Pastor Anthony and his family left for Costa Rica at the beginning of May, where they will attend language school for one year. This is the last stop before they begin ministering to the Mixteco Indians in Mexico. Pastor Anthony describes it as “hut” to “hut” evangelism. Little River is already in the process of planning a mission trip to Mexico. Please be in prayer for Anthony, Melissa, and their children, Benjamin and Micah, our Southern Baptist Missionaries supported by your gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Children’s Conference

“Investing in Our Families for Tomorrow...Today!”

October 7-9

Art Murphy of Arrow Ministries
formerly Children’s Ministry Pastor of FBC Orlando, FL

Swift Creek Baptist Church, Midlothian

For information: call 804-739-3001 or SBCV at 888-234-1834 or email office@swiftcreekbaptist.org

Surrender Conferences

November 11-12

Bethel Baptist Church, Yorktown

REGISTRATION DEADLINE/COST:
Before October 29
Students: $35 (includes devotional book and cost)
Parents: $25 (does not include book or cost)
After October 29
Students: $45 / Parents - $35

more information at www.sbcv.org
For years, Christian college students have flocked to Florida and Texas beaches during spring break for beach evangelism. So why not mobilize college students in Virginia to do the same? But on our beach:

Virginia Beach!

This past June, more than 35 college and young singles from SBCV churches participated in the SBCV Beach & Boardwalk Outreach. Countless conversations were started through relational evangelism techniques ranging from sports on the beach, playing music on the boardwalk, or just striking up conversations with those enjoying the sun.

Dave and Ashley Proffitt (pictured above), church planters from Harrisonburg, shared Christ with “Ricky”, a power plant worker from North Carolina. Drawn to our band playing worship music on the boardwalk... “Ricky” heard the Gospel and prayed to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. The full gospel presentation was shared with at least 72 people, and six individuals accepted Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! A worship concert on Friday night consisted of Beach Reach participants, London Bridge Baptist students, and people invited from the beach.

If you want to be used by God and have a BLAST at the same time, make plans to join the fun next summer! The SBCV thanks Aletheia Church and London Bridge Baptist for their help in planning and hosting SBCV Beach and Boardwalk Outreach.
1 Timothy 5:17 (HCSB) says, “The elders who are good leaders should be considered worthy of an ample honorarium, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.”

Michael Youssef, in his wonderful book The Leadership Style of Jesus, answers the question, what makes a good shepherd? For the shepherd, the reward comes in seeing that his sheep are contented, well fed, safe, and flourishing. His energies are spent not just to make a reputation for himself, but to supply the sheep with the finest grazing in the plushest pasture, to store winter feed, to find clear water. Good shepherds spare no effort in providing a shelter from the storm. They constantly watch for ruthless enemies, diseases, and parasites to which sheep are so susceptible. From dawn to dusk these good shepherds selflessly dedicate their days to the welfare of their woolly followers. They do not even rest during the night; they sleep with one eye and both ears open, ready to leap and protect their own at the slightest sound of trouble.

This outline exhorts pastors to become good shepherd-leaders worthy of honor:

- Be a shepherd who is led by the Spirit of God
- Be a shepherd who loves unconditionally
- Be a shepherd who listens attentively
- Be a shepherd who lightens the load of others
- Be a shepherd who leaves a legacy of faithfulness and fruitfulness

We must all remember that love and service are action words.

Church leaders! Contact your Area Church Enrichment Missionary today for some good ideas on how best to honor those who shepherd you so faithfully.

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SBC Annual Meeting Affirms “Everyone Can”

Under the theme “Everyone Can,” Southern Baptists launched a strategic effort to baptize one million people in a year. This thrust capped the convention’s annual meeting in Nashville. SBC President Bobby Welch, who was re-elected to a second one-year term, has dubbed the one-year emphasis on evangelism the “Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge.”

This evangelistic emphasis began with a record 10,000-plus volunteers doing door-to-door evangelism as part of “Crossover,” the evangelistic thrust occurring the weekend before every annual meeting. Southern Baptists from all over America knocked on more than 45,000 Nashville doors and saw more than 2,500 professions of faith recorded.

As part of the evangelism emphasis, eight individuals were baptized by their local church during the annual meeting. Another highlight was the commemoration of Southern Baptist evangelist, Rev. Billy Graham. As part of a special recognition of Graham’s ministry, a bronze model of the evangelist was unveiled. The actual, full-sized statue will be unveiled at next year’s meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina. William Franklin Graham IV, Graham’s grandson, appeared on his behalf. The younger Graham, a graduate of both Liberty University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, told messengers: “I’m proud to be a Southern Baptist, along with my grandfather.”

The convention ended with a message from retiring LifeWay Christian Resources President James T. Draper Jr. during Wednesday evening’s finale. “The only thing we can do down here that we cannot do in heaven is win the lost,” Draper said, pointing to plateaued baptismal statistics in recent years. “In spite of the struggle for 25 years to recover biblical faithfulness, we are still witnessing stagnation in evangelism,” Draper said. “Our passion for souls has cooled. It’s slipped away from us.”

In his final question to messengers, Welch asked, “Southern Baptists, honest, now, before God… who do you think could witness to and win, and then, bless God, get ‘em down to the church and baptize them? Who do you think could do that?” “Everyone can—and I’m it,” the crowd yelled. With fireworks exploding, balloons falling, and the shofar sounding, Southern Baptists geared up to leave the building to meet the challenge.

The 2006 Southern Baptist Convention will be held June 13 & 14 in Greensboro, NC.
RENUEWING your Passion

SBCV ANNUAL MEETING & BIBLE CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 14 & 15 2005

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Bob Reccord
Al Mohler
Carl Weiser
Doyle Chauncy

SPECIAL TESTIMONY BY
Carrie McDonnell
IMB Missionary whose husband was killed in Iraq

Special Music: CALLING LEVI

To receive the Proclaimer or to correct the information appearing on your mailing address, complete this form and return this page to:
Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, Proclaimer, 4101 Cox Road, Suite 100, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

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Church and City_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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