10 years
SBC of Virginia
WHILE SPEAKING AT RIDGECREST THIS SUMMER, A FORMER STAFF MEMBER OF AN SBCV CHURCH CAME BY TO SAY HELLO. I ASKED HIM HOW IT WAS GOING IN HIS NEW POSITION. HE TOLD ME THAT UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS NOT WORKING OUT. I PRAYED WITH HIM AND TOLD HIM THAT I HOPED HE WOULD RETURN TO VIRGINIA. WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES HE TOLD ME HOW MUCH HE MISSED SERVING IN A CHURCH THAT BELONGED TO OUR STATE CONVENTION. “THERE AREN’T ANY OTHER STATE CONVENTIONS LIKE THE SBCV,” HE REMINDED ME. AND WHAT A GREAT REMINDER IT WAS.

SOMETIMES WE FORGET HOW BLESSED WE ARE TO BE A PART OF A NEW STATE CONVENTION! THE SBCV IS FOUNDED ON THE WORD OF GOD AND FOCUSED ON OUR MISSION OF ASSISTING CHURCHES TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION. I COUNT IT ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS OF MY LIFE TO SERVE ALONGSIDE OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OUR STATE MISSIONS TEAM, AND OUR CHURCHES.

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY, WE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS IN THIS ISSUE OF THE PROCLAIMER TO REMEMBER THOSE ON WHOSE SHOULDERS WE STAND AND THE WAY IN WHICH THE LORD HAS LED US THROUGH THESE EARLY YEARS.

I HOPE YOU ARE PLANNING TO BE WITH US AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROANOKE FOR OUR ANNUAL HOMECOMING AND TO CELEBRATE OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOGETHER. OUR THEME WILL BE “MORE BEYOND” AS WE CLAIM JEREMIAH 29:11 TOGETHER FOR OUR FUTURE.
Bringing the Convention Nearer to You

State missionaries are now more accessible. The resources of the SBCV are now closer to the local churches and ministry staff, thanks to decentralization which began in 2002.

And You Shall Be Witnesses to Me

SBCV Disaster Relief, in a brief 3½ years of history, has ministered within our communities and as far away as Thailand.

God at Work on the Road to Damascus

Hundreds of hikers and bikers from all over the world travel the Appalachian Trail. During Trail Days 2006, First Baptist Church, Damascus, reached out by providing home-cooked meals, hot showers, medical checkups, and the love of Jesus!

What Are You Made Of?

Almost 1200 students from 62 churches around Virginia came to the SBCV Studentz Camp “DNA” to answer that question by focusing on what was on the inside of each person — spiritually.
Bringing the Convention Nearer to You

THE ROLE OF AREA MISSIONARIES

The Lord is working through our Convention to assist churches in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission. Since its inception, the SBCV has sought to minister to churches and recognize the local church as the true headquarters of the Convention. But Virginia is a big state: 430 miles long, and if you travel from one end of the state to the other on Hwy. 58 — it’s almost 500 miles wide! How can you minister to more than 475 churches over that much area and look to plant new churches to reach more than 7½ million people? That’s where decentralization comes in.

The resources of the SBCV are now closer to the local churches and ministry staff, thanks to decentralization, which began in 2002. State missionaries are now more accessible. Fellowship among the churches, pastors, staff and their families has strengthened — evidenced by the 20 Pastor-Staff Fellowships meeting monthly. The impact of decentralization is tangible — a large increase of new church starts, an increase in the number of church affiliation inquiries, a significant increase in registered messengers to our Annual Homecoming, and an increase in all areas of giving.

SBCV area missionaries are strategically placed in seven ministry areas throughout Virginia and are the first point of contact for our churches. The Church Enrichment Missionaries and Church Planting Strategists and their families live in Hampton Roads (Southeast), Richmond (Central-East), Greater Washington (District of Columbia and Northern areas), Central Virginia (Central-West), Roanoke Valley (Midwestern) and the Southwest.

Area Missionaries have a variety of responsibilities in their task of assisting local churches. Church Enrichment Missionaries minister to established churches in an effort to strengthen them. They serve as a resource, support their staff and families, and mobilize the churches in mission opportunities both at home and abroad. Church Planting Strategists are charged with the task of planting churches and sometimes serve more than one ministry area, depending on population density. If you’d like to know more about your area missionary, go to our website: www.sbcv.org and click on Ministry Areas.

New Church Planting Strategist for SE Church Planting Team

We welcome MARK CUSTALOW to the Church Planting team in the Southeast to work alongside of Phil Martin. Mark is a native Virginian who grew up at Grove Avenue Baptist Church and attended Washington Bible College and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as a church planter in Montana and as a Native American National Missionary with the North American Mission Board (NAM). His last assignment was the Manager of the Planter and Partner Equipping Group of NAM. He and his wife, Ann, have two children, Hillary (14), and Micah (12). They will be living in Chesapeake. Pray for the Custalow’s as they adjust to their new home and ministry and ask the Lord to make them effective in helping to launch new church starts.

Church Planting Strategist, Steve Reid in the field alongside a church planting missionary.

The FIRST CHURCH PLANT

Church Enrichment Missionaries Don Matthews and Jack Noble at the 2006 Studentz Camp.

THE FIRST CHURCH PLANT, Crossroads Baptist in Leesburg, started in 1996. There are now more than 100 SBCV church plants ministering to 11 different nationalities and people groups throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Randolph Green, pastor of Harvest Fellowship Baptist Mission in Smithfield, has been a Church Planter with SBCV since December 2000. “SBCV has always been there for us,” Randy said. “The SBCV has been a tremendous partner through prayer, financial support and accountability partners. A hub to rally around!”

FROM THE BEGINNING

Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia made a commitment to planting churches throughout Virginia which later included Greater Washington D.C.. With the help and training of the North American Mission Board (NAM), SBCV adopted and implemented the NAM church planting process — readiness, recruitment, mentoring and multiplication — as well as monthly Church Planting Networks, Basic Training for church planters and partnering with local churches.

Award given to the SBCV from NAM for excellence in working to start new churches.
Pastor & Staff Fellowships

As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, we remember that the fellowships were an important part of the birth of the SBCV.

In the 1980s, conservative Southern Baptists began to rally together at Baptist General Association of Virginia annual conventions and informal meetings across the state. By 1985, a small group of conservative pastors were meeting in three fellowship groups, but there was no statewide organization or network. Several years later, there were volunteer regional and associational coordinators throughout the state and regional evangelism conferences were held. Out of these fellowships, the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia Fellowship was formed in January, 1993.

Today, there are 20 fellowship groups for pastors and staff that meet all across Virginia. These fellowship groups meet 10 times a year and are still vital to our Convention. In churches and restaurants, pastors and staff meet around noon time for fellowship, a meal, and a time of inspiration, education, and information. The Church Enrichment Missionary leads these fellowships and the officers of our Convention, along with other church leaders, travel throughout our state to speak and encourage pastors and staff. Several times a year the spouses are invited to be present as well and they have a special time of fellowship and encouragement.

One of the unique things about SBCV fellowships is that we also have Church Planting Strategists and church planters present at these fellowships. This is an important way in which we are building a climate for church planting. Established churches catch the vision for multiplying churches, working together, and extending God’s Kingdom through new church starts. SBCV is going back to the future by building fellowships all across our state.

Editors Note: A special word of thanks is due all those who so graciously and faithfully host and serve at these fellowships.

Disaster Relief volunteers care for days...Baptist Builders for years. Together, both teams are able to visibly show the love of Christ to thousands.

From the beginning, SBCV churches have been committed to doing missions together through the Cooperative Program.

We believe that this is still the most efficient and effective way of doing missions together.

The number of churches in our Convention has grown in a way that we no one could ever have dreamed of. Almost a quarter of these churches are a result of new church starts. To God be the Glory!
### How will this offering be used?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Trail Ministries</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Builders Startup</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Relief Equipment &amp; Operation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Distribution Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land for Church Plants</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry Intern Scholarships</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Baptistries for Church Plants</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Churches for Church Plants</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $200,000

**GOAL:**

$200,000

If we exceed our goal, additional funds will be applied to the general State Missions Offering account.
Keep this bookmark readily available.

TEAR IT OFF AND REMEMBER TO PRAY
A Short Time... Much Done

Thank you for taking the time to read a little about the history of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. We are a young state convention... just 10 years. But in that short amount of time God has done so much. In this special commemorative flyer, you can also look back through the years with the help of a special pictorial timeline. You will also see how God has increased both the number of SBCV churches and Cooperative Program giving. Our purpose statement and core values are also included. It’s responding to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. More than 190 house churches have been planted through these volunteers in Khao Lak, Thailand.

SBCV Disaster Relief, through Cooperative Program giving and the State Missions Offering, now has a fleet of 22 trailers and more than 1,900 volunteers. Disaster Relief volunteers are able to respond within hours of a disaster with hot food, hot showers, chain saws and listening ears. People around the world now recognize the yellow shirts and hats with blue logos as symbols of hope and compassion for hurting people. Praise the Lord for this incredible opportunity to serve in Jesus’ Name.

Rebuilding Louisiana Partnership Project

As Louisiana rebuilds after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, SBCV is partnering with three church plants in Louisiana, helping these new churches to build facilities and reach their communities again. Your church can serve as a partner in these missions projects by providing volunteers for construction and/or outreach projects.

The following new church locations in Louisiana have been selected for this partnership:

**Slidell—Northshore Community Church**
Larry McEwen

**Prairieville—Friendship Baptist Church**
Kirk Jones

**Baton Rouge—Circle Baptist Church**
Jose Matthews

For more information about how your church can partner with one of these projects contact churchplanting@sbcv.org or call 804-270-1848.
Turning Milestones into Guidestones

It is essential that we look back in humble gratitude at what God has done in and through the churches of the SBCV. This Tenth Anniversary milestone is an opportunity for us to acknowledge and celebrate God’s blessing and to praise Him.

Faith requires that we glance back to celebrate what God has done, but it also requires that we gaze forward. Someone has said, “The greatest enemy of faith may be forgetfulness.” If we forget how God provided in the past, we may fail to trust him for the future.

In Joshua 4, Israel learned, as they crossed a dry Jordan River into the Promised Land, that God would overcome any obstacle for them. But God wanted them to remember this miracle to prepare and encourage them for what was coming in the future. So, He told Joshua to build a visible memorial, using the river bed stones they just crossed, that could serve as an object lesson.

We need to teach those who are coming behind us that it was God who built this convention and that we can trust Him for our future. This is the beauty of our milestones (on the left). They have made us who we are, which, in turn, has helped form our guidestones (on the right). As we celebrate this 10 year anniversary, remember Joshua 4:24, “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

Purpose Statement

The Southern Baptist Conservatives 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.
The SBCV Phone Booth

Talk to most anyone about the early days of SBCV and at some point they will mention the fact that they thought there were just a few Southern Baptist conservatives in the Commonwealth. They say they would meet for fellowship and there were so few of them that they could fit into a phone booth.

Ask someone who says they were in the original phone booth and you will find various opinions! In fact, the conversation might go something like this, “Yes, he was in the phone booth, but he was not in the original phone booth.” Exactly who was in the phone booth may vary according to who you talk to, but the expression makes an important point. In the beginning the conservatives were few in number. They met in restaurants, planned the first budget on a paper napkin, and probably never dreamed that SBCV would become what it is.

Over the years it seems the phone booth has grown. Some have even light-heartedly observed that it must have been a huge phone booth... or at least an expanding one. Well, the truth is, it is an expanding phone booth. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, all those who hold to our core values and partner in cooperative missions are now a part of the phone booth.

Congratulations!

Significant History of The Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia

- By 1985, a small group of conservative pastors were meeting in three fellowship groups, but there was no statewide conservative organization or networking.
- In February 1988, the Baptist Banner, with T.C. Pinckney as editor, was launched with the goal of keeping Virginian Baptists informed about the issues.
- The first annual Virginia Baptist Bible Conference (VBBC) was held in Salem on November 13, 1989. Approximately 410 were present.
- The second conference in 1990 was held at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond. The keynote speaker was Dr. Adrian Rogers.
- On January 28th, 1993 over 1,000 people from 217 churches met at Old Forest Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg and voted to form a fellowship (not a convention) to be called the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV).
- In September of 1993 almost 400 gathered at Grove Avenue Baptist Church to officially launch the fellowship of Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.
- A special study group from the Executive Board of the SBCV met May 25, 1995 to study the options and possibilities of forming a new State Convention.
- Doyle Chauncey was confirmed unanimously as the first full-time Executive Director on the 21st of March, 1996.
- The group that met at Grove Avenue Baptist Church on September 16, 1996 voted for the fellowship to become a new State Convention and was comprised of 469 registered messengers from 91 churches.
- On October 1, 1996, the SBC Executive Committee acknowledges SBCV as a new State Convention.
- SBCV starts Church Planting efforts in 1996.
From the beginning, SBCV churches have been committed to doing missions together through the Cooperative Program. We believe this is still the most efficient and effective way of doing missions together.

The graph shows the increase in Cooperative Program giving in the last nine years. We praise the Lord for the faithfulness of His people in their giving.

This number of churches in our Convention has grown in a way that no one could ever have dreamed of. Almost a quarter of these churches are a result of new church starts. To God be the Glory!

SBCV constitution ratified in 1997.

In 2000, Liberty University affiliates with the SBCV providing scholarships for members of SBCV churches, and allowing the convention to have two members on the Liberty Board of Trustees.

A task force for strategic planning brought a report to the annual meeting at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in 2001 recommending the decentralization and deployment of state missionaries in ministry areas.

In 2002, strategy of decentralization adopted. Five ministry areas were chosen with a Church Enrichment Missionary and a Church Planting Strategist for each ministry area. And, Geoff Hammond called as Senior Associate Director.

SBCV Disaster Relief volunteers start serving in the field in November, 2002.

In 2003 the North American Mission Board partnered with the SBCV for church planting in the Greater D.C. area.

Moved to six ministry areas in July, 2003.

By 2005, 79 Eagle Awards were given to sponsoring churches of church plants.

Moved to seven ministry areas in July, 2006.


= Isaiah said, “The Lord of hosts has sworn saying, ‘Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand. For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?’” Looking back over the history of the SBCV I believe that what we have seen was God fulfilling His plan in our midst. His purpose and desire became a reality because He desired it to be so.

God had a plan for the SBCV even when it was a few godly men like Bob Melvin, David Johnson, Terry Harper and others dreaming of a convention built on the Word of God and evangelism. God knew then what He wanted to do through a people who simply had a heart for God. Blackaby said, “When God ‘chooses’ a person for His purposes; He does so according to the person’s heart!” The SBCV is where we are today because you have a heart that God could mold and fashion for His desires.

As great as the past has been I believe God’s future to be even greater.

I see the future filled with churches being planted in every community that lacks a true Bible-believing church. I see 80% of our churches partnering in some way in planting a new church. I see healthy churches and pastors whereby they have the security and passion to fulfill the Great Commission in their community and around the world. The future is just like the past, God’s plan. May we have hearts of obedience and faith to launch out where ever His plan takes us. Thanks for allowing me to be a part of His plan.

Carl Weiser
Senior Pastor
Hyland Heights Baptist Church
Lynchburg

From the 2006 President

10 years in the making...
Our core values are deeply held convictions which serve as a framework for how we work together in a cooperative effort to reach our state, nation, and world in the saving name of Jesus. They are the structure around which we build and do ministry.

OUR FOUNDATION
Our foundation is the Word of God.

OUR FELLOWSHIP
Our fellowship is built on healthy relationships.

OUR FOCUS
Our focus is strengthening the local church.

OUR FUNCTION
Our function is to assist churches to be on mission.

OUR FUTURE
Our future includes church planting.

July 3, 2006

Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia
4101 Cox Road, Suite 100
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Dear Friends:

A decade has passed since the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia became a full-fledged state convention in September of 1996. I appreciate Doyle Chauncey, your executive director-treasurer, for his friendship in the conservative cause, and for your faithful partnership in the Cooperative Program over the past ten years.

As you celebrate your 10th anniversary, I remain greatly encouraged that the SBCV directs 50 percent of its undesignated receipts, with no preferred or exception items, to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and international missions and ministries. This 50-50 split is the ideal for which every state convention should strive, as set forth by our forefathers at the dawn of the Cooperative Program. I commend you for your positive example, and look forward to our continued partnership in reaching every person of every tribe, tongue, and nation with the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Morris H. Chapman
“Ms. Susan! Ms. Susan!”
Two bubbly third grade girls excitedly called out to me one Sunday morning last September as I entered my office. “We need to do something for all the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.” I asked the girls who had told them to do this. They looked at each other and quickly replied, “God did!”
“Well,” I responded, “if God said to do it, then we must do it.” I contacted Becky Collins, the wife of a NAMB missionary ministering in the devastated area of Pascagoula, MS, to see how we could help. She told us that pastors in that area have been helping others but no one was helping them. And what they really needed was appliances: washers, dryers, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, etc.
When the girls and the children’s department heard about this, they became very excited. Soon everyone in the church was talking about it. Since the children were going to provide appliances for the pastors’ families, we decided to call the project, “Little Sheep Feeding the Shepherds.” The whole church caught the vision and people were placing jars in local businesses to collect donations. The next thing we knew, the girls were giving interviews on TV as the community wanted to learn more. People sent donations (we only sent brand new appliances to MS) and many people and businesses bought and delivered new appliances to the church. Even the transportation to Mississippi was provided.
On the morning of Dec. 5th, we watched the eighteen-wheeler pull away from the parking lot, loaded to the brim with new appliances and heading for Pascagoula, MS. We prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for the Little Sheep who collected more than $11,400 which helped provide 68 large appliances to Shepherds in need. What a great God we serve who does so much with our little when we simply step out in faith and obey.

MISSISSIPPI FOOD BOXES

Another hurricane season has arrived and the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are still in the process of rebuilding their lives. As they continue to face many struggles, SBCV churches are once again answering the call. For about three weeks this spring, church members gathered food to pack special boxes to send to Mississippi. Then, on June 19th, churches across Virginia gathered the boxes from nine locations, and three SBCV church planters (Chris Gill, Jimmy Meadows and William Tabor) delivered the boxes to Mississippi. The final total of this effort is incredible... almost 1000 boxes were taken to Gulfport, MS, with a value of more than $30,000.00! Thank you for your generosity.

$30,000 Worth of Food!

OPERATION NOAH

(New Orleans Area Hope)
Rebuild New Orleans

As families on the coast of Mississippi and Louisiana continue to recover, Southern Baptists are still at work. Operation NOAH Rebuild is a two-year rebuild project in the New Orleans area that will use volunteer labor to rehab more than 1,000 homes and 20 churches. Local church teams can partner with the North American Mission Board, Louisiana Baptist Convention and New Orleans area associations. Skilled and unskilled roofers, drywallers, electricians, plumbers and builders are needed to assist in the rebuild effort. Teams must consist of at least four team members and should contact the Operation NOAH Rebuild office directly at 504-362-4604 or email dr_team2@namb.net for more information and reservations.
CONFERENCE FEES

Registration: $25.00
(Registration is $30.00, if postmarked after Oct. 13, 2006)

Tickets are transferable, but not refundable.

Seating is limited, so please register early!

REGISTER online...
www.SBCV.org
First Baptist Church, Damascus, is reaching an under-reached people right here in Virginia. This past May, during Trail Days 2006, hundreds of hikers and bikers from all over the world traveled through Damascus, along the Appalachian Trail. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed home-cooked meals, took hot showers and received medical checkups and treatment, and were shown the love of Jesus by church members.  

By the start of Trail Days, Damascus was abuzz. Hikers were everywhere. Many were coming into the church office seeking the coveted dinner tickets. The 300 printed tickets were snatched up in a hurry and the fortunate ticket-holders were anticipating the home-cooked meal that would come at the end of the day. “Red Robin” (trail name) came in and asked about the talent show that would be open to hikers later in the week. She began to talk to Linda Austin, Event Director, to express her appreciation for what the church was doing for the hikers. She was excited about the green ticket that she held, promising all the home-cooked food she could eat later in the day. “Red” mentioned that perhaps she would come to the coffee house and share a song during the open-mic time the next evening. Her voice soon broke and tears began to flow when she talked about singing. She told of a time when she walked very closely with the Lord, using the talents He had given her for His glory, and how she had allowed things to push Him out of her life. 

Open-mic night finally arrived. “Red” found herself surrounded by 100 of her best friends, some she had known for 460 miles, and some only a few hours. When she sang, “I once was lost, but now am found,” she needed no music...just the joy that she felt in her heart. She was beaming and her tears were now tears of joy as her relationship with the Lord had been restored. “Red Robin” started out on the Appalachian Trail to find herself...but in Damascus, Jesus found her.
That was the question that almost 1200 students from 62 churches around Virginia had to answer. The 2006 SBCV Studentz camp, with a “DNA” theme, focused on what is on the inside of each person — spiritually. Each day, students and leaders studied through scripture and learned of God’s intended design for us through structured lessons, breakout sessions, praise and worship with The Swift videos, drama from Mad Dogs & Englishmen, and a dynamic message from evangelist Jay Haizlip. More than 40 students made a profession of faith and more than 200 made some decision for Christ! (This included 80 students saying they felt a call toward full time ministry.)

Students were treated to an extra bonus this year with a Monday night concert from Building 429 and an extreme skateboarding demonstration from Untitled Skateboards on Wednesday evening. This was also the night that more than 100 students from central Virginia got the chance to try out Studentz camp through “Camp for an Evening.” Many visitors, campers and staff said this was the highlight night of the entire week.

Another highlight this year was “mission track” where more than 130 students from 10 churches had the opportunity to put their faith to action. It allowed them to see kids accept Christ through backyard Bible clubs and gave them a ministry touch through washing cars, handing out tracts, prayer walking, surveys and mall witnessing. SBCV Studentz Camp is a great time for churches to partner together to reach the next generation and invest in middle and high school students.

Next year’s SBCV Studentz Camp will be held July 9-13 with Tony Nolan as the camp speaker. He has just completed a national tour with Casting Crowns and churches are already making their plans to be at SBCV Studentz camp in 2007.

DON’T MISS IT!
TEAMWORK allows churches and groups to accomplish much more than just the sum of their individual parts. Vacation Bible School ministry is a time that churches are sure to implement a team-based ministry. The SBCV is committed to assisting these local churches reach success in VBS.

The purpose of the SBCV is to “assist local churches in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission” and this challenge is not without tools. Doyle Chauncey, Executive Director of the SBCV said, “I am convinced that VBS is one of, if not the very best, evangelism strategies that Southern Baptists have used to reach children and youth.” Former SBC President Bobby Welch was quoted as saying, “Vacation Bible School is the absolute best way to reinvigorate our passion for reaching young people. Because VBS is fueled primarily by the efforts of lay people, any church can get involved in reaching people.” Last year throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, more than three million children, youth and adults were enrolled in VBS with over 100,000 making a profession of faith and other decisions for Christ.

Beginning in March 2006, SBCV offered twelve VBS training clinics throughout Virginia. Three regional SBCV teams were led by Dan Carawan of Salem (West team), Paula Sacra of Bumpass (North/Central team), and Eric Thomason of Petersburg (East team). These teams impacted over 1000 individuals representing close to 200 congregations. Churches all the way from Chincoteague Island to Pennington Gap, and from Danville to Washington, DC attended. 

Renewing Your Passion for Leadership

Southwest Church Leadership Conference

Saturday • Sept. 30
EUCLID AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Bristol

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ERIC THOMAS
Pastor
First Baptist Church, Norfolk

Workshops in ministries such as: Sunday School Growth, Missions, Women, Men, Evangelism, Church Growth, Home & Family, Preaching & Pastoral, Music & Worship, Technology, Church Administration, Church Planting

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.sbcv.org
From the beginning, SBCV churches have had a strong commitment to the Cooperative Program and our churches have also participated in some hands-on missions projects and partnerships. Here are some of our activities over the past 10 years and many still continue today. (Please note that although a project may only be mentioned once, many continue for years after its initial startup.)

1996  Philippnes Missions Project
      Building for a church in
      Straubing, Germany
      Charity Family Life
      Ministry in inner-city
      Richmond

1997  Romanian Chapel
      Project

1998  Odessa, Ukraine
      North Korea Food Relief

1999  New Hampshire Project
      The Kenya Coast Partnership
      Ukraine Partnership
      Morocco Partnership

2000  SBCV Disaster Relief

2001  Armenia Children’s Backpack Project

2002  Liberty Link
      New Hope New York
      Bracelets for Ocoee Outreach
      Ministry in Tennessee

2003  Food Boxes for Iraq
      Appalachian Regional Ministry

2004  Southern Cross Bible Distribution

2005  Africa Partnership – Zambia
      Louisiana Food Boxes
      Appalachian Trail Ministries

2006  Africa Partnership - Kenya
      Mississippi Food Boxes
      College Care Kits

2007  Upcoming Mission Opportunities

DC Unwed Moms/Baby Pack
Start: JANUARY
End: FEBRUARY 28

Annie Armstrong Offering
Start: JANUARY
End: MARCH 4–11

Hikers Evangelism Packets
Start: February
End: March 31

Witnessing Bracelets
Start: MARCH
End: MAY 31

Southern Cross Bibles
Start: APRIL
End: JUNE 30

College Care Kits
Start: MAY
End: JULY 31

State Missions Offering
Start: JULY
End: SEPTEMBER 9–16

ARM Health Packs
Start: AUGUST
End: SEPTEMBER 30

Lottie Moon Offering
Start: OCTOBER
End: DECEMBER 2–9
The Uniqueness of SBCV

is not your typical Southern Baptist state convention, and people ask, “What makes it unique?” Some point to our stand on the inerrancy of the Bible, the emphasis on missions and evangelism, the cooperative spirit of our churches, and others credit church and convention leadership. These are important factors, but a decision made almost five years ago makes us truly unique, and it changed the future direction of the convention. We use the word “decentralization” to describe the unique strategy that God has richly blessed. It can only be explained as the “sovereign work of God.”

THE MISSIONARY MODEL

In the beginning, we organized a traditional centralized “consultant model,” but this model required cooperating associations across the state to effectively serve the churches. That structure works well for the conservative Southern Baptist Texas Convention, but we knew it would not work in Virginia for a number of reasons.

It soon became clear in the development of a strategic plan that a decentralized “missionary model” operating as a missions sending agency was right for us. The plan included the usual purpose statement, core values, and major objectives. However, what makes SBCV unique among state conventions was the decision to strategically embed state missionaries serving out of their homes located within loosely defined ministry areas that vary in size as God grows the churches. The Glen Allen office is not headquarters. It serves as a vital support center to serve missionaries in the harvest. We like to say it this way, “Headquarters for the SBCV is the local church.”

TEN BENEFITS OF THE MISSIONARY MODEL

Some of the most significant benefits of decentralization are:

- Personnel are not seen as consultants and staff, but missionaries and ministers
- Missionaries are deployed into the harvest to serve where they live
- Missionaries and convention resources are more accessible to the churches
- Permits greater involvement of the churches in the work of the convention
- Promotes fellowship among the churches, pastors, staff, and their families
- Enhances cooperative giving and improves missions education and awareness
- Working in teams and networks improves innovation, creativity, and quality
- Allows for contextualization of ministries and services to meet specific needs
- Provides flexibility to reconfigure ministry areas to match needs and resources
- Creates a non-bureaucratic and apolitical environment for greater harmony

THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE

It would be negligence on our part to believe that decentralization and the missionary model will be the best structure and strategy for the future. We must not become complacent, blind to its limitations, and succumb to our inherent disposition toward sameness and mediocrity. We will celebrate ten years and recognize significant milestones, but only for a short season. There is much work left to be done in the harvest. We must re-enter the harvest and begin now to re-envision the future, and, if necessary, re-engineer the delivery system and re-distribute convention resources to effectively meet the challenge of the future and glorify God in all that we do.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)
2006 Annual Homecoming Celebration

November 13 & 14
First Baptist, Roanoke