

Proclaimer

ANSWERING THE CALL OF GOD

Could you be the missing piece?



Proclaimer

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The Proclaimer is a collaborative effort of the State Missions and Support Teams.

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SBCV STAFF & MINISTRY AREAS

For information about ministry areas and SBCV staff, visit our web site at www.sbcv.org. SBCV staff persons may be reached via email using their first initial and last name along with the suffix: @sbcv.org.



GEOFF HAMMOND
Senior Associate Director

FROM THE EDITOR



At our Annual Homecoming in Roanoke, we introduced our theme for this year: *"More Beyond"* based on Jeremiah 29:11-13. We were inspired to...

*Call upon His Name,
Seek Him with all our Hearts, and
Follow His will for the Future...*

knowing that He has plans for us and this gives us a hope and a future! These truths apply to all individuals, families, and churches.

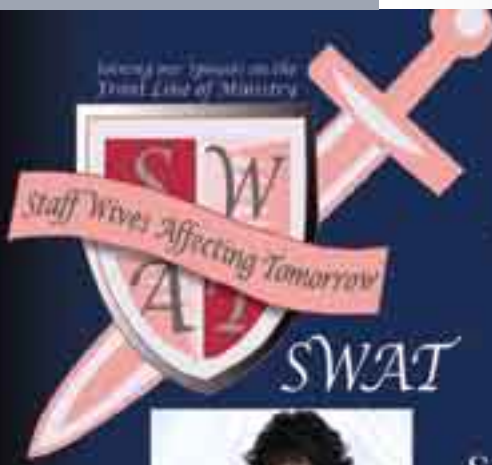
The *Proclaimer* you hold in your hands tells the story of people in our SBCV churches who have gone beyond the norm as they follow God's plan for their lives. They have seen God at work and joined Him in His work. They have stepped beyond where they have been before and reached toward a new level of commitment or ministry.

These are the stories of men and women and churches who have heard the call of God in the ordinary events of life and have been obedient in answering the call of God.

Our prayer is that as you lay out your plans for the next twelve months, you will follow their example and possibly be the missing piece in the ministry where God has placed you!

May 2007 be a year filled with blessings and the favor of God in your life!

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.



Special Guest:
The renowned
Babbie Mason

More details online:
www.sbcv.org

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A Combined SWAT Weekend Connection
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Dates to Remember

SBCV CALENDAR 2007

For information contact sbcv@sbcv.org or call 888-234-7716

JAN	14	SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY
	20	SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING with Elmer Towns — Hyland Heights Baptist, Lynchburg
	25	CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
FEB	22	CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
	23-24	SWAT — Hotel Jefferson, Richmond
	28	DC UNWED MOTHERS/BABIES PACKS Mission Project (Collection Date)
MAR	4-11	WEEK OF PRAYER for North American Missions
	12	SBCV EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
	16-17	SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH CONFERENCE — Spotswood Baptist, Fredericksburg
	23-24	STUDENT PASTORS/DIRECTORS RETREAT
	29	CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
APR	31	HIKERS EVANGELISM PACKETS Mission Project (Collection Date)
	13	VBS Clinic (Danville)
	14	VBS Clinics (Fredericksburg, Richmond, Independence)
	20	VBS Clinic (Norfolk)
	21	VBS Clinics (Roanoke, Centreville, Appomattox)
	26	CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
	27	VBS Clinics (Colonial Heights, Abingdon, Staunton)
	28	VBS Clinic (Charlottesville)
MAY	27-28	SBCV DEACON RETREAT — Thomas Road Baptist, Lynchburg
	4	VBS Clinics (Bedford, Rileyville)
	5	VBS Clinics (Pennington Gap, Hampton)
	19	BIBLE DRILL
JUN	31	CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
	10-13	SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION — Texas
	28	CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
JUL	9-13	SBCV STUDENTZ CAMP — Liberty University
AUG	7-8	YEC (Youth Evangelism Conference) — Liberty Baptist, Hampton
	17-18	CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 14

"Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed." (Prov. 31:8)

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Epic City Church reaches out to the lost in Virginia Beach, but especially to those who consider themselves to be part of the post-modern generation.



6 SBCV LOOKS TOWARD "MORE BEYOND"

SBCV messengers and guests celebrate the 10 year anniversary with more than 1,200 friends and family. The four sub-themes, Remember, Call, Seek, and Follow, were woven throughout all the video stories and messages. SBCV knows they must look to the Lord for "More Beyond" what we can even hope or imagine.



10 PIONEER BAPTIST & THE FLYING J

Pioneer Baptist believes God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all they ask or think and that their future in Him is bright. Their focus is on building relationships that last.



13 FROM MISSION ADVENTURE TO MISSION CALL

Rebekah Nienke, a high school freshman and member of Fellowship Community Church in Salem, served in Thailand with the Southern Cross Project.



SBCV HANDS-ON MISSIONS

DC Unwed Mothers/Babies Packs

Collection Date: Feb. 28th

The statistics of the number of unwed mothers in the Washington, DC area is overwhelming. God has opened wide the door for SBCV to minister in the Greater DC area and we have numerous new church plants there. One great way that we can all be a part of what God is doing in the District is by preparing Unwed Mothers/Babies Packs for our church plants to use to reach the neighborhoods. Items to be collected are:

- Disposable Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Pacifier
- Baby Gowns
- Baby Booties
- Baby Shampoo
- Lotion
- Receiving Blanket
- Baby Hairbrush
- a New Testament (or Bible) in a modern translation and other materials for a new mother.

Rev. Bob Melvin



Pastor Drew Landry



Passing the Mantle

As the Senior Pastor of Spotswood Baptist Church for twenty-eight years, Bob Melvin served as the second President of the Fellowship of Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. He witnessed the growth and passion for missions God gave to the people at Spotswood Baptist. Melvin knew that God's plans are much larger than any individual and so, after almost three decades of ministry at Spotswood, he prayed and obeyed God's plan. He led the congregation to the transition and calling of a Co-Pastor, Drew Landry.

Landry, former Senior Pastor of Ogletown Baptist Church in Newark, Delaware, first preached as the Co-Pastor at Spotswood on Sunday, September 3, 2006. Then on September 6, 2006, after months of battling cancer, Melvin went home to be with the Lord. The "pastoral" baton

was then placed into the hands of Landry.

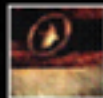
Melvin and Landry had planned for a longer transition... but because they had faithfully surrendered themselves to God's plan, Landry was in place to take up the mantle of the ministry of Spotswood Baptist Church. Similar to the example of Elijah and Elisha, in His providence, God had provided another man. Members say that because of the life and legacy of Melvin, Spotswood will continue to thrive as it touches lives in Spotsylvania County and throughout the world, for the glory of God.

Landry believes that his calling, as Senior Pastor of Spotswood, is simply to "trust God to do 'exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think' for His glory through His church".

CALLED TO GO — INVITED TO COME



Love God.
Love others.
Prove it.



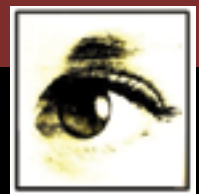
The Bible is clear about God's call "to go" (Matthew 28:19-20). And in the book of Revelation (22: 17)... all are invited "to come". This has been especially true for Robb Overholt and his wife, Shaula, at Epic City Church in Virginia Beach. They are planting Epic City Church with a focus on the post-modern generation. Their invitation, through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, has been for all to come and meet Christ. God has blessed and used them to reach out to their focus group.

Recently, a lady from a nearby city prayed to receive Christ in their church. A few weeks later, she returned and excitedly begged Robb and Shaula to come to her city and share the same Jesus with her friends. They knew, that like their new convert, most of her post-modern friends were seeking something more meaningful in life. Unless someone came to teach them about Christ, many might be lost for eternity. Robb and Shaula accepted her invitation and made plans to visit with her and her friends. Today, two small Bible groups meet weekly in the downtown part of her city.

Now, members of Epic City's invitation to come, as prompted by the Spirit, has now become God's extended

call to Robb, Shaula and Epic City to go. They are praying that, by answering His call again, these two groups will multiply until a new church plant is birthed. They have learned that God calls His people through many voices; that His call is always the same: to go to a dying world!

see for ||| YOURSELF



Operation Wishbone

Pastor Wes Moore of Liberty Baptist Church in Hopewell had a vision for the holidays... he wanted his church to reach needy people in their community at Thanksgiving. When Sarah Crewsey, team leader for this new project, attended the SBCV Church Leadership Conference at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, she attended a session called, Calendaring Missions in Your Church for a Year. Workshop leader Sue Sawyer called on Mary Shortt to share how her church (Swift Creek Baptist, Midlothian) uses Thanksgiving dinners as a way of reaching out to their community. As Mary shared, Sarah knew she needed to get more information. Mary shared how her church collected bags of food for families to use in their Thanksgiving dinner. They also gave each family a gift card for a turkey. Her testimony of how Swift Creek worked together to carry out this project really encouraged Sarah.

The planning team from Liberty Baptist then went to work on this Thanksgiving Dinner project. They had to make a few changes to meet the needs of their community. The biggest change was the requirement of each family to hear a message from God's Word before receiving their dinners. They advertised in the local paper and worked with several social agencies to qualify and register people as they called the church. Members of their congregation donated the "Dinners in a Bag" and gave an offering for gift cards to buy turkeys. On Saturday, November 18th, the Operation Wishbone Team (the original planning team) gave out enough dinners to reach 71 families. A total of 157 people heard the Word of God on a Saturday morning and were blessed by the Lord. Their initial goal was to serve 40 families... but in the end, God allowed them to share a Thanksgiving dinner and the

salvation message with 81 families! Only eternity will tell the impact of this unique mission project.



"Dinners in a Bag" prepared by the Operation Wishbone team.

Liberty Baptist Church
in Hopewell



THE CALLING OUT *from* GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH



Grace Baptist Church, Virgilina, has the reputation of seeing a need and being the instrument through

which God can meet that need. They have been known to donate chairs to a church just getting started, host trainings, send out Disaster Relief volunteers, and have a vision to sponsor a church plant in the South Hill area. But how do they continue to give, grow a great church, and give up such valuable resources?

Recently, their leadership team met for the purpose of strategic planning. One of the great discoveries was the need for a commitment to discipleship. Since they believe wholeheartedly that Christians have been saved to serve, training and equipping the saints for the work of ministry is vitally important. God has called members of Grace to be involved in Disaster Relief and Church Planting. The key is being prepared so that when His timing is right — they are ready to move out onto the mission field.

God has already called out members as they have responded to the devastated areas of the Gulf Coast. They have also begun to canvas and prayer-walk the South Hill neighborhoods, so that when God is ready — they will be ready to plant a new church on a solid foundation.

Back on the home front, the preparation continues. It seems that, the more members God calls out from Grace, the more others are responding to His call!



SBCV Looks Toward “More Beyond”

An anniversary is always a special time, especially when more than 1,200 of your friends and family show up to celebrate. At the 2006 Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia Annual Homecoming, November 13-14, almost 1,300 messengers and guests arrived at First Baptist Church of Roanoke to thank God for 10 years of miraculous ministry. The convention theme for this next year is “More Beyond” based on Jeremiah 29:11, “I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future.” Four sub-themes, Remember, Call, Seek, Follow, were woven throughout all the video stories and messages. Monday afternoon, after a fellowship lunch served from a Disaster Relief trailer by volunteers... messengers and guests heard how the SBCV was formed as a fellowship of conservative pastors and churches in 1993 and then how it became a state convention in 1996. Then they heard, through more than 15 videos and numerous testimonies, the story of what God is doing right now throughout the almost 500 local churches; and, how we must look to the Lord for “More Beyond” what we can even hope or imagine.

Guest speakers included SBC Executive Committee president, Dr. Morris Chapman; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president, Dr. Paige Patterson, and pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, GA, Dr. Johnny Hunt. Special musical guests were Lord Song, Marvin Matthews, and the praise team and orchestra from First Baptist Church of Norfolk, led by John Griffin.

Eleven churches requesting affiliation with SBCV were approved bringing the total number of churches and church plants to 492. Outgoing SBCV President, Carl Weiser, pastor of Hyland Heights Baptist in Lynchburg,

challenged churches and messengers to go “More Beyond” in the next 10 years. He encouraged all SBCV churches to give at least 10-percent to the Cooperative Program and to be involved in church planting.

Messengers voted to increase the 2007 Ministry Investment Plan to \$8.7 million, up from \$8.2 million. SBCV Executive Director-Treasurer, Doyle Chauncey, explained that all expenditures of direct missions and related indirect support services should be viewed as “ministry investments.” SBCV invests more than 50-percent annually in starting new churches.

The messengers elected by acclamation a new president, Dennis Culbreth, pastor of River Oak Church in Chesapeake. Other officers voted in by acclamation were First Vice President, Gene Primm, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Portsmouth, and Secretary, Steve Markle, pastor of Life Community Church in Lorton. Two men were nominated for Second Vice President, John Pouchot, pastor of Poquoson Baptist Church, and Kevin Cummings, pastor of Fincastle Baptist Church. After a ballot vote, Kevin Cummings was elected.

Four resolutions were considered by the Resolutions Committee. Three were presented to the messengers and adopted. The fourth resolution to develop an exit strategy to leave the public school system was not presented by the committee to the messengers. A similar resolution was adopted in last year’s meeting. Resolutions adopted were: **FIRST**, appreciation for the people of Roanoke and First Baptist Church of Roanoke for their kindness and service during the annual meeting; **SECOND**, appreciation for the life and ministry of Rev. Bob Melvin, former pastor of Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, who died in 2006. He was a former president and key

leader in forming the SBCV; and, **THIRD**, appreciation for the original SBCV churches and individuals for their courage, faith and vision in standing for biblical truth and becoming the first state in the Southern Baptist Convention to have two conventions. SBCV was the first state convention in recent history to adopt a 50/50 Cooperative Program allocation of all undesignated funds between the state and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 2007 SBCV Annual Homecoming will be held at Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton on November 12th & 13th.



10 years
in the making...

Homecoming 2006 Session One opens at First Ba



Hyland Heights Choir resonates praise and joy through song.



Prayer and commitment takes place at the altar.



Dr. Kelly Burris remembers SBCV's history.



Dr. Johnny Hunt shares a closing message.



Dr. Paige Patterson shares an encouraging word.



Music Guest, Marvin Matthews, communicates God's Love.

4 SUB-THEMES

FOLLOW

Jeremiah 29:11 >>> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

SEEK

Jeremiah 29:13 >>> You will Seek me and find me when you Seek me with all your heart.

CALL

Jeremiah 29:12 >>> Then you will Call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

REMEMBER

1 Thessalonians 1:3 >>> We continually Remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

New Officers:

Steve Markle

Kevin Cummings

Dennis Culbreth

Gene Primm



New Officers for 2007



Disaster Relief volunteers serve lunch before the opening session.

ptist Church of Roanoke.



2006 Eagle Award Recipients



Lord Song sing praises to the Lord.

2007 Statewide VBS Training Clinics

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Danville - The Tabernacle

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Fredericksburg - Spotswood Baptist

Richmond West/Central - Staples Mill Baptist

Independence - Mountain View Baptist

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Southside Hampton Roads - FBC Norfolk

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Roanoke - Cave Spring Baptist

Centreville - Centreville Baptist

Lynchburg - Liberty Baptist (Appomattox)

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Colonial Heights - Mount Pleasant Baptist

Abingdon - Rosedale Baptist

Staunton - Wayne Hills Baptist

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Charlottesville - Calvary Baptist

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Bedford - Timber Ridge Baptist

Rileyville - Rileyville Baptist

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Pennington Gap - FBC Pennington

Lower Peninsula - Liberty Baptist (Hampton)



These VBS training clinics will be presented by SBCV teams that have been mentored by LifeWay trainers. Please check our website as details are finalized — www.sbcv.org/vbs



studentz

CAMP

JULY 9-13

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

TONY NOLAN ■ STELLAR KART ■ MAD DOGS & ENGLISHMEN ■ STUNT MOTORCROSS ■ EVERYDAY SUNDAY

PLUS:
BATTLE
OF THE
BANDS

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Middleberg



Big Daddy
Weave



The Skit
Guys



Leeland



Youth Evangelism Conference
AUGUST 7th & 8th
Liberty Baptist Church | Hampton

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plus more

YEC '07

studentz

More Beyond The Story

Pioneer Baptist & the Flying J

Pioneer Baptist Church in Max Meadows has a short



but rich history. Pioneer was constituted on Oct. 1, 1995, with 39 members. After calling Pastor Neal Hawks in January 2001, Pioneer's membership soon averaged 60. In 2004, Hawks became the full time pastor and Pioneer voted unanimously to uniquely align with SBCV and begin construction of a new worship center. Just two years later, on April 16, 2006, the members gathered for their first worship service in the new facility with 179 present. Hawks says, "The focus of our ministry has always been building relationships that last. Some of the changes we've had to make, in order to accomplish that, have not been easy. However,

we realize that ministry is not about us and what we enjoy. It's about building for the future. We believe God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think and our future in Him is bright."

One of those "exceedingly, abundantly" stories that Hawks has witnessed is the story of Gayle Wheeler and "The Flying J" truck stop (first reported in the July/August 2005 edition of the Proclaimer). Gayle was a member of Pioneer and the hair dresser who was instrumental in leading a truck driver to faith in Christ. Her husband Philip was marvelously saved the following week, as a result of her faithful witness and prayer. Their marriage was transformed and they have continued to serve the Lord.

But Gayle's story of faith goes on because she continued to share the Gospel message. This summer, Gayle went out on a ministry visit with her friend, Jill. While visiting a certain home, they

led a young mother to faith in

Christ. Jill had also been praying for her own husband, Brad, for a long time. The following Monday, Hawks led him to faith in Christ. He was baptized the following Sunday, and as Hawks puts it, "he's on fire". When the Gospel message is sown, it continues to bear fruit... wherever or whenever fertile soil is found.



Pastor Neal Hawks

More Beyond a SINGLE CALL TO SERVE

A father and son answering the call of God on their lives — at the same time! Swift Creek Baptist Church, Midlothian, is watching this happen right before their eyes.

Duane and Jonathan Owens are a father and son that have committed to full-time student ministry after volunteering for some time in their church's student ministry.

Duane's calling began more than twenty years ago, but he says he pushed it aside for much of his life. Jonathan answered the call into ministry between the 10th and 11th grade while on a North American Mission Board project. "I knew for sure that this is what God wanted me to do," Jonathan said. For Duane, watching this response from his son prompted him to follow his previous call, "I knew I had been called but struggled with making it public. I

wanted Jonathan to experience this for himself, without Dad getting in the way." Not long after Jonathan stepped out in faith, Duane made his calling known publicly, as well.

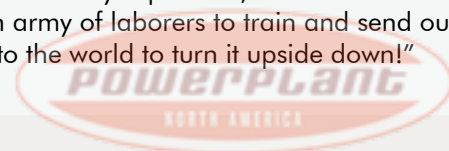
When asked what it is like to go through this with his dad, Jonathan replied, "It's cool! We're pretty much going to finish our studies at the same time." Duane said, "I don't want to wait to serve. I am bringing my calling to life by working in this dynamic ministry right



now! It's what I enjoy doing!"

Both now serve through the CROSSFIRE student ministry at Swift Creek Baptist. They say this is giving their calling "legs" to minister in many ways. For instance, this past summer, as a result of "Power Plant Richmond," the Swift Creek student ministry adopted Family Life Baptist Church, a new church plant in Mechanicsville. They are now

helping to build that student ministry. Josh Lazar, Swift Creek's student pastor, says that fifteen other students have also committed to full-time ministry, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but now we have an army of laborers to train and send out into the world to turn it upside down!"



no limit *to sharing* the Gospel

HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

members passionately reach out to lost souls in Hampton Roads and say they recognize no limits. The church lives up to its motto "Hickory Ridge Community Church, Where VA and NC Meet God'." In fact, about half its members live in North Carolina. Calvin Corbitt and his wife Sherry moved to Chesapeake in 1996 to plant the church, which began in a local community center. Hickory Ridge began with only 33 charter members, but now rejoices over the current membership



of more than 300. Since moving into its new building two years ago, more than 80 people have been baptized. In fact, the church is unique in that 80% of the members were saved



and baptized through its ministry. Pastor Corbitt says, "We often joked at the beginning that one would have to be saved through our church ministry

because the average saved person would not dream of going to worship where we had to clear out broken beer bottles and sweep out used cigarettes." The church's vision now includes the building of a gymnasium, more educational space, and a school for autistic/special needs children. Church leaders, like Associate Pastor Bruce Fail, say that being connected with the SBCV gives them more tools and resources to allow that vision to become reality. God continues to touch lives through Hickory Ridge, people like Kenny and Teresa. Despite rejecting many invitations, they finally allowed their daughters to attend a mid-week program at the church. After awhile, Teresa came to accept Christ. Her husband, though, remained resistant until hearing the public testimonies of his daughters, following youth camp. It was at the conclusion of this testimony service that Kenny trusted Christ. Today, Kenny serves as a deacon and Sunday School teacher, while he and Teresa help lead mid-week programs.

By Pastor
Robert Rowland,
Smyrna Baptist,
Dinwiddie

It Takes *Courage* to Follow the Will of God

Discovering and following the will of God comes from abiding in relationship with God; neither a magic formula nor any shortcuts exist. As you walk with God in an intimate and personal relationship, He reveals His plan in the right moment.

At Smyrna Baptist, we have enjoyed five straight years of

numerical, financial, and spiritual growth. Why have we experienced such blessings? I believe that we simply have seen the results of holding firm to Biblical teaching, faithfully preaching the word, and following the leadership of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? It means that we deal with, rather than dodge, challenges; we

make sure that the right people are in the right places of service and we invest our resources in areas that will impact our community and spread the Gospel. Let me be honest with you, this means we spend money on ministry and make tough decisions with gentleness and compassion.

Many churches fail to realize the amazing plans and "fruit bearing" wonders that God has for them. When faced with difficult situations, they choose to avoid the problem. If they must deal with ungodly people...many times they choose to do nothing. They fail to minister to their community because they fear a lack of funds. As a result, they never experience the favor of God.

At Smyrna, we believe that prayerfully making complex decisions has allowed us to be led by God for something great! He has

in mind a plan or a place above our own. God continues to lead us on a path that we have never followed before (Joshua 3:4) and so we must cling to Him for dear life! Because of that, we claim as our own these verses: Be strong and courageous, do not fear. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you (Joshua 1:5-9). It takes courage to follow the will of God.



Probing NEW POSSIBILITIES

PEOPLE

RESIDENTS

OPPORTUNITIES

BARRIERS

E VANGELISM



Scouting the land, seeing the people and hearing the invitations of God to join Him in the harvest — these are the tasks involved in a church planting PROBE. PROBE is an acronym that refers to items on which church planters, pastors, and church leaders focus in the activity of discovering church planting needs. The items of focus include: **P**eople, **R**esidents, **O**pportunities, **B**arriers, and **E**vangelism. This is a strategic step in preparing for the planting of new churches.

On September 12, church planters and pastors from the Southeast Ministry Area met at Crossroads Church in Norfolk for a brief time of fellowship, prayer, and instruction before dispersing throughout Norfolk to assess the needs and opportunities for church planting. Five teams of 3-4 members each spread throughout the city, much like the twelve Israelite spies sent into Canaan to scout the land. Each team was assigned specific portions of Norfolk to cover.

Two pastors on this PROBE were born and raised in the area, giving a clearer picture of both current spiritual reality and historical perspective. With such knowledge, a well-informed strategic plan can be developed for penetrating the community with the Gospel and for the type of church that would best match the people being reached.

As the teams returned to Crossroads Church, they huddled around tables to prayerfully consider all that they had just seen and experienced. Each team gave reports of specific peoples in specific places in need of the Gospel. It was discovered, after covering just half the city, that at least 11 new church plants are needed in Norfolk alone.

The next step is to pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He will call out laborers into the Field. Will you join us in praying for the people of Norfolk in need of the Gospel? Together we are partners in the harvest.



**Student Pastor
Retreat
March 23-24
Williamsburg**



12 register online at www.sbcv.org/studentz

For more
information
and to
register,
please visit
SBCV's
website:

www.sbcv.org



**deacon
retreat**

**April 27 & 28
Thomas Road
Baptist Church
Lynchburg**

Guest Speaker:

**JIM
HENRY**



Jim Henry served as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando from September 1977 to March 2006, when he retired and was given the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus. A native of Nashville, Tennessee, "Brother Jim" is a graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky and earned his B.D., M. Div. Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also pastored churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

USING THE Chinese BIBLE —in Danville!

Hilda Smith says she's been talking to others about Jesus for much of her life. But she's never before had to use a Han-Chinese Bible to share the gospel... in Danville! Members of SBCV churches are once again gathering up their loose change to drop into those vibrant pink bags, as part of the Southern Cross Mission Project. That change is used to purchase Han Chinese-translated Bibles. In fact, hundreds of Bibles have been purchased over the years. But when Smith was trying to communicate with her Asian physical therapist about Jesus, she had no idea that one of these Bibles would be just the thing she needed. Smith called the SBCV for help finding a Bible her therapist could understand. A "Southern Cross," Han-Chinese Bible was sent to her and during the next therapy visit, she showed her new friend the Bible. Though she was actually from Japan, she was able to read and understand it. A few months later, Smith led her to the Lord through the Han Chinese translation!



A simple two-dollars collected by SBCV churches in a pink bag can reach China by way of Thailand with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But it can also reach those here in Virginia... what a great visual picture of the truth that "God's Word will not return void"—no matter where it is!

Editor's note: Statistics show that for every Bible taken to Thailand and given to vacationing Chinese nationals in hotel lobbies or on tour boat boarding docks, seven other Chinese will read and be exposed to the Holy Scriptures.



NO MATTER what your age, when you decide to go **On Mission**, you cannot predict the outcome. Rebekah Nienke, a high school freshman and member of Fellowship Community Church in Salem, found this out as she followed an opportunity to serve in Thailand with the Southern Cross Project.

Her perspective was radically changed as she experienced the strangeness of a Far Eastern culture and dealt with feelings of isolation and fear. She was also

from Mission Adventure to Mission Call

surrounded by people she could not understand. No one could have predicted, though, that this short term trip to a far away land would invade her calm, serene life in the Roanoke Valley.

Nienke's feelings of isolation and fear prompted her to have an open heart for those in the Roanoke Valley who are in the same situation. She started to notice the number of immigrants who struggled with the English language and couldn't understand the culture... much less fit in and feel comfortable.

She decided that no matter what your age, you can allow God to use you to reach the culture around you. She is now immersing herself in Spanish to effectively communicate with the ever increasing Hispanic population in her community. She has also accepted a call to serve in missions and plans to pursue a degree at Liberty University. In September 2006, she returned on a second mission trip to Thailand with her church. Her favorite verse to bring her strength is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding: In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."





Called to Follow

"There is a God who has plans for me, good plans involving prosperity, hope, and a future. This God has invited me into His presence to talk with Him and promises He will listen. How awesome is that!"

Dr. Randy Hahn is the Senior Pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Colonial Heights. This SBCV church has shown significant innovation and growth because they have been willing to follow the leadership of the Lord (Jeremiah 29:11-13) and make ministry relevant to the needs of their community. One of the most recent innovations has been the addition of a Saturday night worship service. Following the call of God requires risk, courage and blessing. Under Hahn's leadership, Colonial Heights has experienced all three.

While expounding on SBCV's theme for 2007, "More Beyond", Hahn says, "This offer from Jeremiah 29:11-13 is for us as individuals, churches and as a convention. Who in their right mind would not want this? Actually five out of every six people on the planet do not want it. There are a lot of reasons why, but mostly it is just darkness. But there is one thing the darkness cannot overwhelm: light. You and I are to be

that light. The SBCV and Colonial Heights Baptist are to be that light. But really, we ourselves are not THE Light. We are reflectors of the Light. Jesus is the Light and we reflect Him as we follow Him. The plans God has

Follow Stan Owens

During a recent Sunday morning message, Pastor Richard Ford of Ebenezer Baptist, Gloucester,

looked out over his congregation and saw Stan Owens begin to fidget and get ready to head out the door. Ford looked at his watch to see if he had gone over time. No, he was right on time... but Owens

was still fidgeting. Ironically, Ford was actually pleased with Owens' restlessness because he knew that Owens was not worried about what he was going to eat for dinner or who was going to be playing football that afternoon. Owens was restless to get to "the need!" Ebenezer Baptist and other churches around Matthews and Gloucester County definitely had great needs after Tropical Storm Ernesto flooded the same areas that had been flooded three years earlier with Hurricane Isabelle.

Stan was restless to get to the need!

Owens serves as the Southeastern Ministry Area Disaster Relief Coordinator for the SBC of Virginia. He is also

an active Community Emergency Response Team Member and a board member of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. When Hurricane Isabelle blew through his community in 2003,

Owens stepped up to follow the call and provided Disaster Relief Ministry in Jesus' Name. Owens made a commitment not only to serve in his hometown, but to respond wherever the need arises. Owens has served in Florida and Mississippi over the past couple of years. He also has an incredible desire to serve those who are hurting. He decided to be the "one call stop" in the Southeastern Ministry Area when it comes to Disaster Relief. Owens says he is always ready to go and serve in Jesus' Name.

Disaster Relief Volunteers outside Moss Point, MS



for us that involve prosperity, hope, and a future, are plans to follow Jesus. Our future is following Jesus. O Lord, may it never look like we have any other leader in our lives and churches than YOU."

THERE was a lot excitement in the air as a sold-out crowd of around 1,100 women packed into the sanctuary of Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond, to attend the SBCV Statewide Women's



Guest Speaker,
Elizabeth George

Conference. These women represented 187 different churches from 8 states. The guest speaker was Elizabeth George, who has authored more than 50 books and Bible studies which have sold almost 4 million copies. The conference's theme, "A Woman After God's Own Heart," is also the title of one of her books and video Bible studies. She is dedicated to teaching the Bible to women in a way that changes lives. God truly used her this weekend to challenge women to commit their heart, mind, soul, and body to Him.

One lady shared, "I walked into Grove Avenue feeling so ashamed of my life and where it had fallen to and left a changed woman, wife, and child of God." Another shared, "God has been faithful and brought me here to show me how to think rightly. My husband

will be glad that I am coming home – changed – a turning point."

Guest soloist, Kendra Penn, from Thomas Road Baptist Church blessed the women as she led them into God's presence with her beautiful voice. Kendra also shared part of her testimony which challenged and encouraged ladies of all ages and walks of life.

A team of volunteers from Grove Avenue Baptist, led by Women's Ministry Director, LaVonne Winter, exemplified Christ with their sweet spirits and servant hearts as they made the women feel welcomed. "I came by myself, but from the first hug I received at the door, I never felt alone. At this event, I truly felt I was part of the family of God."

Woman After God's Own Heart Conference



More Beyond

The celebration of our genesis and recognition of accomplishments during the first ten years of the state convention are history. The New Year is the first year of a brand new season. Winning coaches soon remind players that every new season is an opportunity to build on the season before. Records from previous seasons remind us of what was accomplished (wins) and of missed opportunities (losses), but they do not promise nor predict a winning or losing record in the new season. A "winning streak" will soon end if a team fails to look for ways to improve their performance.

International Business Machines (IBM) was the indisputable leader of the computer industry for more than three decades, but their "winning streak" ended when they failed to take advantage of the global market for personal computer software. Bill Gates and a friend saw what IBM failed to see and from a small garage beginning started Microsoft which is now the indisputable leader in the industry. But, it appears now that Microsoft will soon lose its lead unless they start to compete again.

Because churches and conventions are neither games nor for-profit businesses, the analogies break down in various places... but these principles will help a team score again and again:

- Always listen and follow the Head Coach

- Don't underestimate the opposition
- Work as a team with no regard for individual credit
- Strive for excellence – innovate, practice, execute, and evaluate
- Celebrate every time the team scores

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

~ Phil. 3:13-14 (NKJV)

Our theme for the New Year is **"More Beyond: Remember, Call, Seek, Follow."** Our prayer is that you can use this theme for the New Year, and that God will reward your resolve and faithfulness by giving you many "wins" in this new season.

From the
Executive Director



Doyle Chauncey



March 4-11



Thank You!

2006 Goal: \$56 million
2006 Receipts: \$57 million

Thank you to the churches of the Southern Baptist Conventions of Virginia for your generous gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 2006! We commend to bring the best stewards of those gifts and the faith you place in our efforts to reach North America for Christ.

—The SBCV North American Missionaries



EVANGELISM CONFERENCE 10th

March 12, 2007

For information or to register
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TWO

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