

MAR/APR 2007

Volume 9 Number 2

Proclaimer

The Official News Magazine of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia

*Making
Your
Impact
Even
Greater*

Church Growth Strategy





What's in Your Tool Box?

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.

Last Christmas, one of the best presents I received was a new tool box. "Well," you ask, "didn't you already have a toolbox?" Yes, I did. I had several old ones lying around the house. But, over the years, wrenches and screwdrivers had been mislaid and one of the toolboxes had lost a hinge. I could still find what I needed to fix a problem, but I'm glad that I have a new toolbox where all the tools fit into their appropriate spaces and there is even a new ratchet screwdriver!

Sometimes in ministry, we need to take a look at updating our toolboxes. Over the years, we have forgotten things we used to do, and there are some new tools out there that could work better for your situation than you ever thought. That's why we have dedicated this issue of the **Proclaimer** to some ideas and tools for church growth. We tell the stories of SBCV churches that are using some church growth tools effectively. After

many of the articles, you will see a "Toolbox Takeaway." This is a place for you to pause and pray, "Lord, could we do something like that at our church in order to be more effective in fulfilling your Great Commission?"

If you find and implement just one effective tool, the prayers of your State Missions Team, who collaborate to produce the **Proclaimer**, will have been answered.



Change Your World

Did You Know?

Three out of four people in the U.S. and Canada do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

100% of Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds directly support global missionaries and their ministries.

More than four Southern Baptist churches are started every day in the U.S. and Canada.

Over 1,000 missionaries are proclaiming the gospel in North America. There are three categories of missionaries serving through ISM:

- Career
- Limited Term
- Mission Service Corps

National Goal: \$57 Million
www.AnnieArmstrong.com



Week of Prayer for
North American Missions
and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*

March 4-11

SBCV Goal: \$900,000

Change
Your World



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The **Proclaimer** is a collaborative effort of the State Missions and Support Teams. As a ministry of the SBCV's Cooperative Program, The **Proclaimer** is published six times annually.

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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.

Dates to Remember

SBCV CALENDAR 2007

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

MARCH

- 4-11 WEEK OF PRAYER for North American Missions
- 6-9 BASIC TRAINING (English) — Richmond
- 9-10 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (MW) — Calvary Baptist, Staunton
- 12 SBCV EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (EAST) — Nansemond River Baptist, Suffolk
- 12 SBCV EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (WEST) — Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke
- 16-17 SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH CONFERENCE — Spotswood Baptist, Fredericksburg
- 16-17 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (SE) — Tabernacle Baptist, Newport News
- 16-17 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (SW) — Pioneer Baptist, Max Meadows
- 23-24 STUDENT PASTORS/DIRECTORS RETREAT — Williamsburg
- 23-24 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (CE) — Swift Creek Baptist, Midlothian
- 29 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
- 31 HIKERS EVANGELISM PACKETS Mission Project (Collection Date)

APRIL

- 8 EASTER SUNDAY
- 13 VBS CLINIC (Danville)
- 14 VBS CLINICS (Fredericksburg, Richmond, Independence)
- 20 VBS CLINIC (Norfolk)
- 20-21 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (SE) — Maranatha Baptist, Exmore
- 20-21 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (CW) — Pleasant View Baptist, Lynchburg
- 21 VBS Clinics (Roanoke, Centreville, Appomattox)
- 26 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
- 27 VBS CLINICS (Colonial Heights, Abingdon, Staunton)
- 28 VBS CLINIC (Charlottesville)
- 27-28 SBCV DEACON RETREAT — Thomas Road Baptist, Lynchburg

MAY

- 4 VBS CLINICS (Bedford, Rileyville)
- 5 VBS CLINICS (Pennington Gap, Hampton)
- 10 SBCV MINISTER OF EDUCATION MEETING — Glen Allen
- 11-12 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (N) — Spotswood Baptist, Fredericksburg
- 19 BIBLE DRILL — Beulah Baptist, Lynchburg
- 31 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)

JUNE

- 1-2 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (CW) — North Main Baptist, Danville
- 1-2 LIFEWAY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE — Hyland Memorial Chapel, Woodbridge
- 1-3 BASIC TRAINING (Spanish) — Richmond
- 10-13 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION — San Antonio, Texas
- 28 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)

JUL

- 9-13 SBCV STUDENTZ CAMP — Liberty University
- 29-8/3 POWER PLANT — Hampton Roads

AUG

- 7-8 YEC (Youth Evangelism Conference) — Liberty Baptist, Hampton
- 17-18 CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
- 30 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)

SEP

- 10-15 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS
- 26 POWER PLANT — Hampton Roads
- 29 CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SW)

OCT

- 1-4 BASIC TRAINING (English) — Richmond
- 11-12 DC VISION TOUR
- 19-20 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE — Colonial Heights Baptist, Colonial Heights
- 25 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)

9

Worship in Highlands Fellowship, Abingdon. This Purpose Driven Church recently used the internet site, myspace.com, as a sermon series theme to engage the congregation in personal evangelism.

CONTENTS

4

FRIEND DAY TURNS INTO FEEDING OF THE 4000

An ordinary church picnic turned into an evangelistic tool at Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton.

7

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICES REACH NEW PEOPLE

Several SBCV churches are finding unique ways to meet the challenge of reaching different cultural groups through the discovery of a new "hook" — Saturday night worship.

10

PRAYER AN ESSENTIAL TOOL

Edward Avenue Baptist Church in Waynesboro began their Sunday services with an altar call to prayer. In every Sunday service, they have committed corporate prayer. This atmosphere of corporate prayer has been the greatest blessing this church has experienced.

11

READY FOR A BLOCK PARTY?

See lives transformed at your own block party! Trailers, filled with just about everything a church will need to host a block party, are available for use in your church through the partnership of the SBCV and Liberty University.

13

CALLING YOUR NEW PASTOR

The Pastor Search Committee at First Baptist Church, Roanoke, recently worked through many issues with the insightful training of the SBC of Virginia. They learned to not short change the process. This pilgrimage of searching for a pastor focused on getting intimately involved through prayer and worship, allowing God's handiwork to be seen.



Student Pastor Retreat

Williamsburg



March 23-24

register online at www.sbcv.org/studentz

Friend Day Turns Into Feeding of the 4000

Cara Alevras had not been in the Hampton area but a few days when her aunt invited her to church. Alevras, who was recovering from a deadly disease, just moved from Florida with two of her three children. But she says, from the first moment at Liberty Baptist, God began to work on her heart. Pastor Grant Ethridge's sermon was on tithing... so she tithe her last five dollars. And when she was invited to attend next Sunday's Friend Day... she thought, "why not!" Little did she, or anyone at Liberty, know that on October 22, 2006, they would be joining more than 4,000 other people in the rain for what is now known as, "The Feeding of the 4,000." Ethridge, who started as Liberty's Senior Pastor in July, had been challenging the church to use every opportunity for outreach. He asked every member to purchase tickets and invite four unchurched friends or relatives. "When we all work together, 'God-size' things happen," Ethridge said. October's Friend Day produced "God-size" results when this ordinary picnic turned into an evangelistic explosion. Many decisions have been made for Christ in the weeks since — including Cara Alevras.

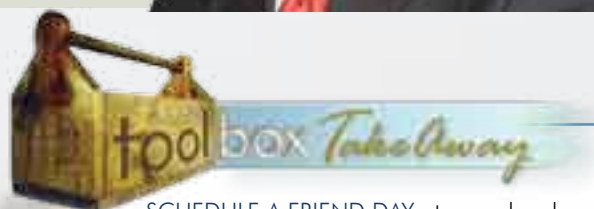
At the picnic, the church gave away door prizes, with the grand prize being cash. "I had never given away cash before, but on that day God had other plans," said Ethridge. The grand-prize winner was Alevras' eight-year-old boy.

The next Sunday, following the picnic, Alevras was back at Liberty. She

said to the pastor, "You do not know how much we needed that money." Her husband was in jail and their marriage was in trouble. But that day, Ethridge preached on marriage. Alevras walked the aisle, rededicated her life to Christ and decided to try to work on her marriage. Since that day, both her daughter and her sister have made public decisions to follow Christ and have been baptized.

Liberty continues to see results from the feeding of the 4000! Since July 2006, more than 300 people have joined the church and two morning worship services have been added.

"...an ordinary church picnic turned into an evangelistic tool."



SCHEDULE A FRIEND DAY at your church this year! For information, contact the Church Enrichment Missionary in your ministry area. Or you can go to our web site: www.sbcv.org/evangelism and look for the Friend Day section. You'll find great tips and tools to help you take advantage of this exciting evangelistic resource.



My Friendship Connection

This year the new time-change day will be November 4th and we are encouraging all SBCV churches to make this a "Friend Day." At the Evangelism Conference, March 12, 2007, brand new materials will be released called "My Friendship Connection." These cutting edge materials have been written by Jack Noble and Vernon Brady. Look for the materials at the Evangelism Conference and thereafter online.

Let's make this the greatest day of evangelism in the history of Virginia!

God Uses the Proclaimer as a Tool

Yes, the Lord used a trip to the mail box to change the direction of Terry Covey's life. A native of Virginia, he followed God's call to serve as pastor at a church in Ohio for more than 11 years. Intrigued by the uniqueness of the SBC of Virginia, he arranged to

speak to a Church Planting Strategist... but there did not appear to be an open door at that time.

Covey returned

home to Ohio and continued in his place of ministry. Remaining faithful to his Ohio church, he continued to ask God, "Why not Virginia?" With the arrival of the Fall 2002 **Proclaimer**, Covey finally spoke in frustration to God, wondering, "Why do I continue to get this magazine but nothing is happening?" Later that day, God finally made it clear to him that he should prepare to move.

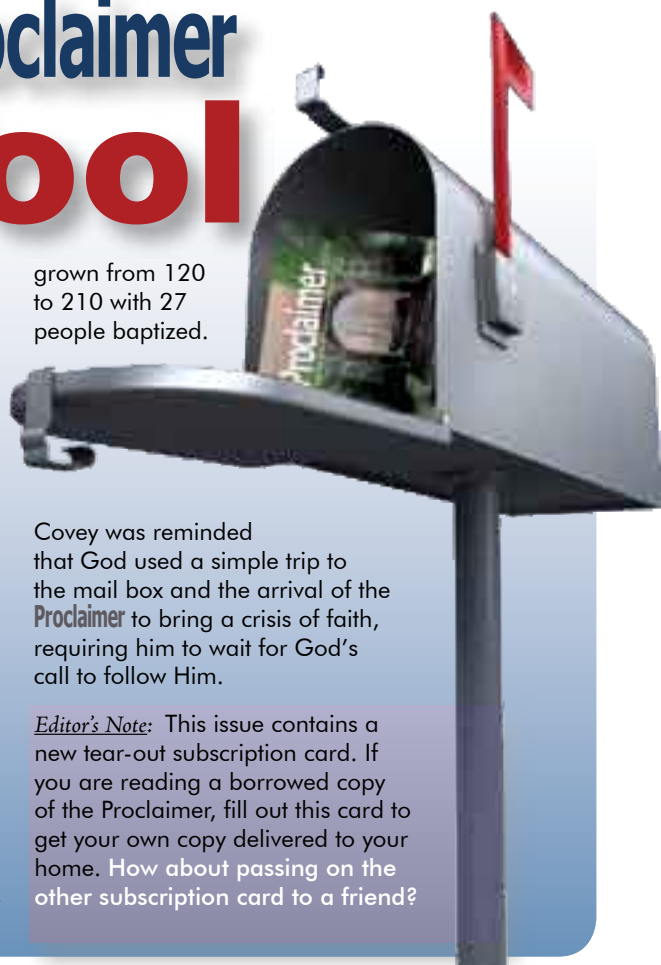
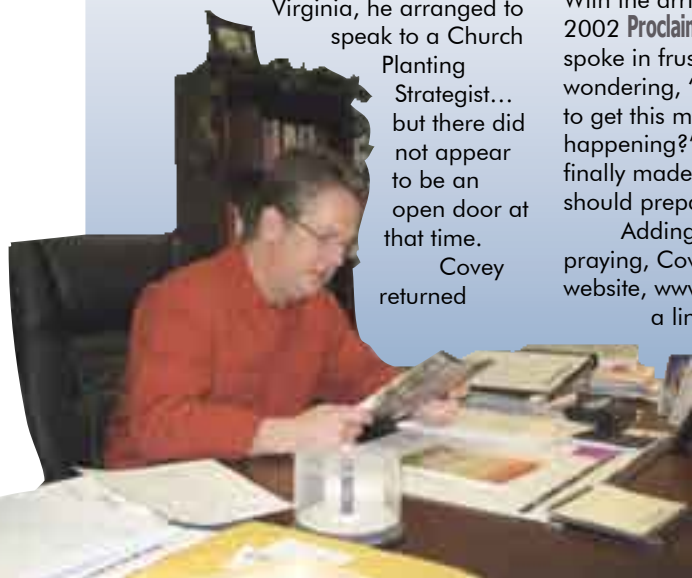
Adding feet to his faithful praying, Covey visited the SBCV website, www.sbcv.org, and found a link to Twin Oaks

Baptist Church. After responding to their search for a pastor, the church called him in June of 2003. Since his arrival at Twin Oaks, attendance has

grown from 120 to 210 with 27 people baptized.

Covey was reminded that God used a simple trip to the mail box and the arrival of the **Proclaimer** to bring a crisis of faith, requiring him to wait for God's call to follow Him.

Editor's Note: This issue contains a new tear-out subscription card. If you are reading a borrowed copy of the **Proclaimer**, fill out this card to get your own copy delivered to your home. How about passing on the other subscription card to a friend?



Growing with Your Community

Oak Grove

Baptist Church, located in Chesterfield, south of Richmond, is used to change. When the church found itself in the midst of rapid ethnic change more than 30 years ago, it relocated, using a satellite approach. But the course of action is different this time. Pastor Andy Rist is engaged in a consulting process with the SBCV and is implementing recommendations that are leading toward both a healthy church and reaching people different than the Oak Grove church family. The consulting process made observations and recommendations in three important areas: facilities, Sunday School, and the community.

Their Sunday School, Youth, and Children's Ministries were meeting over a two block area using modulars and a house. The church knew it needed new facilities to bring the members together. As a result of the SBCV consultation process, Oak Grove approved plans for an

expansion that would house all three of these ministries.

Oak Grove also recognized they needed a strong base at home in order to establish a broad based ministry that would impact the community. Reaching people is difficult enough, but keeping them requires an intentional ministry geared to every member and prospect. Therefore, members committed themselves to reaching and ministering through the one ministry that has the opportunity to have the greatest impact — Sunday School. The church leaders say they now feel better equipped to be more effective through outreach to visitors and caring for members.

The church's field of ministry is growing rapidly among Hispanics and African Americans. They have now called an African American church planter and have approved the start of a Hispanic Bible study that could become a church plant.

The future of Oak Grove is bright. The church is filled with excitement and anticipation for what God has in store. They know that change can be good when you choose to grow through it.

Pastor
Andy Rist



DID YOU KNOW that your Church Enrichment Missionary can consult with you about how your church can better reach its community? They analyze your harvest field challenges and provide step by step recommendations on how to effectively reach your community.

Church Uses RATTS As Outreach Tool

Stanton River Community Church, a new church start just south of Brookneal, began on an Easter Sunday morning with 168 in attendance. Not a bad launch, especially when you consider attendees had to bring their own chairs to sit on the banks of the river. But they kept coming back Sunday after Sunday — with a chair in one hand and a Bible in the other. Some Sundays, baptism was held just a few steps away. When late fall temperatures dipped too low to stay outside, the Lord provided a community building in the town for their meeting.

Today, Stanton River meets in the new Brookneal Elementary School, which provides ample space for worship and small groups. During the week, you will find small groups meeting in homes and even a Bible Study at the library. Pastor Andy Ferguson says, "We would love to have a church building, but Kingdom building is more important." So how does this new church reach its community for Christ? Ferguson, who has accepted the Acts 1:8 mandate, says, "It is through lifestyle evangelism. It's about building relationships and how you live on a daily basis." They do this several different ways:

- A "Youth Shootout" which consists of target and skeet shooting and golf driving competitions.
- A Sportsman Banquet that will reach hunters and fishermen.
- Giving "River Home Gift Baskets" at Christmas to neighbors of the church.

But one ministry is starting to stand out from the pack — RATTS (Reaching All Through Testimony and Service). On Saturday mornings, volunteers from the church join together for



Having church on the banks of the Staunton River.

breakfast at the local fast food restaurant, have a devotion and prayer, then go off to reconstruct homes in need of repair. Recipients are discovered from referrals of church members or from door to door canvassing. Repairs can be as simple as installing handrails for a senior adult, or replacing a collapsing porch. The ministry will expand to construct a complete home in 2007 for a family in need.

This is just another way Stanton River Community Church is reaching its community.

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. Check our website as details are finalized:
www.sbcv.org/vbs



Baptizing in the Staunton River.



SERVANT EVANGELISM can open a lot of doors for you to share Christ in your community. Contact your area missionary. For more information go to www.sbcv.org.

Saturday Night Services Reach New People

Another
Hook
in the
Water

The world is at our doorsteps. While this is an exciting reality, it is also challenging to realize how many different cultural groups the local church is responsible for reaching. Several SBCV churches are finding unique ways to meet this challenge. "We could not just keep on doing the same thing the same way. We had to find a way to put another hook in the water," said David Parks, Associate for Administration and Growth, at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Both this church and Colonial Heights Baptist Church in the Central East

ministry area, have discovered a new "hook"—Saturday night worship.

This innovation has been an avenue in reaching new families and individuals that have to work on Sunday. "We began this worship service on Saturday night because of our space limitations for future growth. We simply ran out of space," according to Ronnie West, Minister of Education at Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

Both these churches follow a different format for the Saturday night service. Colonial Heights Baptist has taken a position that Saturday night service should be identical to the Sunday morning services. "If you come on Saturday night you do not want to miss anything we offer on Sunday," according to Pastor Randy Hahn. Therefore, they mirror on Saturday night everything done in their Sunday services. Mount Pleasant Baptist takes a more laid back approach on Saturday evening. Although both churches use different worship styles they have one thing in common, each church provides a small group Bible study time on Saturday night. Colonial Heights Baptist asked their most influential teachers to make a one year commitment to move to Saturday night and encouraged their classes to move with them. This had a great impact on their success on moving to Saturday night worship.

When asked what makes a successful "Saturday Night," both churches stated that there are five essential elements in preparing a church for Saturday night: prayer, good planning and organization, determining your target group, communications, and promotion. This could be a good hook for other SBCV churches!



Saturday Night Worship services at Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

INVESTMENT in INTERNS

"If I could have one hundred summer interns, I'd use them all." This was the comment offered by Chad Brady, pastor of Capron Baptist in Southampton County. Brady pastors a rural church and found that taking advantage of the SBCV internship program was a means of exposing the students in his church to college students who love Jesus and are considered "cool" in their eyes.

Dustin Jones, Capron's intern last summer, helped by bringing fresh ideas and being a positive influence on the students. In fact, Jones continues to maintain contact with some of the students at Capron, having visited again during his Christmas break.

Brady encourages pastors who are considering the internship program to make sure to keep communication lines open with their ministry interns. He also suggests considering it as a chance to mentor and invest in the life of a college student. Brady said, "The investment returns through the impact on your young people."

SBCV offers the summer internship program to strengthen local churches as well as to equip future leaders in ministry. These interns must be young adults, at least one year past high school graduation, and have a heart for ministry. After completing an application process, approved interns are given a monetary scholarship to complete a 10-week ministry period in any number of local church ministries. Although SBCV can recommend potential intern candidates, churches are responsible for choosing and interviewing summer interns. Churches must provide housing, ministry-related expenses, and additional funding to the intern. In addition, SBCV provides a free one day intensive training clinic at its Glen Allen Mission Support Center and requires that all interns give a week to the SBCV Youth Camp as a camp staffer.

SBCV churches wanting to explore the summer intern program can learn more at www.sbcv.org/ministry_internships.



EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

March 12, 2007

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Visit our website at www.sbcv.org
or call us toll free at 888.234.7716.

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order a BOX LUNCH
(\$6 each) for the noon meal.



Two
Locations!

Speakers:

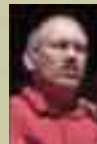
1

WEST

Cave Spring Baptist
Roanoke



Ken Freeman



Alvin Reid



James Merritt



Mike Licon

2

EAST

Nansemond River Baptist
Suffolk



Roy Fish



Ed Stetzer



David Wheeler



Vance Pitman

SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Morning Session
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Session
5:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Evening Session

My God's Space

OUR



"I felt like the weight of the world had been lifted off my shoulders".

Darlene Hurley

"Our creative team is constantly praying and brain-storming to determine where we are as a church and what we need to fulfill God's purpose in our lives and in the lives of people we reach," says Pastor Jimmie Davidson of Highlands Fellowship in Abingdon. Highlands Fellowship is a Purpose Driven Church on the cutting edge of evangelism. It uses every resource available to deliver the Gospel. In fact, in 2006, 207 people made public professions of faith through baptism.

Davidson, always on the look-out for innovative tools, recently used the internet site **myspace.com** as a sermon series theme to engage the congregation in personal evangelism. **myspace.com** is a website that millions use to reveal who they are and what they are about. Davidson says that is what Highlands is all about — reaching out to people to find out who they are and then helping them discover why God made them. "**myspace.com**

reminded our people that their relationships are not accidental, and challenged them to go after their lost family members and friends," says Davidson.

During one service, the people came forward and placed on the altar names of those they knew needed the Lord. They were only allowed to bring the names of those they promised to personally invite. At the end of the service, 2,700 names were offered and prayed over. The following weekend, using video clips from "The Passion", Davidson preached the Gospel message and 40 people responded to the invitation to receive Christ. One of those 40 was Darlene Hurley who commented, "I always knew I needed a relationship with God but I just put it off." On that Sunday, Hurley's 10-year-old daughter, Taylor, begged her to go to church with her. On the way, Taylor told her mother she had begun to pray at school and had asked her friends to join her. "I realized I wasn't where she was spiritually," Darlene says, and when Pastor (Davidson) started to preach, the tears began to flow uncontrollably. Darlene went forward to receive Christ during the invitation and later said, "I felt like the weight of the world had been lifted off my shoulders." Now, "Her Space" is "God's Space."

\$30 per person
includes conference
and all
meals

Deacon—The Power of Servanthood

- Servant to Christ
- Servant to His Church
- Servant with the Pastor

For information or to
register:

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. He also pastored churches in
Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Simple Purpose Statement Becomes Useful Tool

God is doing an "extreme makeover"

in the restoration process of Kingdom Baptist Church (KBC) in Fredericksburg. Attendance at Kingdom, which only started in 1997, had dropped from 200 to 50. But, Pastor Craig Polston says, "a unique tool came in handy that focused

Worship

I nspiration (prayer and encouragement)

S ervice

D iscipleship

O neness

M issions



You will find helpful ideas just like this one and many more tools for church growth at this year's SBCV Church Leadership Conference, August 17th & 18th, at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights.

all of them on future growth — a simple purpose statement using the acronym WISDOM."

At Kingdom, 'WISDOM' now serves as a blueprint guiding every detail of the ministry, from the weekly bulletin to the yearly financial budget. Polston says, "We are working hard to build a culture of evangelism and an atmosphere of worship with worshippers seeking to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." God is raising up spiritually mature leaders who are able to lead because they are willing to follow the leadership standards based on the Bible and outlined by the church.

Even the name of the church has experienced a makeover. Due to a change in the location and vision of the church, Polston explains that the members "wanted a name that would keep them focused on what God considers important, so they changed the name of the church from Chatham Baptist Church to Kingdom Baptist Church."

KBC is now seeing continuous growth with an average of 160 in its Saturday evening and Sunday morning services. Polston says he believes the Lord has a tremendous future for them as they focus on being the Kingdom citizens that God wants them to be and reaching new people for His Kingdom.



Prayer an Essential Tool

It's Sunday at Edward Avenue Baptist Church in Waynesboro. As you look toward the front, you will find 75-80 people at the altar in intercessory prayer for their community. This church plant was sponsored by Wayne Hills Baptist Church just one year ago and God has blessed them in amazing ways. If you were to ask Pastor Gary May what the secret was behind the blessings they have experienced, he would tell you quickly that it was a focus on prayer.

They began their first Sunday service with an

altar call to prayer. In every Sunday service since then, they have been committed to corporate prayer. For a significant part of their worship service, they come together to pray for

their church and for the neighborhoods God has given them the responsibility of reaching. The results have been significant in every aspect of the life of the church. In the beginning, the community was indifferent to the church's presence; however, over time, people in the

neighborhoods have become very open and hospitable. The mission stays fresh on everyone's mind and heart as the church has continued to focus their prayers on a specific target.

Prayer has brought a real sense of unity to the members. Because they have seen and celebrated the victories of their corporate prayer, a great faith in God has been established and individual members have gained a confidence that God will answer their prayers and work in their families' and friends' lives. Numerous members have shared how they have begun praying for a person they know and quite frequently that person will show up for church a few weeks later. This atmosphere of corporate prayer has been the greatest blessing this church has experienced. In their first year of existence, they have watched 83 people come to Christ and have grown to an average Sunday morning attendance of 114.



What's in Your TOOL BOX?

Just five years ago, Whispering Hope Community Church in Midlothian started as a Bible study. The church struggled to get a handle on how to effectively engage the surrounding community with the Gospel and also grow to be a healthy, reproducing church. The church planter, Pastor Don Hughes, requested that the church's leaders go back to the drawing board and work through SBCV's seminar called Basic Training II for Church Planters, held August 2006.

This tool is effective with helping churches assess who they are, where they have been, and where they need to go. The following is a brief testimony from Pastor Hughes after he and his leaders worked through Basic Training II:

"This two day event helped to bring back into focus a number of things which tend to get lost in the day to day activity of ministry. It helped me, as the pastor, to revisit the

question of our overall strategy, vision statement, and whether we were attaining the goals which we had set out to pursue in the beginning. It provided us with a vehicle to do several important things. First, it gave us the opportunity to review our total ministry structure and to gauge the effectiveness of each area. Secondly, we could measure our progress and measure whether or not we were on target in several vital areas. Finally, the membership gained the opportunity

to hear from a perspective outside of our own church family and to learn of what was happening in the bigger picture of church planting."

So, what's in your tool box to evaluate your church's

direction?

Does this sound familiar, "Direction is more important than speed. We are so busy looking at our speedometers that we forget to look at the milestone?" Is it time for you to call a time-out and review your direction?

Did you know that Basic Training II is a tool that can be used for existing churches as well as church plants? An SBCV consultant will spend time with the pastor and key leaders evaluating the ministry and setting out mileposts for future ministry. Contact your Area Missionary if you have an interest in Basic Training II.



READY FOR A BLOCK PARTY?

Ask any church planter, and he will tell you that evangelistic block parties are a great way to interact with and become known in the community. It is not just for church planting. Established churches wanting to impact their community find block parties to be an effective evangelistic tool as well.

In an effort to assist SBCV churches and church plants, the SBCV and Liberty University are partnering to provide two block party trailers that will be made available for use in your church. Because of the partnership with Liberty, churches and church plants who take advantage of this opportunity will also have access to Liberty students, known as Liberty Link, to assist with their block party.

These trailers are filled with just about everything a church will need to host a block party: moon walks, games, helium tanks, popcorn machine, snow cone machine, propane grill, portable generator, sound system, a stage, and much more. Throw in a church with a passion and vision to saturate their community with the Gospel, mixed with eager Liberty students — and you have the necessary ingredients to see lives transformed at your own block party!

In October, a group of students, led by David Wheeler of Liberty University, held a block party at Miller Park in Lynchburg. In the crisp fall air, you could smell the popcorn popping and food cooking on the grill. During the two hour event, 320 people were fed. As people arrived, they were encouraged to

register for a drawing to receive a brand new bicycle. Participants went from activity to activity — waiting patiently in line for their turn. That, says Liberty student Cale Duncan, is by design. It is while people are in line that opportunities are found to relate with those from the community and share the Gospel. The immediate fruit of this one event was five new believers in Christ and increased visitors in worship at the sponsoring church the following Sunday.

Editors Note: ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOSTING A BLOCK PARTY? Visit the SBCV web site, www.sbcv.org, click Ministries and then Liberty Link. Just download and complete the church request form.



Southern Cross Changes Lives

Short-term mission trips can make a difference — a life changing difference.

Tim and Merry Gregory are presently in the appointment process as SBC Missionaries to Asia with the International Mission Board. The Gregory's have had a long history with missions and mission projects. Tim grew up in a military family and Merry grew up as a missionary kid in Brazil. In 1980, the

missions outreach team from Liberty University visited Tim's church. During the service, God spoke and Tim surrendered to a call to missions.

Joining Forest Baptist Church in 1996 and working in the area of missions as a lay person, Gregory led many volunteer teams from his church and encouraged everyone to be "On Mission" with God. In 2001 he went on staff full time as the

Missions Pastor and led various volunteer teams all over the world.

In 2004, Gregory and seven other pastors and staff partnered with the SBCV and the IMB Southern Cross mission team in a vision project to Thailand. Since that time, he has led six teams back to Thailand where thousands of Chinese have been engaged with the Gospel. In February 2006, Tim volunteered as a long-term Southern Cross volunteer, to help groups distribute Bibles and religious materials. It was then that the Gregory's realized that God could turn their lifelong dream into reality. "The progression and maturity as a follower of Christ in my life has taken many years. God continues to teach me about being 'on mission' with Him."

Tim and Merry will be appointed by the IMB this March and will serve with our Southern Cross Team in Thailand. "We feel that it is His timing for us to make this transition and we trust that we are correctly discerning His will. We realize that God is calling and we are trusting in Him, and by His grace He will see us through." Pray for our new missionaries supported by your gifts to the Cooperative Program!



**Collection
Date:
March 31st**

**SBCV HANDS-ON
MISSIONS**

Hikers Evangelism Packets

Several of the SBCV churches in the Southwestern Ministry Area are located along the Appalachian Trail. They have very unique opportunities to minister to individuals from all over the USA as they come to hike that trail. Some of our churches have bunkhouses, shower houses, washers and dryers, and other means of accommodating these individuals with the hope of being able to share the Gospel with them. Once again, we can help by preparing packets of items that are greatly needed by the hikers so our churches can give them as they minister to their needs. Since the hikers will be carrying these items in their backpack, we need to think light – light – light and flat – flat – flat. Put all items in a large zip lock bag. Some of the items you can include are (you do not have to have all these items in every bag):

- Textured Vegetable Protein (TVP's) packets
- Moist Hand Wipes
- Foot Powder
- Peroxide packets
- Contemporary Tracts
- Stamped Postcards
- Lipton Sides
- Alcohol packets
- Carbohydrate Gel packets
- Dental Floss
- Band-aids
- Moleskin
- Gospel of John



Witnessing BRACELETS

**Collection Date:
May 31**

Over the past few years, SBCV churches have sent thousands of Witnessing Bracelets to southeast Tennessee. Seeds have been planted by thousands of witnessing encounters — over 100 recorded decisions for Christ in one summer! For details about assembling and shipping bracelets, go to <http://www.sbcv.org/projects/>



Calling Your New Pastor

At the conclusion of the best sermon the pastor had preached in years, he begins to nervously ruffle through his Bible. "I have a letter I would like to read." As the pastor announces that four weeks from today, he will assume the pastorate at XYZ Baptist Church, the church quickly responds with gasps and a few tears.

Now the questions start to roll in. Who will preach after he leaves? Who will do the funerals? Who will...? But the major question in everyone's mind is where will we find our next pastor? When some simple straight forward tools are used, seeking a new pastor can be a time of spiritual growth for the church.

First Baptist Church, Roanoke, recently worked through these issues and called Bryan Smith as their Senior Pastor. The Pastor Search Committee sought the insight and training offered by the SBC of Virginia. According to Mike Harner, Search Committee Chairman, they learned

to not short change the process and gained insights on things to watch for. This pilgrimage of searching for a pastor became a spiritual highlight in his life. The committee spent the first portion of every meeting in worship and prayer. The Bible was a staple at every meeting. Harner says the focus on getting intimately involved through prayer and worship allowed them to see God's handiwork. This was evident when the committee voted to only pursue Smith as a candidate at the exact time Smith was open to further dialog with the committee.

Members of the committee say the focus on the spiritual aspect allowed them to witness God's call in Smith's life to Roanoke. Even months later, Smith is still awed by the committee's focus on prayer and their absolute love and genuine desire for God's best. **And God is blessing numerically... at last**

check,
worship
attendance at

First Baptist Roanoke is up **several hundred** from the year before!



Call your Church Enrichment Missionary to provide Pastor Search Committee training if you are without a pastor at your church.



Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers (left to right) Kevin Peters, Newcastle, Va., William Starkey, Como, Tenn., and Larry Blett, Norfolk, Va., work together to remove limbs from a roof following the recent ice storm that blanketed southwest Missouri and eastern Oklahoma January 12.

Church Leadership Conference

**AUGUST
17 & 18**

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\$299 per student

Registration deadline:

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Information & Registration:

www.powerplant.studentz.com

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For details or to register go to, www.sbcv.org/disaster_relief/

March 9-10	Staunton, Calvary Baptist
March 16-17	Newport News, Tabernacle Baptist
March 16-17	Max Meadows, Pioneer Baptist
March 23-24	Midlothian, Swift Creek Baptist
April 20-21	Exmore, Maranatha Baptist
April 20-21	Lynchburg, Pleasant View Baptist
May 11-12	Fredericksburg, Spotswood Baptist
June 1-2	Danville, North Main Baptist



SBCV President
Dennis Culbreth
 Pastor, River Oak Church
 Chesapeake

**You can do it.
 We can help.**

One of my church members retired a few years back and now works part-time at Home Depot. In reality, he does not even consider this a job. It is more of a hobby. He loves to do things around the house and he loves to give good advice on maintenance and building things. He is a perfect example of that store's motto, "You can do it. We can help."

Likewise the SBCV has that same kind of, "You can do it. We can help," philosophy. Anyone who has been a part of this state convention knows that The Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia are always there to lend support, to give guidance when needed, and to encourage. That is what they are all about. That is why the SBCV has placed experienced, dedicated missionaries in strategic places throughout the Commonwealth. I know of no other state convention who reaches out to the local church to help more than the SBCV! If you think about it, everything they do is to help the local pastor and church be more effective in ministry.

Just think of the youth camp, the evangelism conferences (one in the western part of the state and one in the eastern), all the training conferences that are offered and so many other opportunities for ministry. Think of the great fellowship we share in the regional meetings and all the hard work that our missionaries put into making these meetings meaningful and practical. I don't know about you, but I always leave feeling that I was glad that I attended and actually got something out of the meeting.

We are blessed to have what I consider the best state convention in the Southern Baptist Convention. Make sure that the next time you see one of our hard working missionaries or staff members you let them know how much you appreciate the fact that they are there for you.

In His Service,
Dennis R. Culbreth

State Bible Drill & Speaker's Tournament

MAY 19, 2007

Beulah Baptist Church, Lynchburg

For details or to register, visit www.sbcv.org



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Our Vision or His Vision



Doyle Chauncey

Pastor search committees usually ask pastoral candidates the question, "What is your vision for our church?" A committee asked me the question years ago. Stunned for a moment, I asked for more time to know the people and discover unmet needs. My answer bought me more time, but the truth was that I did not have a vision. I just wanted God's vision.

Recently, I was reminded of this experience when I talked with a perplexed pastor preparing his third annual "vision" sermon. He has a deep burden to create and cast a compelling vision. He senses that the congregation is becoming impatient with him, and he came to me looking for help.

I encouraged him to look in

God's Word for His vision for His church. There is the oft-quoted proverb, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18 KJV). Leadership gurus that urge visionary leadership seem unaware of the biblical use of the word for vision. Vision, here, is not a visual picture that communicates future-look, future-think, strategic goals and objectives. Another translation is clearer, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint..." (Proverbs 29:18 NKJV). Biblical vision is not about a leader's picture for what the people will accomplish together. It is clearly only "prophetic vision" that comes from God.

So when a pastor search committee or a congregation asks a

pastor to share "his vision"... the question needs to be, "What do you understand to be God's Vision for His Church?" Our vision is powerless if it is in conflict with His vision. Our vision must align with His, because only God can supernaturally turn the church around.

Churches need empowered spirit-filled leaders who catch the Master's vision. Paul's missionary journeys were revealed by his Master... piece by piece along the way. He was compelled, pushed and led forward through his sense of ownership by Jesus. It was Paul's burden and deep compulsion to do what his Master, the Lord Jesus, wanted him to do.

Biblical vision is not about a leader's picture for what the people will accomplish together. It is clearly only "prophetic vision" that comes from God.



IN 2006....

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SBCV Goal:

\$50,000 = 25,000 Bibles



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"Man cannot live by bread alone but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4 (NIV)

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www.sbcv.org



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