

Proclaimer

The Official News Magazine of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia

JUL/AUG 2007

Volume 9 Number 4



LEADERSHIP

MAKING YOUR
IMPACT
EVEN
GREATER!

The Key to Making a Difference



Leadership Up

From the Executive Director



Doyle Chauncey

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.

This issue of the **Proclaimer** focuses on Leadership. The ability to influence others to accomplish a common desired goal is one of the important keys to leadership.

Pastors and lay leaders demonstrate leadership as they influence others in the church to strengthen the Sunday school; participate in outreach; and discover, enlist and mentor new leaders. John Maxwell reminds us in "The 360 Degree Leader" that one does not have to be at the top to be a leader, "The true measure of leadership is influence — nothing more, nothing less. Leadership is a choice you make, not a place you sit."

An organization needs more than a leader at the top. An organization needs influential leaders that add value to the leadership at the top. No matter where you are in an organization you have the opportunity to influence those whom God has entrusted to your leadership.

The key to leadership in the church is leadership in the home at every level of influence, especially the influence of a Godly woman. Billy Graham said in a statement after Ruth Graham's death, "Ruth was my life partner, and we were

called by God as a team. No one else could have borne the load that she carried. She was a vital and integral part of our ministry, and my work through the years would have been impossible without her encouragement and support."

Ruth Graham is a perfect example of an influential leader in the home supporting the leader at the top and producing leaders from the family. Influential leadership in the home and in the church is not a choice; it is a calling of God. You cannot separate leadership in the home from leadership in the church.

Effective leaders empower others to succeed. You can choose to be a leader and make a difference wherever you are. No matter what your circumstances, our greatest limitation isn't the leader above us — it is the spirit within us.

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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.

**week
of prayer for
state missions
and state missions
offering**

september
9-16, 2007

2007



How will this offering be used?

Appalachian Trail Ministries	\$ 5,000
Baptist Builders Startup	\$10,000
Block Party/Sports Trailers	\$25,000
Disaster Relief Equipment & Operation	\$20,000
Food Distribution Ministries	\$15,000
Just-In-Time Training Institute, Spanish Speaking	\$10,000
Land for Church Plants	\$45,000
Military Ministry to Families	\$ 5,000
Ministry Intern Scholarships	\$40,000
Worship/Small Group Meeting Location in D.C.	\$25,000

Total: \$ 200,000

DATES to Remember

SBCV CALENDAR 2007

for more information contact

sbcv@sbcv.org or call 888-234-7716

JUL	9-13 SBCV STUDENTZ CAMP — Liberty University
	29-8/3 POWERPLANT — Hampton Roads
	7-8 YEC (Youth Evangelism Conference) — Liberty Baptist, Hampton
AUG	17-18 CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — Mt. Pleasant Baptist, Colonial Heights
	19 DAY OF PRAYER FOR STUDENTS
	30 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
	9-16 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS
SEP	26 SYTP See You at the Pole
	27 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Regional)
	29 SOUTHWEST CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SW-CLC) — Euclid Avenue Baptist, Bristol
	1-4 BASIC TRAINING (English) — SBCV, Glen Allen
OCT	11-12 DC VISION TOUR
	19-20 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE — Colonial Heights Baptist, Colonial Heights
	25 CHURCH PLANTER NETWORK (CPN) (Statewide)
NOV	4 MY FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION
	12-13 SBCV ANNUAL MEETING — Liberty Baptist, Hampton
DEC	2-9 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

SBCV CALENDAR 2008

MAR	15-16 SWAT Weekend Connection — Williamsburg
FEB	22-23 SWAT Weekend Connection — Staunton
	2-9 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOME MISSIONS

correction:



Grateful for CP Support

On Page 7 of the May/June Proclaimer, an incorrect picture of Tyler Scarlett was published in the "Grateful for CP Support" story. His correct photo appears to the right.



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Pastor Manuel Chacón helps many develop their particular gift.



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"Champions for Christ" are being formed, all because of a phrase Lamarr Mooneyham heard when he attended Lynchburg Bible College in the mid 1970s. The principle is simply raising up next generation leaders.

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Jerry Falwell~A Model Leader

Today, Dr. Jerry Falwell's legacy lives on due to his vision for passing on the ministry to the next generation. Falwell invested in things that would last for eternity.

He knew that it would take young "Champions for Christ", who would catch God's vision and, in turn, give their lives in service to Him.

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Creation Camp

Creation Camp was born from a great need and the abundant natural resources of God's creation so that Rosedale Baptist Church in Abingdon could reach children and their families with the Good News of Christ, before it was too late.

8



Are You Stopping Your Church's Growth?

At a recent SBCV Statewide Church Planting Network (CPN), Daniel Floyd, church planting pastor of Lighthouse Baptist in Spotsylvania, challenged fellow church planters to consider their influence as leaders in their local church.

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studentz CAMP for an evening

The Wednesday Night Line-up:
Cookout • MotoX Real Encounter
Worship w/ Stellar Kart and Tony Nolan

Wednesday, July 11th
5:00 until 10:00pm

\$10 charge per student | pre-registration required (by July 3)
more info online at www.sbcv.org



raising up leaders

Pastor Manuel Chacón baptizing new believers at La Iglesia Bautista Roca Eterna



Through pastor Manuel Chacón's intentional strategy many people are being trained and coached toward reaching and developing their particular gift.



When he is not managing his house-cleaning business or working in the middle of the night at FedEx, Pastor Manuel Chacón of La Iglesia Bautista Roca Eterna (Eternal Rock Baptist Church) is calling out and raising up a team of leaders. These leaders are catching a vision to develop other new leaders as part of a movement of reproducing leadership.

His methods seem to reflect the New Testament more than the latest leadership books. Partly because of his bi-vocational status and limited time for ministry, Chacón does what he can to spend time with groups of people more than with individuals. Roca Eterna does a lot of things together that include parents, teens, children and nearly always other invited guests. In April, 75 people traveled in caravan to South Carolina

for a Hispanic Ministry Conference.

Limited time is only one reason for doing things in groups. Chacón has an intentional strategy to get as many people as possible to reach the level of their potential. When something needs to be done that someone else is capable of doing, Chacón passes the task to them. Rather than expecting perfection, he uses the opportunity as a moment for training/coaching.

All know that anyone at any time may be asked to prepare a devotional study to share during Thursday evening prayer meetings. As a result, some new teachers have been discovered, while others confirmed that they do not have that particular gift.

Chacón began a small group outreach in Stafford in hopes of eventually seeing a new church planted there. Before two months had passed, he left the group in the hands of Fredy, his apprentice, who lived in the neighborhood. Chacón continues close contact and coaching with Fredy but is careful that the group does not form a dependency on him that would undermine Fredy's leadership.

Then, there are other Hispanic leaders such as Luís, Juan, Carlos, Eduardo, Andrés, Jorge, and Alex who will hopefully go and do likewise.



Pastor Chacón and his family



Mission Team

Growing Through Sunday School



The growth and sustained ministry of the local church rises and falls on the strength of SUNDAY SCHOOL.

"I have a bedrock conviction that it is the main reaching, teaching, and ministering arm of the church," says David Slayton, Senior Pastor of Red Lane Baptist Church in Powhatan. Red Lane has made Sunday School their focus for its strategic planning and future growth of the church. Slayton credits his philosophy of Sunday School to Dr. Jerry Falwell, who stressed that the church rises and falls on leadership, especially as it relates to Sunday School. Slayton remarked, "We have constantly raised the bar of excellence in our leadership and in Sunday School. We believe that our present culture is biblically illiterate. Therefore, we are committed to train our

teachers and leaders to communicate Biblical truths. We do that through an ongoing teacher training program and by participating in training opportunities such as the SBCV Church Leadership Conference."

Red Lane has also focused its day-to-day ministry to members through Sunday School class CARE Groups. These CARE Groups are trained to meet the ministry needs of those enrolled. Slayton commented, "No sooner had we put the ministry in place, we had a number of crises. I was away from the church, but the CARE Group leaders stepped in and gave the needed ministry. It is such a joy, as a pastor, to hear of a need in the church and find out that the deacons and the CARE Groups have already been there ministering."

This has also been a great help to Red Lane's Deacon

Family Ministry.

As the church has grown, the responsibility of the deacons and the Family Care Ministry had gotten out of hand. With the Sunday School partnering with the deacons in ministry, it has solved that problem. Slayton also trains and leads his Sunday School leadership in personal evangelism, daily devotion, and sharing their faith. He remarked, "A church will never grow unless it builds its inner structure." There is no greater opportunity for growing the church than through the Sunday School.

Raising Up Next Generation Leaders

Lamar Mooneyham, Pastor of The Tabernacle, heard the phrase "Champions for Christ" as he attended Lynchburg Bible College in the mid 1970s. It might not be articulated the same way in his ministry today in Danville, but the principle that was taught to him by the late Dr. Jerry Falwell remains paramount. The principle is simply raising up next generation leaders. There is more to preparing young men for ministry than getting a formal education. Greg Palmer, the Adolescent Development Pastor says, "On the job training is literally walking in the footsteps of ministry." The Tabernacle has invested in at least three youth interns to date. Palmer says, "We simply start with a young man that is called of God, who is usable, teachable and moldable. As a ministry coach, I am looking to help them discover their gifts, talents, and abilities. With natural leaders, it surfaces pretty quickly." Palmer comments

on Jamie Joyce, current Youth Ministry Assistant, "After the initial practical training and modeling of ministry, we immediately saw (Jamie's) leadership qualities and great communication of the Gospel both verbally and musically."



Jamie Joyce

Tabernacle is that not everything is done for you. Once you are taught, you are unleashed and pushed to do the ministry. It is a privilege to work with youth at such a pivotal time in their lives. It is a literal crossroads for them in discovering who they are and ultimately whose they are." It is obvious that Joyce has caught the vision for investing in the lives of the next generation too. A great deal of his time is spent in mentoring other students. Another "Champion for Christ" is well underway.

Jamie Joyce (l) and Greg Palmer (r)



Joyce says, "There is nothing like the exposure and experience of raw ministry. What I really appreciate about The

Leadership Devotion

Like many pastors, my shelves are cluttered with books on leadership. Yet

when you read what is written, if it's worth remembering, God has already said it in the Bible. And for me, the one book of the Bible that has influenced my leadership most is the book of Nehemiah.

In chapter one, Nehemiah displays a brokenness before God and for the people as he weeps over his sins and theirs. He reveals that brokenness comes before building and weeping before work.

Three months pass between chapters one and two, and Nehemiah prays as he weeps. When King Artaxerxes confronts him, Nehemiah asks permission to rebuild

Jerusalem's walls and even asks the king to fund the project. When the king agrees, Nehemiah learns what every leader should remember. Prayer releases the people and resources to do God's work.

Chapters two and three reveal that the people didn't start the work until they caught the vision. Nehemiah involved them in the work. He utilizes 46 different people groups to rebuild walls that had been eroding for 144 years. Together they learned what happens when God's people share the vision and the work.

Finally, in chapters two through five, Nehemiah exhibits the power of persistence and perspective. When facing challenges from critics of the work and discouragement by those doing the work, Nehemiah calls

the people to pray and then persists with the work. When others questioned his motives, his perspective was clear. He wasn't doing this to stroke his ego but to glorify God. Because of brokenness, prayerfulness, shared vision and involvement, as well as persistence with the right perspective, Nehemiah led the people to do in 52 days what hadn't been done in 144 years. He also set an example for godly leadership today.



Jerry Falwell A MODEL LEADER

Perhaps the greatest indicator of a successful leader is not measured by what is accomplished in his lifetime but rather what is accomplished even in his death. There was no one who preached and believed that more than Dr. Jerry Falwell, the Chancellor of Liberty University and Founder/Pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church for nearly 51 years. This is evident in the late Dr. Falwell's use of the



word "Legacy" throughout the last infomercial he hosted on the local Liberty Channel referring to Liberty University's rich history and heritage. In his last address to the student body, this theme was stated when he encouraged them "to finish well." The theme continued when he preached on Mother's Day and spoke of "passing on the ministry to the next generation."

Dr. Jerry Falwell was a model leader. The vision that God gave him was not something he could see come to full fruition in his lifetime. Although the Lord allowed him to experience many monumental accomplishments on earth, his vision was so God-sized that it would take the sacrifice and obedience of future generations to

ultimately reap the prize. That is why Dr. Falwell invested so much in people.

Many in the surrounding community accused him of being more interested in property and buildings, but, in reality, Falwell invested in things that would last for eternity. He knew that it would take young "Champions for Christ", who would catch God's vision and, in turn, give their lives in service to Him. With the aid of the Holy Spirit's supernatural power, these next generation leaders will be obedient to complete the work until the day of Christ Jesus. This is so beautifully articulated

as the mantle is placed on Jerry Falwell, Jr. to lead Liberty University and Jonathan Falwell to lead Thomas Road Baptist Church. The ministry could have easily come to a halt had Dr. Falwell not invested in the people of his family, the church members, and the students of the University. Instead, today the legacy lives on, the vision is clearer than ever, and the ministry is being multiplied.

- Legacy** – Leave a rich history and heritage for next generations.
- Excellence** – Offer God your first fruits and the best that you have.
- Activity** – Participate in God's great activity on earth.
- Dedicated** – Be sold out to the cause of Christ.
- Enthusiasm** – Express excitement and the joy of the Lord.
- Remembrance** – Give testimony of where God has brought you.
- Servant** – Make ministering to others a top priority.
- Heaven Focus** – Do the work of the evangelist.
- Initiative** – Be pro-active, rather than reactive.
- Prepared** – Be ready because we are not promised tomorrow.

From Survival to Revival

Lime Hill



Ron Bradshaw and his wife, Kyong

Ron Bradshaw, Pastor of Lime Hill Baptist Church in Bristol, celebrated their seven year anniversary on the first Sunday of May 2007. He serves in a bi-vocational role. As any bi-vocational pastor knows, it is stressful at times trying to get everything done. Bradshaw agrees, "I had allowed myself to be overwhelmed and felt our church was struggling to keep the doors open. In December 2006, God began moving in my heart and caused me to not only pray, but to put my faith to work believing that God would move His people to follow. My wife and I began to pray and felt we were seeing the beginning of revival in the church." He added, "Early in the year, I dedicated myself to becoming more involved in SBCV events and ministries. At my first Pastor/Staff Fellowship, the speaker delivered a timely message entitled 'Your Attitude Counts.' There it was, plain to see, that God was calling me to a renewing of my mind and to develop a new attitude."

Bradshaw viewed the small congregation as a church start-up. "We began reorganizing our Sunday School department. My wife and I signed up for our first week-long mission trip to Louisiana to rebuild the devastated area. We hoped to be examples to our church. We began to do mission work at our local Children's Advocacy Center on April 14, 2007. In May, we began feeding the homeless at the area soup kitchen in Bristol, and we are now in the process of planning more mission opportunities for the church in the future."

God has given Bradshaw a renewed liberty to preach and to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through organized outreach, they have seen one man saved and another rededicate his life to Christ. Bradshaw shares, "I am grateful that God is placing in the hearts of our people a spirit of revival and rededication. Our theme that has developed out of a sense of a movement of God is 'From Survival to Revival.'"

Bradshaw concludes, "I believe the Church has a purpose. Sharing Christ and reaching out to others is our purpose. I am thankful I serve a sovereign God, who is on the throne and still in control of all things."



Rich and Nancy Grzymko are members at **PARKWAY BAPTIST Church** in Moseley. They are faithfully serving as leaders of one of the church's primary outreach ministries, **Upward Basketball**. The Grzymko's shared,

"When we moved into the area from New Jersey, we immediately began looking for a place (church) where we could serve. The first church we tried was Parkway, and we never went anywhere else. We immediately felt like we were at home and in the right place."

In October of 2006, the church extended its outreach ministry to the community through **Upward Basketball**. They looked for someone to work with the staff to develop the program and assist in this growing ministry. They asked the Grzymko's, who were relatively new members, and they gladly accepted. Nancy says, "Once the ministry gets in your blood, you are hooked." In the first year, the church reached over 260 children, most of whom were from unchurched families. She adds, "We have many families who begin attending our church because of **Upward**."

Nancy believes God had opened the door for her and her husband to serve and make a difference in the lives of children, their families, and the church. The Grzymko's enthusiastically report, "It is an overwhelming joy to serve the Lord and to meet so many people and welcome them to Parkway. We have grown so much in our service to the Lord. We have more ability to make a difference in the Kingdom than we ever thought we had. At the end of the day we are on a high because we have seen children and families respond. Serving the Lord and sharing the Gospel (through **Upward Basketball**) has been exhausting, but it has filled us with joy."

Statistics tell us that new members must be bonded in

a relationship with other members in the church within three weeks or they will not stay. It also tells us that new members must have a place of service within the first three months or they will not stay.

Where are you serving?



Creation *CAMP*

Nestled in the foothills of Southwest Virginia, **Rosedale Baptist Church of Abingdon** is

surrounded by some of God's most intriguing creations – caves, waterfalls, and rocky ledges to climb and rappel. Youth Pastor Wes Stringer began to notice the younger students counting down the years until they would be old enough to go away for a week to youth camp. It was great to see their enthusiasm, but he also knew that many of these children from unchurched families would no longer be attending their church as youth. Something had to be developed to reach these children

and their families with the Good News of Christ before it was too late. Therefore, Creation Camp was born from this great need and



Students learn of the rock-solid biblical absolutes of a God-created earth.



Campers explore God's creation through rappelling, rock climbing, caving, fishing, and a monster slip 'n slide!

the abundant natural resources of God's creation.

God gave this church a passion to reach students at a very young age with the truths of creation. They developed a curriculum to teach students the biblical absolutes of a young, God-created earth. Creation Camp is a week-long day camp for students, age seven to 12. A typical day of camp begins with prayer, praise, and worship, followed by creation studies. After lunch, the kids set out to explore God's creation. The afternoon activities include mountain biking on the Virginia Creeper Trail, fishing, caving, rock climbing and rappelling, a climbing wall, and a monster slip 'n slide. The youth department at Rosedale Baptist serves as camp counselors. These teenagers receive classes in first aid, CPR, as well as safety techniques for each activity. This year will mark the third annual Creation Camp at Rosedale Baptist. What creative ways can your church use the things God has placed in your reach to extend the Gospel?



The camp reaches students at a very young age with the truths of creation.

COURAGEOUS CHURCH *Recognizes the Call of a Member*

With her family, as well as her church family, Dawn Upton was publicly "set aside" to the ministry to which God had called her.



Leadership sometimes involves taking a courageous stand. Smyrna Baptist, in Dinwiddie, and its pastor, Robert Rowland, have done just that. The church took a courageous stand by aligning with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia and now has recognized the call upon the life of one of its members. They acknowledged the call of Dawn Upton, a member of their church and a former school teacher.

In our modern world today, many would want to rush to ordain a woman experiencing a call to ministry. However, Smyrna wanted to be true to its conservative convictions about God's Word while affirming God's call in a member's life. Courage included the public acclamation of this call to Children's Ministry upon Upton's life through a public commissioning service. With her family, as well as her church family, Upton was publicly "set aside" to the ministry to which God had called her.

Since assuming the position of Director of Children's Ministries at this growing church in Dinwiddie County,

Upton has seen God continue to work. She shares, "I have learned so much in the time of following this call, that it is almost overwhelming." She has been a faithful worker in the church for years and has served the SBCV as a leader of one of the regional VBS training teams. The SBCV Statewide Promoter of VBS, Don Cokes, stated, "I have worked with Dawn on the state VBS team, and I can tell you that she has a love for the Lord and for children. She has an incredible work ethic."

Smyrna Baptist has experienced remarkable growth under the leadership of Pastor Rowland. Much of the growth has been composed of young families with children and the calling of Upton to this position will meet a great need. Rowland said, "Smyrna has become a family of believers who anticipate a fresh encounter with God every week. We are experiencing phenomenal growth in our church and now offer a variety of worship styles, ministries, and opportunities of service." May God continue to give courage to Smyrna, as well as other churches.

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



Mark Mittleberg



Big Daddy Weave



The Skit Guys



Leeland

YEC '07

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Belief.

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To Download Forms
and Register Online.



WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T HAVE PRAYER IN SCHOOLS?

Oak Grove Baptist Implements an After-school Program for Child Evangelism



WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T HAVE PRAYER IN SCHOOLS? WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T SHARE THE PLAN OF SALVATION WITH STUDENTS?

Don't tell that to Pastor Barry Thompson or Minister of Education Mark Pickrell of Oak Grove Baptist Church. As a matter of fact, in the past two years, 33 students in Kentuck Elementary School, located just east of Danville, prayed to receive Christ. That's right! The decisions were made in a public school.

The Child Evangelism Fellowship is a national organization that has developed an after-school program called Good News Clubs. It is an interactive, incentive program that consists of Bible Stories, Review Questions, Scripture Memory, Mission Stories, Music, and Snacks. Each student is provided with a 60-day "Wonder Book" where they can work to earn stickers and prizes. They also have a mailbox club where prayer requests are emailed in order that students across the country may pray for needs. For Southern Baptists, it is almost like having Team Kids or AWANA in the local elementary school. The great advantage is that the national organization is in compliance with the current laws and takes advantage of the rights of local churches. Pastor Thompson says, "Their Doctrinal Statement is in line with our Baptist Faith and Message."

This is a big undertaking, and it takes at least six to eight people to do it effectively. Then, depending upon the response, more helpers could be needed. Last year, with 90 enrolled, Oak Grove was blessed with help from The Tabernacle in Danville and neighboring church, Laurel Grove. "Today's challenge," Thompson says, "is the after-school tutoring. With grants riding on No Child Left Behind and the evaluation of schools based on SOL scores, teachers and administrators are encouraging additional hours of academic studies." Pickrell adds, "So, our prayer is that by word of mouth, there will be such an excitement in the air at the school about the Monday Club that the students will keep up their grades and be able to participate."



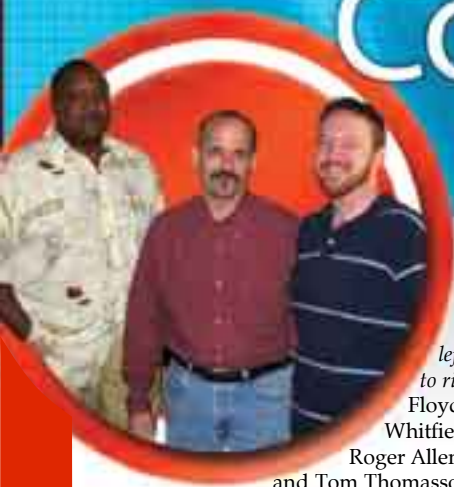
THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONSERVATIVES OF VIRGINIA

SUNDAY AUGUST 19th Day of PRAYER for STUDENTS
elementary • middle school • high school • college

Sending our kids back to school the best way we know how... in prayer.

Go to www.sbcv.org for information on how to make this a special day for your students returning to school.





left
to right:
Floyd
Whitfield,
Roger Allen,
and Tom Thomasson

Common Ground

CHURCH PLANTERS

DISCOVERED | ENLISTED | MENTORED

Henry Blackaby defines spiritual leadership as moving people on to God's agenda [Henry & Richard Blackaby, *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People to God's Agenda*, B&H Publishing, 2001]. This is a commission that has been given to every believer and certainly to those who are leaders in local churches. Pastor Roger Allen of Common Ground Community Church in Portsmouth lives out that commission every day.

In 2001, Allen became an SBCV church planter and set out to answer God's call to plant a multi-cultural church in Portsmouth.

Today, Common Ground Community Church is a body of believers that daily scatter throughout the community to continue its redemptive impact as well as worship together regularly.

In the last six years, God has used Allen as a spiritual leader in the lives of many.

Through his own church planting experiences, God has given Allen an understanding of church planting principles and the type of person that makes an effective church planter. In 2006, God brought two such people to Common Ground; both are now serving as Church Planter Apprentices. They are Floyd Whitfield and Tom Thomasson.

When asked how he identifies potential planters, Allen said, "My main method is to ask God for them. I listen to people a lot, and when around believers I try to discern those who have traits that lend themselves to being a church planter: entrepreneurial, enterprising, dreamers, self-starters, and theological thinkers."

Not only are these planters discovered and enlisted, but they are also being mentored. While describing this process, Allen remarks, "I then talk about what really

matters: God being with you and working, in, through, with, and in spite of you." He continues, "My mentoring is basically working side by side with them as we learn together."

Floyd Whitfield, the first of the two apprentices, along with his wife Gwyn, is now an approved SBCV church planter and is being sent out by Common Ground to plant a multicultural church in Newport News. Tom and Teresa Thomasson are continuing to hone their skills as church planters and are seeking the Father's direction for where and when He will lead them.

Common Ground's efforts will not stop there. Beyond the continuing relationship with Floyd as a sponsoring church, Allen is still praying to the Lord of the Harvest for more laborers. He adds, "My strategy now is to continue leading believers to consider being on mission by preaching through the book of Acts about a radical church movement where we are all on a mission." In anticipation of more laborers, Common Ground is starting a Biblical Studies Institute, which has as its main mission the training of leaders, for their church and the churches they hope to start.

Make it your commitment to pray to the Lord of the harvest for laborers (Luke 10:2b) and then assist in moving them to God's agenda.

ARE YOU STOPPING YOUR CHURCH'S GROWTH?

At a recent SBCV Statewide Church Planting Network (CPN), Daniel Floyd, church planting pastor of Lighthouse Baptist in Spotsylvania, challenged fellow church planters to consider their influence as leaders in their local church.

The pastors were asked to consider whether they were prohibiting their church's progress. Floyd asked, **"Are you leading up or leading down?"** Are you empowering ministry leaders to make decisions?" He explained that when the pastor leads up he becomes the focus. When the pastor leads down, he empowers others. Floyd added, "You (as the pastor) can focus on what God has called you to do which is to preach, cast vision, and lead your leaders."

During this day-long meeting at the Glen Allen Mission Support Center, Floyd also posed the question, **"Who are you hiring?"** He challenged pastors to invest time in people and validate their giftedness. When the church needs additional staff and does not have the budget to support this, there could be another alternative. Floyd suggested, "Ask

these people to join your staff, treat them like staff members, and let them know when the church can afford it you will pay them." Your team might already be in place, just look around and ask!

Floyd also asked pastors about their commitment to ministry. "If, as a pastor, you are coasting and not continuing to push forward, cast vision, aggressively go after the lost in your community, you have in a sense quit without turning in your letter."

What is your influence? Floyd concluded by asking, "Have you created a culture of dependency on you? Are you hiring the right people or trying to do the job alone?"

And have you quit? If so... tap some leaders in your church, turn them into your staff, and regain that vision that God birthed in your soul. The local church is the hope of the world and God has called you to lead. So, get up and lead with passion!"

Daniel
Floyd



deaconRETREAT

MAKES
AN
IMPACT



A leader in one of our SBCV churches stated, "This was very encouraging and gave me great insight into the role of the deacon, especially since I am new. Every deacon in every church needs this training."

This was a **RECURRING RESPONSE** by many of the more than 300 who attended the 2007 SBCV Statewide Deacon Retreat on April 27th-28th. Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg hosted the event where one attendee commented, "This is another great example of how the SBCV is helping to strengthen churches."

Jim Henry, author of several works in the area of deacon training, was the guest speaker. Henry, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church, Orlando, FL, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, led the conference in a positive atmosphere designed to deal with practical issues

facing leaders of churches in managing conflict and marriage relationships.

The emphasis on biblical counsel about the ministry of deacons had an impact on the deacon leaders attending. One such leader stated, "I've learned a new way to support my church, my pastor, and my Savior Jesus Christ, and have been challenged to become a better servant." Another leader put it this way, "Rather than just dealing with complaints, I came to realize that is not what the church needs to be doing; it's more about what I should be doing."

Several pastors who attended with their deacons remarked about the impact of the weekend retreat. One pastor said, "Spending time with the men from my church was time well spent. Praying with them to be all

that Christ intended was the best part of the experience." Another pastor shared, "The opportunity to meet with other deacons from around the state was great. Men coming together to learn about how to better serve



Christ gives us strength. We realize others are on the same spiritual journey, and we are not alone."

The emphasis on unity, servant-hood, and prayer made the weekend one to remember.



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to
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SEPT 29, 2007

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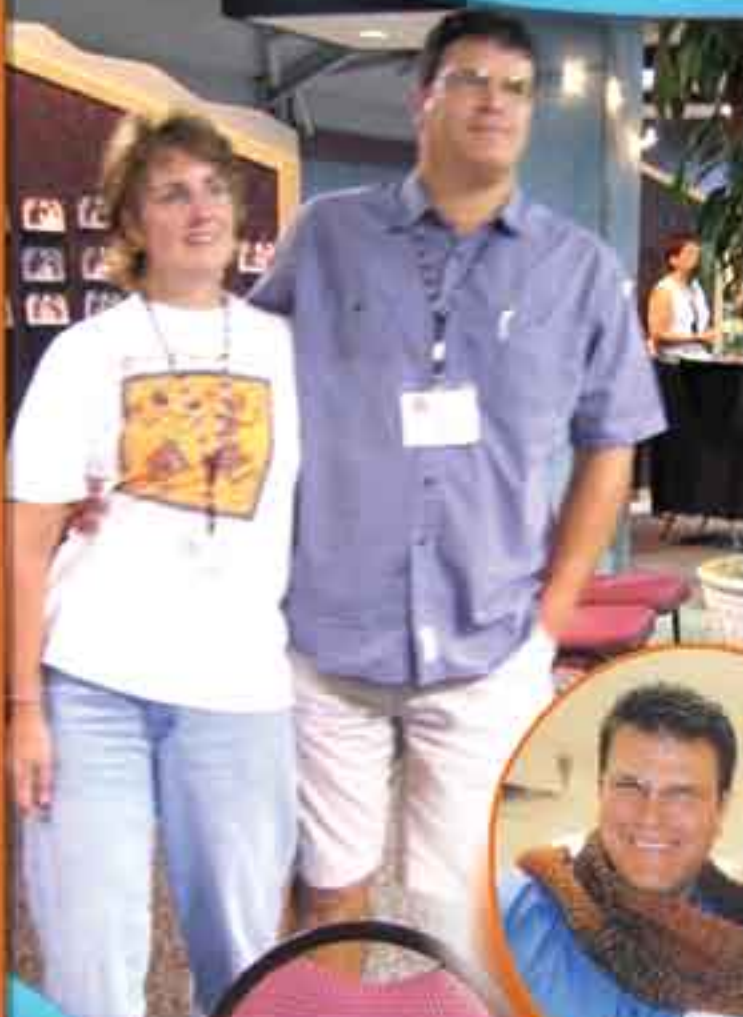
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SBCV 2007
HOMECOMING
ANNUAL MEETING

November 12-13
Liberty Baptist Church | Hampton, VA

CALLED TO BE A PASTOR'S WIFE



John and Christy Hamric



SINCE ITS BEGINNING in 2003, the SWAT ministry of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia is unique in its intent to minister exclusively to the wives of pastors and staff throughout the state. In 2005, the SWAT Connection for the western part of the state was held at Hotel Roanoke. One first-time attendee was Christy Hamric from Fishersville Baptist Church, where her husband served as Senior Pastor.

Christy, who had been diagnosed with MS and also battled breast cancer, was asked to share her testimony. Her bubbly personality, love for FAITH outreach, and spirit of giving to others inspired everyone present. No one knew that she had been struggling with her "role" of being a pastor's wife. During that SWAT Connection, Christy found support through her chosen prayer partners, as well as her small group. She met other pastors' wives who could identify

with her struggles as a ministry partner.

In 2006, Christy found out her cancer had returned, and she began chemotherapy treatments. During this time, she was ministered to by some of the pastors' wives she had come to know at the SWAT Connection a year earlier. Christy shared with them that, "For the first time in my life, I realize that God has indeed called me to be a pastor's wife. I realized, after being with you at SWAT, that I can be all that God has called me to be, even with my health problems. I will be ever grateful for your influence in my life."

Despite her health, Christy registered to attend the 2007 SWAT Connection at the Jefferson Hotel, Richmond. However, just weeks before the event, Christy lost her battle with cancer. In her memory, SBCV awarded a SWAT scholarship in her name. Christy made such an impact on so many wives. She embodied the spirit of what SWAT is all about...pastors' wives connecting with each other, ministering to each other, and praying together to make a difference for the Kingdom.

SWAT
WEEKEND
CONNECTIONS
2008

LOCATIONS

FEB 15-16

Williamsburg

FEB 22-23

Staunton

Disaster Relief Responds to Virginia Tech Tragedy



The signs were everywhere. It seemed that within minutes, after the event on April 16th, business marquees were being changed to the plea, "Pray for VA TECH." In the days following the tragedy, it appeared that everyone lifted their eyes to see from where their help would come. The Christian community knew that real help would come from the Lord.

Willing to be more than prayer partners, scores of people came to serve the Virginia Tech community. SBC of Virginia area churches: Main Street, Christiansburg, Open Door, Good Shepherd, and Ekklesia, partnered together to meet the needs and heartaches of their community. Through Main Street's registered campus ministry, Christian Leadership Network, a hospitality awning was erected on the Drill Field to distribute water, snacks, resources, and provide a listening ear. Thousands of people stopped by the hospitality awning looking for answers. They received CD's, a Bible, books of encouragement and comfort, and more than anything, a person to remind them that help comes from the Lord.

The SBCV Disaster Relief team responded at the request of the Virginia State Police, local law enforcement, FBI, and ATF, to provide meals for their personnel. In all, 3,870 meals were provided. The food not only met a physical need, but also represented the thousands of caring people who prayed for the Virginia Tech community. The on-campus feeding continued with Good Shepherd Baptist Church providing lunch for the staff of Virginia Tech. Many in the community knew that prayer was the answer and encouraged countless people to call out to God. To make the prayers more tangible, a Prayer Walking Map was placed outside the main entrance of Good Shepherd Baptist Church. This enabled prayer partners to find streets not covered in prayer and guide them to pray for the occupants of each house, apartment, and dorm room in the communities of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the

Virginia Tech campus. The community wanted the nation to pray. Could it be that because of this event, prayers were offered for people who had never been brought to the LORD before in prayer?

Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Virginia Tech will never be the same; not because of the food, water and resources offered, but because of the prayers of thousands of people across this state. Their prayers were not just blanket prayers but rather specific, intentional prayers for the residents of the Virginia Tech community.



COLLECTION SITE

Main Street
Baptist Church
100 W. Main St.
Christiansburg
VA 24073

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location NO LATER
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when
wallflowers
dance

OCTOBER
19-20

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for women who are
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relationship with
the Lord.

with

angela thomas

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- ▶ Church Growth
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- ▶ Preaching & Pastoral
- ▶ Evangelism
- ▶ Missions
- ▶ Men & Women

Church Leadership CONFERENCE

Details/Register:

www.sbcv.org

Online Registration concludes at
5 p.m. on Aug. 15, 2007.

Guest Speaker
Dr. Tommy Teague
Senior Pastor of
North Richland Hills
Baptist Church



COST: \$5 'til 8/15/07 | **\$10** at the door

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