

# Proclaimer

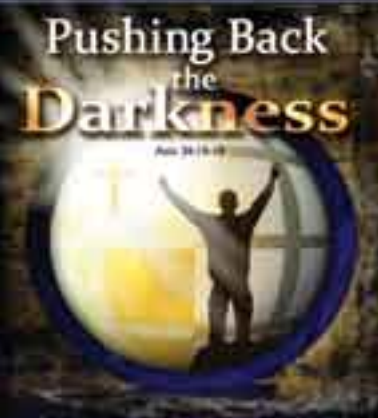
SBCV • Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia • [www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)

## Your Church's Health

MAR/APR 2008  
Vol. 10 No.2







SBC  
OF VIRGINIA

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.



Tim Hight

First, let me thank you for the privilege of serving as your convention president. It is a gracious trust that you have bestowed. Please pray that I will serve with a spirit of humility and dependence worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ and beneficial to our convention.

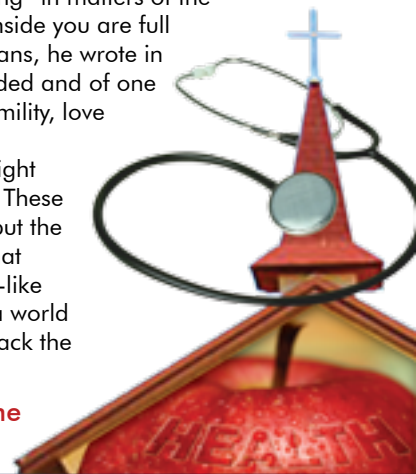
I am most grateful for our staff of convention leaders and their Godly direction. With this issue of the *Proclaimer*, they have again guided us along a faithful course of considering those things that make for healthy churches.

You do not have to do ministry very long to figure out that a growing church is not necessarily a healthy church; but a healthy church will always be a growing church. Many have erred in the emphasis on church growth while disregarding the more important issue of church health. We have a tendency to think that what we “do” defines our success, with little regard to the heart issues of who we “are”.

Jesus made clear that “being” was far more important than “doing” in matters of the kingdom: “You Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.” Luke 11:39. In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he wrote in chapter 2 that they would make his joy complete by “being” like-minded and of one accord. He went on to describe “inward” qualities of selflessness, humility, love and other “attitudes” of Christ-likeness.

We are blessed that our convention leaders will help us ask the right questions in order to discern the true spiritual health of our churches. These need not always be the “nickels and noses” questions (what we do), but the heart and attitude questions (who we are). When we begin to learn that the things we “do” cannot be right until they emanate from the Christ-like inward character of the heart, we will then make a lasting impact in a world of lostness. A convention of healthy churches will do more to “push back the darkness” than we can imagine.

May God cause it to be so in all of our churches — for the kingdom’s sake!



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#### Subscriptions

The **Proclaimer** is sent free of charge to interested parties and friends of the SBCV upon request.

#### SBCV Staff & Ministry Areas

For information about ministry areas and SBCV staff, visit [www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org). Staff may be reached by email using their first initial and last name along with the suffix: @sbcv.org.

LifeWay's

# Outrigger ISLAND

LIVING GOD'S UNSHAKEABLE TRUTH

Psalm 86:11

FREE

## 2008 statewide VBS training clinics

**LifeWay**  
VBS training clinics will be presented by SBCV teams that have been endorsed by LifeWay trainers.

**FRIDAY CLINICS: 6-9 pm**

**SATURDAY CLINICS: 9 - Noon**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4**  
Petersburg - Monumental Baptist

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**  
Charlottesville - Calvary Baptist  
Fredericksburg - Spotswood Baptist  
Abingdon - Rosedale Baptist

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11**  
Charlottesville - Calvary Baptist

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12**  
Hampton - Liberty Baptist  
Alexandria - Woodlawn Baptist  
Roanoke - Cave Spring Baptist

**FRIDAY, APRIL 25**  
Independence - Mt. View Baptist

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
Forest - Forest Baptist  
Onancock - Onancock Baptist  
Glen Allen - Staples Mill Road Baptist

Marion Baptist Church,  
Chatham

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## 7 Touching All the Bases

Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg uses a baseball analogy to demonstrate living for a reason other than a sport. This evangelistic strategy is worthy of acknowledgment.

## 11 Checking Your Vital Signs

An annual medical check-up is essential to the health and well being of an individual. So, too, is the importance of an accurate picture of your church's current and future condition. The SBCV, in partnership with Church Central provides such a tool for measuring the health of the local church.

## 14 Birthing Possibilities

Churches planting churches planting churches is much more than words to the churches that are the SBCV, it is a current reality of healthy churches living out the Great Commission.



## TRAINING DATES

### MAR 14-15

First BC, Roanoke  
Old Powhatan BC,  
Powhatan

### MAR 28-29

Kingsway BC, Bristol  
Grove Baptist Church,  
Goldvein

### APR 18-19

Woodlawn BC, Danville

### APR 25-26

Southside BC, Suffolk

### May 2-3

Statewide Round Up  
Wmsburg/Newport  
News Area

### JUN 6-7

Thomas Road BC,  
Lynchburg

Begins 6:30 p.m.  
Friday evenings and  
resumes Saturday  
mornings at  
8:30 a.m.

## 2008 dates to remember

### SBCV CALENDAR

### march

- 2-9 **Week of Prayer for North American Missions**
- 7-8 **Basic Training I** — Glen Allen
- 10 **Evangelism Conference** — 4 locations:  
Staples Mill Road Baptist, Glen Allen  
Highlands Fellowship, Abingdon
- 11 Peninsula Korean Baptist, Newport News  
Green Ridge Baptist, Roanoke
- 14-15 **Disaster Relief Training** (MW & CE) — First Baptist,  
Roanoke; Old Powhatan Baptist, Powhatan
- 27 **Church Planter Network (CPN)** — Statewide
- 27-29 **Basic Training I** — Glen Allen
- 28-29 **Disaster Relief Training** (SW & NO) —  
Kingsway Baptist, Bristol; Grove Baptist, Goldvein

### april

- 4 **VBS Clinic** — Monumental Baptist, Petersburg
- 5 **VBS Clinic** — Calvary Baptist, Charlottesville  
— Spotswood Baptist, Fredericksburg  
— Rosedale Baptist, Abingdon
- 11-12 **Basic Training II** — Glen Allen
- 11 **VBS Clinic** — The Tabernacle, Danville
- 12 **VBS Clinic** — Liberty Baptist, Hampton  
— Woodlawn Baptist, Alexandria  
— Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke
- 18-19 **Women's Conference** — Richmond
- Disaster Relief Training** (CW) — Woodlawn  
Baptist, Danville
- 25-26 **Disaster Relief Training** (SE) — Southside  
Baptist, Suffolk
- 25 **VBS Clinic** — Mountainview Baptist, Independence
- 26 **VBS Clinic** — Forest Baptist, Forest  
— Onancock Baptist, Onancock  
— Staples Mill Road Baptist, Glen Allen

### may

- 2-3 **Disaster Relief Round-Up** — Statewide
- 5-6 **DC Vision Tour**
- 17 **Bible Drill** — Beulah Baptist, Lynchburg
- 19 **Missionary Commissioning  
Ceremony** — River Oaks, Chesapeake
- 22 **Ministers of Education Training** — Glen Allen
- 22 **Church Planter Network (CPN)** — Statewide

### june

- 2 **Studentz Summer Intern Orientation** —  
Glen Allen
- 5-8 **Basic Training I** (Spanish) — Glen Allen
- 6-7 **Disaster Relief Training** (CW) — Thomas Road  
Baptist, Lynchburg
- 16-20 **Studentz Mission Plant**

### july

- 7-11 **Studentz Camp** — Liberty University, Lynchburg

### august

- 7-8 **Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC)** —  
Liberty Baptist, Hampton
- 28 **Church Planting Network** — Statewide



# A Church's DNA



Pastor Hank Meadows and his wife Lisa.



**If** someone were to ask you, “What is your church’s DNA?” How would you

answer? Another way of asking the question may be, “What is your church made up of?” For Marion Baptist Church in Chatham, Pastor Hank Meadows answers, “It is made up of the community.” Our DNA looks like the community around us.

While many congregations today attempt to model their church after someone else’s, Marion Baptist, which dates back to the late 1800’s, recognizes the culture of their rural surroundings and strives to meet the needs right where they are. As a matter of fact, the theme for their church is, “A Shelter from the Storm” and their logo is a lighthouse.

Let’s ask another question, “How does a church that is rich in history remain authentic in today’s society?” Pastor Meadows would say there are five ways:

## 1. Involve all ages in

**ministry:** Our senior adults make pumpkin pies at Thanksgiving and wreaths at Christmas for delivery to shut-ins. “Women on Mission” periodically prepares lunch for the staff of a local health care facility, and “Women of Faith” hosts an outreach “Festival of

Tables” luncheon.

Over half of the 125 who attend the luncheon come from outside of the church. The men’s ministry often sponsors a fish fry with the proceeds going to benefit a needy family in the area. Marion Church youths rake leaves and clean out gutters for those who can’t do it themselves. Meadows said with confidence, “The community knows we care about them.”

## 2. Intentional outreach:

Church prospects are discovered from the ministries already mentioned and through VBS and special events, but at Marion Baptist they don’t stop there. They are intentional in reaching the community. Every Tuesday evening, FAITH teams (including youth) make evangelistic and ministry visits. Carrying a loaf of homemade bread with them, they follow-up with prospects from recent church visits. The bread is a symbolic reminder to guests and members that God will supply their needs.

**3. Invitation to attend:** The students are a model for the church when it comes to inviting friends. They go to school together, play sports together, and “hang out” with one another, so why not go to church together, too? Special events like Marion’s IMPACT Weekend might get them there, but it’s through lasting relationships they keep coming back.

**4. Include Jesus:** Marion uses traditional worship music

because it is fitting for their culture, and also includes modern choruses and anthems. The youth have their own praise band that ministers to students. Meadows shares that his preaching points people to Jesus without apology and when the invitation is given, all ages respond in obedience. The church, which averages 125 in worship, baptized 15 last year, and has already baptized 9 in the first 2 months of this year, proving the success they are having in connecting to the culture.

## 5. Instruct through Sunday

**School:** Marion has a vibrant Sunday School ministry to preschoolers, children, youth and their parents. It is in the comfortable small group setting that people study God’s Word, grow in their faith, and become doers of the Word. The class setting is also a means for ministry outreach. At Marion it’s not about sitting on the sidelines, but rather being in the game.

Is there any wonder why the community comes to Marion Baptist Church? It’s because Marion Baptist goes to the community. It’s in their DNA. It is who they are in mission and ministry.

## FESTIVAL OF TABLES



Marion Baptist Church is located in Chatham, Virginia, a part of SBCV’s Central West area.



# Reflections

**P**astor Jimmy Meadows and Mountain View Baptist reflect on 2007 as a year of transitions. They experienced transitions in their facilities and in their approach to reaching the city of Bluefield. The church's desire for a new building was motivated by their longing to connect to the community around them, creating a hub from which to work outwards in ministry.

Meadows testifies they tried all of the popular marketing techniques and events to get people to come to their church. However, when the opportunity arose to move into a permanent building of their own, they decided to take a different approach. They realized it would be necessary to get out of the church's comfort zone and into the comfort zone of the lost to actually do ministry in the community. So they spoke with the lost and realized that many people are tired of seeing the church sitting in a building.

One of the first things they did was a mission

project in one of their new neighbor's homes. As the story goes, while in Sunday school one Sunday morning, a need in the neighborhood was brought up; but this time rather than just talking, the men in the class did something about it. As the church met the family's need, the family was overwhelmed to see the church sharing the love of Christ in such a practical way. Since that time the family and their neighbor have started attending the church.

People in the community seem to be responding more now than ever before because they see love expressed through action. Every church is aware of the need to get out and serve, so how can churches begin to engage? Jimmy would say, "By just getting started." The transitions experienced in 2007 have served to create a Great Commission mentality in the church because they are seeing the fruit of their labor. Start a transition in your church by reaching out to the community right where you are.

*Get out of the church's comfort zone and into the comfort zone of the lost... do ministry in the community.*

## JUST GET STARTED

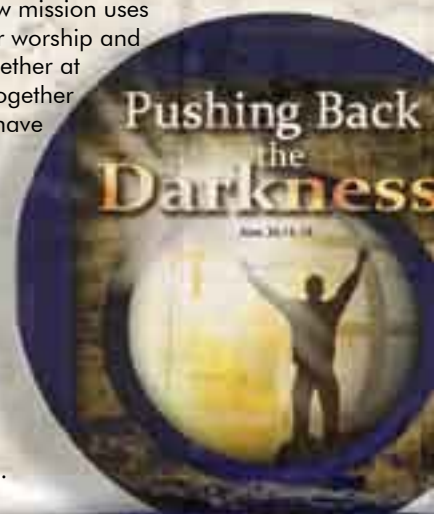
# Crossing Lines

## TO PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS

**R**iverview Baptist Church in Woodbridge, VA has a keen interest in reaching the community around the church with the Good News of Christ. It is a community that is ethnically and racially diverse. For some time, Riverview has been a racially blended congregation with Anglo and African American members. They are now intentionally making inroads with their neighbors. Neighbors that sometimes don't speak English coming from different cultures, worldviews, and nationalities.

Dr. Michael Faulkner, Senior Pastor of Riverview, is continually looking for opportunities to engage the community and grow a church relevant to its community. Recently, when needing car repairs, he noticed something different about the owner of the repair shop. It turned out the shop owner, Paul Ham, is from Korea and a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate endeavoring to plant a church for the many Koreans in the area. The Riverview Baptist Korean Mission was realized as a result of that meeting. *Pushing Back the Darkness* includes reaching other people groups in the community. While the new mission uses Korean as the language and culture for worship and Bible study the entire church comes together at least one Sunday a month and works together in other areas of ministry. Such efforts have ignited a healthy enthusiasm to cross more lines and reach more peoples.

This year Riverview is embarking on a new language ministry in partnership with the SBCV. The new endeavor will reach out to the large number of Hispanic people groups of Woodbridge. Riverview has found a healthy church takes hold of the opportunities God places before it, right in its own community, as a prescription for continuing good health.



*The men of a Mountain View Baptist Sunday School class meet the needs of a family in the community.*





Pray for...



## MARK CUSTALOW

Church Planting Strategist

Southeast  
Area



### The Man

Born in Richmond, VA.

Saved at the age of nine during a worship service at Grove Avenue Baptist Church.

Mark and his wife, Ann, have two teenaged children.

### Verse of Importance

Psalms 86:11

"Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name."

Mark explains the verse speaks to him in this way, "If my relationship with God is right, then I will be a useful tool in His hand to do His work; and in this He will be glorified."

### His Ministry

Church Planting Strategist — I have the privilege to serve among the 1.6 million people who call the greater Hampton Roads area their home. Hampton Roads houses strategic bases and command centers for every branch of the U.S. Military. Not only is the population of this area growing, it is constantly revolving, further highlighting the need for evangelism and church planting.

# Symphonic Church A Model in DNA



In His Providence, God fashions or wires His children for the work He has for them. Your Church Planting Management Team (CPMT) experiences such reality daily as they enlist and work with gifted planters across the state. Through "Basic Training for Church Planters" we are intentional about assisting planters with the skills to understand their communities so the Gospel can be planted effectively. We refer to this as being part of a planter's DNA. It's an essential ingredient for any church planter to be successful. What is thrilling to watch is a church plant connect with the community and be used of God to bring about transformation.

Such is the story of a church plant in Hampton Roads. God brought Robb and Shaula Overholt to the SBCV as potential planters some four years ago. They came with passion and a vision for a church plant God would use to transform lives in the community. Sponsored by Bethel Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Epic City Church was birthed. Like many church plants, Epic struggled early to get established and connect with the people group God had "wired" them to reach.

This past year, however, has been nothing short of miraculous for Epic City. You can sense the excitement in the description below from Church Planter Robb Overholt:

"What a difference a year makes. Last Christmas Eve (2006), we were fresh on the heels of our move to Norfolk. Depleted of both people and resources, we were surer than ever we were being obedient to Jesus, so we set out. What transpired since then has been nothing short of amazing; a complete over-haul and remodel of a shanty old warehouse, a church marriage (that's what we call it), two amazing and critically acclaimed Art Shows, embedding ourselves into one of Norfolk's more troubled communities, the baptism of ten new followers of Jesus, and

the sending of a team, long-term, to China are just a few of the miraculous things we are currently witnessing in the cause of Jesus. The truth is we are frantically trying to keep pace with the magnitude of these incredible days."

Epic's move to Norfolk landed them squarely in the center of the community for which God had crafted them. What's more is when they got there, they found another plant with which they merged into one, now known as Symphonic, they meet in a renovated warehouse in West Ghent. God keeps granting them His favor in the community and is extending His compassion through them to touch the lives of people that many churches have overlooked.

In The Message, 1 Peter 2:12 reads, "Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives." Symphonic has taken this mandate to heart and lives it everyday, and God is adding His favor in drawing the people of Ghent to Himself.



the Overholts

## Sunday School Growth Conference March 14 & 15, 2008

Spotswood Baptist Church, Fredericksburg



with Special Guest Speaker

DAVID FRANCIS

also with Ann Edwards, Jeff Land, and Scott Stevens of Lifeway Christian Resources and John McGowan of The Gathering, McLean

Register online: [www.spotswood.org](http://www.spotswood.org)

Registration Fee: \$10  
(required by March 15)







# Touching All the Bases

If you are a sports fan you have most likely heard the words "Baseball... I Live For This." It's one of many slogans used in Major League Baseball advertising. Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg is also using the baseball analogy, but in a way that demonstrates living for a reason other than a sport. The leadership of this local church has developed an evangelistic strategy worthy of acknowledgment. They are leading people around the bases, tagging each one along the way and effectively winning the lost.

The central passion and goal of Spotswood Baptist Church (SBC) is to see their membership living with urgency to proclaim the Great Commission as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ. Its members realize the importance of a life which includes a well-balanced spiritual diet and lifestyle exercise. Defined as customary nourishment, the **DIET** at Spotswood focuses on nourishing the souls of others by encouraging worship and

small group participation. Just as in baseball, no one really gets anywhere without tagging first base. Guests and members alike are directed to reach out and connect people to Christ through worship, first base. Then they strive to connect people to one another as they round second base, small groups.

With the appropriate nourishment for the soul, the body at SBC focuses on proper **EXERCISE**. The bench is not full of observers, rather members are out on the field fulfilling the ministry God has given them. "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts: A Guide to Ministry at Spotswood Baptist Church" is a course offered to the membership that identifies ones giftedness in ministry. A Ministry Fair is offered to help each member get in the game, third base, ministry service. Spotswood encourages every member to ultimately make it all the way to home plate, returning to the "community" and equipped to share their faith. Dan Cook, Minister of Education at SBC, asserts "Got LIFE" fits into the overall evangelistic strategy of fulfilling the Great Commission at Spotswood. Cook states, "Got LIFE is much more than a visitation program that has drawn more than two hundred members each year to be trained to share the Gospel. It is a missionary equipping tool that aids SBC members to share their faith everyday where they work, live and play."

**DIET** and **EXERCISE** have become more than something

Spotswood

Baptist Church does.

Both are part of the church's DNA. Cook says, "The key is realizing that evangelism training is more than something we do. It is who we are." The evangelistic strategy of SBC is effective because the focus is to be a church that is a center for equipping and sending out missionaries.

What then must a church do to have a healthy and vibrant Evangelism Strategy? According to Cook, "A climate of evangelism must first be created in a church. It is about creating an environment where the members of the church are faithfully and consistently sharing their faith. This means there needs to be a clear plan to equip, challenge, and motivate." Spotswood Baptist Church is striving to win by tagging all the bases by who they are, "Evangelism...we live for this!"

To gain more information on "**Got LIFE**," please visit the Spotswood Baptist Church website at [www.spotswood.org](http://www.spotswood.org)



## Pushing Back the Darkness through Prayer

As we continue to emphasize the theme, "Pushing Back the Darkness," we realize if it is to become reality, we must invoke the power of the Heavenly Father. Luke 10:2b states, "Pray that the Heavenly Father will send laborers into his harvest." The foundational component for pushing back darkness is prayer.

Ephesians 6:12 declares we are not in a battle with "flesh and blood" but "spiritual wickedness in high places." The only way to fight a spiritual battle is on a spiritual plane. There are countless examples of victorious prayers throughout scripture. In the Old Testament, Elijah prayed and it didn't rain for six months. Again he prayed and God sent the rain. In the New Testament, James states, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16.) Another example of prayer power is found in the twelfth chapter of Acts where we learn Peter was imprisoned by Herod for preaching the Gospel. In

verse 5 we read, "prayer was made without ceasing by the church unto God for him." The church had no political, social or economic power but they did have access to the throne of God and in verse 7 Peter was miraculously delivered. Access to God's throne for the early Church and for us only comes through the earnest prayers of his children so that means prayer is not optional but mandatory.

Prayer prepares the way for ministry, but prayer can also reach into places that human hands and feet can never travel. So, we need to develop a prayer strategy that includes our personal life, our family, and our community, as well as congregational prayer. Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive." As we push back the darkness in 2008 may God help us remember that prayer is the foundation for everything we do. Watch for strategies your Church can utilize this year to help you become more effective through prayer.



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**AUGUST 7-8, 2008**  
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SBCV  
**studentz**  
**YES**



Pray for...



**DON COCKES**

Church Enrichment  
Missionary

Southeast  
Area



#### The Man

Born in Altavista, VA.

Saved in June of 1980 at Central Baptist Church in Altavista.

Don and his wife, Janine, have been married for 15 years and have two sons.

#### Verse of Importance

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;"

Don says, "This verse remains significant in my life because there were times when the Lord was all that I had."

#### His Ministry

Church Enrichment Missionary — While in college, I began to explore God's call away from a materialistic focus to a more kingdom-minded desire. My passion is to see people grow in their faith in Christ and to serve Him faithfully through His Church. I am blessed to serve the SBCV and believe in its mission, vision, and values. I love the opportunity to minister to those who minister and expand God's kingdom by leading churches to be healthy and grow.

# Birth of a CHURCH

**Is it possible that anyone can?**

**Many churches across the state feel inadequate when it comes to starting new churches.**

Starting new churches is the vision of the SBCV. We are convinced birthing new churches is vital to reaching people with the Good News and this means going into the community and meeting the needs of people. Has your church caught the vision, experienced the blessings, or considered the possibility?

We have proven we can push back the darkness when we participate in church planting. When a church takes their members on mission, and size of the team doesn't matter, the hand of God begins to work both in that church body and in the life of the church plant. A few great examples are Main Street Baptist Church



of Christiansburg and The Tabernacle of Danville. Main Street Baptist traveled to Mechanicsville and Richmond where their youth ministry teams sang, held block parties, and conducted servant evangelism for two church plants there: Family Life Baptist Church and Heartland Community Church. The Tabernacle took their *Word of Life* trained youth teams to Chesterfield where they witnessed to the lost and helped

strengthen a new church plant, Whispering Hope Community Church.

What about your church? Are you getting in on the blessing? Mission team members almost always grow in their faith and produce eternal fruit for the Kingdom. Involvement in birthing new churches actually stimulates giving at the parent church and creates excitement for getting out of the four walls and on mission.

**Ultimately, church plants are strengthened and new relationships forged that have eternal significance.**







# Checking Your Vital Signs



gave the pastoral leadership clarity and direction as it relates to vision casting. The CHS became a spiritual marker in the life of our church. We will always look back on it as a catalyst for helping us become a healthier church."

Green Ridge Baptist, under the leadership of pastor Dr. Michael Palmer, its staff, and a Church Health Task Force, took the church through an extended analysis and as a

would highly recommend other churches taking the CHS! Your community will be glad you did!"

**An** annual medical check-up and physical are essential to the health and well being of an individual. It gives an accurate picture of your condition as well as helps to identify areas needing special attention. The SBCV, in partnership with Church Central, stands ready to provide such a tool for measuring the current and future health of the local church, even your church. It is called the **"Church Health Survey" (CHS).**

SBCV Church Enrichment Missionaries are trained to provide consultation to the church, analyze results, and help give attention to the areas of ministry critical to the positive life and good health of the local church. The six areas of church ministries covered by the survey are: worship, prayer, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry.

Greg Moser, Associate Pastor of Green Ridge Baptist Church in Roanoke, offers the following observation, "The Church Health Survey was an incredibly effective tool that helped our church discover what areas needed to be addressed in order to effectively minister to our own people and to those outside the church. The survey exposed some deficiencies that included a need for an intentional prayer ministry, greater attention to the physical church facilities, the need for directional signs, a thorough and intentional discipleship process, more effective evangelism training, and much more."

"What this survey revealed is that our church thought it was healthier than it really was in several areas. It was an eye-opening experience for our entire church family. It also provided us encouragement that we are doing some things very well and we could build on those. The results from the survey



result was able to present to the church a Church Health and Growth Plan that not only dealt with areas that needed attention, but also set them on the road for future growth and improved health.

Moser gives the following recommendation "As a direct result of this survey, our church has taken steps to address what were our weakest areas. Green Ridge Baptist has seen our Sunday School and worship attendance grow by 10% over the past year. One year ago, we would have celebrated having over 300 in Sunday School on any given week. Recently, we have had more than 400 two different times! We

## Hanover Baptist Church

### Mission Recovery



**In** the late 1700's there was a core group of believers who established Hanover Baptist Church in King George, along the northern neck of Virginia. Their first pastor was Elder John Shackelford, famous for being one of three colonial ministers imprisoned for preaching the Gospel without a license.

During the Second Great Awakening, there was a steady growth that took place over a 20-year period. When the church bought its present location in 1831, their mission, stated right on the deed, was to provide a place to gather, to pray, and to train children. During the 1800's the church had six pastors; in the 1900's the church had 23. There appeared to be something occurring detrimental to spiritual maturity, mission fulfillment, and the testimony of our Lord. The centrality of the Word of God had been replaced with an allegiance to custom and property.

Despite the challenges, believers in the body thirsted after the Word and were eager to reclaim the testimony of the church in their community. Over the years the core group had endured insult, exclusion and indifference. The time had come and they were ready to follow the Word.

As the Bible has been practically and consistently applied at Hanover, it has taken root in the hearts of the believers. God has seen fit to wonderfully restore a refreshing sense of unity in the church. The church body now feels worthy of inviting strangers to observe, without apology. Hanover has a budget designed to demonstrably visualize its mission. The members are taking part in making the building more visually appealing and not long ago the church voted to incorporate. There is now a desire on the part of the believers to develop opportunities for evangelism.

Pastor Rick Crookshank states, "I have made it my prayer in recent years that God would allow me to see authentic, Holy Spirit engendered revival before He calls me home. Though there is yet a long way to go, perhaps this is where He will answer this prayer."

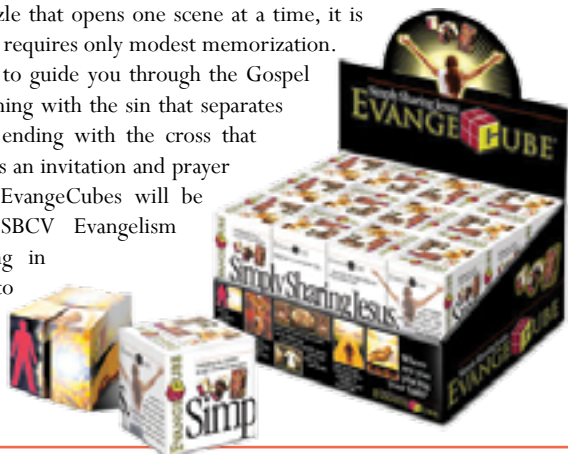
"Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" Psalm 85:6



# EVANGELCUBE

## Unfolding the Answers to Life's Greatest Puzzle

The heartbeat of SBCV churches is evangelism. That's why the desire of SBCV is to provide churches with the tools needed to be effective soul winners. One such tool is the EvangeCube, which makes sharing the Gospel simple and fun. The EvangeCube is an easy to use puzzle that unfolds the plan of salvation visually. Because it is a puzzle that opens one scene at a time, it is easy to present and requires only modest memorization. It serves as a tract to guide you through the Gospel presentation beginning with the sin that separates us from God and ending with the cross that reunites us. There is an invitation and prayer included as well. EvangeCubes will be available at the SBCV Evangelism Conference coming in March. Make plans to attend and receive this resourceful tool to share God's Good News.

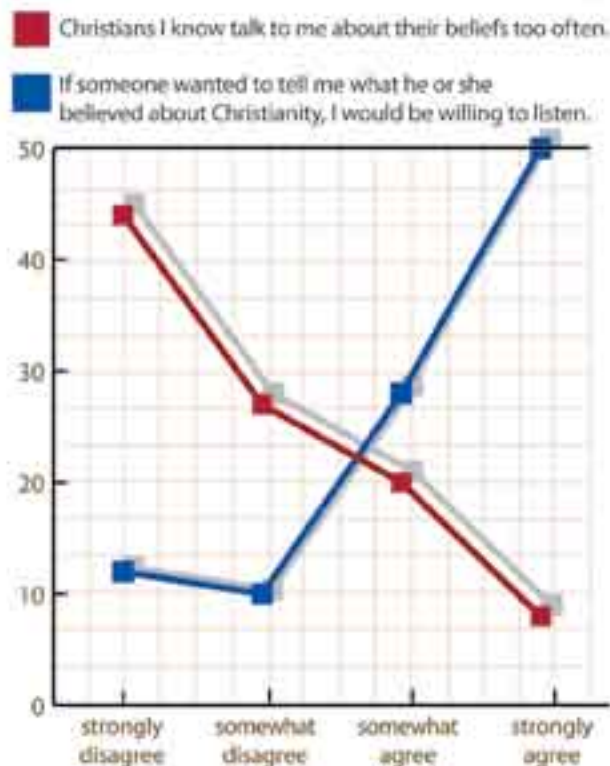


## UNCHURCHED STUDY: EVANGELISM

Asked among 502 adults ages 30 or older.

For this sample, margin of error is +/-4/4% at the 95% confidence interval.

**LifeWay**  
RESEARCH  
2008-2009 Survey on 502



## EVANGELISM CONFERENCE 08



Jeremiah YORK



Ed STETZER



Richard HARRIS



David WHEELER



James MERRITT



Ken WEATHERSBY



Dave EARLEY



Scott SMITH

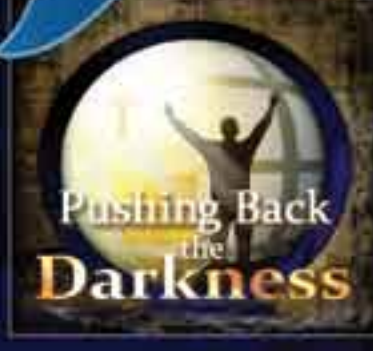
### WEST

**MARCH 10th**

Highlands Fellowship  
Abingdon, VA

**MARCH 11th**

Green Ridge BC  
Roanoke, VA



### EAST

**MARCH 10th**

Staples Mill Road BC  
Glen Allen, VA

**MARCH 11th**

Peninsula Korean BC  
Newport News, VA

REGISTER ONLINE [www.sbcv.org/evangelismconference](http://www.sbcv.org/evangelismconference)



# Birthing Centers

## CHURCH PLANTING HUBS

### Church Planting Hub

A hub or center which encourages its pastors to explore opportunities as the Lord leads in finding new areas for ministry. The results? Giving birth to new churches.

A Church Planting Hub is very much like a "birthing center." They have a vital mission to see healthy new life come in to the world and it starts before the actual birth takes place. Much care and effort are needed in the prenatal phase of the birth process to ensure a healthy birth and a fulfilling life. As with the birth of a baby, a church needs to incorporate from inception what will be important along the way. For Great Commission churches, this means having a radical love for the Lord and the mission He has given: to share the Gospel and making disciples of all peoples. The most effective method to do this is by planting new churches.

This past fall, SBCV approved its first Catalytic Church Planter, Clint Clifton. A catalytic church planter is someone who has a heart and calling to start churches and hand them off to church planters or founding church

pastors once they've grown sufficiently. Clint and the Pillar Church, a church he planted several years ago out of Stafford Baptist Church, have such a heart and calling.

Clint and the Pillar Church have already taken part in planting churches in Quantico; Reykjavik, Iceland; and most recently in Orange County. Without question church planting is part of their DNA. Pillar Church serves as the church planting hub. The hub, or center, encourages its pastors to explore opportunities as the Lord leads in finding new areas for ministry. The results are, along with the hub's members, they give birth to new churches.

As part of the ongoing process, Clint will identify and train leaders from within the church and new plants to continue the work of churches planting churches, planting churches, planting churches...

### PRAY FOR...



### MARK GAUTHIER

Mission Mobilization

Strategic Missionary Associate

Statewide



### The Man

Born in Battleboro, VT.

Saved in 1995 shortly after attending Union Baptist Church, Achilles, VA at the invitation of his neighbor.

Mark and his wife, Kimberly, have 4 children.

### Verse of Importance

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Mark says, "This verse is a wonderful reminder that no matter where we are or what we are going through, God is with us for strength and encouragement."

### His Ministry

Disaster Relief — God began preparing me while serving in the U.S. Navy. Having lived abroad, I experienced 26 typhoons and an eruption of Mt Pinatubo. I was involved in various positions during the many response and recovery missions, including ministry as a food service worker and responded to New York for 9/11. I was called to serve and gave my life to full time ministry in November of 2007.

08  
MISSION  
opportunities

### Health Packs for Children March :: April 30

Central Appalachia has been described as the "poverty pocket of America." Join in the efforts of Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) and help meet this great need by creating Health Packs for Children to be distributed. For more information visit [www.sbcv.org/projects](http://www.sbcv.org/projects).

### Southern Cross Bibles April :: May 31



Each year more than one million Han Chinese visit Southeast Asia where volunteer teams are able to legally distribute Bibles and religious materials. For a small contribution of \$2, a Bible can be purchased in the Han Chinese heart language.

### Evangelism Packets February :: March 31

Evangelism Packets will be carried in backpacks, please think...  
**LIGHT and FLAT!**

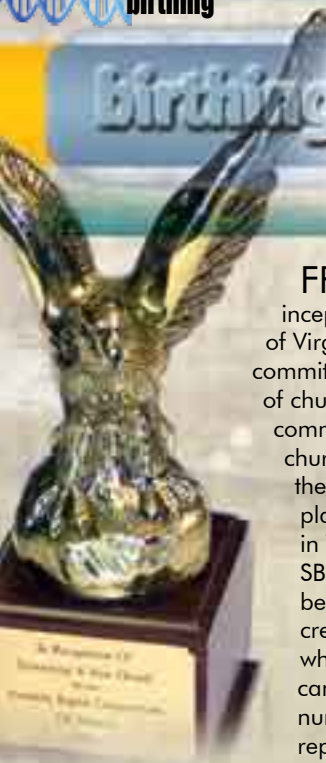
Put items in a large zip-lock bag.  
Items to include:

Moist Hand Wipes	Moleskin
Foot Powder	Peroxide Packets
Stamped Postcards	Alcohol Packets
Dental Floss	Gospel of John
Band-aids	Contemporary
Lipton Sides	Tracts

Hikers and bikers travel over the Appalachian Trail each year.  
**REACH OUT TO THEM**  
by preparing packets of items they greatly need.  
Evangelism Packets are given to the hikers as the churches minister to them.



## Birthing possibilities



FROM its very inception, the SBC of Virginia made a commitment to grow by way of church planting. That commitment has led SBCV churches to embrace the vision of a church planting movement here in Virginia. Furthermore, SBCV leadership has been intentional in creating a climate in which new churches can be birthed and nurtured to health and reproduction.

Churches planting churches planting churches...it's more than just a run-on phrase for SBCV churches. This was certainly evident at the recent SBCV Annual Homecoming in Hampton, at which 30 eagles were presented to churches for sponsoring or co-sponsoring SBCV church plants this year!

The Church Planting Group of the North American Mission Board has publicized in recent years that only 6% of current Southern Baptist churches have ever sponsored a new church plant. Recently, your state missions team attended a national meeting with church planting, church health and evangelism leaders from all 42 SBC state conventions. In this setting,

churches planting churches planting churches  
churches planting churches planting churches  
churches planting churches planting churches  
churches planting churches planting churches...

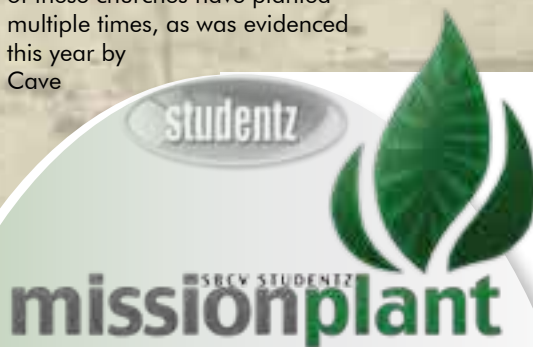


Springs Baptist Church sponsoring four plants in one year! And the ultimate sign of the right DNA is that some of our church plants are themselves now planting other churches.

Yes, churches planting churches planting churches is much more than words to the churches that are the SBC of Virginia; it is a current reality of healthy churches living out the Great Commission through church planting. As our churches focus this year on partnering with God to Push Back the Darkness, your Church Planting Strategists and Church Enrichment Missionaries are here to assist you in how you can participate this year, in church planting sponsorship.

convention leaders were discussing this eye-opening reality. We were privileged to give God glory in that setting by telling the story of how a much larger percentage of our churches have and are partnering together to plant churches every year.

Stemming from that discussion, the Church Planting Management Team has researched our history and found the following: since the birth of the SBCV in 1997, **84 churches have officially sponsored a new church plant.** Using this year's new figure of 511 SBCV churches, **16.5% of our churches have participated in sponsoring new church plants in the last 11 years.** Some of these churches have planted multiple times, as was evidenced this year by Cave



The **SBCV Studentz Mission Plant**, our church plant mission opportunity, is June 16-20, when we will pair student groups from across the state with church plants throughout Virginia for ministry.

So, what about your church? The challenge is out — "Every SBCV church can be involved in church planting at some level." The only question is, "How can my church get involved?" The SBC of Virginia is excited about a new equipping process to help every church be on mission with new church starts, whether it is with construction efforts, evangelism and community outreach, or prayer walks.

Contact your area missionary for more information.

Check out  
[www.sbcv.org/missionplant](http://www.sbcv.org/missionplant)  
for a current list of  
volunteer  
projects.

2008  
SBC Annual  
Meeting  
Indianapolis  
Indiana  
June 10-11

STATE  
BIBLE  
DRILL  
& SPEAKERS  
TOURNAMENT

May 17 | 2008  
Beulah BC, Lynchburg

BIBLE  
SKILLS  
DRILLS &  
THRILLS

CrossOver'08  
FAMILY • FAITH • FUN

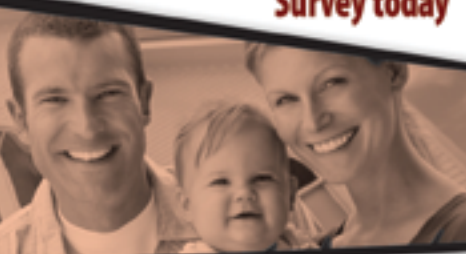
June 6 & 7  
in the Central Indiana area  
Many Opportunities to Witness!

- Street Evangelism
- Block Parties
- Prayer Journeys
- ICE Teams
- Personal Evangelism

for details: [www.crossover08.com](http://www.crossover08.com)



**Take the 2008  
SBC  
Compensation  
Survey today**



[www.LifeWay.com/compensationsurvey](http://www.LifeWay.com/compensationsurvey)  
for more information. 

The SBC Compensation Survey's results have been used by church finance and personnel committees to establish competitive compensation packages for ministers and support staff. Your participation will help make this year's survey the most complete yet. Ministers, secretaries, and maintenance/custodial staff are invited to participate.

The bi-annual SBC Compensation Survey can be completed online and takes less than 10 minutes.

**\*Submit by April 15th**

May 19 : 7 p.m.

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COMMISSIONING  
CEREMONY**



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Chesapeake

For more information: [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)

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ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING®  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

WEEK OF PRAYER  
MARCH 2-9

LIVE WITH URGENCY  
SEIZE YOUR DIVINE MOMENT  
JOHN 9:4



GOAL: \$1.2 MILLION



NATIONAL GOAL: \$61 MILLION



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