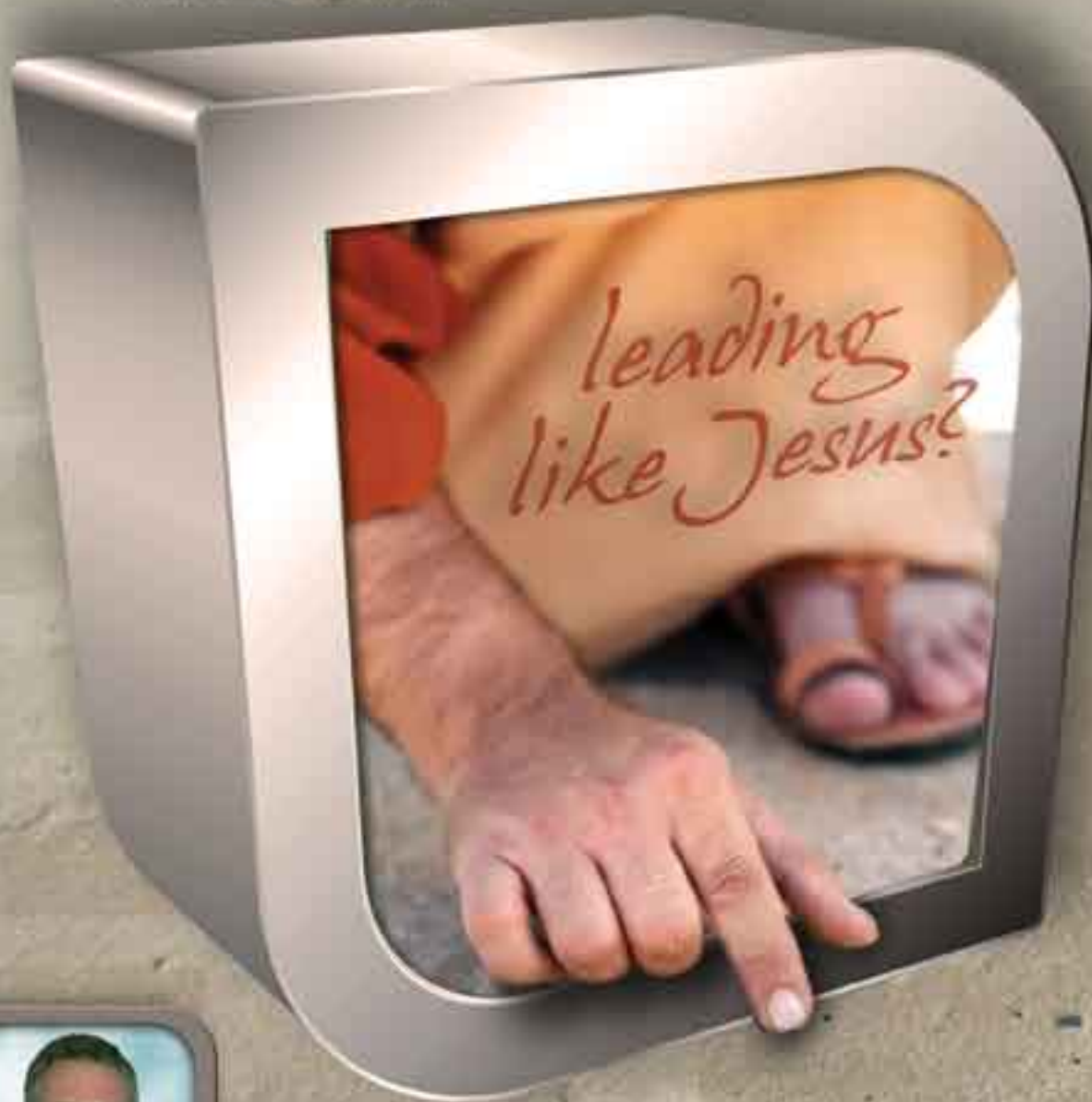


Proclaimer

SBCV • Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia • www.sbcv.org

JUL/AUG 2008 • VOL. 10 NO. 4



SBCV Welcomes Dr. Jeff Ginn
New Executive Director-Treasurer

**Pushing Back
the
Darkness**
Aug 2011-16



**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.

Jeff Ginn Becomes Executive Director

Dr. Jeffery B. Ginn, Senior Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights, has been selected as Executive Director-Treasurer to succeed the retiring Dr. Doyle Chauncey. During their regular spring meeting the SBCV Executive Board unanimously and enthusiastically approved the search committee's recommendation of Ginn.

Since serving as Senior Pastor of Mount Pleasant, the church has seen more than 1,500 additions and over 500 baptisms. Average morning worship attendance has doubled from 550 to over 1,100. The church has also become missions-minded under Ginn's leadership. At any given time there are mission teams around-the-corner or around-the-world sharing the Gospel.

He and his wife, Nell, served as missionaries to Cali, Colombia with the International Mission Board. Ginn served in a dual role, as church planter and professor at the International Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to teaching New Testament and Greek he was involved with starting churches. Prior to his arrival at Mount Pleasant, he was Director of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary Northeast Campus, in Schenectady, NY. Ginn recently completed a term as a trustee for the International Mission Board.

A native of West Memphis, Arkansas he attended Blue Mountain College in Mississippi and then Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis where he earned his MDiv. and Ph.D. Jeff and Nell have two sons and a daughter.

Jeff Ginn, in accepting the position with the SBCV, said, "As I undertake this new assignment from the Lord, one of the first things on my heart and mind is to build upon the effective foundation and insightful strategies for missions that this exemplary entity already has in place."

From the Executive Director

Jeff Ginn



This edition of the Proclaimer is focused on the theme of leadership. Here is a common quip: "It all rises and falls on leadership." While that quote is not strictly biblical, there is truth in it. Leadership is of utmost importance.

The Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia has been on a decade-long rise. Much of this growth can be traced back to superb leadership. In 1996 the SBCV tapped Doyle Chauncey to be our first Executive Director-Treasurer. That decision has proven to have been a wise choice.

Across the years of his leadership, the SBCV has developed into a leading state convention. It is highly regarded nationally for its innovation, focus, structure, and staff. Proof positive of such esteem is the fact the North American Mission Board selected our former Senior Associate, Geoff Hammond, to serve as its President. The SBCV's commitment to the inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture is crystal clear. Its emphasis on kingdom expansion is evident in church planting, the 50/50 distribution of CP receipts, and a growing Acts 1:8 mindset in its member churches.

Romans 13:7 says, in part, "Give everyone what you owe him: ... if honor, then honor." The Lord has used Doyle to lay a solid foundation and for such, honor is due. I know I give voice to what many would echo when I say a heartfelt thanks to the Chaunceys for their service and sacrifice of love. Doyle and Sharon, your labor in the Lord has not been in vain.

The trowel has now been transferred and I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul said, "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds" (1 Corinthians 3:10). By God's grace, may the SBCV continue to rise!

Where is Jeff preaching?

June 15

(am) Nansemond River Church, Suffolk
(pm) First Baptist Church, Roanoke

June 22

Tucker Swamp Church, Zuni

June 29

Bethel Baptist Church, Yorktown

July 6

North Main Church, Danville

July 13

International Learning Center, Rockville

August 10

Norview Baptist Church, Suffolk

August 17

The Community Fellowship, Collinsville

August 24

Beulah Baptist Church, Lynchburg



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2008 dates to remember

SBCV CALENDAR

july

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

august

7-8 **YEC (Youth Evangelism Conference)** —
Liberty Baptist, Hampton
28 **Church Planter Network (CPN)** (Statewide)
— International Learning Center, Rockville

september

5-6 **Church Leadership Conference (CLC)** —
Mount Pleasant Church, Colonial Heights
7-14 **Week of Prayer for State Missions and
Offering**
19-20 **Basic Training I** — Glen Allen
27 **Southwest Church Leadership Conference
(SWCLC)** — Euclid Avenue Church, Bristol

october

3-4 **Pastors, Staff, & Wives Retreat** — Smith
Mountain Lake
10-11 **Basic Training I** — Glen Allen
10-11 **IMPACT Men's Conference** — Thomas Road
Church, Lynchburg
23 **Church Planter Network (CPN)** — Statewide

november

10-11 **SBCV Annual Homecoming**—FBC, Roanoke
30-12/7 **Week of Prayer for
International Missions**

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4



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4 INVESTING IN NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

Concord Baptist Church in Buckingham County invests in developing next generation leaders through "Crossroads," its collegiate ministry on the campus of Longwood University.

5 YIELDS MORE REJOICING

Karen Reagle of Southside Baptist Church leads many "out of the darkness" through a drug and addiction ministry.

10 MENTORING CHANGES LIVES

The Agape Center goes beyond the traditional food bank. Realizing people need more than physical assistance, the Center offers a mentoring relationship so valuable, many clients return long after food is no longer needed.

14 BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP AT WORK

An amazing testimony of how God can pick up the broken pieces of a spiritually dead person and bring him to a point of salvation. Chris Case tells us of his spiritual journey from a new believer into a mature Christian leader.

MEN'S CONFERENCE



INVESTING *in* NEXT GENERATION *Leaders*

Probably one of the greatest ways to invest in next generation leaders is to get involved with collegiate ministry through the local church. That is exactly what Concord Baptist Church in Buckingham County did some 10 years ago at Longwood University. While many college town churches invite students to participate at their church site, few go to the lengths of taking the church to the campus.

Concord Baptist was instrumental in the creation of "Crossroads," a student operated ministry located on the campus. Charity Reish, a Junior Elementary Education major from Midlothian and a member of Parkway Baptist Church says, "The organization is open to everyone regardless of denominational affiliation and exists to reach out to the student body, to build relationships, to grow in Christ, to hold each other accountable and to do ministry in the community." Today, there are as many as 40 students participating weekly, from large group worship, to small group Bible studies. *Crossroads* students have been on spiritual retreats and recently participated in a community service project at a government housing complex. There they ministered to preschoolers, children and teens, offering devotions and special prayers.

Rick Caldwell, pastor of Concord Baptist, says "It is fun to watch the students develop into leaders." He has seen this ministry produce pastors, pastors' wives, and missionaries. While some have gone on to complete

their biblical studies at seminary, many are active in their local churches. Charity says, "Concord has been a real blessing of support for this student ministry." In addition to financial support, Concord Baptist invests in the lives of students by providing weekly counsel and encouragement. A couple in the church commits one night a week to meet with, mentor the student leaders.

The church has been instrumental in securing godly speakers for *Crossroads* campus worship and when the students venture to Concord Baptist on Sunday morning, there's a special place for them. The Students Sunday School class allows them a gathering place with peers and worship provides an atmosphere inviting them to give testimony of what God is doing at Longwood. Concord Baptist seized the ministry opportunity afforded them as a result of the Lord placing them close to the Longwood campus. Said pastor Caldwell, "We have four years to

invest in their lives, help them mature in the faith, and develop next generation leaders to impact Virginia for Christ."



STEVE BRADSHAW
Church Enrichment Missionary
Central West Area

The Man

Born in Franklin, VA.

Accepted Christ at the age of nine during revival services at his home church, Colosse Baptist in Windsor.

Steve has been married to Jan for twenty three years. They have three children; Josh age 18, Bryce age 14, and a daughter, Hannah age 10.

Verse of Importance

Romans 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

Because LifeWay Research recently revealed that the common view of unchurched people is that Christians do not share their faith, I want to say with Paul, "I am not ashamed!"

His Ministry

My passion in ministry is for the local church. It is the living organism by which the Lord carries out His work today through evangelism, equipping and missions. It is the worship place and the fellowship gathering of believers. I seek to come along side pastors, staff and their congregations to help them carry out the Great Commission.

Southside Church YIELDS MORE Rejoicing

For **KAREN REAGLE** being “led out of darkness” was an unexpected side effect of her husband’s newfound interest in church after September 11th.

“After the attack on America, Ronnie wanted us to go to church. Well, I went but I sure wasn’t happy about it,” said Karen. To make matters worse, when Pastor Stewart McCarter gave a gospel invitation, Ronnie walked the aisle to accept Christ. Karen’s hardened heart toward Ronnie’s decision and church attendance soon melted under the loving ministry of Southside Baptist in Suffolk. The love shown by the church led the family to get involved in Sunday School and small group ministries. In just a short time, Karen too embraced Christ, starting a long journey of transformation.

Karen had for more than 25 years been shackled by drug and alcohol addiction. The solid expository preaching of the Word of God by Pastor McCarter, the discipleship ministries of the church in Sunday School and small groups, as well as the encouragement of others, made a deep impact in her life. So much, that some began to see how she could be a leader of others. Leila Byrum, a member at Southside, was used by God to convict Karen of her potential to help others, “Leila used to say ‘when are you going to start that drug and alcohol rehab group in our church?’ I always answered ‘who me?’ until God convicted me of my calling to

this.” Pastor McCarter also saw the potential, “Her’s was such a radical turn-around that she was often sharing her journey with others with potent results.” Karen’s story of transformation and her leading others out of addiction is such a powerful testimony, a video was produced by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Her story has now been told around the country at their crusades and on television. If you attended last year’s SBCV Annual Homecoming you may recall seeing Karen’s story as well.

For the past 4 years, Karen has been “leading others out of darkness” through a drug and alcohol ministry at Southside that meets every Monday night. The church provides space, resources, and ongoing support to help people break the cycle of addiction. While the ministry to reach those in addiction has yielded some disappointments, it has also produced its share of rejoicing. Karen realizes she must pass the torch of leadership in order to multiply the joy of others and mentor others to lead. Recently, she asked Sharon Presson, a member of Southside Church to join as co-leader of the group.

Sharon’s story is also one of transformation; from attempted suicide, addiction and sorrow. After coming to faith in Christ she got started attending the addiction outreach program at Southside. The love she found through the ministry of the church led her to become an involved member.

Through Karen’s mentoring and the ministry of the church, she too has grown in her faith. Like Karen, she did not realize the impact she could have on others. But when Karen approached her about the possibility of becoming a part of the leadership for the group, Sharon saw it as God’s will for her life. “God wants to use me to make a difference. What a thought!” states Sharon. Southside Baptist of Suffolk has truly seen that leading others out of darkness yields much rejoicing. Oh, may that vision multiply around our state.

RESOURCES

- *The 12 Steps-A Spiritual Journey*
- *Celebrate Recovery*
- an in-house treatment program (Victory Home, a ministry of Geneva Park Baptist in Chesapeake).

“The main resources needed are a passionate leader and a compassionate congregation.”



08

MISSION opportunities

DC Unwed Mothers/ Babies Packs

You and Your Church... On Mission

www.sbcv.org/missionopportunities

God has opened the door for SBCV churches to minister to the growing number of unwed mothers in our nation's capitol. Plan ahead to be a part of this great mission opportunity.

= COLLECTION =

10.1 - 11.30

Growing a Leadership Team God's Way

When Sergeant Mark Wells said yes to God's calling him to church planting, he asked, "Where will the leaders come from to grow a new church?" The response was clear, write a list of what you need and then pray to the Lord of the harvest for laborers. Immediately he tried to enlist his life-long friend and co-laborer in Sunday School, Jesse Royall. But, after prayer, both realized this was not God's timing. Mark and his wife, Cathy, were commissioned for this work by their sponsoring church, Swift Creek Baptist Church. They had begun praying God would assemble a leadership team for their church and to no one's surprise God was already at work.

In Powhatan, God had been at work in the life of Tom Cox. Tom and his wife, Penni, were looking for a way to help build the kingdom of God. Mark invited them to become involved in the birth of Grace Harvest Baptist Church (GHBC), a new church that would grow by God's sovereign grace and be focused on a great harvest. They became charter members, and Tom is now a member of the leadership team.

At the same time God was also working in Uganda, Africa. Missionaries David and Linda were planning their return to America. As they were preparing to move, they were asking God to show them where to serve. Less than three months after their return to Richmond, they met Mark who invited them to join what God was doing at GHBC. They too became charter members and David is now a member of the leadership team.

And even before then, God was working in Alaska. God called Bob Allen to gospel ministry while he was in college, and his wife, Krisandra, was excited to be his partner in ministry. They moved from Alaska to Virginia in May, 2005 and quickly found a church and a place to serve. Months later, Bob

learned of the new church God was forming. When Mark heard about Bob's desire to serve and grow in the ministry, he invited Bob to join.

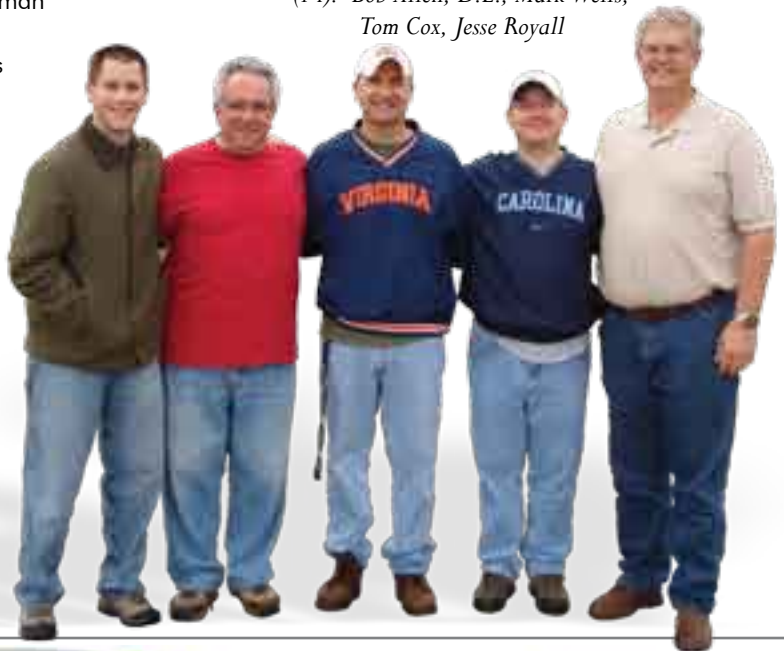
Bob and Pastor Mark began to meet weekly for prayer, Bible study, and mutual accountability. Bob started leading the youth. He's also had the chance to preach and lead worship. The church acknowledged God's activity in this family by licensing Bob to the Gospel Ministry in December 2007. Even more exciting, GHBC will host Bob's ordination service in August, when Bob's "home pastor" can be with them.

God is so incredible He assembled the leadership team of GHBC from people around the world and spread across more than 12 time zones. But that's not all, God is also growing leaders from within. There are four men who have become leaders in home groups. Two of those men have never taught the Bible or had any position of leadership in any church before joining GHBC. The third man had fallen away from God but has since renewed his relationship with God and has discovered a desire to serve. The fourth had been a rock musician for years, accepted Christ, and was baptized on Easter 2007. God continues to work in each of their lives, calling

them to a deepening faith and service at GHBC. Mark established his usual pattern of meeting with each of these men, individually, every week, for prayer, Bible study, and mutual accountability. In the process, these men have grown to the place where they are eager and effective servant leaders.

God went on to reunite long time friends, as Jesse was now going to be a part of Grace Harvest Church. Pastor Mark reflects on God's timing, "If Jesse had come with me at the beginning, I would have relied on him too much. God had to keep Jesse out of the picture for a while so I could learn to go to Him first for help with all of these challenges." God's timing is always best. His leadership in the hearts and lives of faithful servants results in Godly leaders coming together in ministry, building a team to grow a church.

(l-r): Bob Allen, D.L., Mark Wells, Tom Cox, Jesse Royall





Women's Conference

Laughter and much chatter filled the sanctuary of Grove Avenue Baptist Church as over 900 women gathered for the annual SBCV Women's Conference. "Fresh Grounded Faith," this year's theme, was conveyed by the guest speaker, Jennifer Rothschild, who did an incredible job of encouraging, challenging, and motivating the women to move forward in their daily walk with God, no matter how difficult their circumstances. Jennifer knows well the trials life can bring having lost her vision when she was

only fifteen, due to a degenerative eye disease. There is no pity on her part, just seeking more of God and how He wants to use her gifts and life for Him. Jennifer said, "It's a gift from my heavenly Father and I want to use it for His glory."

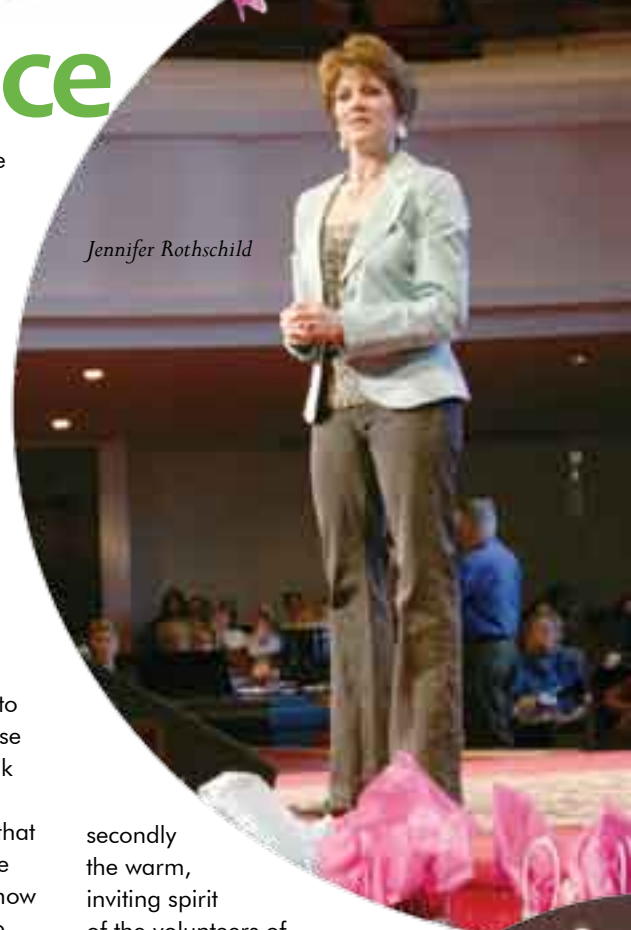
One attendee noted, "God spoke to me this weekend. I have been struggling like crazy for the last eight months but I know God is good in the midst of my struggles. I knew this in my head, but learned

this weekend more of how to believe and trust this in my heart. Even though my struggles are legitimate, I do not want to live a defeated life because I serve a risen Lord. Thank you for putting His Word into every day language that makes sense." There were many more who shared how God used the weekend to impact their lives and send them home better equipped. Our praise times, led by Shelly Jennings, were truly inspirational, allowing the women to engage in God-focused worship.

Overall, the women expressed what a wonderful weekend this was for them and how much they enjoyed the conference. Of course, Jennifer was the main reason for them loving the event, but

secondly the warm, inviting spirit of the volunteers of Grove Avenue ministered to everyone who attended. Many thanks to LaVonne Winter, Women's Ministry Director, and her leadership team for all their hard work in making this event a pleasant atmosphere for women to put behind them the cares of the world and focus on God.

Jennifer Rothschild



COLLEGE CARE KITS

June :: July 31

College Care Kits are a tool used to help local SBCV churches in each ministry area connect with incoming freshmen. You can play a vital part in helping reach these new students and in making their transition to the college years a positive experience in their spiritual journey.

Things you can include:

- stress ball
- granola bars
- Shout wipes
- bars of soap
- microwave popcorn
- water bottle (plastic)
- pens and pencils
- evangelistic tract
- laundry detergent (small)
- Bible or New Testament (modern translation)

for information on collection sites visit:
www.sbcv.org/projects

PLEASE PACK ITEMS IN A MESH LAUNDRY BAG

08
MISSION
2008-2009

Mentoring Changes Lives

Parents treasure a baby's first steps. Those steps are something special when the family's youngest member takes them. At the Agape Center in Moneta, a ministry of Radford Baptist Church, baby steps of a different kind are treasured and celebrated. Bob Odum, Associate Pastor of Radford Baptist, explains their church's desire to meet more than just the physical needs of their community. They do so by offering to meet physical needs while mentoring to those in the community.



The Agape Center opened in 2004, in the corner of the church's Fellowship Hall. Today it occupies 12,000 square feet in the heart of booming Moneta. With a community that has experienced a huge influx of wealth and prosperity, the casual observer would think there are no physical needs in the community. Nevertheless, the opposite is true.

Initially, Courtney Carr and Emily Mason, the catalyst behind The Agape Center, thought there may be as many as 12 families they would minister to, with 25 being an absolute maximum. Their vision was quickly surpassed and today the Center assists some 125 families a month with over 200 families receiving help.

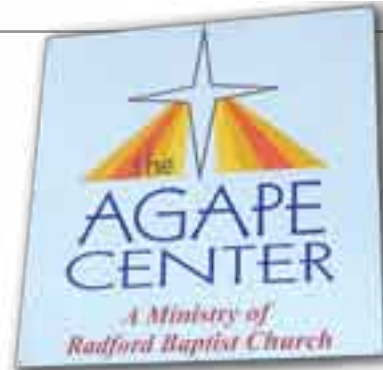
Sue Lipscomb, the present Executive

Director of the Center, explains the center ministers to their "clients" (those in need) as if they are family. They celebrate the small steps they see taking place in a clients' life. She is adamant prayer has knocked down some of the toughest exteriors, revealing hurting hearts and broken lives. Sue explains, "There are other agencies that offer food, but we wanted go beyond the traditional Food Bank and offer a mentoring relationship." A number of clients (family members) continue to return after they no longer need the physical assistance, finding the mentoring relationship so valuable in their lives. In the last quarter alone, the Agape Center staff had the opportunity to see 11 people accept Christ through their mentoring ministry. The Mentoring Ministry also assists the clients in developing life skills.

One of Sue's favorite stories includes "Ben," a large burly "man's" man, who came in looking for physical assistance. As with all clients, he was asked if there was something the mentor could pray with him? He somewhat forcefully and with a hint of anger said, "NO!" After completing the process and getting ready to leave with his needed food, "Ben" was asked again if the mentor could pray for him. This time he agreed and at the end of the prayer, his eyes were filled with tears as he shared a heart felt thanks. "Ben" went on to say he expected

to be treated as a number but found a person who really cared about him. The mentor concluded, she was not the only one who cared for him, Jesus did also. Ben left that day with food and a new found relationship with Christ. Sue makes it clear these opportunities only develop out of much prayer.

Sue also beams while telling the story of "Brenda," an intimidating, young woman with a total hands-off attitude who came seeking assistance. The center's staff kept a close watch as



they were fearful of this woman. During

the registration process, the mentor shared what Agape means to a stone faced Brenda. "Let's just get through this process so I can leave with my food," responded Brenda. She waited in a screened privacy area. When the mentor returned, "Brenda" picked up a Bible only to plunk it back down as she questioned, "So, tell me about this Book!" The mentor started in Genesis explaining that God has a plan and purpose for everyone's life. She went on to share God's Plan of Salvation. Brenda looked the mentor directly in the eyes and said, "Thank you, nobody ever told me that before." The mentor asked if "Brenda" was ready to accept eternal salvation only to hear a firm no. Brenda left that day with a Bible, some tracts and her food.

About a month later, Brenda radiating with excitement, returned for her follow-up appointment. She could not wait to ask Christ to come in to her life. She went on to find a great church she faithfully attends. Brenda has a job now and no further need for physical assistance, but keeps her appointments at the Agape Center because of the mentoring they offer.

The baby steps the Agape Center celebrates include attitude changes and commitments to monthly mentoring appointments, where tears almost always come. The need for food, furniture and clothing becomes secondary to the relationships the clients build with their mentors. Clients come and hangout because of the listening ear offered, without judgment or the threat of being psychoanalyzed. It's God's love in action and it is very real.



VIRGINIA SOLDIERS R&R KITS

Thanks to all the churches who participated in the Virginia Soldier R & R Kits mission opportunity. Your response was overwhelming. Over 2,100 kits were packed for our soldiers! Many kits are already in Iraq and more on the way.

Recently we received an email from Chaplain (1LT) Dan Pruitt serving in Iraq. He wrote, "I just want to let you know how much my soldiers appreciate the care packages the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia churches recently sent us! Yesterday, I had the opportunity to distribute them to my soldiers and they all said, 'Thank you for your generosity.' These care packages really helped to boost the morale of my soldiers. We appreciate the books and DVDs that contain spiritual truths that point us to Christ. We need

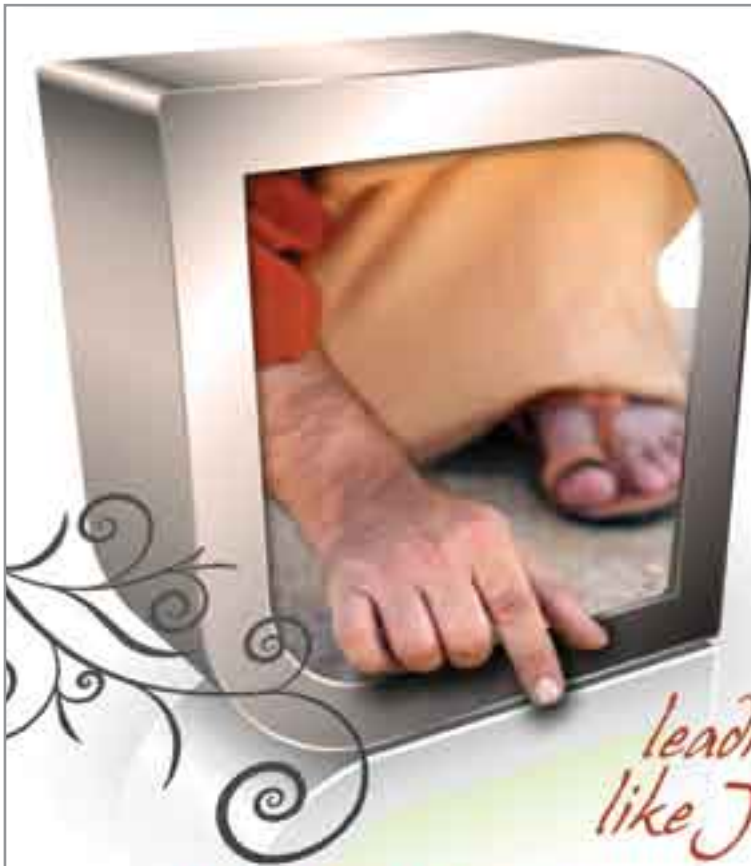
good Christian encouragement that will positively challenge us to live for Christ in the days ahead. May God richly bless you and the SBCV churches that had a part in sending us these care packages!"

God is already using your efforts to touch lives in ways you may never know. Rest & Relaxation (R&R) Kits are being used to share the good news of Jesus with men and women who are fighting for our freedom. These kits provide a reminder that people in Virginia care about them.

A special thanks also goes to the staff and Women's Ministry at Swift Creek Baptist Church in Midlothian. They collected, sorted, and packaged all the kits for shipping. Thanks for your many hours of service on this project.



Please remember these fighting men and women in your prayers.



church leadership conference

September 5 & 6
Mount Pleasant Baptist
Colonial Heights



Keynote Speaker
TROY BUSH
Dir. of Church Starting
Embrace Baltimore
NAMB

OVER 65 BREAKOUT SEMINARS TO EQUIP CHURCH LEADERS
To register and for the latest details visit ... www.sbcv.org/leadership_training



Capron Baptist Church

from INTERNSHIP to a Missionary Type Calling

David Knudsen is the summer youth intern who never left. In the spring of 2007, David was facing graduation from Liberty University with no summer plans. "I was approaching graduation with no real summer plans but looking forward to the fall when I could pursue a call to Sudan," said David. A last-minute internship opening ended up changing his destiny. David was asked to serve as the summer student intern for Capron Baptist Church located in rural Southampton County.

Capron's pastor, Chad Brady, is a big advocate of the SBCV program. He said, "It has made a difference in our ministry. If I could have one hundred summer interns, I'd use them all." Brady has found that taking advantage of the SBCV internship program is a means of exposing the students in his church to college students who love Jesus, bringing fresh ideas and a positive influence outside of church meetings. Brady also considers

internships a chance to mentor and invest in the lives of students. He said, "The return on investment is substantial in our church and in the college student."

As the summer progressed, David started to develop a heart for the rural community. He began to see the area needs in the same light as he once thought only existed in places like Sudan. "As the summer continued the pastor and I talked about my staying. Then the door to Sudan closed and I knew I needed to figure a way to stay." As David responded affirmatively to God's calling to the community, God began to knock down barriers by providing housing and church approval. But the small church did not have the funds to call David full-time.

Then the Lord provided an opportunity for David, to not only have needed income, but also impact students throughout all of Southampton County. It came through substitute teaching in the only public high school

in the county. He is now in regular contact with all 900 public high school students and he is known by every youth in the area. God has provided numerous ministry opportunities while on campus. In addition, the youth group at the Capron church has grown to the point it was expanded to two groups: middle-school and high school students now meet separately. David now has over a dozen high school students regularly attending and church leaders are being developed to help lead.

David has a strong sense of call. "I intend to stay here until every Southampton County student hears the gospel in a way they understand from a person they trust or I find myself a replacement to do the same task," said Knudsen. May God give Virginia more young men and women like David Knudsen who see the mission field right at our doorstep! of need and are not guaranteed.



Doyle Chauncey

Based on the first four chapters of Joshua, God was directing His people to claim the Promised Land. It was a time of expansion happening fast for Joshua, the leaders, and the people. Dramatic changes and visible miracles were almost daily experiences. That was the

start-up phase for Israel. It was one of those times when God graced a movement with momentum and explosive growth.

If you have ever gone through a season of momentum, you know that momentum is exhilarating, but there are also marathon seasons in ministry when over long periods of time little happens. In Joshua chapter 5, we learn the movement and momentum wasn't nearly as dramatic as it had been in the first four chapters.

Calendar of His Will

Pastors and leaders in our local churches often invest deeply in the ministry to which God has placed them without experiencing momentum. Often tired, frustrated, and perhaps fearing failure is not the time to lose confidence in God or yourself. Understand there is nothing wrong if you have been faithful to pray and diligent in your service. It is a matter of God's timing and His will.

Wayne Schmidt, in his book, *Lead On*, says, "As if discerning the content of God's will is not difficult enough, we must also discern the calendar of His will." He points out that embedded between two verses (Exodus 23:27,31) promising victory to Israel, God's word to Moses clearly states that it is His will they should take the Promised Land slowly.

And I will send hornets before you, which

shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you. I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land. Exodus 23:28-30 (NKJV)

Momentum is exciting, but God frequently promises victory little by little so marathon seasons require much prayer, patience, and perseverance from the Christian leader. Perhaps God moves gradually to build strength and depth within the leader and improve the quality of the results so it not only starts well but also continues strong long term. Lean not on your own understanding but trust in the calendar of His will.

Pray for...



BILL WENNERSTEN

Church Planting Strategist
Greater Washington, D.C. Area

The Man

Born in Baltimore, MD.

Saved at a Billy Graham Film Crusade held at the old Baltimore Civic Center.

Bill and Karen have three children; two adult daughters and a son currently serving his country as an Army Ranger.

Verse of Importance

Psalm 40:1-3

"I waited intently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord."

His Ministry

Seeing people come to a saving knowledge of Christ makes my day! Serving in the Greater Washington, D.C. area provides touch with the entire world as we continue to start people group focused churches. The SBCV takes a bold position in seeking to push back the darkness both in Virginia and around the world. I am blessed to be onboard.

In Pursuit of the Holy Spirit

Billy Graham once said, "The Holy Spirit is God's presence with us today... although unseen is just as real as Jesus was to the first disciples. Never forget: the Holy Spirit is God Himself." It is the Holy Spirit who seals us for eternity on the day of our salvation and it is the Holy Spirit who seeks to do a good work in our lives for the sake of the kingdom.

Seeking to live such a Spirit-led life is Keith McMinn at Salem Baptist Church in Crozier. Keith and his young family arrived straight from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to their first ministry position, Associate Pastor of Music. Keith brought with him tremendous talent and a huge heart. The staff at Salem came alongside to ensure he succeeded. "The Lord put Keith here and is using us, as well as the Holy Spirit, to bring him along," says Senior Pastor, Zack Zbinden, "We want to see him succeed."



The growth plan God had in mind when Keith arrived involved a great deal more than music ministry. He quickly became close friends with Todd Brooking, Associate Pastor of Youth, and the two set out on a journey to grow together by honoring God with their efforts. Todd, a stalwart soul winner, took Keith into the community to pass out tracts and ask people if they know the Lord, something they do weekly.

Todd mentors his brother in Christ by helping him to remember what is important in ministry — seeking the very presence of God in his life through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Todd shares, "You



focus on the Lord and your relationship with him; you can't feed people unless you've been fed."

Keith McMinn has learned to depend on the Holy Spirit in his life and ministry. In addition to leading two Sunday morning worship services, he teaches a Sunday School class. Keith's sensitivity to the Holy Spirit enables him to prepare in-depth lessons that touches lives. Likewise, he prays over each and every piece of music, seeking God's hand in preparation for the services. "My heart is to see all of God's people praise and adore our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ," states Keith.

Not only has the staff at Salem supported Keith in his ministerial journey, but so too has a Godly layman, Francis Edwards. Pastor Zack calls Francis, "A man of grace, a humble servant and prayer warrior." Keith shares, "Me, being young in the ministry and wanting to grow in the Lord, I asked Francis if he would mind meeting with me every week to mentor me in loving Christ and following Him. Francis modeled before me a life that abided in Christ. I will never forget his love for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Keith's dedication to pursue the Holy Spirit's leading and a church willing to partner with him has resulted in a most loving and humble servant with a fervent heart for ministry. On any given Sunday, you can sense the difference in the music ministry, and if you are blessed to be in his Sunday School class, you will hear it, too. God is working through Keith to minister to others.

How is all of this possible? It is only possible through the grace and leadership of the Holy Spirit. Keith has learned he becomes closest to God when he is on knees. It is there, from his

knees, Keith grows in the Spirit and from his knees he acknowledges his worth is found in Christ alone.

A church and staff who are faithfully seeking the leadership of Holy Spirit will raise up servants who will succeed in ministry, not according to man, but for the Lord's sake.



An advertisement for the SouthWest church leadership conference. It features a large image of a hand pointing at a screen displaying a person. The text reads: "SouthWest church leadership conference", "September 27", "Euclid Avenue Church", "Bristol". Below this, it says "learning like Jesus?" and "www.sbc.org/leadership_conference". There is also a small inset image of a man and the text "Keynote Speaker MELVIN POE Senior Pastor Euclid Avenue Church Bristol, TN".

Ed Rodriguez
with Joseph,
one year later.

the Difference Maker

Raising Up Maasai Leaders

"A leader who produces other leaders multiplies his influence, and he and his people have a future."

Taken from his book, *Developing the Leaders Around You*, John Maxwell describes a universal desire that stretches around the globe. In America, countless resources on the subject of leadership fill bookstores, airwaves, and the internet. Practically every college is producing business leaders and our seminaries and Christian universities offer opportunities to further one's biblical leadership training. In the local church, the pastor strives to develop leaders who will fulfill the call from God to spread the Good News and disciple fellow believers. With this reality, one could wonder how leaders are developed overseas without the tools available in America. How do missionaries do it?

Since 2006, the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) has partnered with International Mission Board (IMB) missionary, Bob Calvert, to share the Gospel with the Maasai people in Kenya. As each mission trip ends, team members return to their homes leaving the believers in Kenya burdened to impact their homeland. Bob Calvert realizes how important it is to raise up Maasai leaders. First, he leads them to faith in Christ. Next, he develops Christian leaders by teaching the new believers to learn Bible stories on a story cloth. The story cloth shows many pictures of events in the Bible which opens the door to the Gospel. He also leaves them with a hand-crank cassette player and a cassette filled with these wonderful stories. With these tools, the new Christians can learn, and in turn, share the love of Jesus with countless people around them.

Ed Rodriguez, pastor of Ragland Memorial Baptist Church, shares an example of how the Kenyan believers are allowing God to use them.

A young man by the name of Joseph came to faith in Christ on my first trip in March of 2006. For the remainder of our time in Kenya, Joseph "hung out" with us so he could learn the story cloth. Burdened for his extended family,

Joseph asked us to go and share Christ with them. We shared the story cloth and his entire family prayed to receive Christ! Seeing his family come to Christ ignited a passion in him for evangelism. We encouraged Joseph to share Christ with the Maasai people. He promised he would. Upon my return in May of 2007, I was eager to learn what God had done in the year we were gone. Bob took us to a new area and to our surprise we ran into Joseph's father. He told us Joseph was doing great things for the Lord and that the next time he saw Joseph he would tell him I had returned to Kenya.

The following day we were sitting near a boma (fenced-in dwelling) drinking the customary tea and getting acquainted with a man and his family. Then lo and behold, Joseph came walking over the hill. I soon learned that in the past year he had started two churches and was working on starting his third! I thought to myself... imagine if churches in America would capture this passion for evangelism and church planting. Thank God for Joseph, his heart and mission."

The process to attain leadership status among the Maasai is similar to that in the United States. Leaders in the Maasai community are elders who are determined by wisdom and social status, not necessarily by age. Possessions, livestock, and family are also taken into account, since the Maasai worldview reveals that a man who has an abundance of livestock and possessions must have the wisdom to attain them. Joseph may never be a "leader" among his people, however, he is a leader by him multiplying his influence in the lives of others. The future looks

bright for reaching the Maasai with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, young men like Joseph are the difference makers in the midst of the Maasai people group who have never heard of Jesus.

Joseph and his family

Pray for...



JACK NOBLE

Church Enrichment Missionary
Midwest Area

The Man

Born in Fort Raleigh, KS.

Accepted Christ as a result of committed Christians who wouldn't take no for an answer (Jerry Falwell, J. Harold Smith and Charles Lowry); they came to visit him at work that resulted in his attendance to revival services on Liberty Mountain.

Jack and Rhonda have two boys and two girls.

Verse of Importance

Matthew 28:18

"And Jesus came near and spoke unto them saying, 'All authority is given unto me in heaven and on earth.'"

This verse communicates three vital truths in Jack's life: Jesus approaches us, He speaks directly to us, and Jesus is the authority without question.

His Ministry

Three events fan the flames of Jack's enthusiasm for ministry:

1. Partnering with churches as they respond to the tragic event at Virginia Tech.
2. Assisting area churches in incredible community outreach events, such as Friend Day and M.E.E.T.E.R. Ministry.
3. Working with churches as they journey through the process of searching for a pastor.

Seven Minutes and the Clock is Ticking

According to Nelson Searcy, Pastor of the Journey Church in New York City and author of the recently released book, *Fusion*, a first time guest determines their initial impression of a church within seven minutes of arriving. Like me, your first thought may be, "Great!" because it is hard to make it through any of our Worship Center doors without being greeted by at least one person, smiling ear to ear and trying to hand you the required bulletin." If this sounds like your church and with that smiling face still clear in mind, try to diagnose what happened in each of these scenarios, with the seven minute clock ticking.

scenario 1

Arriving just five minutes before the church service begins, a new couple selects two of the six remaining seats and settles in. As the service begins, the last few seats quickly fill with worshippers, one of which was a lady, who sat right behind the new couple. As the first hymn commences, she starts to cluck her tongue in disgust. The message in those clucks was quite clear to anyone within ear shot. Was it Morse Code? No, but there was without a doubt a message being sent. The new couple just did not get it.

scenario 2

After arriving ten minutes early for Sunday School and wandering around the church building, two high school students find themselves sitting in a room full of middle-schoolers, with no high schoolers in sight. The two high school students wondered to themselves, "Why did we not put up more of fight with our parents about attending this church?"

Each scenarios takes place within the first seven minutes, most long before that seven minutes ticks off the clock. Now take a look at what else happened.

The first scenario is rather easy: The clucking lady sitting behind the new couple voiced to her friend the reason for her disgust at the end of the service. You guessed it, "That couple sat in my seat!" How could the couple have known they should have sat one row back?

The second scenario may take a bit longer to completely understand what went wrong: While wandering around, the two high school students had finally asked a greeter where the High School Sunday School class met. The greeter told the High School girls to, "follow the noise, you will find your way." The only "noise" the girls heard was the music from the Middle School Class. While they did

eventually leave the Middle School room in search of more "noise" in another part of the building, their first impressions had been sealed in concrete.

What each of these situations needed was someone to provide a connection point and to provide good information, all within the first seven minutes. With most first time guests deciding before the church service begins if they will return for a second visit, it is critical that churches have their best handshake at the front door. How do your first time guests rate your first impression handshake? If a large percentage of guests are not returning for a second visit, you have your answer. Nelson Searcy goes so far as to suggest in his book, one in three first time guests should be fully engaged members of the church within one year of their first visit.

The upcoming Church Leadership Conference, to be held Sept. 5-6 at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights, will provide a solution to the above scenarios: M.E.E.T.-ER. Ministry. M.E.E.T.-ER. Ministry consists of a simple-to-remember outline used to bring guests back week after week. To whet your appetite, the M. stands for Mile. We need people out front who are willing to go the "Second Mile" when new people visit our churches; people who are willing to assist families, getting children in place, finding an appropriate seat, introducing them to other people and making sure their visit is positive. The M.E.E.T.-ER. becomes personally responsible for the comfort and support of that guest. What would happen if every guest had their own personal M.E.E.T.-ER? First impressions would be great and churches would be well on their way to reaching 1 in 3 first time guests with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Interested to learn more? The rest will have to wait until the Church Leadership Conference in September. The title of the seminar that will introduce M.E.E.T.-ER. Ministry is *Greet No More*. Scores of other practical ministry solutions will be shared during the Sept. 4-5 conference. Mark your calendar and visit our website, www.sbcv.org, for information and registration. **Remember, the clock starts ticking as guests pull into the parking lot.**



Oct. 3 & 4
**Pastors, Staff
& Wives Retreat**
@ Smith Mountain Lake

**[Partners in Life
Partners in Ministry**

GUEST SPEAKERS: Bill and Addie Anderson
First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, TX

WORSHIP LEADERS: Gabe and Kari Turner
Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

For more information and to register: www.sbcv.org

Biblical Leadership at Work

The Testimony of Chip Case

(1 to r) Pastor Jeff Riddle and Chip Case

Roughly nine years ago, I was serving a two and a half month jail sentence for drinking and driving. I had abused alcohol and drugs for years, caused countless pain to my family, and more importantly, sinned against God. I say more importantly because sin is about a holy God. Don't misunderstand me. My sin hurt my family and caused real pain. Yet, without question, my sin was primarily about my relationship with God. I was in jail, spiritually dead and broken, but God, who is rich in mercy, had other plans. I began reading a Bible and God saved me from my sins.

When I was released I had a goal of attending college and making something of myself. I had dreamed of attending UVA so in 2000, I moved to Charlottesville, and in 2002, I began my studies at the University of Virginia. Unfortunately, even though I was realizing my aspiration I was suffering from anxiety attacks and depression. I felt I had to work for my way salvation even though I didn't. In addition, I felt like I had to prove to my family and friends that I wasn't a failure. Somehow I thought attending UVA would solve all my problems. I was wrong. I needed to grow in my faith and rest in what Christ did on the cross.

While attending classes I lived across the street from Jefferson Park Baptist Church. I decided to attend and the following week Pastor Jeff Riddle, and a deacon, came to visit me. They challenged me on the importance of church attendance, and explained that sitting under expository preaching of God's Word was an absolute necessity for spiritual growth. The following week I joined the church.

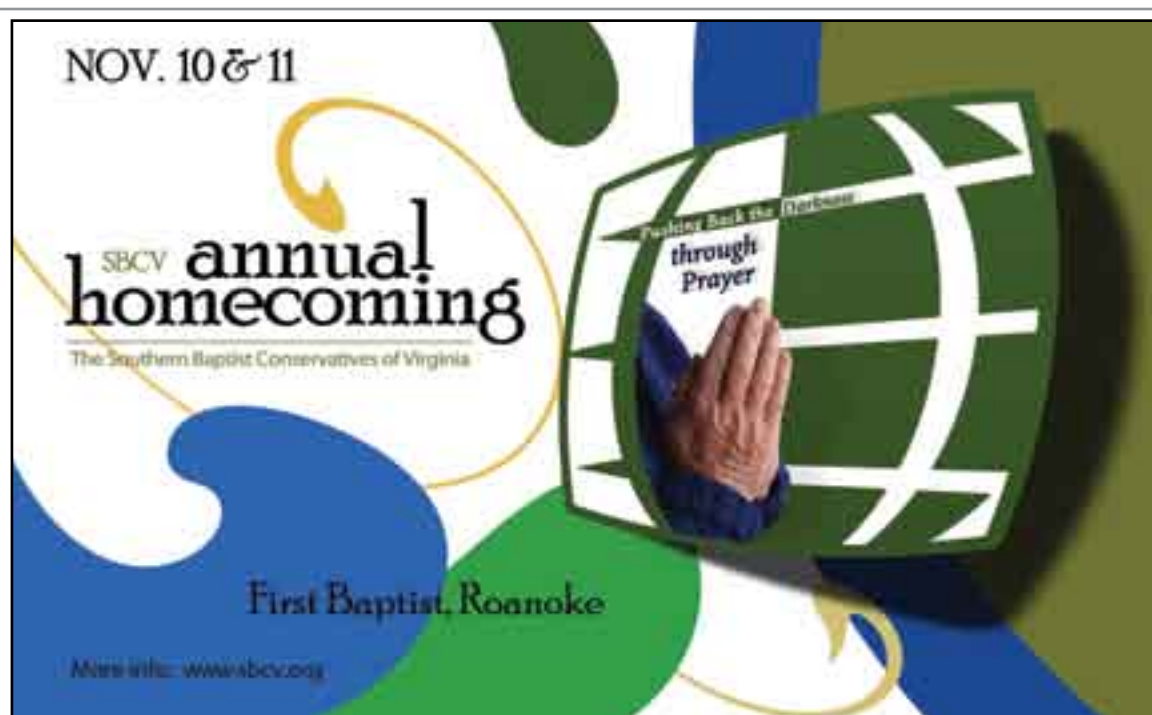
Since that day, Pastor Jeff has invested his life in me. Once a week he met with me and two other students teaching us from the book of Ephesians.



Many times on my way home from the religion classes I was taking I would stop by his office to discuss that day's teaching. We spent hours discussing biblical truth and searching the scriptures. His counsel and teaching was invaluable and kept me grounded in the Word of God. He also took me to a conference at Southern Seminary. The 18 hour round trip became a "theological class on wheels" as we discussed spiritual matters. Concerning his ministry to Chip, Pastor Jeff states, "I'm nothing special, I just believe in a personal ministry to people, plugging them into the church, allowing them to experience body life, and to sit under a wholly biblical ministry, and to the expository preaching of the Word of God. People need and want substantive teaching."

When people look at me today, I pray I reflect what Jefferson Park, Pastor Jeff, and

many other godly men and women have taught me. It is here that I have matured as a Christian, been greatly encouraged, and have been held accountable. Today I understand that my problem was never alcohol. No, the problem was that I was a sinner and had made an idol of self. Yet God, who is rich in mercy, gave His son to die for sinners. Christ lived a life free of sin, perfectly fulfilling the law of God, and then died on a cross and bore the wrath of God on a cross so sinners, like me, could be declared righteous in the sight of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). It has been 6 years since my journey began and God continues to work His wonderful grace and mercy in my life. I am now part of the leadership team at Jefferson Park, serve as a deacon and teach a Sunday School class.



Carlos Payan
and family



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOUR
CHURCH IF THE GOVERNMENT
SUDDENLY INFORMED YOUR
PASTOR HE HAD TO LEAVE
THE COUNTRY AND HE
MAY NEVER RETURN?

LEAVING LEADERS **Behind**

Not a made for television drama, this is a reality for Carlos Payan and Iglesia De Las Americas, the church God led him to plant in Lynchburg. Innocently caught up in an ever changing world of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) rules the Payan family found themselves confronted with deportation and the church found themselves essentially without a pastor. Carlos, his wife Lydia, and their two sons have moved back to Mexico until the government (INS) makes a decision about their visas. At the moment, things are moving in the right direction, but please join us in prayer for God's will for this precious family. It would be easy for Carlos to become discouraged over the issue and what it means for him and his family, but he has quickly found a perfect peace with God's will, no matter what.

Faced with the possible reality of losing their pastor forever, the members of Iglesia De Las Americas have also had to find that perfect peace in God. One man from the church's leadership team stood up and said to the rest of the team as they prepared for Carlos' eventual departure, "We have to step into the roles God has prepared us for and lead this church." God has used Carlos to raise up disciplined leaders in the Lynchburg church. As the leaders met, they discussed the reality of rising costs, growing responsibility, and demand for commitment and time that would be required of them to fill the gap

as they lead their church during this void. There was no question that it would be difficult, but there was also no question that they were passionate for their church and their God. No casual commitments would be made or accepted as the group discussed how to move forward. Unsure of all the challenges that lie ahead, they were united in their willingness to lead. We find a similar picture of this in Ephesians 4:11-16, "And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament,

promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part."

Several men on the leadership team of Iglesia De Las Americas have taken on the responsibilities of preaching the Word in Carlos' absence. God has also raised up teachers and ministry leaders that are stepping in to serve. This church will not fall nor falter because of Godly lay leadership ready and willing to serve. So what about you? Are you ready to step up and take on the roles within the church God has prepared you for?

Don't wait until your pastor is taken away to find out.





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