

Proclaimer

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

SEP/OCT 2008 • VOL. 10 NO. 5

CHURCH PLANTING

Growing the Kingdom



PULL-OUT SECTION:
"SBCV 07-08 Church Planters"
For use during prayer.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Hallmark of SBCV Life

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

This edition of the **Proclaimer** focuses on church planting. This has been one of the hallmarks of SBCV life. It rallies our churches around what has proven to be the best means of fulfilling the Great Commission.

One of the essential elements for successful church planting is an effective, cohesive team. Even the great Apostle Paul worked in concert with collaborators such as Timothy, Titus, Barnabas, and Silas. In this article, I want to introduce you to the best partners I've had in church planting and ministry across the years—my family! As your new Executive Director, I want you to know those who will be partnering with me in serving you.

My wife is Nell. We both hail originally from the Memphis area. She was reared by godly

parents. We met in college and were drawn together by a mutual commitment to the Lord. She has traipsed across the world with me without the slightest complaint. Her love for people is a magnet. She actually has been mistaken for an angel!

God has given us three wonderful children. Anna will be a senior in high school this fall. She comes by her adventuresome spirit honestly. She just returned from a semester in Quito, Ecuador. There, along with her studies, she engaged in a ministry project to people who live at the city dump. She is a people-person to be sure.

Jordan is our firstborn son. I have often commented

that he is a better man than I. He is quiet by personality, but traits like dependability, steadiness, and commitment characterize him. When we travel we entrust documents of importance (like our passports) to him. We know that they will be in good hands!

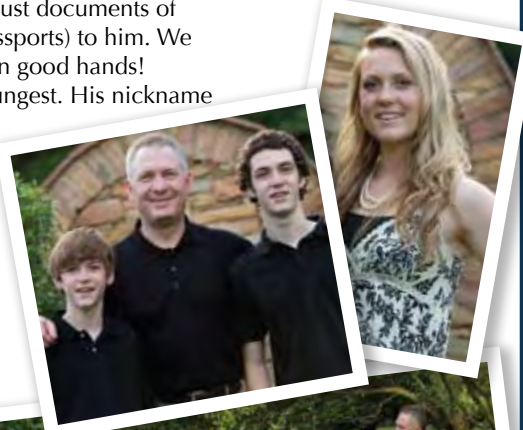
Zachary is our youngest. His nickname is Zman. That says it all.

He has a zest for life that is contagious. He is in North Carolina on a missions project as I pen this article. He loves soccer and music and paintball battles and... and... and you get the idea.

I cannot thank God enough for giving me such a family. I hope that across the coming years they will have the opportunity to get to know many of you—the broader SBCV family.



Jeff Ginn



Dr. Ginn's Itinerary

SEP 5-6

Church Leadership Conference
Mount Pleasant, Colonial Heights

SEP 7

Mision Cristiana Vida Nueva
Oak Grove Baptist, Richmond

SEP 14

Sky View Missionary Baptist, Fancy Gap

SEP 21

Virginia Beach

SEP 27

SW Church Leadership Conference
Euclid Avenue Baptist, Bristol

SEP 28

Aletheia-Harrisonburg, Harrisonburg

OCT 3-4

Pastors, Staff, & Wives Retreat
Smith Mountain Lake

OCT 5

Hyland Heights Baptist, Lynchburg

OCT 10-11

"Wildfire" Men's Conference
Thomas Road Baptist, Lynchburg

OCT 12-15

Onancock Baptist Church, Onancock

OCT 19

Salem Baptist Church, Crozier

OCT 26

First Baptist Church, Roanoke

SEP • OCT 2008, Vol. 10, No. 5

Editor, Jeff Ginn

Managing Editor, Tom Scott

Art Director, Patti Spencer

The **Proclaimer** is a collaborative effort of our area missionaries. As a ministry of the SBCV's Cooperative Program, the **Proclaimer** is published six times annually.

Subscriptions

The **Proclaimer** is sent free of charge to interested parties and friends of the SBCV upon request. Subscribe online: www.sbcv.org/resources/proclaimer. For more information or to contact us, visit www.sbcv.org.

Calendar

2008 dates to remember

SBCV Calendar

september

- 5-6 **Church Leadership Conference (CLC)**
— Mount Pleasant Baptist 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 Baptist Church, Bristol

october

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

november - december

- 10-11 **SBCV Annual Meeting**—First Baptist Church,
Roanoke
- 30-12/7 **Week of Prayer for International Missions**



Jonathan Falwell
Co-Host
Pastor, Thomas Road Baptist Church

Tim Clinton
Co-Host
President, AAGLE
Wildfire Outdoors

Wildfire

2008 MEN'S IMPACT WEEKEND

Where Men, Life, God and the Outdoors Come Together.

October 10-11, 2008
Thomas Road Baptist Church
Register online at:
WWW.WILDFIREWEEKEND.COM
1.800.526.8673

Inside



7



17



5 URBAN CHURCH PLANTING

Art and Michele Thompson have a burden for bringing the Gospel to the area of Southeast Washington, DC. Life-transforming encounters are being experienced.

7 RAIN RIDERS

Glory Bound bikers, a ministry of Shenandoah Heights Baptist Church, ride to Alabama in a drenching rain to minister to Alabama prisoners.

9 CHURCH PLANTING

Church planting has proven to be a means of fulfilling the Great Commission. This special pull-out is provided as a daily devotional guide to encourage prayer for SBCV's approved 2007-08 church planters. YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

17 GAS BUY DOWN

Imagine pulling into your neighborhood gas station to find a local church offering you a discount of 50¢ per gallon of gas! This outreach opportunity allowed Connection Point Community Church members to share their faith while washing a windshield or pumping gas.

CHANGING LIVES REACHING VIRGINIA

by David Proffitt, Collegiate Church Planter Missionary

Imagine having the opportunity of connecting with, winning, equipping, and mobilizing a demographic of people who are incredibly ready and eager to learn, who love challenges, enjoy extremes, are risk takers, mobile, and desire for the right people to assist them with providing direction for their futures. That most adequately summarizes the collegiate church planting movement through the SBCV in Virginia and Washington, D.C. areas.

In August 2001, a partnership began with the vision of David and Aaron Proffitt, along with a small team of four, to begin the first church plant in Harrisonburg, where James Madison University and four other colleges and universities are located. The original church has recently realized over 450 attendees during the school year. The atmosphere is electric... with relevant, edgy music dedicated to God, serious Bible exposition, intensive discipleship, and specific/intentional evangelism going on every week.

The vision of SBCV leadership was not limited to this one location. So, Aletheia-Harrisonburg was challenged to systematize a model to see if Aletheia-Harrisonburg could be reproduced at other university locations around the state.

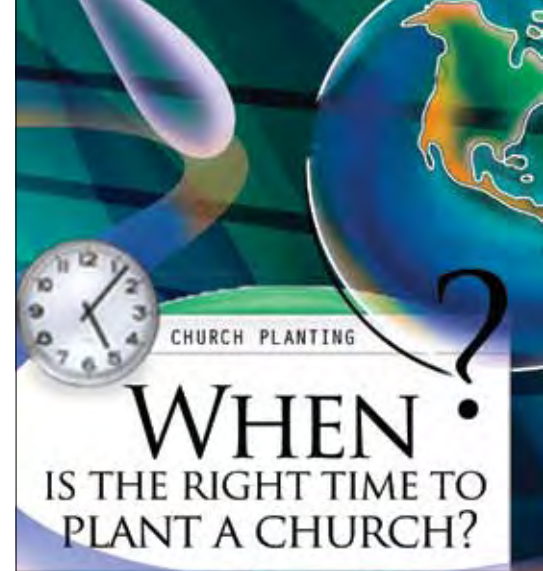
In the winter of 2006, a team of leaders from Aletheia-Harrisonburg initiated a new church at VCU in Richmond with nothing but a biblical model. Nineteen months later, Aletheia-VCU was launched with 176 people, under a leadership team of fifteen, guided by Josh Soto and his wife Chantel. A team of trained leadership and supportive students from James Madison and Virginia Commonwealth have joined together with Jamie and Jessica Limato and Alan and Kathryn Sheriff, to begin Aletheia-ODU in Norfolk.

All of this has been made possible because of visionary leadership, financial support, prayers, and encouragement of the churches of the SBCV as, collectively, they strive to observe an Acts 13-20 biblical model for evangelism, leadership, and networking. As the Aletheia team prays and equips disciples in the future, the vision is for more campus churches to be started at George Washington University (D.C.), George Mason University, Radford University, and the University of Virginia.

A recent JMU graduate, who attended Aletheia for years, summed it up best, "Many times I found myself in tears during services because it was the one place I felt welcomed and could feel God's presence during so many times of stress and uncertainty in college... What I am trying to tell you with all of this is that, you didn't see the impact Aletheia had on me, but it has slowly molded me into a better Christian. I truly think your messages and the music... inspired me to make choices that will change my path completely.

I need you to know how you, the other leaders, the band, and everyone else involved with Aletheia positively changed my life." ~ H.W. (a new K-6 school teacher in Virginia.)

THIS IS 'WHY' WE START CAMPUS CHURCHES!



WHEN God invites you to join Him in carrying the Gospel to a group of people who are not being adequately reached with the Gospel.

WHEN you understand the growing extent of lostness in a community or people group.

WHEN God calls a church planter from your body to go out and plant a church.

WHEN a segment of your congregation already lives in a community in need of a new church.

WHEN you have space problems in your church due to a growing congregation.

WHEN there are people with distinctive cultures and languages that live in your community.

WHEN you are responding to God's commission to carry the Gospel to all peoples in an Acts 1:8 fashion.

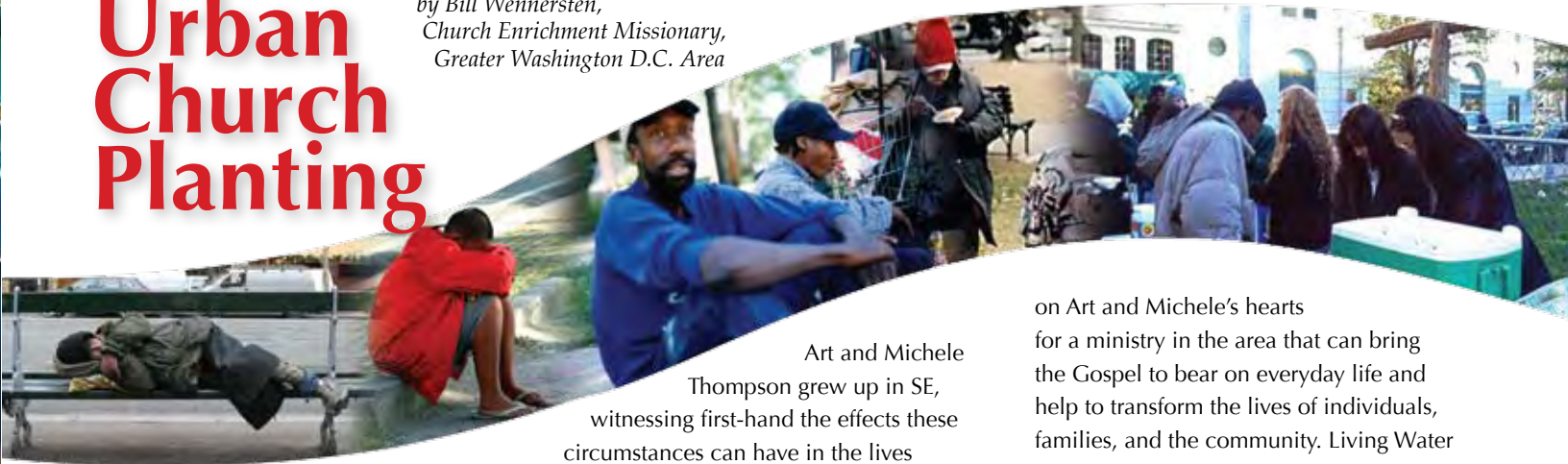
WHEN God has entrusted you with sufficient resources to support a new plant over and above your immediate needs.

WHEN God is leading you to step out in faith beyond your comfort zone in order to expand His Kingdom and make His fame known.

WHEN under-reached communities similar to your own exist that could be reached using the same principles and model on which your church is based.

Urban Church Planting

by Bill Wennersten,
Church Enrichment Missionary,
Greater Washington D.C. Area



MOST SBCV CHURCH MEMBERS will never know what it is like to live in or survive in an urban environment since most churches are made up of rural, suburban, and middle class congregations. Urban areas can be cruel, unforgiving, and hopeless environments in which to live. This is true in the Southeast (SE) district of Washington, D.C. SE, as it is commonly referred to by generations of people who live there, has been an area of poverty, high crime, single-parent households, and welfare dependence. There is little hope of escape from such a cycle of life. As if that isn't enough, all this is occurring in sight of our nation's Capitol building and just several miles from some of the wealthiest and most powerful neighborhoods in all of America.

Art and Michele Thompson grew up in SE, witnessing first-hand the effects these circumstances can have in the lives of family and friends. The only reason the Thompsons' story is different from many of those in SE is because of a life-transforming encounter they had with Jesus Christ. Jesus transformed their lives, giving them hope and purpose as they sought to follow Him in all areas of life. They have returned to SE to bring the Gospel of Christ to those left behind and forgotten. Art and Michele are planting Living Water Church, SBC in the Anacostia area of SE.

God's call for them to plant a church in SE was confirmed when Michele took a teaching position at Thurgood Marshall Charter School in SE. Almost from the start, Michele began to take on the role of a second mother for many of the girls as they sought her for advice. Undoubtedly, they found hope in her they had not found anywhere else. God has placed a burden

on Art and Michele's hearts for a ministry in the area that can bring the Gospel to bear on everyday life and help to transform the lives of individuals, families, and the community. Living Water Church is seeking to serve the community with the Gospel by providing family life counseling; after-school programs for children; biblical, Christ-centered advice and encouragement; and provision for the physical needs of young women who, because of wrong choices, find themselves pregnant. This ministry is winning the trust of the people as it gives Art, Michele, and Living Water Church, SBC more opportunities to share the love and hope of Christ to a people most seem to forget.

Michele
and Art
Thompson



Can I Help?

By Darren Plummer
Lead Pastor,
Mosaic Church,
College Park, MD
www.mosaicland.org

Does this sound like you? "No way! I don't know anything about starting a church! That's definitely not me!" If so, I want to encourage you not to write off the possibility too quickly — it just may be that you

have exactly what it takes to be on a church planting team!

Many mistakenly think that the only way they can benefit a new church is by having the "gift" of evangelism, knowing how to teach the Bible, or being unafraid to knock on doors. If that was all a new church needed, there wouldn't be many effective churches today! There are many people who have strengths in areas like finances, music, organization, prayer, administration, and more. You may have training in video, audio, graphic arts, or drama. The truth is, anybody can be a great candidate for serving on a church planting team. You just need to be willing to follow God's leading in your life.

New churches never thrive on preaching alone. There are many

behind-the-scenes roles that need to be filled. Sometimes we forget just how many. Volunteers are essential for every ministry because they're the ones who actually make the ministry work. How would a church function without friendly, smiling faces to greet guests, people to help in the nursery, or those who set up/take down equipment? Who would collect the offering? And that's just on Sundays!

The bottom line is, there is definitely a place for servant-minded "lay" people on a church planting team. So, don't rule out the fact that God may be calling you into church planting. No matter what your strengths are, you'd be valuable to any church planting team.



Do-Over

by Tony Inmon
Church Planting Strategist
Midwestern &
Southwestern Areas

FROM PLANTING TO RESTARTING

If you have been around the SBCV very long, you, no doubt, have heard the term “church planting” and know how committed we are to starting new churches. You may have, however, wondered if anyone is ever going to help the churches that seem to be struggling, barely surviving from week to week. There are many who long to see the pews of their building filled and overflowing once again. They have often prayed that God would return life to their place of worship. A church plant restart may be the solution. What is a restart? Read this story of a church that is starting over and see.

After years of decline, Bethel Baptist Church in Evington was dreaming of new life when the church met SBCV church planters, Mike and Pam Smith. Mike is a nurse anesthetist who answered the call to ministry in 2001. He says, “We knew that one day God would clear the way for us to be involved in planting.” After a few years of involvement in other ministries, Mike stepped out in faith and followed a call to plant a local church. The Smith family moved to the Evington area, just outside of Lynchburg, and began developing a ministry team and core group for the new church plant. They soon began meeting on Sunday evenings for worship in the Smiths' home.

As the core group continued to grow, Mike sought out a church for him and his family to go to on Sunday mornings. They started attending a small church close to their home for worship, Bethel Baptist. The little church was barely surviving with an average attendance of 5-7 people, but Mike recalls, “We immediately fell in love with the people.” The small congregation learned of their reason for moving to the



Worship in the Smiths' home.

Baptizing at Bethel Baptist

Mike Smith preaching at Bethel Baptist.

area and offered the use of its building on Sunday evenings for the church plant's worship services. Within a short time, the small church asked Mike to provide morning services too, and over the course of 2-3 months, the Lord saw fit to bring the two groups together. Together, they entered the restart planting process.

Since that time, Bethel Baptist has seen God grow the congregation to an average weekly attendance of between 40 and 50 on Sunday mornings. However, the most exciting news is that 9 people have come to faith in Christ. The church held its first baptism on April 20 and baptized a mother, father, and teenage daughter, all new Christians. Bethel has completed its first new believers' class

and is now in the process of developing a small group ministry. Discipleship of believers is a key element to establishing new Christians in their faith. Many of the church's members have been Christians for several years, but have never been exposed to intentional discipleship.

Mike Smith, led by God, went from planting a church to leading Bethel Baptist Church in a do-over. The church has experienced the blessings of God, and once again, its pews are full. Lives are being transformed through Jesus Christ.

For more information about participation in an **SBCV "do-over,"** please contact your local area missionary.

Pray for...



TONY INMON
Church Planting Strategist
Midwestern & Southwestern Areas

The Man

Born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

On February 21, 1990 at First Baptist Church in Oxford, Mississippi he asked God to forgive him of his sins and to save him.

He is married to Denita Norton, and has one daughter, Taylor.

Verse of Importance

Luke 9:23

"Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

This verse is significant to Tony because it always causes him to reflect on the essential nature of discipleship: following Christ. It is a daily battle and daily surrender of the old flesh in the making of a new person in Christ.

His Ministry

Tony is passionate about church planting because he believes it is the "most effective evangelistic tool under heaven." He considers it an honor to serve with the SBCV in helping the local church fulfill the Great Commission. "I know of no other organization like the SBCV. The commitment to the truth of God's Word, the Cooperative Program, and church planting is surpassed by none."

Rain Riders

GLORY BOUND BIKERS MINISTER INSIDE ALABAMA PRISON

by Jack Noble, Church Enrichment Missionary, Midwestern Area

Doppler radar made it clear the storm front was dumping rain from Winchester, Virginia into the deep south, just north of Alabama. These were conditions that would cancel most church events or, at best, result in drastically reduced participation. But these conditions could not dampen the spirit and desire of nine motorcyclists with the Glory Bound Motorcycle Ministry. They left from Shenandoah Heights Baptist Church in early March on a venture to witness in the Alabama Prison System. The temperature was in the



Pastor
Paul
LaPrevotte

upper thirties, and every rider knew for certain that his entire day would be spent in a cold, soaking, unforgiving rain, but the group left anyway with an excitement that exceeded that

of a Super Bowl Game. They were going on mission to the prisoners in the Alabama Prison.

Pastor Paul LaPrevotte of Shenandoah Heights Baptist Church strives to lead




participants in the church's Men's Ministry on how to use their hobbies for ministry (in this case, motorcycles). Biker Sundays are a staple at Shenandoah Heights, but this mission trip to Alabama was a new step of faith and

commitment for a number of the men. Team member Rory Cash views his motorcycle as a way "to be able to do more work for the Lord." What most folks view as a hobby or transportation, he sees as a ministry tool. Expectably, the team members became a little anxious during their time in the prison, when they were given an opportunity to freely mingle with murderers, rapists, arsonists, and drug dealers in the maximum security lock-up, without a guard in sight. Pastor Paul makes it clear, "There are faces and stories of prisoners I met there that I hope I will never forget. Then there are some you don't think you will ever get out of your mind. It's not reasonable for the average person to identify with the sort of individual who ends up in prison, yet everyone needs the saving grace of Jesus Christ — criminals too." Another team member, Kevin Hall, relates the story of a prisoner, Jed, who told him he was, "praying the spirit of revival would be so strong in his prison people would want to climb the wall in to see what God was doing."

The rain did clear up about fifty miles before the team reached Montgomery, Alabama. During their mission trip, they rode their bikes over 1,500 miles and witnessed 245 inmates making decisions for Christ. Every member of that team would do it all again, including riding in the rain, to see God work so powerfully.





*leading
like Jesus?*

Leadership Conference

2

locations

September 5 & 6

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
Colonial Heights

Keynote
Speaker



TROY BUSH

Director of
Church Starting,
Embrace Baltimore,
NAMB

September 27

Euclid Avenue Baptist Church
Bristol

Keynote
Speaker



MELVIN POE

Senior Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Union City, TN

details online at www.sbcv.org/leadership_training



CHURCH PLANTING

*a proven means
of fulfilling the
Great Commission*

Church Plants & Prayer Requests

1. DUANE EATMON, wife Mechelle

Church Plant Name and Location:
Mosaic Church, Culpeper

Sponsor Churches:
Grace Fellowship, Jacksonville, FL
More2Life Ministries, Okeechobee, FL

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for God to send people with a similar passion and vision for Mosaic Church to join our launch team.
- Please pray for a church or churches to sponsor Mosaic Church financially and by sending people to help.



2. ART THOMPSON, wife Michele

Church Plant Name and Location:
Living Water Church, SBC, Washington, D.C.

Sponsor Church:
Upperville Baptist Church

Prayer Requests:

- Wisdom for the people
- God's favor in the city
- Resources for outreach and ministry in the city
- Meeting location in the community
- Laborers for the harvest



3. ANDY DAVIS, wife Rosemary

Church Plant Name and Location:
Mecklenburg Community Church,
South Hill, VA

Sponsor Church:
Grace Baptist Church, Virgilina, VA

Prayer Requests:

- Meeting place
- Summer outreach/evangelistic opportunities
- Strengthening of team



4. JOHN KOCH, wife Kay

Church Plant Name and Location:
Three Rivers Community Church, West Point

Sponsor Church:
Smith Memorial Baptist Church, Williamsburg

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray that we would add additional church and individual sponsors.
- Please pray that God would grant us favor in our new community. We will begin our first home Bible study in a couple of weeks.
- Pray God will minister to needs and gather people to form a core group.



5. STEVE GENTRY, wife Jessica

Church Plant Name and Location:
conVerge Church, Midlothian

Sponsor Churches:
Parkway Baptist Church, Midlothian
Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg

Prayer Requests:

- People to come to know Jesus through the ministry of conVerge Church
- God to direct the right sponsor churches our way
- The continued development of our launch team as well as jobs in the Richmond area for our team when we move in the fall



6. JAMES SRODULSKI, wife Cara

Church Plant Name and Location:
Name not decided, Chester/Chesterfield

Sponsoring Church:
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Colonial Heights

Prayer Requests:

- For God to draw people out of the area to support this plant
- For the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts to hear the Gospel
- For wisdom in how to best connect with the folks in the Chester area
- For changed lives – those saved and others transformed to be like Christ



7. RICARDO CARRILLO, wife Charito

Church Plant Name and Location:
Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Centreville,
Centreville

Sponsor Church:
Centreville Baptist Church

Prayer Requests:

- More space for development
- Alcance Plan
- Fifty members



8. CHRIS POPE, wife Nicole

Church Plant Name and Location:
Bethel Baptist Church, Evington

Sponsor Churches:
All Nations Metro Church, Roanoke
Ekklesia Church, Blacksburg

Prayer Requests:

- Finances and seminary



Our Prayers and Support Make All the Difference

9. BARRY FLEMING, wife Sun Cha

Church Plant Name and Location:
Greenfield Baptist, Bon Air

Sponsor Churches:
Colonial Heights, North Bedford, Bermuda, Open Door

Prayer Requests:

- Souls for our labor
- Spiritual and physical health
- Favor with God and the people of Greenfield community in sharing the Gospel effectively



10. CHRIS DOWD, wife Jessie

Church Plant Name and Location:
Bedrock Community, Bedford

Sponsor Churches:
First Baptist Church, Roanoke
Bethesda Baptist, Durham NC

Prayer Requests:

- Meeting space for launch, Sep. 7, 2008
- Small group multiplication
- Relationships with the people of Bedford



11. DANIEL BANNISTER, wife Liliana

Church Plant Name and Location:
Fuente de Vida, Charlottesville

Sponsor church:
Beulah Baptist Church, Kents Store, VA

Prayer Requests:

- Leaders, especially small group leaders
- A house for Liliana and me in the Charlottesville area
- To open more small group Bible studies
- Development of relationships among members of the Latino community



12. JOSH TURNER, wife Stacy

Church Plant Name and Location:
No name at this time,
Pantops Mountain, Charlottesville

Sponsor church name and location:
New Life Community Church, Louisa

Prayer Requests:

- Leadership team members
- Discipleship of new believers
- Contacts in community to be more fruitful



13. CLOVIS PAUSE, wife Monie

Church Plant Name and Location:
Multiple church plants started by a missionary; focus groups are Hispanic and Portuguese

Sponsor:
Appointed Church Planter Missionary with SBCV and NAMB

Prayer Requests:

- Send Hispanic workers into His harvest field
- For Bible study every Monday night in their home
- That the many contacts made in the last 3 months will be fruitful
- For his family



14. JOHN WYBLE, wife Denise

Church Plant Name and Location:
Roanoke Deaf Fellowship
Meeting at Cave Spring Baptist Church, Roanoke

Sponsor:
Living Word Baptist Church
Cave Spring Baptist Church, Roanoke

Prayer Requests:

- For God to open up the heart of the deaf community to His Word and bring unity
- Deaf Youth-Alive Programs
- Family van needed (15 passenger) for our family
- Transportation for the deaf to church



15. RUSSELL CATRON, wife Iva

Church Plant Name and Location:
Name TBD, Wytheville

Sponsor:
TBD

Prayer Needs:

- Specialist thinks Iva has MS or Lupus
- Funds to buy one of the men's fraternity Bible studies, by Robert Lewis, and the materials to conduct a study



Church Plants & Prayer Requests



16. MIKE SMITH, wife Pam

Church Plant Name and Location:
Bethel Baptist Church, Evington

Sponsor:
All Nations Metro Church, Roanoke
Ekklesia Church, Blacksburg

Prayer Requests:

- Unity among the church core group
- Outreach in the community
- Secular job - as a nurse anesthetist
- Ability to work closer to home



17. JONATHAN DAVIS, wife Jennifer

Church Plant Name and Location:
Lake Community Church, Locust Grove

Sponsor:
Pillar Church
Soul Purpose Church

Prayer Requests:

- Vision, unity, perseverance, and boldness



18. JONGE TATE, wife Lynnea

Church Plant Name and Location:
Bedrock Community Church, Bedford

Sponsor:
First Baptist Church, Roanoke
North Roanoke Baptist, Roanoke
Timber Ridge Baptist, Bedford
Bethesda Baptist Church, Durham, NC
Cross Culture Church, Raleigh, NC

Prayer Requests:

- Location to launch Sunday morning services
- Launch date is Sunday, Sep. 7, 2008
- Jeremy and Tonya Minor's third child, Elle, born with several heart conditions



19. CARLOS PAYAN, wife Lydia

Church Plant Name and Location:
Catalytic church planters start multiple church plants; focus group is Hispanic and focused in the western areas of Virginia

Sponsor:
Forest Baptist Church, Forest

Prayer Requests:
Immigration issues settled for Carlos and his family



20. KYLE HOOVER, wife Christine

Church Plant Name and Location:
Name TBD, Charlottesville

Sponsor:
Central Baptist Church, Altavista
Bryan College, College Station, TX

Prayer Requests:

- The Gospel to go forth and transform people's lives in Charlottesville
- Developing of a core group of believers
- Effectively reach students and young families at UVA



21. JAMIE LIMATO, wife Jessica and ALAN SHERIFF

Church Plant Name and Location:
Aletheia-Norfolk

Sponsor:
Pillar Church, SBC, Stafford

Prayer Requests:

- Leadership / core group
- Campus organization
- Meeting/office space



22. ALBERT BROWDER, wife Nicki

Church Plant Name and Location:
Fellowship Baptist Church, Petersburg

Sponsor:
Monumental Baptist Church, Petersburg

Prayer Requests:

- Transition from staff at church to church planter



23. ROBERT (BOB) ALLEN, wife Krisandra

Church Plant Name and Location:
Grace Harvest Baptist Church, Midlothian

Sponsor:
Swift Creek Baptist Church, Midlothian

Prayer Requests:

- Develop new leaders for youth and small group ministries
- Permanent location for new church



24. ROBBY HAYNES, wife Shannon

Church Plant Name and Location:
Gracepoint, Wise

Sponsor:
Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol

Prayer Requests:

- Laborers for the harvest
- Worship leader



The Rest of the Story

by Larry Black, Church Planting Strategist, Central West Area

NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Northshore Church has led a nomadic existence since Katrina came ashore in 2005. Despite this fact, God has allowed her ministries to flourish and to continue to reach individuals and families with the Gospel. The church recently baptized six people in the pool of the Slidell Athletic Club. This is also where the church meets each Sunday. Their services are held in the aerobics room, converted each Saturday evening just in time for Sunday worship and returned to a physical fitness center after the second service on Sunday afternoon.

Pastor Larry McEwen says, "Katrina took us from an average of 400 in attendance to just a little over 100. However, on Easter Sunday, we had 346 and are now averaging just under 300. On the one hand, we've learned that being the Church is more about who we are than the building we meet in. On the other

hand, we've learned how important facilities are as a tool to do ministry." The church is now attempting to purchase retail space in the center of Slidell, one block from interstate 10, a major traffic area. McEwen says the members and leadership are more convinced than ever God desires for them to rise to the challenge and impact the lostness of their city and parish.

McEwen says, "Our resolve has only been strengthened by the trials we face. We hold to Ephesians 3:20-21, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever, Amen!' Thank you SBC of Virginia for your support and your continued prayers for God's will in all things."

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Kirk Jones started Fellowship Baptist Church as a Nehemiah church planter. Fellowship Baptist is in Prairieville, Louisiana, a growth corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The church, which had been meeting in a volunteer fire department, had just bought land and received permits to start construction of its building when Hurricane Katrina hit. Not to be stopped, construction began as soon afterward as possible.

Prairieville became a home away from home for hundreds displaced by the Katrina disaster. The young church strove to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the relocated residents. In April of 2007, they finally moved into their new facility. The church immediately blossomed to an average attendance of 143. This year, Fellowship is averaging 237 in worship.

The most exciting part of what God is doing in the church is providing a fresh vision for evangelism. The people of Fellowship are excited about sharing their faith and influencing for Jesus the lives God has put around them. Pastor Jones' prayer is that God will allow the church to baptize 100 people in 2008.

Jones shares this one exciting story about a recent



outreach event, "We had our Crawfish Challenge for our uncomMEN Men's Ministry. In 2007, we averaged 6 men in uncomMEN at our monthly meetings. This year, we have grown to an average attendance of 15. We challenged the men of our church to bring lost and unchurched friends to a crawfish boil. There were 47 men present. We did a simple but straightforward Gospel presentation, and there was a great response. The exciting part is that the men of Fellowship are influencing those around them for Christ. I really believe this type of movement is what will bring forth a great harvest."



CIRCLE BAPTIST CHURCH *Successful Partnership*

José Mathews lost what would have seemed everything after Hurricane Katrina. He lost his church in New Orleans—all the people had to leave and the building was destroyed; he lost his mother—she died of a heart attack due to the trauma; he lost his son—tragically killed just after the nation's worst natural disaster; and, his health failed him. What was left? His faith in a God of restoration; Othella, his wife, who stood by his side; and many Southern Baptists who would walk by his side. All three were more than enough.

Immediately following the hurricane, Baptists began work to replant the church in Baton Rouge where Circle Baptist Church had once thrived. The community, once primarily Anglo-American, had gone through a major transition, the result of so many relocating away from the coast. Circle Baptist successfully made

the conversion from Anglo to African-American. José Mathews accepted the call as the church planting pastor. Right away, he started a strategy that would revitalize the church—reaching, teaching, and preaching to the African-American community.

Since the events of August 2006, the new Circle Baptist Church has grown from 3 to 83 members. Bible study, Sunday School, the Lord's Supper, and baptism have been observed. The first Vacation Bible School was a success, with 62 participants from the surrounding community.

The revitalization ministry of José and Othella Mathews has been successful with the partnership of the SBC of Virginia and the wise guidance of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge. The God who is faithful to restore did just that for José Mathews and Circle Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.



from the President

A. Timothy Hight, Ph.D.
Main Street Baptist Church
Christiansburg

CHRIST COMMANDED US TO GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS and to be His witnesses in every region of the earth. I am indeed grateful to be a part of a state convention that prioritizes evangelism and church planting across the state of Virginia and around the world.

As you can see in this edition of your Proclaimer, SBCV church planting has taken on some exciting dimensions. In the just over 140 church planters who serve our state convention, God has given us some of the most gifted and devoted servants I have ever had the privilege of being around. They are helping all of us daily to be obedient to the commands of Christ to share the Gospel.

It is a proven reality that new church plants grow much more rapidly than established churches. I am personally

thankful for how our state convention leaders have helped our church in Christiansburg to be directly involved in helping to start a new church. It doesn't require a large church to help with a new church plant — only a desire to obey the Lord's command. Why not contact your regional SBCV leaders and see how your church can be involved in starting new churches?

These are great days to celebrate the goodness of the Lord. He has faithfully provided us a new executive director to lead us through the next great chapter of our state convention. We have come to know Dr. Jeff Ginn as a passionate herald of the Gospel and a humble and capable leader of God's people. It

is an honor to welcome him and his sweet family to this new role!

Our upcoming annual meeting will focus our attention on the necessity of prayer in "pushing back the darkness." I want to encourage you to have your full compliment of messengers at what may well be a most unique encounter together with the Lord. It was Samuel Chadwick who wrote, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray." May the Lord continue to give us His victory as we daily express our dependence on Him!



Pastors, Staff,
& Wives Retreat

Oct. 3 & 4

@ 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 visit www.sbcv.org



God's Hand in Revitalization

BERMUDA BAPTIST CHURCH

by Don Matthews, Church Enrichment Missionary, Central-Eastern Area

In 2005, Pete and Becky Hypes visited Bermuda Baptist Church on a Wednesday night. "There were four people present, and we were two of them," states Pete. He is now the pastor of this growing, vibrant church. One outside observer once noted, "When I drove by the Bermuda church, there just seemed to be a black cloud hanging over it. Now when I drive by, I see the cloud is gone." Pete remarked, "It is awesome to see how God blesses when a church becomes obedient to His leadership."

This story starts a few years before their first visit. While serving on staff at Kingsland Baptist Church, Pete felt the leadership of the Lord to preach

and to possibly serve as a senior pastor. He recalls, "The first time I preached at Bermuda, I did not even know the church was considering me as its pastor. They

money, and the building was falling apart. While I became heartbroken for the needs of the church, God filled my heart with a desire to see Bermuda Baptist Church move

"It is awesome to see how God blesses when a church becomes obedient to His leadership."

subsequently invited me back, and I was called to become their pastor." The work for Pete and Becky has been challenging at best, but also rewarding. "I did not realize, when I accepted the pastorate, the church needed to be revitalized."

"I have never been afraid of a challenge, which is a good thing considering there were few people, little or no

forward, so we began to take it piece by piece." It was through the assistance of the SBCV that Bermuda Baptist began to take on a new identity. The church completed Basic Training I and II, offered by the SBCV. This instruction aided them in developing a new vision that has resulted in growth and excitement. Hypes comments, "Prayer was an integral part of what happened at Bermuda. We simply began to do the things that were needed, and as things began to change, others began to rekindle their vision for what they could become again."

Pastor Hypes concludes, "The vision I believe God has given us for the future is to reach Chester, Virginia and the world for Christ, while individually becoming more committed Christ-followers."

Bermuda Baptist is concerned with Kingdom growth, while discipling those God sends to be involved with the ministry. Bermuda Baptist is on a God-led journey that requires our complete trust in Him."

Pastor Hypes and Bermuda Baptist Church members in prayer.





SEPTEMBER
7-14

Offering Goal:
\$230,000

MINISTRIES
MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS
MISSIONARIES



visit sbcv.org

S O U T H E R N
B A P T I S T
C O N S E R V A T I V E S
O F V I R G I N I A

COMMISSIONED

by Mark Custalow,
Church Planting Strategist, Southeastern Area

Have you ever baked or built something from scratch? If so, then you will understand the experience of Steve and Susan Byrum's experience this past year. SBCV church planter Steve Byrum and his wife, Susan, were approved and sent out to plant Mosaic Hampton Roads in downtown Norfolk. Their work regarding Mosaic began in August of 2007.

On May 19 of this year, the North American Mission Board brought its most newly-appointed missionaries to Hampton Roads for a time of orientation and commissioning, which was held at River Oak Baptist Church.

Steve and Susan Byrum were among the missionaries commissioned in this service.

The commissioning service provided the members of the new Mosaic church a unique opportunity to attend the commissioning of their pastor. Many of the core group members were present that evening and were able to witness first-hand the return on their investment in the Cooperative Program by way of more than two dozen missionaries being commissioned that night.

One reason there was such excitement is that Steve and Susan have been used of God to assemble and invest in a group of leaders in their newly-formed church. This was vividly apparent in the Sunday morning worship service the day before the commissioning. On that day, Pastor Steve took the opportunity to commission those who were serving in volunteer leadership roles at the Mosaic church.

After the morning message, Byrum called three men to the front of the transformed

dance academy where they meet for worship. There in front of the church, he took a small basin of oil, anointed and prayed over these men who have been foundational leaders since the church's formation. When he called for those who were serving as volunteer leaders in any aspect of the church, the front of the room filled with 10 additional people.

Among them was Susan, accompanied by two of several children she lovingly teaches each week. This time, the three men who had just been anointed were the ones

who anointed and prayed over this group.

Maybe this is just what the apostle Paul had in mind as he penned these words to Timothy, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2 NIV). To learn more about answering the call to church planting or to find out about service opportunities alongside of church planters, contact your regional SBCV Church Planting Strategist or visit www.sbcv.org.



Pray for...



RANDY ALDRIDGE Church Enrichment Missionary Southwestern Area

The Man

Born in Jacksonville, FL.

He was saved in 1960 at a small country church in south Georgia.

He married Sherrilyn in 1979. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Verse of Importance

1 Thessalonians 5:24

"Faithful is he who calls you and who will also perform it."

This verse speaks to me about the sufficiency of God. Fulfilling His purpose in and through me is not dependent on my gifts and abilities. If I will only be obedient to Him, He will accomplish all He desires for my life.

His Ministry

Randy serves as the Church Enrichment Missionary in the beautiful Appalachians in the Southwest area of the state. Family and church are high priorities in this region of the state.

Gas Buy Down



by Mark Custalow, Church Planting Strategist, Southeastern Area

Have you been feeling the pinch of rising fuel costs? Do you find yourself wishing the prices would roll back to provide you with a little relief? Southeast church planters Tom Thomasson, Floyd Whitfield, and Harry Vanderford each recently led their churches to provide some relief from rising gas costs for members of their respective communities in Hampton Roads. Such an event is commonly referred to as a "gas buy down." Gas buy downs are a great way to mobilize your members to serve others and to share a Gospel witness.

Imagine pulling into your neighborhood gas station to fill up that 15-30 gallon fuel tank with gas, dreading the cost before you ever arrive. Only this time, your eye is drawn to friendly, smiling people wearing bright t-shirts and holding signs. At first you think to yourself, "It's just another carwash fundraiser wanting my money." But then you read on the sign, "Gas Discounted 50 Cents Per Gallon!" Others have pulled into the same station as you, wanting to take advantage of the discount – and they're calling their friends from their cell phones telling them to come to the corner station for an unbelievable deal! As you're waiting to pull up to the pump, one of the friendly people approaches your car, offers you a cold bottle of water and says, "We are from Connection Point Community Church, and we are discounting gas today as a small way of investing in the families of our community." They give you an attractive card with information about their church and invite you to join them the next day for their weekly worship service.

This was the experience of nearly 1,000 people plus their passengers in recent weeks through the outreach efforts of these

three SBCV church plants. Unlike the usual response to a cold knock on the door, there were less than a half dozen people who did not accept an invitation card on those days. In fact, people were elated at the show of compassion. One woman broke out in tears as she explained to Pastor Floyd that she had just received her paycheck, paid her bills, and bought a few groceries. She went on to say that the discounted gas price was just enough for her to be able to fill her car with the money she had left. Most received the information and read it with heightened interest as they awaited their turn at the pump. Others wanted to talk further with representatives from the church plants, wanting to know more about their faith and their churches.

Pastor Harry Vanderford reported after the event that his members were energized and eager to plan a second event for the fall. He described how this ministry platform gave members who were shy about sharing their faith an opportunity to display the Gospel by washing a windshield or pumping gas for another in the name of Jesus.

Please pray for
Connection Point
Community Church
in Carrollton (Tom
Thomasson), Path
of Life Community
Church in Newport
News (Floyd
Whitfield), and
Calvary Road
Baptist Church in
Chesapeake (Harry
Vanderford) as they
continue to display the
love of Christ and hold
out the Word of truth.



Did A Church Do That?

by Darrell Webb, Church Enrichment Missionary, Northern Area

The members of Lifepoint Church in Spotsylvania believes if they are to reach people no one else is reaching, they need to be doing things no one else is doing.

With 80,000 plastic eggs and a rented helicopter, they took to the sky to do just that.

In 2007, with an average church attendance of 250 people, Lifepoint Church hosted its very first Egg Drop. "The purpose for this event was to provide a safe, family-friendly environment where we could put smiles on faces and invite them to our church," says Creative Director, Josh Lazar. Approximately 2,500 people enjoyed the 20,000 eggs as they dropped from the sky. Then they received personal invitations and flyers with information about Lifepoint Church.

In 2008, after five months of preparation and prayer, which totaled about 2,000 man hours, Lifepoint Church eagerly anticipated meeting 4,000 to 5,000 people at the second Egg Drop. This year, the event was held at the Fredericksburg Fairgrounds. The event required taking care of many details, including event insurance and permits; planning with the police, fire, and rescue squad; and scheduling activities, games, and door prizes throughout the day. Once again, God exceeded their expectations. With the assistance of 150 volunteers from Lifepoint Church and one helicopter, 80,000 plastic eggs were dropped. Approximately 7,000 to 9,000 people attended the 2008 Egg Drop. Josh Lazar reports, "We had so many people come, the police closed the doors to the Fredericksburg Fairgrounds as traffic backed up for three miles in all directions."

In the first five months of 2008, Lifepoint Church and Senior Pastor Daniel Floyd have seen over 100 people accept Christ and over 75 people baptized! As

the leadership team continues to pray about the possibility of another Egg Drop next year, "the team is passionate about doing things in our community that reach people where they are," says Josh Lazar.

This out-of-the-box thinking is not just about numbers or events. Lazar explains, "This event has given us a lot of credibility and favor with our community. One of the things we pray for is favor with communities and their leadership." Due to its community impact, *The Freelance Star* and *Washington Post* newspapers wrote articles describing the event, which gave the church even more exposure.

"Now church members hear, 'Oh, you're the church that did the Egg Drop.' We have seen lots of families come to our church due to the event — more importantly, when one of our people gives a personal invite, it really gives a positive memory, and they end up coming to our church," says Josh Lazar. Lifepoint Church strives with creativity to reach its *Jerusalem*, which leads the members to imagine events that cause people to drop their jaws and say, "Did a church do that?" To learn more about the event and how you may use such to reach your community, visit www.spotsyeggdrop.com.



Come Help Us Plant Churches

by Randy Aldridge, Church Enrichment Missionary, Southwestern Area &
Tony Inmon, Church Planting Strategist, Midwestern and Southwestern Areas

"That night Paul had a vision. He saw a man from Macedonia in northern Greece, pleading with him, 'Come over here and help us.' So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, for we could only conclude that God was calling us to preach the Good News there." Acts 16:9-10 NLT

While not exactly a vision in the middle of the night, the plea is the same as the one Paul received in verse 9, "Come over here and help us!" Come to southwestern Virginia.

Southwest Virginia is a very conservative, family-oriented region. Statistics reveal the area is very similar to the rest of the state. Six out of ten residents claim no religious affiliation, and there are entire areas where no Southern Baptist church exists. In our zeal to plant churches around the world, Southern Baptists

sometimes overlook the needs of our own communities. As we go into all the world, we sometimes need a reminder that going starts at home.

With a population larger than 350,000 and 70 SBCV churches, the task of reaching southwestern Virginia seems overwhelming. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that we may win Appalachia for Christ. The appeal, not unlike the Macedonians, calls out for your support. In verse 13, prior to his vision, Paul approaches a group of women who consistently gather at the riverbank to pray. Likewise, throughout southwestern Virginia, many people are regularly on their knees praying for a move of God that will result in thousands

of people coming to Christ and numerous churches being started. Let this be a reminder that everyone can pray, no matter where you live.

We need more sponsoring churches as well as church planters. We currently have more than 15 identified needs for a church plant to start today. We also need churches willing to engage in church planting activities such as prayer walking, backyard Bible clubs, and block parties throughout the region. Like the women who prayed by the riverbank, we will continue to pray for a church planting movement. Just like the man from Macedonia, we will keep on calling, "Come over here and help us!"



To receive the **Proclaimer** or to correct the information appearing on your mailing address, complete this form and return to:
Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, **Proclaimer**, 4101 Cox Road, Suite 100, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

☐ New Subscription ☐ Correct my mailing address ☐ Dr. ☐ Rev. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Name _____ ☐ Senior Pastor ☐ Church Staff ☐ Layperson

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Church and City _____

more info:
www.sbcv.org

SBCV annual homecoming

The Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia



*First Baptist
Roanoke*

**NOV
10
&
11**

Praise
Repent
Ask
Yield



Proclaimer

4101 Cox Road, Suite 100
Glen Allen, VA 23060

888-234-7716 | 804-270-1848

fax: 804-270-1834
website: www.sbcv.org
email: proclaimer@sbcv.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Waynesboro, VA
Permit No. 129