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# SBC of Virginia



## MOBILIZING

# PROCLAIMER

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONSERVATIVES OF VIRGINIA



### MOBILIZING CHURCHES

in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission

Jan:Feb 2009  
Volume 11  
Number 1



MULTIPLYING CHURCHES





# Jerusalem Judea Samaria and to the Ends of the Earth

## Come join in the harvest

Go on mission in our Samaria—across the United States—through missions opportunities in a new partnership with the Dakota Baptist Convention.



## LIVE WITH URGENCY: SOWING TOGETHER FOR HARVEST

[WWW.ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM](http://WWW.ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS  
AND THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING  
MARCH 1-8 2009 | NATIONAL GOAL: \$65,000,000



NORTH AMERICAN  
MISSION BOARD

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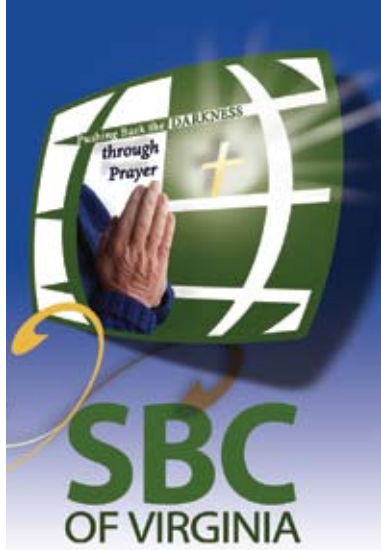
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The SBCV is a fellowship of Southern Baptist Convention churches cooperating to assist local congregations in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## ● February

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# Bringing Hope and a New Home

By Mark Gauthier, Interim Director of Mobilizing Churches

Three years, two months, and two days—one thousand one hundred fifty-eight nights. That is how long Suzanne had been without a home of her own. One thousand one hundred fifty-eight nights living with neighbors or in a twenty-four-foot camper. On August 30, 2005, Hurricane Katrina changed the lives of millions of people; Suzanne is one.

After the disaster relief crews left, the amount of work yet to be done was overwhelming. In the days following the storm, Gene Butterfield and his family, members of Radford Baptist Church, packed their belongings and left for Waveland, Mississippi to serve our Lord. Building eighty-two homes over the past three years, he is still serving and making a difference for those whose lives, homes, and dreams were destroyed. He brings not only the hope of new homes but, most importantly, the hope of eternal life with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

On October 5, 2008, the first of four Baptist Builders teams arrived to work alongside Gene Butterfield and Chad Smith, also a member of Radford Baptist. For Chad, this was his ninth trip, totaling more than a year of helping the families of Waveland put their lives back together. The goal for this project was to complete the home that Gene started for Suzanne's family. The Baptist Builders team completely installed the electrical and plumbing systems, insulation, dry wall, and everything else needed to make this house ready for Suzanne and her family. The teams completed it in four weeks!

For Suzanne, the past three years have been a struggle beyond belief. Working in a hospital during Katrina, it was nearly two weeks before she was able to get home. When she finally arrived, her home was gone, not just destroyed—gone. The house, her cars, and everything with them were gone. Pictures, baby blankets, and all of the treasures collected during her life of raising children—all gone. For the next six months, she lived in a tent with her



**Baptist Builders**  
SBC of VIRGINIA

“...losing all she did only brought her closer to the Lord.”

problems worse than hers. She knows the “things” she lost were unimportant and losing all she did only brought her closer to the Lord.

As you read this, Suzanne is in her new home, thanks largely to the SBCV Baptist Builders, your Cooperative Program giving and, of course, God from whom all blessings truly flow. Please pray for Suzanne, as she continues her battle against cancer, that God would bless her and her family. If you or your church would like to know more about Suzanne or how you can help, contact Mark Gauthier at 888-234-7716.

*Suzanne in her new kitchen.*



then six-year-old granddaughter. Then came a heart attack, and the doctors said she had to move out of the tent. She and one of her daughters pooled their money and borrowed enough to purchase a used 24-foot camper. This would be home for the family of three for the next two years. Sometimes, when her other daughter returned home from duty in Iraq, there were four in the small camper. Last year, the 56-year-old single grandmother was dealt yet another blow when she learned that she had cancer. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Her faith remains strong. Suzanne explains she has been blessed through all of this and that there were others who had



**Will you be ready to go?**

**2009 Statewide Trainings**

...get the hands-on training necessary to be a first responder!

**February 27-28**

**April 17-18**

**May 15-16**

**May 29-30**

For the latest DR news visit  
[sbcv.org/disaster\\_relief](http://sbcv.org/disaster_relief)

“Mike sensed God calling him to be a **doer** of the Word...”

## Handy Man for God's People

by Tony Inmon, Church Planting Strategist, Midwestern and Southwestern Areas

**Y**ou will not find Mike Dicken on the golf course during his retirement years. Rather, you will find him in crawl spaces, attics, rooftops, and basements. He is the “Handy Man for God’s People.”

Mike Dicken has served in many roles throughout his life—from a sailor on an attack sub in the Navy to a Sunday School teacher and a Gideon. This husband, father of three, and grandfather relocated with his wife, Melanie Ann, to Christiansburg in 2005 in order to be closer to their children after he retired from his management role with Babcock and Wilcox Nuclear Technologies Company. Most people would imagine spending the rest of their retirement years sipping lattes and lemonade but, in September of 2006, Mike sensed God calling him to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. He chose to use the skills, talents, and wisdom he had gained over the years and apply them in ministry by being, what he calls, the “Handy Man for God’s People.”

Since his retirement, he has become a major blessing in the lives of many believers who have needed work done around their homes. Working every detail to perfection as if he were working

for the Lord, Mike has offered this benevolent ministry to provide home repair, electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, mechanical work, roofing, and other services. About 65% of those served are widows, single-parent mothers, or single females. He has truly put God’s Word to action—all without charging for labor.

When asked why and how he serves in this way, Mike simply says, “My Lord has been faithful to me in standing by me as I have provided these services—keeping me safe and providing the income I’ve needed to purchase tools and supplies and maintain my large van.” Right now, you may be wishing that Mike would drop by your house for a few days. If you are wondering where he is, just look in the mirror, you may be a handy man for God’s people in your community. It is difficult to fathom the amount of various talents and skills that remain untapped in the pews of our churches. Imagine what would happen if all of those men and women were to step up and apply all of the abilities God has given them as doers of the Word and not hearers only.

**What will you do for God and His people?**

## Don’t Be Foolish!

Recently I came across one of those “dumb criminal” stories. It seems that a group of teenagers was less than satisfied with the service at a local restaurant. So upon finishing their meal, they hurriedly left the establishment without paying the bill. The “dumb” part was that, in her rush to escape, one of the girls left her purse in the booth they had occupied. The waitress found her identification as well as a bag of marijuana inside! The teens were arrested, not just for theft, but for drug possession as well. How foolish!

The beginning of a new year always brings to my mind Paul’s admonition to the Ephesians: “Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (5:15-17).

We would all agree that these days are evil—filled with greed, selfishness, and sin all around us. But days of darkness give us our greatest opportunities as salt and light! We must not be foolish. In this wonderful new year of opportunity, it would be foolish of me to:

- Think I do not need a fresh measure of God’s grace each day.
- Fail to avail myself of God’s power and provision through faithful prayer.
- Believe that I do not need to share the Gospel because God is “sovereign.”

## from the President

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



- Fail to spend time alone with God in His Word.
- Think that I am above sexual temptation and failure.
- Presume that the blessings of last year will guarantee success this year.

On and on the list could go. Our convention has seen great displays of God’s power and provision, for which we are humbly grateful. We all have a sense of incredible anticipation of His future blessing—we know the days ahead are ripe with opportunity. More than ever, we need to walk in His wisdom, make the most of our time, and understand His will. May the Lord give us His grace to pray together, walk together, and work together to continue to take the Gospel to a needy world!



# GOD'S PLAN FOR SHARING

by Randy Aldridge, Church Enrichment Missionary, Southwestern Area

## GPS Steering Committee

Rick Caldwell  
Barry Ginn  
Hayden Furrow  
Dan Cook  
Grant Ethridge  
Wendell Horton  
Darrell Webb  
Ron Kidd  
Randy Aldridge

## FOR MANY, THE PATH ISN'T THIS OBVIOUS.

# National Evangelism Initiative

One person dies in North America every eleven seconds; three out of four die without Christ. However, 78% report, "if someone wanted to tell me what he or she believed about Christianity, I would be willing to listen." At the National SBC Annual Meeting, messengers were introduced to GPS (God's Plan for Sharing), and state conventions were challenged to participate. The goal is to have every believer sharing and every person hearing by 2020. God is at work in North America—at work in the hearts of those who know Him and those who have yet to know Him through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In North America, we can reach our neighbors and the nations. In fact, the nations have become our neighbors. God has a plan for every person to hear the Gospel through every believer sharing. Will you be a part of this initiative? Matthew 28:19 says, "As you go, make disciples." As we go through the journey of life, we have opportunities to share Christ and make disciples, and sometimes these disciples will become a part of our existing churches; other times, they will join a new church plant.

Along this journey, there are four biblical mileposts, as listed to the right.

Just imagine—millions of people receiving Christ as Savior and Lord, a record number of baptisms in our churches, people changed for eternity, families and communities transformed, small groups started, churches revitalized, and churches planting churches! SBCV messengers were introduced to GPS during the Annual Homecoming in November; promotional material will then be mailed to each church; and 2009 will be committed to preparation and promotion for the launch of GPS in January 2010. Begin making plans now to participate and prepare your church for the greatest year in evangelism we have ever witnessed.

# 1

### PRAYING:

EVERY CHURCH praying for lost people

# 2

### ENGAGING:

EVERY BELIEVER sharing as a trained witness

# 3

### SOWING:

EVERY LOST PERSON receiving a witness

# 4

### HARVESTING:

EVERY CHURCH harvesting and celebrating every salvation response

## RESOURCE

### ■ Websites:

[www.NEI2020.com](http://www.NEI2020.com)  
[www.sbcv.org/evangelism](http://www.sbcv.org/evangelism)

### ■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 to get details from the missionary in your area.

Begin praying for the steering committee and launch of GPS.



# MISSION opportunities

## 09

**Virginia Soldiers R & R Kits**  
January::February 28

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**  
February::March 8

**Evangelism Packets**  
February::March 31

**Witnessing Bracelets**  
March::April 30

**Southern Cross Bibles**  
April::May 31

**DC Unwed Mothers/Babies Packs**  
June::July 31

**State Missions Offering**  
August::September 20

**Christian Libraries for Overseas**  
October::November 30

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
November::December 6

[www.sbcv.org/projects](http://www.sbcv.org/projects)

## It Didn't Kill Me...

by Jack Noble, Church Enrichment Missionary, Midwestern Area



When asked by her pastor if she would do it again, Julie responded, "Well, it didn't kill me..." What would make this Craig Valley Baptist Church member surprised she didn't die? Was it a cancer treatment, a car accident, a marathon, or grandchildren visiting for the weekend? No, it was door-to-door canvassing during an SBCV Mission Plant project with Staunton River Community Church in Brookneal, Virginia. When a team of 31 Craig Valley members arrived in Brookneal, they expected to assist with light construction, backyard Bible clubs, and outreach events. They were prepared to share their faith with those who would come to them, but when they were put out into the community to knock on doors, their anxiety reached a new level. Julie and the other team members were able to see how the Lord could take them out of their comfort zones and use them for His glory.

Door knocking was just one way that Pastor Bill Grindstaff of Craig Valley Baptist Church in New Castle, Virginia, led his church in ministering with Staunton River Community Church this past summer. Everyone eight years old to seventy-two participated in painting the "world's longest wall" (or at least it seemed like it to the team at the time).

In construction work, it quickly became apparent that some of the younger team members needed some training, so the more seasoned in the group taught the younger ones how to sand and hang doors. Seventy-two-year-old John Starns took this opportunity to share his carpentry

skills with another generation. John was also well outside his comfort zone, as this mission trip was the longest time that he had been away from his wife of 46 years.

Pastor Grindstaff commented that Mission Plant was a learning experience not just for his church members but for him also. He had initial commitments of 15

to go on mission, but that number swelled to 31 by the time they left for their adventure. He was overwhelmed by the response of his congregation. Now, Bill is even more convinced than ever that a regular-size church can do mega things when its members go on mission.

This past summer, Mission Plant became another opportunity for churches across Virginia to discover that, despite being out of their comfort zones, being on mission is not "going to kill them."

An SBCV  
Mission Plant  
project with  
Staunton River  
Community  
Church



# On Mission with CHURCH PLANTS

In the summer of 2008, 10 of SBCV's church plants hosted mission teams from other SBCV churches, as well as churches from outside of the Commonwealth. These mission activities were part of the pilot year for a new mission opportunity in Virginia, known as Studentz Mission Plant. In our pilot year, we discovered that more than just students had an interest in serving on mission with our church plants. Consequently, we are also offering an alternative known simply as Mission Plant, tailored for those 19 and older.

Studentz Mission Plant and Mission Plant have a two-fold strategy. For SBCV church plants, there is an opportunity to discover and partner with much-needed mission teams. For SBCV churches, there is an opportunity to find meaningful mission service opportunities within the Commonwealth. When churches and church plants take advantage of Mission Plant in 2009, they will receive equipping materials designed to help them have the most effective and most fruitful mission possible. Most of the materials are available at [www.sbcv.org/planting](http://www.sbcv.org/planting). This webpage provides a listing of church plant needs. Your church can view existing mission opportunities and choose a project that best suits your availability and resources. You may also register your church's availability.

A mission team partnering with a church plant in its early stages of formation can provide a vital boost in achieving new levels of growth and community outreach. In many cases, a well-planned mission project can propel a church plant forward by many months in its effective outreach to its community. Calvary Road Baptist Church, a three-year-old church plant in Chesapeake, has benefited from such a partnership. In 2008, the members of Calvary Road participated in Mission Plant as a mission team to Hanover Baptist Church and were the recipients of a mission team from Radford Baptist Church. In early summer, Pastor Harry Vanderford led a mission team of 18 from Calvary Road to assist Hanover Baptist in several construction projects related to the church facility. Some weeks later, Calvary Road hosted a team of 10 from Radford Baptist, who had come to assist with Vacation Bible School.

If your church has been considering a first-time church planting sponsorship, Mission Plant can be just the opportunity to introduce you to the immense satisfaction



## missionplant

that comes from assisting a new church plant take root and impact lives with the Gospel. Whether you are planning on hosting or leading a Mission Plant team, contact your area church enrichment missionary or church planting strategist.

### RESOURCE

#### Website:

[www.sbcv.org/planting](http://www.sbcv.org/planting)

#### SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 to get details from the missionary in your area.

View existing mission opportunities and choose the one that best suits your availability and resources.



## Putting feet to your prayers

### EAST:

March 20th • Ramoth Baptist Church • Stafford

March 21st • Seaford Baptist Church • Seaford

### WEST:

March 20th • Pioneer Baptist Church • Max Meadows

March 21st • Fincastle Baptist Church • Fincastle

Interested? Call 888.234.7716 or visit  
[www.sbcv.org/evangelismconference](http://www.sbcv.org/evangelismconference)



# The Church Has Left the Building

by Don Crain, Church Enrichment Missionary Associate, Central-East Area

As the song writer so aptly wrote, “God uses ordinary people,” yet He does it in a very extraordinary way when the people are obedient to His command given in Acts 1:8. Going into their “... Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” is the driving force behind all that is done in this local assembly, located in the rural Hanover County community of Beaverdam.

Beaverdam Baptist Church is only 11 years old, and it is very apparent that God has His hand in the workings of all that is going on through this congregation to further the Kingdom of God. Under the leadership of Pastor Gary Stewart, God has taken this church into a stratosphere of service to its community in order to show true Christianity—the realness of Christ and His eternal care for all people.

Out of this attitude of obedience to trust God at His Word (Jer. 32:27 and Jer. 33:3), Beaverdam Baptist is aggressively reaching the community with a food distribution ministry, a new thrift store called *Great and Mighty Things*, a revived bus ministry, and who knows what will be next! In order to share Christ with their neighbors, this summer they had over 200 people involved in visiting over 9,000 households within a 10-mile radius of the church. The church has two worship services and is getting ready to add a third. They are also in the process of planning to build a multipurpose facility to enable them to reach even more lives in their community.

Here, in the words of Pastor Stewart, is the story of how God is accomplishing His work:

“In 2001, Beaverdam Baptist Church began an event called *Mission to Beaverdam*. From humble beginnings of helping people with winterization, general cleanup, and minor repairs, we have seen God do great and mighty things. We have seen

the mission grow each year with hundreds of church members involved annually and dozens of homes impacted. People in our community have begun identifying our church as ‘The Church that Helps People.’ What a wonderful comment to be made about our church. We thank God for the privilege to serve our community.

“In 2006, God directed our efforts to make our mission trip a countywide event. On August 23, 2006, the Hanover Board of Supervisors approved a resolution establishing the second Saturday in November of each year as *Mission to Hanover Day*. For the last two years, *Mission to Hanover Day* has helped hundreds of families and seen thousands of volunteers from churches all over the county participate in this great day. We believe God is now directing our path to take this event statewide with *Mission to Virginia*, and we know the best is yet to come.

“As God has allowed us to be used in this service, we have received some of the greatest blessings. Watching our children begin to understand the importance of being a servant of God, seeing the faces of those to whom we have ministered, and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with those who do not know Him are just a few. Our greatest desire is to share the Gospel message throughout the great state of Virginia, alongside you.”

What happens when you determine to move your church outside the building and penetrate the surrounding community? God shows up in a great and mighty way to direct your steps and guide you in His paths.

The SBCV is partnering with Beaverdam Baptist Church to take this *Mission to Virginia*.

## RESOURCE

### Website:

[www.beaverdambaptist.com/mission\\_to\\_virginia](http://www.beaverdambaptist.com/mission_to_virginia)

### SBCV Contact:

Don Crain, Church Enrichment Missionary Associate, Central-East Area

Beaverdam has prepared a manual with tried, tested, and successful how-tos for churches to use in reaching their communities.



Pastor Gary Stewart and his wife, Amy



Eagle Award recipients



## Annual Homecoming Praise



New Officers (l to r): 2nd Vice President Brian Autry, President Tim Hight, 1st Vice President Michael Palmer



Paul Randlett and the Sounds of Liberty



Doyle Chauncey receives official recognition of service from the SBC Executive Committee.



Prayer for the SBCV's new executive director-treasurer



Attendees move to the altar to "nail their convictions to the cross."

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual SBCV Homecoming took place on November 10 and 11 at First Baptist Church, Roanoke. The theme, "Pushing Back the Darkness through Prayer," was based on Isaiah 56:7.

More than 1,200 messengers and guests were challenged by the great messages of Tim Hight, Junior Hill, Dave Earley, John Avant, and Jeff Ginn. In addition to the Convention Praise Team, special music was provided by the Liberty University Center for Worship Choir, the Sounds of Liberty, Kendra Penn, This Hope, and the combined choirs of First Baptist Church, Roanoke and Main Street Baptist Church, Christiansburg.

### 547 SBCV Churches

Thirty-six churches received Eagle Awards for sponsoring new church plants. With these new plants and 25 additional churches approved for affiliation, the SBCV total stands at 547 churches.

### New Executive Director-Treasurer Commissioned

In a commissioning ceremony for Ginn, former Executive Director-Treasurer Doyle Chauncey placed a cloth mantle on Ginn's shoulders, a biblical symbol of the transfer of leadership. Ginn washed Chauncey's feet as a symbol of servanthood.

### Important News

Ginn introduced the SBCV's three ministry initiatives: **Multiplying Churches**, **Maturing Churches**, and **Mobilizing Churches**.

A new state-to-state partnership with the Dakota Baptist Convention was signed.

The North American Mission Board presented to the SBCV one of four national awards for increased baptisms. Baptisms in SBCV churches have increased by 8% in the last year.

The 2009 unified budget, which offers a traditional 50% to state missions and 50% to Southern Baptist mission causes, was approved at a 2.1% increase from last year or \$9,500,000.

For more information, pictures, and videos of the 2008 Homecoming, visit [www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org).



**'09 ANNUAL HOMECOMING**  
**Nov. 8-10 First Baptist Church of Norfolk**  
 Theme: Pushing Back the Darkness through Evangelism  
 Goal: Every Believer Sharing, Every Person Hearing

# Imagine

by Darrell Webb,  
Church Enrichment Missionary, Northern Area

“...the Lord  
planted within  
my children  
the same love  
of ministry that  
He has planted  
in me.”

## RESOURCE

**Website:**  
[www.namb.net/fom](http://www.namb.net/fom)

**SBCV Contact:**  
For details call 888-234-7716  
and ask for your area missionary.

Families on Mission (FOM) is  
a pre-packaged week-long  
family mission opportunity.



**D**o you remember your last family vacation? How about your last family mission trip? That's right! You and your family now have the opportunity to partner with the SBCV in conjunction with the North American Mission Board to go on a family mission trip that is close to home.

**Families on Mission (FOM)** is a pre-packaged week-long family mission opportunity that allows mom, dad, and grandparents to model an on-mission lifestyle for their children and grandchildren (5 years old and older). Pastor Van Welton and many of the families from his congregation at Crossroads Baptist Church in Leesburg had the privilege of being involved in a FOM trip in 2008 in Summersville, WV. They participated in a variety of hands-on mission opportunities that included interaction with the community, and mission projects such as painting, yard work, and prayer walks.

Pastor Van Welton returned home with the following life-changing testimony. “Although many options were available to Crossroads for its first mission trip experience, FOM seemed like the perfect fit. By opening the mission trip to whole families, we were able to include members from each age group from within the church family. In total, six family units signed up for the trip, including my own.

“To say that I was a little nervous was an understatement. As the departure date neared, I became increasingly worried. Unlike prior trips, for the first time ever, I would be taking my children along. I was unsure how my children would react. This would be the first time they would be tested away from home over an extended period. Happily, I can report they rose to the challenge. Working alongside children from other churches, my children learned that although mission work is difficult, ministering to others blesses you.

“As a result of FOM, a mission focus has been developed in our church that transcends generational lines. Personally, I was able to see the Lord plant within my children the same love of ministry that He has planted in me. My children and I cannot wait to go on another mission trip together.”

Crossroads joined 40 other families—a total of 140 participants. The Gospel was shared through Vacation Bible School, construction, food, and clothing distribution. The results were at least four known salvation decisions and three baptisms.

Why does your family need to go on mission together? Jerry Pipes from the North American Mission Board shared a startling statistic at the 2008 Evangelism Conference. Pipes said, “In North America, when mom and dad model their faith by getting engaged in winning and discipling in the harvest, we are keeping 96 percent of our kids.” This astounding statistic reflects that as families, we need to make it a priority to be mobilized together on mission in the harvest.

If you would like to go on a family trip that will produce eternal rewards in your life and in the lives of the next generation for Christ, Families on Mission is the answer for you.



**MISSION opportunities 09**

Just in time for the beginning of the spring hiking season

**Evangelism Packets February :: March 31**

Help us reach out to hundreds of hikers and bikers from all over the world who travel through the Appalachian Trail each year. We have a very unique opportunity to share Christ by preparing Evangelism Packets, which are given directly to these visitors by SBCV church members. Detailed information may be accessed through our website.

**collection date: late March**

**SBCV**

**www.sbcv.org/missions**

# A State-to-State Partnership

by Mark Custalow, Church Planting Strategist, Southeastern Area

Since the beginning of the SBC of Virginia, church planting has been at the core of its DNA. Such church planting activity has taken place across the Commonwealth in more than 150 locations. Another prominent expression of mission activity on the part of SBCV churches has been the participation in international partnerships in places such as Thailand, West Africa, and now South America. These efforts by our churches are truly expressions of obedience to live out the Great Commission as given by our Lord. Just before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus told His disciples to carry out His commission in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). To date, the SBCV has actively planted the Gospel in its Jerusalem, its Judea, and around the world. Beginning in January of this year, the SBCV is intentionally engaged in a new partnership that will facilitate our churches taking the Gospel to our Samaria by way of a new state-to-state partnership with the Dakota Baptist Convention.

In August of 2008, five missionary personnel and representatives from SBCV churches traveled to assess the needs of the harvest in parts of both North and South Dakota. The focus of that trip was in the eastern-most portions of each state along the 1-29 corridor between Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Fargo, North Dakota. A large percentage of the population of each state resides along this corridor, which will be the focus of much of our four-year partnership. On the south end of the corridor, Sioux Falls is home to 200,000 people, among whom are just six Southern Baptist Churches. In the northern end, Fargo is home to 175,000 people, among whom are three Southern Baptist churches



and one brand-new church plant. Scattered along the 400 miles in between, there are many smaller towns, some in which there is no Southern Baptist or evangelical church at all. The fields are truly ripe and ready for harvest!

One of the unique opportunities for select mission teams this summer is evangelistic outreach in Sturgis, South Dakota at the largest motorcycle rally in the U.S. Nearly 100,000 bikers and enthusiasts converge on Sturgis for a whole week. Expressions of sin and depravity are rampant in this environment. Evangelistic efforts by Southern Baptists at the 2008 rally,

however, resulted in 5,000+ hearing the Gospel and more than 1,000 making professions of faith.

If you or your church is interested in taking a mission trip to North or South Dakota, please contact Mark Gauthier ([mgauthier@sbcv.org](mailto:mgauthier@sbcv.org)) to discover how and where your church can be involved in planting the Gospel in the Dakotas through our partnership.

## Dakota Harvest Is Ready

By Carl Weiser, Senior Pastor of Hyland Heights Baptist Church, Lynchburg

I had been praying for a mission opportunity within the States in which our church could get involved. We had been overseas, and it seemed like fewer folks were interested in making the kind of sacrifice needed to go on a mission trip outside the U.S. I asked God to open a door—one in which any of our folks could be involved. Well, God answered my prayers when I was asked to join the SBCV Dakota Partnership Assessment Team.

As we drove through the Dakotas, I sat in amazement at what I saw: a community of two thousand six hundred with *no* churches; a college town of twenty thousand with only four churches, none of which being Southern Baptist (SBC); about one hundred miles driving on an interstate with *no* SBC churches in that stretch; and a major city of one hundred seventy-five thousand with only three SBC churches, averaging fifty in attendance. My joy over being in the Dakotas turned to brokenness. However, God started

to open my eyes, for with every mile, He was showing me that this was His answer to my prayers.

My first thought was, "I can't wait to tell our people about this." When we got back to the motel that night, I sent an email to our church family, telling the people to start praying and packing because we're going to the Dakotas. I shared with them that we were going to join in planting churches in the Dakotas. To my joy, on the following Sunday, all I heard from our folks was, "When can we go? I'm ready." I challenge you to join the SBCV in partnering with the Dakotas to send laborers into the harvest.



“When can we go?  
I’m ready.”

# An Aggie Goes Cavalier

by Ron Kidd, Church Planting Strategist, Northern Area



Kyle Hoover  
(far right) on  
UVA's campus.

This edition of the Proclaimer focuses on mobilization. Is there any better example in all of Scripture than the moment when Jesus called out to Peter, Andrew, James, and John, “Come follow Me”?

*“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.” Matthew 4:18-22*

The most incredible words in that passage are “at once” and “immediately.” Immediately, they left the boat and followed Jesus. That’s trust! That’s faith! They were confident enough that when He challenged them, they were prepared to do it. You might call this “followership.”

Church planters—those who participate in one of the most effective means of evangelism today—testify that at some point and in various ways, they too have heard Jesus say to them, “Come follow me.” The Lord also echoes to them what He told the apostles: “I will make you fishers of men!”

In 2007, Kyle and Christine Hoover were effectively ministering to university students in College Station, Texas, the home of Texas A&M University. They had both graduated from the school, and Kyle was ministering to more than 500 students as the university minister at Central Baptist Church. After serving in that position for six years, Kyle was asked to take on the additional responsibility of minister of missions. While serving in that new role, he attended a conference on church planting. At the conference, he became even more convinced that his church should plant another church, but for that to happen, he felt a key person in the church would need to respond to this call. He shared with the church staff his conviction and vision for church planting. They agreed to pray and to see if God would raise up a church planter from their congregation.

Through various circumstances, God did the unexpected; He showed Kyle that he was to be the first church planter Central Baptist

Church would send out! The Holy Spirit used the church and Christian friends to confirm this calling. Kyle and Christine were open and willing to go. They began to pray fervently as to where God would have them serve. Incredibly, at the very same time and completely unbeknownst to them, God was preparing the way in Charlottesville, Virginia. Ron and Linda Kidd had recently moved to Charlottesville for Ron to serve as the SBCV church planting strategist for the Northern Ministry Area. It did not take the Kidds long to develop a burden for the thousands of students at the University of Virginia. Ron and Linda spent time prayer walking the campus, asking God to call out someone to focus on reaching the UVA campus and the many young professionals who make up the Charlottesville community. By a series of extraordinary events, Kyle felt led to contact the SBCV and was directed to Ron Kidd. This began an exciting journey where God answered the prayers of the Kidds and the Hoovers! On September 1, 2008, Kyle began his new church planting ministry in Charlottesville.

God brought the Hoovers to Charlottesville through these mobilization principles:

1. Kyle and Christine responded to God’s call.
2. Their church and other believers confirmed their call.
3. They enlisted the support of their pastor and church for prayer, people, and finances to help with the church’s new plant.
4. They applied and were approved by the SBCV to serve as church planters.
5. They shared their vision for reaching UVA and the surrounding community for Christ with others, and they challenged other believers to become a part of the new plant.

Kyle and Christine Hoover heard God say, “Come follow Me to Virginia,” and they obeyed His call. How about you? Is God calling you to step out on faith, trust Him, and follow Him to a place of ministry and service that He has chosen just for you?

## RESOURCE

### Website:

[www.sbcv.org/planting](http://www.sbcv.org/planting)

### SBCV Contact:

For details call 888-234-7716 and ask for your area missionary.

Your SBCV area missionary would be glad to talk to you about finding your place of ministry and service — the one God has chosen for you.



# DASH

1 Corinthians 9:24

General Douglas MacArthur, one of the great heroes of World War II, said, "When your backs are against the wall, the very best thing you can do is the right thing. The next best thing you can do is the wrong thing. The absolutely worst thing you can do is nothing." Spiritually, many of our students' backs are against the wall, which raises the question, "What decision, if any, are they making?" Summer is not a time for students to chill spiritually and do nothing. This summer, there will be no better time for teenagers to be spiritually challenged, fed, and motivated to action. The summer of 2009 promises to be an incredible time for students across Virginia as they participate in Studentz Camp. What will your students be doing?

**VISION:** To continue to build a national-quality student camp with the purpose of letting student pastors and students experience the best speakers and worship leaders in the U.S. and for students to experience Christ and give their lives to Him.

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 9:24

**Theme:** DASH!

Tim Tebow, Florida Gator quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner, said, "On my tombstone, there will be a dash separating the numerals 1987 from the year I die. That dash represents everything I did with my life." What are you doing with your dash?

**Personalities:**

Speaker—Algernon Tennyson  
Worship Leader—Pocket Full of Rocks  
Drama/Comedy—Tom Toombs

**Tuesday Night:** Seth Franco—Christian Harlem Globetrotter

**Wednesday Night,**  
"Camp for an Evening": Krystal Myers in concert

**Thursday Night:** Wavory in concert

**Missions Track:** Once again this year, we will help church planters canvass an entire community and plant a church.

**Site:** Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

**Cost:** Early rate through March 3: \$225 / Late rate through May 19: \$250

**Early Bird Bonus:** Register your group by February 3 and receive complimentary admission to YEC for each camper registered—a \$25 value per person.

**Registration:** Register online at [sbcv.org/studentz/camp](http://sbcv.org/studentz/camp) or mail in a completed registration form with payment. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 per camper is due at the time of registration.

**NEW Registration Option:** Reserve your church group for \$250. All you have to do is tell us how many campers you are bringing and mail in your check by Feb. 3. Regular deposits of \$50 per camper are due by price break deadlines. All deposits are non-refundable but apply to the total balance.

June 22-26, 2009 REGISTRATION DEADLINES  
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY • LYNCHBURG, VA \$225 BY March 3rd • \$250 BY May 19th  
SPEAKER: Algernon Tennyson WORSHIP: Pocket Full of Rocks WITH COMEDIAN Tom Toombs  
SPECIAL SPEAKER Seth Franco, AND Krystal Myers AND Wavory IN CONCERT  
WWW.SBCV.ORG/STUDENTZ/CAMP

studentz  
CAMP

## RESOURCE

### Website:

[www.sbcv.org/studentz/camp](http://www.sbcv.org/studentz/camp)

### SBCV Contact:

Steve Maltempi, Strategic  
Missionary Associate, Studentz  
Ministry.

Registration policies and  
instructions are on the website

## Spring Break and Missions: A WINNING COMBINATION

by Steve Maltempi, Strategic Missionary Associate, Studentz Ministry

Easter vacation, also known as spring break, is the perfect time to get your students involved in missions and ministry. One group from Ironbridge Baptist Church in Chester spent spring break in Houma, Louisiana. In one week, they replaced the shingles on a house, painted the exterior of one home and gutted another, replaced most of the flooring in a house trailer, laid two eighteen-wheeler flatbeds of sod, planted over three hundred bushes, and spread one hundred bales of

straw in flower beds. Add to that the cultural experiences, and you have a life-changing, faith-maturing experience.

There are many opportunities for you to be involved in missions too. You can put together your own mission

experience or plug into an established missions organization. Two such missions organizations sponsored by the SBCV are Mission Plant and Baptist Builders. In addition, the North American Mission Board offers missions involvement through The Bridge at <http://thebridge.namb.net>.

Why are missions and ministry so important? Parents and student pastors work hard to make sure students are engaged in Bible study, church attendance, discipleship classes, etc. They help them avoid doing all the things that are clearly against God's Word. Recent research, however, reveals the only thing that significantly increases the chance of students remaining faithful after they graduate from high school is being personally involved in missions and ministry. No other variable significantly helps a student's faith mature more.

Give your students an opportunity to participate in a lasting investment over the 2009 spring break.

## RESOURCE

### Website:

[www.thebridge.namb.net](http://www.thebridge.namb.net)

### SBCV Contact:

For details call 888-234-7716  
and ask for your area missionary.

Begin now to plan your  
student mission trip by  
plugging into an established  
missions organization.

No other  
variable  
helps a  
student's  
faith mature  
more.

# Assurance of God's Love

## EAST STONE GAP BAPTIST CHURCH

by Randy Aldridge, Church Enrichment Missionary, Southwestern Area

*“...we intend to go as long as God desires, and then we will go wherever else He leads.”*

Jim and Elaine Hamilton attend East Stone Gap Baptist Church and are volunteer missionaries with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, serving in Moldova. Prior to partnering with the IMB, Jim and Elaine had gone on several mission trips to Romania and Brazil, of which they explain, “We received more than we gave—each time we had relieved suffering and each time we knew we had shown God’s love.” After returning, the memories lingered for a time but would eventually blend in with other things in their lives. Their first trip to Moldova, however, was a different story. In March of 1999, the Hamiltons went on a two-week medical mission trip to Moldova. After arriving home, the Hamiltons found it difficult to get the people of Moldova out of their minds and hearts. Jim and Elaine explain, “Thinking of them conjured up strong emotions we felt when we were there. Each day, we remembered the deplorable conditions of the institutions

where the children and adults lived. Each day, we remembered the people enduring freezing temperatures with little to keep them warm. We remembered the many children in the orphanages with bed-wetting problems going to bed at night on a cold, wet mattress. We remembered that there was very little food and virtually no medical care. Each day, we remembered the medical conditions that we knew, with ongoing treatment, could be resolved or controlled or at least the suffering relieved. God gave us a heart-wrenching burden for these people.”

In July 1999, the Hamiltons answered God’s call to go and minister physically and spiritually every three months to a small portion of His world—northern Moldova—a people that seems worlds away and forgotten by the rest of the world. The permanent missionary team of four, along with volunteer missionaries, holds medical clinics: three in orphanages with one hundred twenty children in each; one in an adult institution with three hundred fifty residents who are physically and/or mentally challenged; and two in villages with limited or no access to medical care. During clinics at the orphanages,

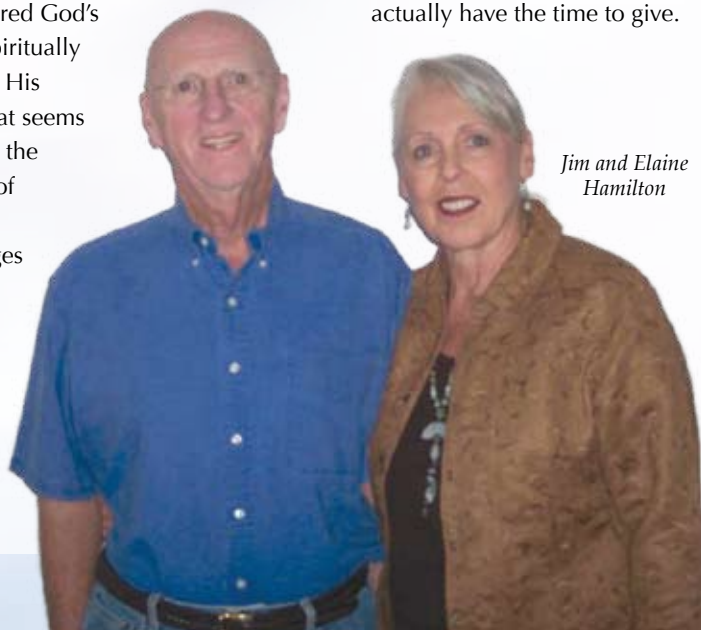
they share Bible stories and related crafts with the children. During other clinics, individual witnessing takes place. The team gives candy, fruit, and sweetbread to each person at the clinics.

These missions are expensive, time-consuming, and require hard work, but God provides the resources, strength, and time. The Hamiltons relay, “Many times we have missed family celebrations and the milestones in their lives but, in those times, God has blessed us with an extra outpouring of His blessings while we ministered.” Even though they are technically only temporary missionaries, Jim and Elaine are always on mission because the preparation for the next mission begins as soon as they arrive home: submitting required reports and documentation after each mission; finding and ordering medicines and medical supplies from several different sources; obtaining IMB permission and project numbers; obtaining insurance and airline tickets; and packing for the next mission.

According to Jim and Elaine, all of the struggles are forgotten when you see the joy of that first person who has waited three months for you to return and bring the needed medicines, along with a gentle touch and an assurance of God’s love for him. “We do not know how long God wants us to continue ministering in Moldova, but we intend to go as long as God desires, and then we will go wherever else He leads.” Let the Hamiltons’ example challenge you to consider volunteer missions in your retirement years, when you actually have the time to give.



Formerly part of Romania, Moldova was incorporated into the Soviet Union at the close of World War II, although independent from the USSR since 1991.



Jim and Elaine Hamilton

# SBCV South America Partnership

## RiodelaPlata

by Tony Inmon, Church Planting Strategist,  
Midwestern and Southwestern Areas

**“Reached?”** Not yet.” This is the theme of the IMB focus on South America. So often, we assume our neighbors to the south have had sufficient exposure to the Gospel, but we should not make that mistake. In 2008, our first year of the Rio de la Plata Partnership, more than 12,000 Gospels were distributed, and 32 people came to Christ between the capital cities of Buenos Aires and Montevideo. We also know of one new house church started as a result of mission teams.

While we had a great year of ministry through the Rio de la Plata Partnership, we need many more teams to go. If you are looking for a great opportunity to mobilize your church in 2009, contact the SBCV about leading a team to have a great impact for the Kingdom. You could impact someone like Maria in Montevideo. This is her before and after story (translated into English).

“When your problems absorb you, insecurity and anguish control you. Depression does not let you see a way out, and everything seems dark. While my children were playing, some people came over to them—two foreign gentlemen accompanied by two very sweet young ladies, Liz and Ana. As my children, Ezequiel and Martina, told me about these foreigners, I became very interested in meeting them. They had come to do a ‘social study’ of the community. When I met them, I could tell they were different... They invited me to know God through the ALPHA course. [The Alpha course explores the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions]. My daughter also came to know God. On

that special day, I had been hoping for an open door and a change for our lives.

“The North Americans came



to me through my children, and one of them, who looked like Pecos Bill, radiated kindness and a noble heart.

These strangers came into my life in a very special moment. After their visit and the ALPHA course, I have continued to study the Bible and, since that day, my life has changed and continues to change little by little as He shows me the way...

“Today I have purpose. As the intimate relationship I have with Christ grows, it will affect my house, my family, and those around me.

On July 12, I decided to be baptized and live a new life, following the commandments of the Lord. It was a very intense moment! I realized in that moment that I belong to the Lord—permanently!”

“In God’s love, Maria”

God used a team from Rosedale Baptist Church in Abingdon, Virginia to share with Maria in Montevideo, Uruguay, and she now lives for Christ. There are many more people who need to hear the Gospel. Please ask the Lord how you can be a part of seeing lives transformed in South America.



### Virginia Soldier R & R Kits

# “AT EASE, SOLDIER!”

Here is an opportunity for you to give back to the men and women in uniform who are sacrificing daily for the protection of our freedoms and the betterment of other nations. You can let them know how much you appreciate them by preparing Rest & Relaxation Kits to be sent from SBCV churches to Virginia soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

**For more details and to register your church's participation in this project, visit [www.sbcv.org/missions](http://www.sbcv.org/missions).**



# Deep Impressions

by Jack Noble, Church Enrichment Missionary, Midwestern Area

*MIKE'S LIFE VERSE:  
Therefore, whether  
you eat or drink, or  
whatever you do, do all  
to the glory of God.  
1 Corinthians 10:31*

The word is making it to the streets of Zambia that the Nkoya people are going to have a new missionary to replace the former. The Nkoya speak lovingly of their previous missionary, John Jakeman. John faithfully served the Nkoya people for years. His reputation is legendary, as the people speak in glowing terms of his commitment to God and his love for the Nkoya. They are excited because Pastor Mike Smith, his wife Amy, and their children, Tyler and Evie, are on their way to pick up where Jakeman left off 65 years ago. John's impact on the people was so deep that they speak as if he left only a few weeks ago. John's replacement has been in God's careful plans for years. The Lord used a high school youth mission trip, Deerfield Baptist Church, and an SBCV Exposure Trip to prompt Mike and his family to respond to God's call to Zambia.

Mike remembers his mom leaving early on Saturday mornings to work extra shifts as a respiratory therapist when he was a high school junior. She worked so hard to help fund his trip to Africa with the youth group of First Baptist Church of Roanoke. Mike's mother has always supported and encouraged him to be on mission for God.

After a stint in the Marines and completing his seminary degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Mike accepted an invitation to become the pastor of Deerfield Baptist Church, about thirty miles west of Staunton. He soon discovered that Deerfield was not the stereotypical country church. Deerfield had an eye on the world but had never been on an international mission trip. They had responded to numerous disaster relief needs, but the world just seemed a

little bit too far away for them to go on mission. Their love for missions was evidenced by their giving and prayers, but they had yet to go.

That changed when Mike had an opportunity to go on an SBCV Exposure Trip to Zambia. He was surprised to learn that Africans are interested in the things of God. He also discovered that the western provinces of Zambia were spiritually dark and that the Nkoya people, numbering 70,000, were not on any mission agency's strategic plan. So, Deerfield Baptist Church, with an average attendance of 70, adopted the Nkoya as its designated people group through the International Mission Board. In adopting the Nkoyas, Deerfield became a Strategic Coordinating Church in praying for and reaching this people group.

Sometimes the last person to hear a calling is the one who is called. This was true of Mike's call to Zambia. With a praying and supportive mother, pastors who could sense what God was doing on the Exposure Trip, and a fear that began to run through his mind, God's call on Mike's life became clear and complete. He feared getting to heaven and searching for the Nkoyas but to no avail. In his search, he even asked Jesus, "Where are the Nkoyas?", only to be told, "There are none here because no one went."

As Mike and his family settle into Zambian culture, one can't help but wonder the legacy they'll leave for the next missionary. Deep impressions are made by those who serve the Lord. Here's an opportunity for you and your church to partner with the Smiths in prayer as they go and are found faithful.



# Taste & See

Psalm 34:8



2009 SWAT  
Weekend Connection with Kay DeKalb Smith!

February 6-7th | The Omni Hotel,  
Charlottesville

Staff Wives Affecting Tomorrow

[www.sbcv.org/swatinfo](http://www.sbcv.org/swatinfo)



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# Following God with All Your Heart



2009 Statewide Women's Conference

March 13-14th ♥ First Baptist Church, Norfolk  
featuring Elizabeth George

Co-sponsored by  
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