

SBC of Virginia



MATURING CHURCHES

PROCLAIMER



MATURING CHURCHES
in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission

www.sbcv.org
Mar : Apr 2009
Volume 11
Number 2



Dr. Ginn's Itinerary

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Amelia Baptist Church
Amelia

MAR 4

Centreville Baptist Church
Centreville

MAR 8

Liberty Baptist Church
Lanexa

MAR 15

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Dinwiddie

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Manassas

APR 5

Exmore Baptist Church
Exmore

APR 19

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Woodlawn

APR 26-29

Western Heights Baptist Church
Petersburg

Don't Just Grow Old; Grow Up!

By one manner of counting, I've been in the ministry for about thirty years. Does that mean that I have thirty years of experience?

Not necessarily. Some wag has observed that it is possible to have *one* year of experience *thirty* times over! That's a picture of a stagnant life. No development, no growth, no maturity. God forbid that that be the case with us or the churches of which we are a part. God wants us to grow. He wants us to mature.

Ephesians 4:11-13 establishes this: "It was he who gave some to

be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become *mature*, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (NIV).

In the SBCV, *Maturing Churches* is one of our three main focuses. This edition of the *Proclaimer* highlights churches that show signs of a growing spiritual maturity. They reproduce. They nurture. They stand for truth. They make God's priorities their own. May God grant that all of our churches move toward this kind of maturity.

Tragically, some folks grow old without growing up. What a shame! It is more important that we grow *up* than it is that we grow *old*. Jim Elliott, the beloved missionary martyr, wrote, "God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus." May God grant that our lives, whether they be long or relatively short, be characterized by a fullness and a maturity that honors Him!

Jeff Ginn, Editor



2009 Statewide Trainings

April 17-18

May 15-16

May 29-30

Will you be
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hands-on
training
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responder!

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
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2009



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SBC OF VA GOAL: \$1.25 MILLION



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20 PRESENT 09

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vision20/20

COMING SOON

2009 SBC of Virginia CALENDAR

● March

Week of Prayer for North
American Missions 1-8
Basic Training I, for church planters ... 13-14
Women's Conference 13-14
Evangelism Conference 20-21

● April

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Disaster Relief Round-up 3-4
VBS Clinics 17-18
Disaster Relief Training 17-18
VBS Clinics 24-25

● May

VBS Clinics 1-2
Deacon Retreat 2
Disaster Relief Training 15-16
Bible Drill 16
Ministers of Education
Training 21
Church Planting Network (CPN),
Statewide 28
Disaster Relief Training 29-30

● June

Summer Intern Training 1
Studentz Camp 22-26
Southern Baptist Convention,
Louisville, Kentucky 23-24

● July

Studentz Mission Plant (SMP)
Focus Week 13-17

For more information visit www.sbcv.org

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Southern Baptists are readying themselves for the opportunity to join once again in partnership to go about fulfilling the Great Commission in our land through a grass-roots effort known as GPS.



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Marks of Maturity

Founding pastor of River of Life Baptist Church, Jeremy Nairn, points to five contributing factors for the church's health and maturity. This New Testament church is making a difference in the city of Franklin.



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Simple Church

Eric Geiger led an inspirational "Simple Church Conference," attended by nearly 200 church pastors, staff, and lay leaders at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights.



Commonwealth

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Barnabas in Bealeton

Matt Gregory and Soul Purpose Church is committed to helping plant another church in the Northern Area. He sees his investment of time in the 2 Timothy 2:2-type ministry as a win-win situation.



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Skydiving for Jesus

Fellowship Community Church thinks "outside the box" by meshing a sermon and a mission funding project together.





FRIDAY, APRIL 17th
 >> Monumental Baptist, Petersburg

SATURDAY, APRIL 18th
 >> Calvary Baptist, Charlottesville
 >> Calvary Road Baptist, Alexandria
 >> Mountain View Baptist, Independence

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



FRIDAY, APRIL 24th
 >> The Tabernacle, Danville

SATURDAY, APRIL 25th
 >> Liberty Baptist, Hampton
 >> Staples Mill Road Baptist, Glen Allen
 >> First Baptist, Roanoke

FRIDAY, May 1st
 >> Rosedale Baptist, Abingdon

SATURDAY, May 2nd
 >> Forest Baptist, Forest
 >> River Oak Church, Chesapeake
 >> Spotswood Baptist, Fredericksburg

2009

Statewide VBS

Training Clinics



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opportunities

09

collection date:
late Apr.

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STATE BIBLE DRILL
 & SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT

May 16 | 2009

Beulah Baptist Church
Lynchburg

www.sbcv.org/bibledrill

God's Plan for Sharing in a Changing North America

by Geoff Hammond, President, North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Change! From politics to economics, we sure have heard that word a lot over these last 18 months. But when it comes to the mission field of North America, change is already here, and it has been happening all around us. Just this August, the US Census Bureau reported that by 2042 ethnic minorities would be the majority in the United States. And our children will lead the way—the majority of children in the US will be ethnic minorities by 2023.

We need to see North America for what it has become: a growing blend of ethnic and national backgrounds. That makes sharing the Gospel more difficult in some ways, but it also opens up remarkable opportunities to impact the world with the salvation of Christ while we share it right here in our own neighborhoods.

That is one of the reasons I am so excited about God's Plan for Sharing (GPS)—the National Evangelism Initiative that Southern Baptists throughout North America, and in Virginia, have begun embracing. This evangelism emphasis will prayerfully draw us together as Southern Baptists until 2020. Our goal is nothing less than every believer sharing and every person hearing.

Unlike previous national evangelism campaigns, GPS is not a one-year or five-year emphasis. It also differs because the process of development has not been a top-down approach but rather a grass-roots effort. It's been a pleasure to work alongside the leadership of the SBCV as we pray and plan for the future of this God-sized evangelism goal.

From the beginning—even before my tenure as NAMB president began—GPS has been about partnership. Members of our evangelism team have worked tirelessly to seek the input and direction from the workers in the mission field — state and associational leaders as well as individual Christians. It is that partnership and melding together of ideas that have made GPS flexible and adaptable so it will ultimately be more useful to churches and individual Christians no matter where they live and no matter what audience they are trying to reach.

In early 2009, NAMB is partnering with five states—Texas, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, California, and Georgia—to pilot the first coordinated evangelism activity of GPS. As we learn from these pilots, our resources and materials will be adjusted in order to maximize their impact and effectiveness once the initiative is rolled out across the continent. Also early into next year, each Southern Baptist pastor will receive an informational mailing about GPS and how his church can be a part of this historic outreach effort.

GPS will also include resources to help Christians and churches impact those around them for Christ. And it will contain media assets to help spread the Gospel as widely as possible. Television ads, print material, Internet, radio, billboards, door hangers, and social media like Facebook will all be utilized at various stages of the initiative across the entire continent in an effort to help local churches connect with their community.

We have worked hard in my first year and a half as president to refocus on the priorities of sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries. But ultimately, each of those priorities is about one thing—fulfilling the Great Commission in the United States and Canada. And that is what GPS is about and why it needs to be a long-term priority.

Southern Baptists cannot afford to ignore the changing landscape of North America, and we cannot afford to miss the opportunity GPS provides us to focus attentively on being about our Father's business of leading the lost to Christ. As NAMB positions itself for this long-term priority, I pray all Southern Baptists will be readying themselves for the opportunity to join once again in partnership as we go about fulfilling the Great Commission in our land.



In early 2009, NAMB is partnering with five states—Texas, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, California, and Georgia—to pilot the first coordinated evangelism activity of GPS.



RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.NEI2020.com
www.sbcv.org/evangelism

■ SBCV Contact:

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

Pray that Southern Baptists will draw together to fulfill the Great Commission in the U.S. and Canada.

Growing God's Church, God's Way

by Sue Sawyer, Strategic Missionary Associate, Women's Ministry



It is not every day we receive calls at the SBCV from a church stating, "We want someone to help us with a plan to take our women deeper into God's Word. We don't want to offer them fluff—we want to give them meat." That was the call Sue Sawyer, strategic missionary associate for Women's Ministry, received from Beverly Pierce, Women's Ministry director at Petsworth Baptist Church in Gloucester. Beverly shared the following:

"Embrace His Presence! Be Still and Know That I Am God!" What do these have in common? They are the theme and Scripture for the women's ministry at Petsworth Baptist Church. We have found ourselves in the midst of God's activity... full of amazement at what He is doing and the phenomenal way He is drawing women to Himself.

"At our annual planning retreat for the upcoming year, we realized prayer—both private and corporate—was the essential ingredient to discovering God's agenda! We met for three days, devoting ourselves to prayer and seeking God's direction, and what did we discover? Yes...He answered, saying, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts' (Zechariah 4:6 (KJV)). Our women proceeded from that retreat with God's plans for several events designed to reach the women of our church and community, including having contemporary Christian singer, Damaris Carbaugh,

launch our new ministry year. That event found most of the women at the altar renewing their commitment to Christ and responding to the divine vocation to which they had been called."

What God is doing in the hearts and lives of the women at Petsworth is a byproduct of how He is working in the church as a whole under the leadership of Senior Pastor Dennis Hollandsworth and his solid, biblical preaching. Over this past year, Petsworth has baptized 39 people and seen many other additions to the church family. They had a mission team of 12 go to Africa, where they saw 189 people give their lives to Christ.

This past summer, the church called David Edgell as senior associate pastor. He has worked diligently in his aim of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, maintaining the unity of faith, and seeing the body continue to grow in Christ-likeness.

Pastor Dennis recently reminded his congregation, "While Petsworth Baptist Church is truly lengthening its cords and strengthening its stakes, God has not called them to build a big church or a popular church, but He has called them to build a healthy church; and Petsworth is committed to growing God's church God's way. We believe that is the way to reach the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ and to mature new believers to serve Him."

It was truly a joy to meet with the Women's Ministry leadership team at Petsworth—to hear the leaders' hearts for reaching and maturing women in their church and community, and to give them input on how they can take these women even deeper into God's Word and His call on their lives. The SBCV staff is always available to assist local churches in fulfilling their call to reach the lost and mature the believer.

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.petsworthchurch.org
www.sbcv.org/women

■ SBCV Contact:

Sue Sawyer, strategic missionary associate for Women's Ministry

Get in the midst of God's activity by starting or growing your church's women's ministry.



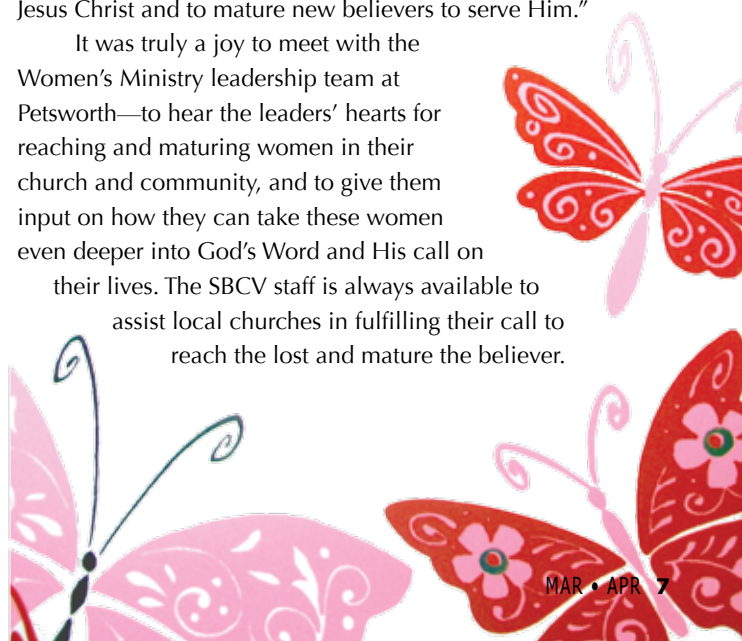

Following God with All Your Heart

2009 Statewide Women's Conference

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

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 **Women's Ministry**
www.sbcv.org/women



Marks of Maturity RIVER OF LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

by Mark Custalow, Church Planting Strategist, Southeastern Area



Founding Pastor Jeremy Nairn



Worship at River of Life

RESOURCE

Website:
www.sbcv.org/planting

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

PROBE is an acronym
that stands for **P**eople,
Residents, **O**pportunities,
Barriers, **E**vangelism



Franklin, home to more than 8,400 people, is a small city in southeast Virginia on the banks of the Blackwater River. Located on the outskirts of town is one of the city's premier community facilities—the YMCA. The “Y” provides a well-rounded program of spiritual, educational, physical, and social activities for the whole family. It also happens to be home to SBCV church plant, River of Life Baptist Church.

A 2006 PROBE revealed the need for a new church. A PROBE is a process in which leaders from churches and church plants work together alongside of an SBCV church planting strategist to discover people groups or population segments that are under-reached with the Gospel. Southside Baptist Church of Suffolk (Stewart McCarter, pastor) and Abundant Hope Baptist Church of Gates, NC (Jon Rissmiller, pastor) came together to co-sponsor the new church plant in Franklin. A core group of 70 men, women, and children went out from the sponsoring churches to start River of Life. They began worship services in February of 2007. Just two years later, River of Life is a healthy, growing New Testament church making a difference in the city of Franklin.

One primary goal of every SBCV church plant is to reach the point of self-sufficiency in living out the mission of God; however, the journey to reach that point can often be difficult and long. While the road to maturity has not been without its challenges for River of Life, God has blessed it with a measure of health that is noteworthy.

One such mark of maturity for the Franklin congregation is the makeup of its membership. Half of River of Life's original core group has since returned to the sponsoring church. One might think

that such an exodus would be devastating for a fledgling, new church. The reality is that an equal number of Franklin residents now occupy the seats and ministry roles. A good percentage of these new church members are new believers who have made professions of faith through the ministries of River of Life. The desire to reach the residents of Franklin with the Gospel is now a growing reality.

A second mark of maturity is biblical stewardship evidenced by tithes, offerings, and mission expenditures. A key element of health in a church plant is attaining a level of complete self-support. In an effort to assist church plants in achieving this mark of maturity, the SBCV invests Cooperative Program mission support on a decreasing scale over three years. In the case of River of Life, after

just the second year, the church recently notified the SBCV that mission support would no longer be needed. This young church contributes 10% of its receipts to the cause of missions through the Cooperative Program, currently has money set aside in a building fund for its first building, has returned its worship trailer and equipment to be recycled in another church plant, is assisting a sister church plant with the cost of constructing its first building, and is sending mission teams around the world!

When asked about the contributing factors to these and other marks of maturity, founding pastor, Jeremy Nairn, identified the following factors:

GOD'S WORD: A foundation built upon dependence on God's Word. On two separate occasions, River of Life read through the New Testament and later read through the whole Bible.

PRAYER: River of Life has exercised great intent in engaging in corporate prayer through the weekly worship service and in small group Bible studies.

DEPENDENCE ON GOD: Their intentional approach to corporate prayer built a sense of God-reliance in the new church. Pastor Jeremy can often be heard saying they operate in ignorant bliss, trusting God completely to lead them.

PASSION: A genuine call of God to plant a new church ensures a planter's approach to the work of planting will consist of focused passion and a clear vision, which are then caught by the core group and members of the church. Pastor Jeremy indicates that the purpose and passion of River of Life is to know Christ and to make Him known.

LEADERSHIP: Yet another contributing factor to the maturity of this young church plant is a broad base of leadership. When the sponsoring church sent out a core of families, it sent out its best. These laymen have exemplified biblical servant-leadership and have rallied around the vision of the new plant. They serve in various capacities in the church such as small group leadership, ministry leadership, worship leadership, administration, and set-up crews.

Paul described the process of church maturity in the fourth chapter of his letter to the Ephesians:

¹¹And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, [growing] into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness (HCSB).

River of Life Baptist and Pastor Jeremy Nairn have truly exemplified growth in the process of attaining church maturity. To God be the glory!



Alignment

GRACE POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Each day, many stroll into chiropractors' offices to try to get straightened out. The spinal column is amazingly important to one's overall health—when just one vertebra is slightly out of place, there are profound effects on the entire body. However, when everything is in its place and working properly, one can walk out of the chiropractor's office in great shape. In many ways, this is similar to the church body. When just one thing is out of place, it can throw off the whole body. Alignment is extremely important to Dr. Robby Haynes. Robby spends his days in Pennington Gap at his chiropractic office, trying to bring alignment to people's bodies. He also spends his weekends and many nights with his church in Wise, trying to bring and keep the church in alignment with our Heavenly Father

A little more than a year ago, Robby surrendered to God's call upon him to start a church. For months, he struggled and grew as he sought alignment with God's specific will and placement. As he was wrestling in prayer, God was maturing him and working behind the scenes to prepare him for doing a church plant restart. At the same time, our Sovereign King was preparing a group of His children in Wise for a new start. Like all gatherings of Baptists, there were many different directions and visions that had to be aligned with God's

purpose. As the Lord brought Robby, the group in Wise, the

SBCV, and the sponsoring church (Euclid Avenue Baptist Church in Bristol) all into alignment, it was nothing short of a display of God's grace. This body of believers got a new start as Grace Pointe Community Church. Pastor Robby and his renewed church sought to align themselves with God's will, and they are seeing the fruits of their pursuit of His glory. With some realignment, they have grown from a handful of believers to an average weekly worship attendance of 65, and they have been able to see four people come to Christ this year.

Each day, many stroll through life just slightly misaligned with God's desire and will for their lives. It is amazing to imagine all of the things that could take place in the lives of believers and churches with just a little alignment.

Dr. Robby Haynes and his family.



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SiMPLE CHURCH

By Steve Bradshaw, Church Enrichment Missionary, Central-East and Central-West Areas,
and Jack Noble, Church Enrichment Missionary, Midwestern and Southwestern Areas.

A SIMPLE PROCESS FOR MANY CHURCHES

On January 12, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights was the host of the *Simple Church* Conference led by Eric Geiger, co-author of the best-selling book. When Mount Pleasant saw the benefits of this conference for its church leadership, the pastoral staff soon realized that other surrounding churches should be given the opportunity to participate. Partnering with churches like Real Life Fellowship, Swift Creek, Enon, and Colonial Heights and with the SBCV, the conference quickly moved from a Central-East Ministry Area event to one open to all churches within driving distance. Nearly 200 church pastors, staff, and lay leaders attended the Monday conference.

Gleaned from this inspirational conference were the ABCs of *Simple Church* for conducting such a partnership event.

The ABC's of the Simple Church Process:

ANALYSIS — Participants quickly learned that churches suffer from a “brochure mentality,” which sometimes includes a wordy mission and purpose statement and a menu-type list of ministries. It gives a picture of the end result but does not provide a blueprint of the process to get there. *Simple Church* is a process that moves the church from its current status to its desired outcome. The church has been commanded to make disciples of Christ, which is, therefore, the desired outcome. Discipleship, however, is not just information; it is the transformation of a person who totally surrenders his/her life to Christ. It is a process!

BASICS — In developing this process, a church often discovers quickly that it needs to reduce its present ministry load to a more basic strategy. More programs and a full calendar do not insure the outcome of mature disciples. In fact, it can have the adverse effect. By simply focusing on three or four basic ministries such as worship, small group Bible studies, and missions, a church can help move believers from spiritual infancy to maturity.

CHALLENGE — Yes, for the existing, historical, program-based church, it is a major challenge to simplify because the temptation is to provide even more programs to reach more people. In order to grow more people, however, it might be better to reduce the programs and concentrate on the basics. Geiger added that it will not and should not happen overnight. It is indeed a process of leading people together to catch and cast the vision of a *Simple Church* strategy.



RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org

■ **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 Simple Church.



Formula for a TURN-AROUND CHURCH

by Larry Black, Church Planting Strategist, Central-West Area

Hopewell Baptist Church, a church with a rich history, has been in existence since 1842. Like many churches in America, Hopewell has had difficulty in the recent past finding a way to connect with a changing community and culture. Changing lifestyles mean busy schedules, longer commutes to work, and a people who view the church as “okay for others but not relevant to me.” Have you been asking the question, “Can our church become relevant once again?” Here is a simple formula applied by Hopewell Baptist Church to do just that.

Hopewell called Greg Pulling, a Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary graduate student with a passion for evangelism and a love for people, to be its pastor nearly two years ago. Greg understood there was a need for unity in the church and ministry that would be back-to-basics and joyful.

A UNIFIED BODY

Pastor Greg approached unity with the understanding that Jesus must be first in everything, leading the church to understand that He must increase and they must decrease. His vision has been: “the church is to chase after the real Jesus and be the real church.” Pastor Greg says that a real church is a force in the community, not satisfied with existing but actually making a difference for the Kingdom. The church members have come to understand they are in spiritual warfare and that the church is both a family and an army for Christ.

BACK TO THE BASICS

Hopewell Baptist has returned to doing basic ministry. Basic ministry now includes having joy in the journey. Examples of joy-filled ministry at Hopewell are:

- Women’s Outreach: gathering women to have fun, e.g., bring your friend to “Crazy Ladies Night” or “Ladies 80s Night”
- Invite your community to a Hunters’ Breakfast (the pastor, a professional marksman, promised to go hunting) or a Home Run Derby
- Worship that “focuses on the heart and not history”
- Excited new members immediately finding a place to serve—none of this “waiting a year to prove yourself”

The result has been a church that has grown from 37 to 200 in attendance in just a few short years. The church is now planning a new worship center with the community in mind. Pulling says, “Serving Christ should be fun. As their pastor [my] role is to equip the saints and release them to do the ministry and enjoy doing it.”

The Pullings standing in front of Hopewell Baptist.



Crazy Ladies Night



Home Run Derby



Hunters' Breakfast



Ladies 80s Night



A Barnabas in Bealeton

by Ron Kidd, Church Planting Strategist, Northern Area

Soul Purpose Church is committed to making a difference for the Kingdom and in the lives of other church planters!

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org

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 helping new church plants.

2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Soul Purpose Church and its pastor, Matt Gregory, are doing just that—helping other faithful ones ‘who will be able to teach others also.’ Pastor Matt and nine others launched the Bealeton church plant in March of 2005. Presently, the weekly average attendance is around 100. Not only are they reaching many in their community for Christ, but they are involved in sponsoring another SBCV church plant, Lakeside Community Church in Locust Grove. Pastor Matt recently explained, “As a relatively young church plant, we can’t invest in a total sponsorship of a new work, but we felt we could and should do something to help plant another church in the Northern Area. So, we’re giving what we can financially and doing all we can to help get Lakeside off the ground.”

Soul Purpose Church and Pastor Matt’s noteworthy commitment to helping new church plants doesn’t end with financial support. Matt’s heart was moved with compassion for his fellow bi-vocational church planters. He testifies, “Knowing how much the SBCV training I’ve received over the past three years has helped me, I knew the information would be invaluable to my brothers in ministry. However, because of their work commitments, they missed out on many of these training opportunities. I approached Ron Kidd, our area church planting strategist, and asked if I could help by providing this material to them after their work hours. I wanted to share with them what I had been taught such as:

- The necessity and role of **PRAYER** in any new church plant

- How to build a **CORE GROUP**
- How to cast a **VISION** for your ministry, and many other principles that are found in the Basic Training materials provided by the SBC of Virginia to all new church planters.

“Ron expressed great appreciation that I would be willing to invest time in this 2 Timothy 2:2-type ministry. I see it, however, as a win-win situation! I help to impart information that can help and encourage others but, in return, I learn so much from them. The collaboration keeps me fresh as a church planter. It keeps before me the urgency of reaching the lost for Christ and helps renew my passion.”

Because of the recent economic situation and exorbitant gas prices, Matt is meeting with church planters Jonathan Davis (Lakeside Community Church) and Duane Eatmon (Mosaic Church of Culpeper) twice a month using the modern technology of Webinar. Webinar is an online web conferencing tool that allows them to meet and study together from their homes. Matt also tries to meet with them regularly for mentoring and individual coaching.

Matt Gregory and Soul Purpose Church are making a difference for the Kingdom both in their community and in the lives of other church planters! What about you and your church? Every church can do something. Sometimes it’s financial support, allowing the use of your church facilities, or mentoring and coaching. Everyone, every church, can be involved in church planting. If every church would do something, it would make an incredible impact for reaching Virginia and the world for Christ. What would God have you do?

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www.namb.net/fom

A Key to Maturing the Church

MEN'S PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Many times we look for new ways, new things, new programs, and new approaches to accomplish that which only God can do through His tried and true principles in His Word. This is especially evident when it comes to developing a mature church. "Back to Basics" is the approach of Senior Pastor Jeff Brauer and Senior Associate Pastor Jeff Chadwick of Winn's Baptist Church—a 230-year-old church located in a rural setting of Glen Allen. Maturity is not necessarily guaranteed through a measurement of years. In fact, attaining a number of years may mean that something is just old.

Since coming to Winn's, Pastors Jeff and Jeff have been on a mission to mature the church. These two godly pastors believe the best way to accomplish their goal is through a strong men's ministry, whose main focus is prayer. They have literally taken Luke 18:1—that men must always pray and not give up—as their marching orders from the Lord.

It's been said, "If you want to draw a crowd, get yourself a Lazarus!" Winn's has a Lazarus of sorts in the person of Mike Frye, who developed throat cancer and immediately sought out the men of the church to pray. He believed the cancer would be beaten through prayer and that God would use the outcome for His glory. The men began to pray, and now, after three months of treatment, Mike is cancer free. Mike, through this time, has become very sensitive to the Lord's working and that "...all the things you pray and ask for—believe that you have received them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24 (HCSB)).

This sensitivity to the Lord led Mike to reach out to a lost friend who was going through a tough time. Mike first came to the men's prayer group with this burden and asked the group to pray with him for his friend. Several weeks later, Mike brought his friend to church to speak with Pastor Chadwick. Right there,

Mike's friend, also named Mike, prayed to receive Christ, and now he and his family attend Winn's. Both Mikes are active in the church and the men's prayer ministry. There is a holy expectation that is developing through answered prayer. Maturing men lead to maturing families, which lead to a maturing church.

On a more personal note, our family has just received word that our 10-year-old grandson has a serious medical condition. We are so thankful to our loving Lord that our grandson's family is active at Winn's. Isn't it just like our Lord to go before us? Even before we know that we are in need of something, He has already put things in motion to accomplish His purpose. There is no better place that we would want our grandson and his family to be than at Winn's, where the Pastors Jeff and the men of prayer are actively involved as intercessors on his behalf. We are excited about what our Lord is going to do to be honored and glorified through this opportunity to trust in Him and believe that His grace is more than sufficient (II Cor. 12: 9). We also ask you to join us in prayer as we walk the walk of faith with them.

Could it be that more of us and our church families need to get back to this simple basic principle of trusting our Lord to mature us through believing prayer? Why don't we put prayer back in the place our Lord intended it to be—

Philippians 4:6-7? Put first things first again and have the great joy of knowing our God answers the prayers of His children.

Prayer works!



Pastors Jeff Brauer and Jeff Chadwick

RESOURCE

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Pastor McKenzie and family



current worship center



ON THE MOVE on the Eastern Shore

by Don Cockes, Church Enrichment Missionary, Southeastern Area

Onancock Baptist Church is a church on the move! Located on the Eastern Shore in a sleepy, little town best known for its ferry leading to Tangier Island in the midst of the Chesapeake Bay, the church's original sanctuary is on the U.S. Register of Historical Places. However, the church is far from a historical marker, as it has begun to see God move powerfully in the lives of the people of "the Shore"! Today, change is in the air, and the church is now viewed as a difference-maker in its community and beyond.

Sean McKenzie describes his arrival as Onancock's pastor in May 2007: "The mood of the people was expectant of what God was going to do. It has been nothing short of amazing since then." The church began a few years ago by renovating its gym into a modern worship center. The remodel now complete, they have seen attendance more than double on Sunday morning. The church changed its music style in worship and has begun a Sunday night Discipleship University with over 125 participants involved each week—not bad for a church that only owns 12 parking spots! The impact goes beyond numbers and cars. There have been many baptisms and lives transformed, like Arlene Mann, for example.

Arlene had been addicted to drugs for a number of years but came to trust in Christ through the Celebrate Recovery ministry of Onancock Baptist. She became involved in the Women's Ministry and a Bible fellowship class on Sunday

mornings, and her life turned around completely. Sadly, in January 2008, Arlene passed away in her sleep. In a small community where everyone knows everyone, the

people of Onancock knew Arlene's story of transformation as well as the influence of Onancock Baptist Church. To the overflow crowd at her memorial service, Arlene's testimony, which had been recorded on video prior to her baptism, was shown. The impact of this event was immediate and long-lasting. The church continues to have people join who share the impact Arlene's testimony had on them.

Onancock has been impacting its community through concerts, outreach events, children's programs, dinner-and-movie nights, and numerous other events specifically targeted to minister to the community. In fact, the church served over 350 neighbors a free Thanksgiving lunch this past November, for the 10th year in a row! The local paper recently carried a letter to the editor about the church. It read in part, "I would like to thank everyone at Onancock Baptist Church for the two great recent concerts, Calling Levi and the African Children's Choir. What a treasure for our community. The warmth and kindness really shows Christ's love for all of us." A congregation member was stopped at the local medical center by a neighbor who said, "Thank God for your church. I recently brought my father-in-law to one of your concerts. I thought it was going to be too late for him, but he was singing loudly, raising his hands in praise, and did not want to leave." The community impact of the church is profound, as it has become a community center.

Onancock members have begun to take the Great Commission seriously, as evidenced by the new faces they see attending worship. When asked what signs he has seen of the church maturing, Pastor Sean said, "just the other day in worship, I was struck by the contrast of two of our active members sitting next to each other. One member had tattoos and was casually dressed, while the other was a senior adult wearing her 'Sunday best'—yet both love each other like family." The people of Onancock Baptist have begun to see God's vision fulfilled for the Eastern Shore to be "Reaching the Shore and Beyond, for the Glory of God!"

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Pastor Issues Permits to Build

by Darrell Webb, Church Enrichment Missionary, Northern Area

Todd Pyle, senior pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, is giving permits away, and the building process is amazing. In fact, it is a God-size task!

The Holy Spirit spoke this convicting word to the pastor's heart, "until you stop trying to build...I can't." Pastor Todd states, "In our ministry, we want **Christ** to build His church. After all, it's His, and He knows what's best for the church and when." Pyle further remarks that in previous years, he had attempted to start ministries that had failed because *he* started them, rather than God. He admits instead of trying to build God's church, he has learned he only needed to get out of God's way. God revealed to this pastor that he needed to minister by a simple philosophy: "Let God Lead."

With the excitement of any new ministry comes the responsibility to make sure the new ministry and the prospective leaders are Spirit-led. As new ministries are considered, written proposals containing goals and a plan of action are turned in to the leadership team and pastor. Pastor Todd shares, "This is where some pastors get nervous because it gives people the freedom to get plugged into their passion ministry. We need to allow God's children to be led by Him instead of us." This pastor prays, checks the plans, and gives the permit. He is there to help guide, equip, and encourage them as they serve God.

Many ministries are being used as tools in the maturation process at Cornerstone Baptist Church (CBC). A great example is the men's ministry. CBC did not have a specific ministry

to men. The church began to pray for God to raise up a leader to start such a ministry. God led Jim Rivera, a layman, to follow his passion for seeing men come to a serious walk with God and to be used in service for God.

Today, God is using the men of Cornerstone to lead their church and families to minister together in ways they never imagined. Amidst all of their ministry involvement, God is also using them in a monthly ministry at the Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter in Fredericksburg. CBC men are ministering to the children through activities such as wood crafting and bicycle repair. They prepare and serve hot meals and get to share the message of the Gospel with families at the shelter. Jim Rivera comments, "Not only have men been involved, but many others in the church have come to serve as well. Fathers are signing up themselves and their children to serve in this ministry."

Recently, during a special event at the shelter, four people were saved. God is at work through the willing service of the men of CBC, resulting in the maturity and continued growth of the church. Pastor Todd said, "This ministry is igniting the rest of the church through their growth, service, and ministry to the community, as well as their overall enthusiasm. This happened because God spoke to one man's heart, and his pastor said, 'Follow God.'"

God is doing a maturing work at Cornerstone Baptist Church because the church is not just trying to fill ministry positions. As God puts the people in the proper place in His timing, "permits" are being distributed, and His church is being built for His glory and for His praise.



Pastor Todd Pyle speaking to the congregation



Jim Rivera lending a helping hand at the homeless shelter



Pastor Rick and his wife, Tammy

From "I Quit" to "I Do"

by Steve Bradshaw, Church Enrichment Missionary, Central-East and Central-West Areas

What's a pastor to do when the wife of a couple in the church comes to him and says, "I Quit! I want out of my marriage."? For Rick Ewing, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church, just west of Lynchburg, this was a reality he faced after counseling a couple multiple times. Of course, humanly, one would think, "Was it something I said or didn't say that led the couple further away from reconciliation?" Some pastors would have given up, but not Pastor Rick.

Just a few weeks earlier, he and his wife, Tammy, had attended the Southern Baptist Convention and were moved by the movie premier of *Fireproof*, featuring actor Kirk Cameron and produced by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, GA. Though not a high-dollar production, the movie was rich in its message of encouraging marriages. They thought, "If only this couple could see this movie..." Of course, as pastor, Rick was aware of other couples in the church who could also benefit. Polling the congregation revealed just about everyone had or was currently being affected by separation or divorce in his/her family.

Upon returning to Lynchburg, this caring pastor contacted the movie theater and asked, "What do I need to do to get 200 tickets for a showing of this movie?" With tickets in hand and as a ministry of the church, the Saturday evening movie night was offered at a discounted rate. "People were buying [the tickets] and giving them to their family members in need. Before we knew it, we were sold out and needed more tickets," Ewing explained.

For the couple on the brink of divorce, they were asked not to sign the papers but attend the movie and wait 40 days. Reluctantly, they agreed.

Just when it seemed there was no way, God made a way and offered a glimmer of hope. Pastor Rick was able to address the audience at the end of the movie, inviting everyone to a follow-up gathering at the church. Not only did Pleasant View members return to the church, but many of the guests came as well. Pastor Rick announced, "If the movie described your marriage or if you would like to make your good marriage better, the church will be offering a Bible study for married couples." Many took advantage of the *Fireproof* couples 6-week study, including the one couple that seemed doomed. In addition to the dialogue and encouragement provided by the Bible study, couples were encouraged to participate in a 40-day *Love Dare* exercise. An accompanying resource led couples to engage in activities that would give their marriages a necessary biblical foundation on which to build respect, trust, and commitment.

After 14 days, the husband of the struggling couple said, "It is not working. I am doing these things for her, and it doesn't matter. I do not see any change." Pastor Rick challenged this frustrated partner to remain faithful to the exercise with the hope that somewhere around day 22 things would start turning around. Sure enough, God used these simple exercises to start drawing this husband and wife to Himself and each other. By the study's conclusion, the couple was asking if they could renew their marriage vows. In all, nine couples took part in a ceremony, complete with a wedding reception and gifts to the wives as tokens of the husbands' commitments. Pastor Rick observed first-hand the power of the Holy Spirit doing a miraculous work in the lives of not just one marriage but many couples in the church. "The church can only be as healthy as the families that make up the church," he added. "We are excited about the future of these families and our church and thank God for the way He used this movie and great resources to bind them together, unbreakable."



Skydiving for Jesus

by Jack Noble, Church Enrichment Missionary, Midwestern and Southwestern Areas

The sermon notes seemed so innocuous and yet so challenging. Pastor Ken Nienke of Fellowship Community Church in Salem was wrapping up a sermon series on "Chasing the Lions," taken from II Samuel 23:20-23, focusing on how Benaiah became the senior guard for King David. The series included titles such as: "What great adventure does your life need?"; "What great exploits should you face?"; "Live courageously before others"; "What lion do you need to face?"; "Face your fears to find your fulfillment"; and "Experience a life of increasing opportunities." While just a few of the themes Pastor Ken has preached, they are the ones that would come back as a personal challenge.

While Pastor Ken was on a mission trip to Zambia, church member Damon Simmers contemplated how the church would raise the needed \$20,000 to fund mission trips in 2009-2010. Pastor Ken's message series began to run through his mind. Damon remembered the pastor giving a challenge to face one's fears. In a moment of transparency, the pastor had shared his desire to parachute jump and how fear had kept it only a dream. He could trust the parachute and even jumping out of a perfectly good airplane but was certain there would be trees and power lines awaiting him when he neared the ground. The horror stories of such entanglements were enough to keep him firmly planted on terra firma.

Damon, parachute-a-thon idea in hand, approached Student Pastor Jon Laughinghouse, who had himself jumped several years earlier. Jon was eager to assist Damon in helping their pastor face his fears. The plan was simple. A sponsor would donate a penny for every foot Pastor Ken jumped. The anticipated jump would be from 10,000 feet, so with each sponsor, a skydiver could add \$100 to the church's 2009-2010 mission trip fund.

When Pastor Ken returned from his Zambia mission trip, the plan was already in full motion. He was reminded of his sermon series about facing one's fears. Church members were very interested in watching their pastor face his skydiving fears. Pastor Ken agreed, along with 24 other church members, to participate in the first-ever church parachute-a-thon. With over \$20,000 on the line, Pastor Ken and his team successfully jumped from 10,000 feet.

Interestingly, Pastor Ken could not use his age as a reason not to jump once Margaret Stultz, a seventy-four-year-old woman, quickly stepped up to the challenge. Church member Vic Moses also rose to face his only real fear—his fear of heights. As it turned out, the biggest challenge for most participants was a feeling of claustrophobia. As Pastor Jon quickly shared, "[the] airplane was more of a lawnmower with wings—we could only seat four at a time, and you were gladly pushed out of the sardine can to get a little fresh air and more space."

The last tally to benefit missions was over \$23,000. Vic Moses made it clear, "We all had fears that we needed to face, but this was not the one I expected to overcome by making a commitment to missions." Once again, we see how God can use any experience and every opportunity to bring glory to His name.

Jump instructor (l) with Pastor Ken Nienke (r)



MISSION opportunities 09

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Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
NOV :: DEC 6

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MAR • APR 17



What Does a Mature Student Ministry Look Like?

by Steve Maltempi, Strategic Missionary Associate, Studentz Ministry

The question causes one to think of all the ministries and events associated with student ministry: students, parents, budgets, Bible studies, worship, group dynamics, space requirements, program timelines, promotion, planning, games, laughter, music, excitement... you get the picture. Student ministry is as varied as the churches and congregations across the Commonwealth. Although student ministries appear different, the core elements are what define a mature student ministry.

1 The first and most vital core element of a mature student ministry is **PRAYER**. This may not be a surprise to most. However, it can be easily overlooked as a key practice. Without prayer, student ministry can seem like another club or extracurricular activity. Most of us understand the need to pray. To do anything before we pray is to move forward in our own power and not the power of the Holy Spirit. It's been said that prayer is the foundation of ministry nobody sees, but they will know if it is not there. If we do everything else 100% right but don't pray, we fail.

2 The second core element of a mature student ministry is **GOING DEEPER** with Christ. Going deeper with Christ means loving Him more and more. 1 Timothy 1:5 says, "Now the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith" (HSCB). Spending time in God's Word is essential to going deeper with Christ. Not only must the student pastor go deeper with Christ, but he must lead the student ministry leaders and students to go deeper with Christ as well.

3 The third core element of a mature student ministry is **BUILDING LEADERS**.

Look at Jesus' ministry, and you will find that He built His leaders. As the old saying goes, to train followers is addition, but to train leaders is multiplication. Building leaders begins with recruiting the leaders placed on your heart through prayer. Leaders should be recruited and trained for long-term service in student ministry. Let them watch you do ministry, then let them do ministry with you. Finally, they do the ministry as you encourage. The more leaders are raised up, the more the student pastor can focus on being the spiritual leader of the student ministry.

4 For years, **DISCIPLESHIP** was done inside the four walls of a room in the church. Then once a year, the students were allowed to do missions and ministry on a mission trip or youth musical. Discipleship is a core value that has been redefined in recent years. Adult leaders are discipling small groups of students, involving them in in-depth Bible study and in ministry and missions. They are not disciplined by being enrolled in a class, using a certain curriculum, or attending a seminar or conference. Mark 3:14 says Jesus trained his disciples by being with them. Student discipleship is not an end in itself, but rather an end to a means—reproduction!

5 **PENETRATING** the culture is yet another element of a maturing student ministry. It is the result of prayer, going deeper with Christ, building leaders, and discipling students to recognize opportunities for ministry and building relationships with non-believers. Student pastors likewise need to penetrate the culture by visiting schools and getting involved in the community in which their students live. Our students can be trained to impact their world, and that is what a maturing student ministry is all about.

RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/studentz

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Steve Maltempi, Strategic
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Ministry

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1 Corinthians 9:24

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Acts 14:3

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