

SBC of Virginia



MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

PROCLAIMER

Assisting churches in fulfilling the
Great Commission through church planting

www.sbcv.org
May : June 2009
Volume 11
Number 3



Why Plant More Churches?

The SBCV is known as a church-planting network. As such, there is one question that is frequently posed: "Why plant more churches?"

The implication behind the question is that we already have enough churches. Is that true? Let's take the Richmond-Petersburg area as a sample. One would think that, if any place has enough churches, the capital of the Old South does!

What do the cold, hard facts tell us? From 1990 to 2000, the population in this area rose from 865,640 to 996,512. This is an increase of 131,872 or 15.1%. During that same span of time, the number of affiliates in congregations

of any stripe fell from 456,519 to 434,385 or -4.85%.

Let's focus more specifically. Evangelicals claim 195,798 or 19.6% of the population as adherents. That leaves an astounding 800,714 to reach! If we won these to Christ and started churches with 500 per congregation, it would require 1,600 new churches!

These percentages could likely be repeated across the commonwealth and D.C. The situation in Greater Richmond is, sadly, not an anomaly.

The truth is that we do not have too many churches; we have too few. Especially is this true with regard to churches that hold to sound doctrine and are infused with evangelistic passion. May God ramp up what He is doing in our midst!

This edition of the *Proclaimer* highlights select church planting efforts. Learn more about how you can help. May our current church plants be but as mercy drops falling 'round us. Let's plead for showers!

Jeff Ginn

Dr. Ginn's Itinerary

MAY 3

Grace Baptist Church
Virgilina

MAY 10

Apple Grove Baptist Church
Mineral

MAY 12-22

The Holy Land

MAY 31

Preston Oaks Baptist Church
Roanoke

JUNE 14

Maranatha Baptist Church
Exmore

JUNE 20-25

Southern Baptist Convention
Louisville, KY

JUNE 28

Hamilton Baptist Church
Hamilton



www.dakotabaptist.com

Jerusalem
Judea Samaria
and to the
Ends of the Earth

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



Come join in the harvest

GO TELL
the story of Jesus

LOTTIE MOON

CHRISTMAS OFFERING® 08

TOP FIVE

TOTAL GIVING

1. **Liberty Baptist**
Hampton \$198,527
2. **Grove Avenue Baptist**
Richmond \$157,598
3. **First Baptist**
Roanoke \$140,928
4. **Bethel Baptist**
Yorktown \$101,406
5. **First Baptist**
Norfolk \$ 79,739

PER CAPITA GIVING

1. **Union Baptist, Hayes**
\$235 / 230 worship \$ 53,975
2. **Jerusalem Baptist, Fairfax Station**
\$203 / 100 worship \$ 20,250
3. **Bacon's Castle Baptist, Surry**
\$189 / 201 worship \$ 38,061
4. **Crystal Spring Baptist, Roanoke**
\$181 / 35 worship \$ 6,345
5. **Dolphin Baptist, Dolphin**
\$176 / 65 worship \$ 11,460

The SBC of Virginia's offering collection for the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ran from March 1, 2008 through Feb 28, 2009.



MINISTRIES ■ MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS ■ MISSIONARIES



2009 SBC of Virginia CALENDAR

● 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

● August

- Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) 6-7
- Day of Prayer for Students 9
- Church Planting Network (CPN), Statewide 27

● September

- Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering 13-20
- Church Leadership Conf. EAST ... 19
- Church Leadership Conf. WEST.. 26

For more information, visit www.sbcv.org

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Just as every human being is unique and different in many ways, so are those whom God calls to serve Him in the ministry of church planting.



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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The **Proclaimer** is a collaborative effort of the area missionaries of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV). As a ministry of the SBCV's Cooperative Program, the **Proclaimer** is published six times annually.

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The **Proclaimer** is sent free of charge upon request. You may subscribe online at: sbcv.org/resources/proclaimer. For more information or to contact us, visit www.sbcv.org.



2009 Statewide Trainings

May 15-16 | May 29-30

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

For the latest DR news, visit sbcv.org/disaster_relief

CLC

CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ONE conference
TWO locations

EAST
SEP 19

WEST
SEP 26

PROCESS COACHING WITH
JIM HAMILTON



Executive Director/Treasurer
Dakota Baptist Convention



for information, visit www.sbcv.org

**STATE
BIBLE
DRILL**
& SPEAKERS
TOURNAMENT

BIBLE
SKILLS,
DRILLS,
&
THRILLS

May 16 | 2009

Beulah Baptist Church
Lynchburg

www.sbcv.org/bibledrill

Essential Church

**MIN
OF
Ed
CONFERENCE**



With Speaker
Ron Pratt

May 28

SBCV Glen Allen



Featuring the book, *Essential Church*
Register online at www.sbcv.org

MAY • JUN 5

Clear Vision REACHING PEOPLE FOR JESUS

by Mark Custalow, Church Planting Strategist, Southeastern Area



For eight years, Jon Rissmiller led the student ministries of Southside Baptist Church in Suffolk under the leadership of Pastor Stewart McCarter. In 2004, God began to lay on Pastor Jon's heart the vision for a church in Gates County, North Carolina. Working together, Pastors Jon and Stewart began planning for a partnership that would culminate in the launching of Abundant Hope Baptist Church just after Easter in the spring of 2005. Ten families, totaling forty people, were commissioned and sent out from the sponsoring church, Southside Baptist.

Since its beginning, Abundant Hope has been blessed to see 20 people follow the Lord in believer's baptism. Additionally, they currently have 10 more new believers awaiting baptism. From the very beginning, evangelism has been a core component of Abundant Hope. Pastor Jon recently stated, "We are constantly looking for ways to reach people for Jesus."

Because of limited meeting place options, Abundant Hope has been meeting on Saturday nights in the church facilities of Upper Room Assembly of God. The location has served them well, and their hosts have been very gracious; however, having to meet for worship on Saturday nights in a traditional rural community has been an uphill climb. Many in the community have been conditioned to expect church to take place on Sunday. Having two churches with distinct theological beliefs sharing

the same facility has also been challenging at times. In spite of such challenges, Abundant Hope Baptist Church is a healthy new church, averaging 70 in worship attendance and having already sponsored its first church plant.

Now, four years after the launch of Abundant Hope, the church has just begun to hold worship services on Sunday mornings in its very own building. God has faithfully provided for the church to purchase 11.5 acres at 1/3 of the estimated value from the estate of a family of believers. They have additionally been able to erect a 14,000-square-foot building with the assistance of sister churches, who donated labor and financial assistance. The multi-purpose worship center seats 599. The church family has a vision for seeing the new facility used seven days a week as a center of activity in the community.

RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/planting

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 to get details from the missionary in your area.

■ **Prayer Focus:**
Pray for Abundant Hope as it continues to hold forth the Word of life in Gates County and to the ends of the earth.



Marketplace Ministers

by Larry Black, Church Planting Strategist for the Central-East and Central-West Areas and Jack Noble, Church Enrichment Missionary for the Midwestern and Southwestern Areas

The work of a church planter is challenging in and of itself. Many of our SBCV church planters, however, hold other jobs outside the pastorate. These church planters are bi-vocational—that is, they work in secular jobs and serve as pastors to new church starts. Here are the stories of two such men.

EDGAR MOSER

“TURN in your Bibles to....” Edgar Moser realizes his mistake as he sees a maroon Salem High School poster on the back wall of his classroom. It’s just a typical day for him. His daily routine begins at 9:30 AM as he arrives to teach at Salem High School, and when the final bell rings at 3:00 PM, his day isn’t over; he spends the next couple of hours with students in their behind-the-wheel driving experience. This bi-vocational church planter is comfortable in both the church plant setting and the classroom. High school teacher, Mr. Moser, is also Pastor Moser to church plant, Life Pointe Church.

The entire Moser family is involved in the planting of Life Pointe Church in northeast Roanoke. Pastor Edgar’s wife, Ginny, works at the elementary school where the church meets. She is, therefore, instrumental in making sure the doors are open and the appropriate furniture is in place each time they gather. Their son, Andy, handles the technological side of things by overseeing the church’s website and PowerPoint needs. Andy’s fiancée, Ashley, joins in too by assisting Ginny in setting up and tearing down. Ashley also created and maintains the church’s online

Edgar Moser

blog. Together, the family senses the call.

Pastor Edgar points out that driver’s education and a sold-out, committed family are gifts from the amazing, mighty God we serve. He is grateful to be a part of God’s plan to bring folks to Himself.

STEPHEN REYNOLDS

WHAT does it take to start a church and work full-time in the marketplace? Diane, wife of Church Planter Stephen Reynolds, says, “Those on this path of ministry must be driven by vision, fueled by passion, called to perseverance, and directed by prayer. Each of these characteristics is clearly given by God for His work. This is a calling that cannot be denied—even when you are tired and weak. But, at the moment when you feel you don’t have the strength to go on, God always gives the strength for one more step. And at these times, when you are at the end of yourself, God does an amazing work and somehow transports you to the mountaintop of blessing.”

In addition to being pastor of Life at Zion Church in Charlottesville, Stephen Reynolds is the chief

operations officer for a healthcare corporation. He travels our state, assessing and giving direction to sub-acute healthcare facilities. Pastor Stephen says he considers it a privilege to invest nearly full-time hours in preparing to preach, teach, serve, witness, and encourage, all the while working full-time in his marketplace job. The Reynolds family is as much a part of the new church as many part-time staffs. They prepare the bulletin, prep the greeter station, develop PowerPoint and media, etc., and they do it all with a spirit of joy. Actually, that is the key—it takes an attitude of joy to be a marketplace minister.

Stephen and Diane Reynolds

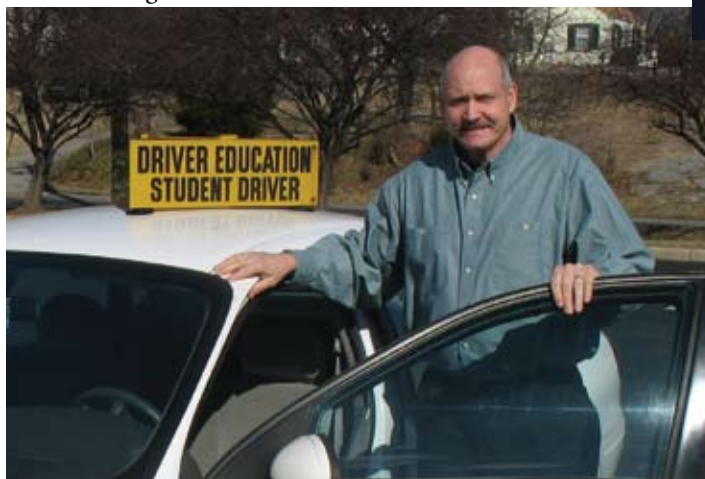


RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/planting

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 to get details from the missionary in your area.

■ **Prayer Focus:**
Edgar Moser: Pray for Pastor Edgar as he plants Life Pointe and teaches at Salem High School.
Stephen Reynolds: Pray for Pastor Stephen as he balances the demands of the marketplace and a new church start.



Planting Churches in Our Samaria

THE DAKOTAS

by Mark Gauthier, Interim Director of Mobilizing Churches

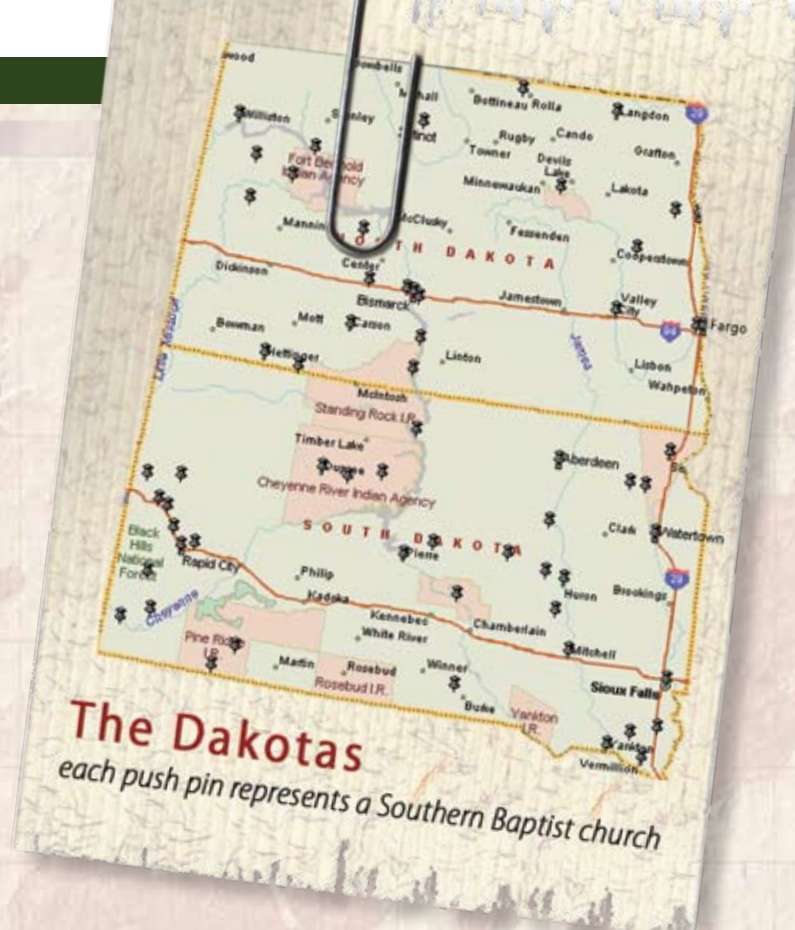
The Dakotas?! Why all the way to the Dakotas? When I was first informed about the possibility of a partnership with the Dakotas, I was, well, not very enthusiastic. I thought, "Surely we can develop a partnership with a closer and warmer state." I mean, it gets cold (-31° as I was writing this) in the Dakotas, and there's snow... lots of it. As I began to pray about this partnership, I sensed God saying, "be patient...just wait." Weeks later, as I rode through the states of South and North Dakota, I began to see. Passing small towns, stores, and government buildings, I noticed something odd. Where were the churches?

There are only 95 Southern Baptist churches serving 147,825 square miles! This works out to each church serving 1,556 square miles, the equivalent of having 27.5 Southern Baptist churches in all of Virginia. We have 27 SBCV churches in just Norfolk and Virginia Beach! I really began to see the need in the Dakotas. What an opportunity to go and tell!

This partnership is about assisting the Dakota Baptist Convention with something SBCV churches do very well—planting churches. Perhaps with God's provision and your help, a church planting movement will begin to lessen the great distance between churches in the Dakotas.

Hamilton Baptist Church — an SBCV church already reaching the Dakotas for Christ:

Hamilton Baptist Church has served in South Dakota for the past 10 years in a ministry birthed in the heart of a remarkable man, Carl Soderlund. Carl had served at Hamilton in a number of ways, but in the final years of his life, God gave him a tremendous passion for missions. His great burden was for children. Carl led the first team to Eagle Butte, South Dakota and the Cheyenne River Reservation for a week-long Vacation Bible School (VBS) and a series of youth outreach services.



Today, Hamilton continues to support several outreach ministries on the Cheyenne River Reservation, including an annual VBS held at First Baptist Church of Eagle Butte. Additionally, in cooperation with the Dakota Baptist Convention, they have been able to sponsor block parties, enroll people in the annual VBS, and identify prospects for First Baptist. They sponsor an annual Thanksgiving meal for the community, which routinely reaches more than 100 individuals for a night of fellowship and ministry. And, finally they have individuals who travel to Eagle Butte a couple of times per year to assist families with home repairs and improvements that will allow them to live in safer, more sanitary conditions. Praise God for this ongoing mission endeavor!



RESOURCE

Website:

www.dakotabaptist.com
Go to "Info Center" and click on "Mission Group Request."

SBCV Contact:

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

Prayer Focus:

Pray for church planters who will answer the call to plant new churches in North and South Dakota.

Hispanic Network

NATIONWIDE PRAYER & FASTING

by Vernig Suárez, Church Planting Strategist Associate in the Southeastern Ministry Area and Pastor of Iglesia Bautista del Camino, Norfolk ~ translated by: Dianne da Silva

Glory to God! Just as we did last year, on Monday, January 5th, our church, Iglesia Bautista del Camino, got on board to spend 21 days fasting and praying with other hispanics in Hampton Roads, in the rest of Virginia, and all around the country. Our motto for the month was "Solemn Assembly: Seeking the Holiness of God," and our Bible verse was 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Over the next twenty-one days, some brothers and sisters dedicated two days a week, others a half day per week, and others the entire twenty-one days to prayer and fasting. Last year, 39 church members participated. This year, three new church members joined us, bringing the total to forty-two children of God humbling themselves before Him in prayer, entreaty, and supplication for His benevolence. Once again, we could see God working among us through this means which, while accessible to all God's children, is, at the same time, challenging. Prayer and fasting strengthen the believer's and the church's spiritual life. As pastor of Iglesia Bautista del Camino, I know that these disciplines are particularly necessary at this time because the entire nation, as well as the Lord's Church, is suffering a moral and spiritual degeneration unequalled to any ever seen.

We were praying that brokenness and genuine repentance would come upon the

21 días de
Ayuno y
Oración

Church and that there would be a return to biblical faith, holiness, and commitment. We also prayed the heavens would pour out conviction of sin upon our state and nation so that there would be reverent fear of God and sufficient faith in the hearts of all so that when we went out to fulfill the Great Commission to preach the Gospel of Christ, people would be ready to respond to the message of salvation.

Beloved brothers and sisters, I desire to tell you that God has heard our prayer. We have many testimonies to give concerning what God has done among us—personal testimonies and testimonies of what God has done in our families

and in our community of faith. As pastor of this little church, the greatest miracle I want to share with all of you is that I have been able to witness our church grow in maturity towards Christ and take on genuine commitment to our Lord so that together, we may fulfill the Great Commission.

Corporate prayer during the Statewide Hispanic Meeting



Pastor
Vernig
Suárez



RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.delcamino.net (Spanish site)
www.firstnorfolk.org
www.sbcv.org

■ SBCV Contact:

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

■ Consider This:

Join in this nationwide prayer and fasting movement.



Vision 20/20 Team Formed

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

On January 27, 2009 the Executive Board of the SBCV initiated the Vision 20/20 Team. The team's assignment is to "review the past, examine the present, and envision a preferred future for the SBCV that will bring our God glory." The focus of the vision will be on the next decade, culminating in the year 2020.

vision20/20

The team's assignment is to "review the past, examine the present, and envision a preferred future for the SBCV that will bring our God glory."



God has blessed the SBCV with a tremendous past. Its doctrinal convictions and evangelistic passion are established; yet, there is an urgent need to build upon these foundations. What emphases, goals, and strategies does the Lord have for the SBCV over the next decade of ministry? This is the question that the Vision 20/20 Team will prayerfully tackle.

The timeline for the team's work is from January to November 2009. The team will bring updates to the Executive Board at its regularly scheduled meetings. The plan is to present a report to the messengers at the Annual Homecoming of the SBCV, November 8-10, 2009 at First Baptist Church, Norfolk.

Please keep in prayer the members of this task force. Led by Carl Weiser, chairman, they are:

This is not the first time the SBCV has undertaken a major long-range planning process. In 2004, a similar process resulted in major initiatives, such as the decentralized structure that characterizes the SBCV.

The challenges of lostness are daunting; however, all authority in heaven and on

earth has been given to the Lord Jesus. It is He who has commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations. Please pray that the result of this process will be the development of compelling goals and strategies that will push back the darkness.

- Carl Weiser
- Brian Autry
- Steve Bradshaw
- Mark Custalow
- Doyle Chauncey
- Daniel Floyd
- Mark Gauthier
- Jeff Ginn
- Wendell Horton
- Tim Hight
- Mike Palmer
- Clovis Pause
- Darren Plummer
- Michael C. Smith
- Amy Stewart
- Jim Stone



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

How blessed we are to be a part of a state convention and network of churches that prioritizes church planting! My mind is habitually taken back to the often-repeated words of Dr. Geoff Hammond—now president of the North American Mission Board—as he reminded us of the SBCV vision: “churches planting churches planting churches planting churches”...and so on! That God-given vision is still alive and well among us.

I remember the first time one of our SBCV staff members shared with me how simple it was for our church here in Christiansburg to be involved as a church plant sponsor. I mistakenly thought that helping to sponsor a church plant would require a financial and time commitment that we would be hard-pressed to accomplish. I was pleasantly surprised!

I was even more surprised when I discovered how excited our church leadership and members were to have the opportunity to be involved as a co-sponsor of a new church plant. We voted enthusiastically and excitedly to enter a partnership with Pastor Doug Short and Ekklesia Blacksburg.

The joys and blessings of such an opportunity have been many. It has

further embedded the heartbeat of missions into the life of our church family. We have been able to rejoice in the testimonies of people being saved, baptized, and becoming faithful disciples doing ministry and carrying the Gospel witness to others.


Above all, this simple commitment and investment of the Lord’s resources allows us to better fulfill the Great Commission and have a sense of corporately being “On Mission” with God in reaching our neighbors and the nations with the hope of salvation through Christ. We are trusting that God will broaden our vision and deepen our passion to help others come to experience His saving power.

Let me encourage you to explore the opportunities of being directly involved in planting new churches and multiplying God’s Kingdom here in Virginia and around the world. Together, God will empower us to see His vision fulfilled through us: churches planting churches planting churches planting churches...for Jesus’ sake!




*Sunday Evening
through
Tuesday Afternoon*

NOVEMBER 8-10
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
NORFOLK
www.sbcv.org




2009 ANNUAL HOMECOMING
THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONSERVATIVES OF VIRGINIA

PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS THROUGH EVANGELISM



{ EVERY BELIEVER SHARING
EVERY PERSON HEARING }



MAY - JUN 11

All Hands on Deck

by Debbie Saul, Pastor's Wife and VBS Director at Salem Baptist Church, Virginia Beach
submitted by Don Cokes, Church Enrichment Missionary for the Southeastern Area

Sailors stand at parade rest while manning the rails on the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

All hands on deck! For my husband, Richard, this was a familiar call when he served as a Navy chaplain. Now that he serves as a pastor, we have realized this is the urgent call needed at our church, Salem Baptist in Virginia Beach. Vacation Bible School is a mighty tool for evangelism, but we need all hands on deck. For most churches, filling all the positions needed for VBS to run smoothly would require every member participating. Why not expect that? After all, it is the biggest evangelistic event the church will do each year.

The statistics are repeated every year; VBS is an effective evangelism tool, but the most important tool is having every member help. Salem, like many churches, claims to be serious about evangelism to the community. VBS is an opportunity to step up! Many are often eager to sign up and get to work, but others are reluctant. How can you get everyone involved?

First, begin with the men. Men are such an important influence in the life of a child that they must be involved. Children need to see grown men who love Jesus. At Salem, the children's Bible stories are usually taught by men! Next, those who may be uncomfortable with children can still be enlisted. These individuals can fill kitchen or security/safety positions, be trash handlers, restroom escorts, hallway helpers, or offering counters—you name it. Even those who may be limited physically can help. For example, ask the elderly and homebound to pray, sort and staple papers, address envelopes, or

provide snack items for the kitchen. Everyone can do something. You can even invent positions to get everyone involved. Keep the momentum going by providing regular updates on the preparation.

Give a week-by-week countdown—things that need to be donated, things that need to be done, and places that need workers. Each week, the excitement will build, and more workers will get involved!

For Salem, the results have been staggering. For three years, we have had 100% church participation. The enthusiasm was so contagious because the church members became united in purpose—to reach their community for Jesus. The first year we used this approach of raising expectations, 16 people were saved! The next year, we saw 13 children accept Christ. Last year, we had 36 professions of faith, which included several parents of the children! Salem Baptist now has a church expectation—every member participates in Vacation Bible School. What will you do to make this a reality in your church?



Debbie Saul taking a well-deserved break

Answering the Call to Do the Impossible

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

Almost a year ago, we wrote an article in the *Proclaimer* with a "Macedonian call" for workers to enter the harvest field of southwest Virginia. The Lord answered the prayers of many faithful saints who have been lifting up the petition for a church planting movement. With five active church plants growing in the Southwestern Ministry Area, the Lord has also added Gary and Susie Robbins to His army of missionaries.

Gary and Susie are both from the mountains of southwest Virginia, and they are excited God has called them to spread the Gospel. Gary will be serving as a church planting missionary to the Appalachian people. A church

planting missionary is tasked with the ministry of networking the Gospel among a specific people group. As a person comes to Christ and opens up his or her home, Gary will start a Bible study in the home in an effort to spread the Gospel through that person's family and friends. As the group matures, the home Bible study will naturally evolve into a church gathering to worship the Father and further proclaim the Gospel. As the Lord raises up a leader within the new church, Gary will mentor and equip the growing believer to pastor the group and will then transition out of the new church. In an effort to see a church planting movement, he will strive to carry out this process in multiple locations at the same time among his people group.

This task is beyond the realm of mere human capabilities. Pray for Gary as he moves from place to place around the mountains of southwest Virginia. Please ask the Lord to raise up men and women throughout the hills and hollers of Appalachia who would be willing to have a Bible study or church service in their home. May our God be glorified in all that we do to share the news of His great love.



Gary Robbins, church planting missionary to the Appalachian people

their meeting place



Never Underestimate the Power of Partnership

by Dave Earley, Director of the Liberty Center for Church Planting at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, Lynchburg

Never underestimate the power of partnership. Two and a half years ago, the Liberty Center for Church Planting was launched with a desire to work in partnership with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. Believing in the power of synergy, Drs. Dave Earley and David Wheeler of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary were immediately impressed with the structure set up by the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) to assist church planters. The goal was to link some of Liberty's best and brightest graduates to work with the SBCV to plant new churches in Virginia.

Greg Pulling, the first student to graduate with Liberty's new MA in Evangelism and Church Planting, used the principles he was learning in classes to re-launch Hopewell Baptist Church in New Kent. The church had an average attendance of 37. Under Greg's leadership, the church quadrupled the first year to an average attendance of 170, with dozens being baptized. The country church now has over 200 in worship on Sundays.

Daniel Floyd also used what he was learning at Liberty to re-launch a struggling church plant in Spotsylvania (www.visitlifepoint.org). Joined by Liberty grads Jeremy Pickwell and Josh Lazar, Lifepoint Church has exploded from 50 to 700 in the last three years.

Liberty graduate Daniel Bannister serves as a catalytic church planter among Hispanics in Charlottesville. His newest church, Fuente de Vida, started less than a year ago, now averages 35 in small groups. His role is to start multiple new churches in northeast Virginia.

Steve and Jessie Gentry, along with Nate and Katie Schlomann, plus a team of twelve other Liberty graduates, were called to plant The Village Church



Dr. Dave Earley is an experienced church planter and coach. He serves as the director of the Liberty Center for Church Planting at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also chairman of the Department of Pastoral Leadership and Church Planting for Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. He has authored twelve books on subjects such as small groups, leadership, prayer, and the Christian life. www.daveearley.net

of Midlothian. Desiring to see how their unique worship style would work, they launched a trial form of Converge (former name) in Lynchburg (www.convergechurch.org). With only word-of-mouth and Facebook advertising, they were astounded when over a hundred young adults showed up to check it out. Last fall, the church planting team moved to Midlothian, found jobs, and started the plant's first small groups.

The Liberty Center for Church Planting is a proven, valued partner with the SBCV, raising up quality church planting leaders. SBCV churches are sponsoring these strong leaders to start evangelistic, reproducing new churches. This is the power of a Kingdom-focused partnership.



What *Return* Are You Getting on Your INVESTMENT?

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

More than likely, you are feeling the effects of the greatest financial challenge ever faced by the United States of America and beyond. Many have lost their life's savings in the stock market, having trusted it as a means to financial growth. The market crash and continued fluctuation have led our nation into a recession of monumental proportions. Many are asking, "What investment yields the best return?" Should you invest in stocks, bonds, gold, Wal-Mart, oil, etc. ...?

What do the Scriptures say about earthly investments and treasures? Matthew 6 states, in verses 19 and 20, "Don't collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal" (HCSB). Luke's Gospel, chapter 12, verse 34, says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (HCSB). When reading these passages, I couldn't help but wonder if the Lord is reminding us through this recession to look at our investments. They could reveal that our hearts have been more focused on earthly treasures—temporal things rather than eternal things.

The economic definition of "investment" is "any use of resources intended to increase future

Did you know that the success rate of SBCV church plants is over 90%?

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/planting

SBCV Contact:

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

Consider this:

Statistics show that new churches are among our greatest tools in evangelism, as reflected in baptisms per capita.

production output." For what purpose could you use your resources that would lead to an increase in future production of eternal treasures? Let me suggest

something that gives a better return than 5% or even 10% on your investment. Your Cooperative Program giving helps support more than 5,000 international missionaries, more than 5,500 North American missionaries, and over 200 SBCV missionaries. Of the 200 SBCV missionaries, some are church planters and their families. Did you know that the success rate of SBCV church plants is over 90%? That's right! You will also be encouraged to know that of the 2009 state mission investment allocation of \$6,250,000, 55% (\$3,439,172) will be invested in church planting. You can do the math to determine the economic outcome. Statistically, church plants lead in per capita giving to missions through the Cooperative Program. "But what about the eternal outcome?" you may ask. Statistics show that new churches are among our greatest tools in evangelism, as reflected in baptisms per capita.

Does church planting sound like a good eternal investment to you? It certainly challenges existing churches to use their resources for eternal outcomes. What return are you getting on your investments?



MISSION opportunities 09

Southern Cross Bibles
APR :: MAY 31

**DC Unwed Mothers/
Babies Packs**
JUN :: JUL 31

**State Missions
Offering**
AUG :: SEP 20

**Christian Libraries
for Overseas**
OCT :: NOV 30

**Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering**
NOV :: DEC 6

www.sbcv.org/projects

What Does a CHURCH PLANTER Look Like?

by Ron Kidd, Church Planting Strategist for the Northern Area

The book by Stan Toler and Mark Toler-Hollingsworth, *You Might Be a Preacher If...*, is a light-hearted attempt by two pastors to wittily poke fun at themselves and other clergy. Their one-liners paint what is sometimes a brutally true caricature of preachers but, more often, simply describes many of the misconceived stereotypes of what a pastor looks like. For example, "You Might Be a Preacher If...

You've ever been asked what it's like to work only one day a week.

You get your second wind when you say, 'And in conclusion...'

You're 'all things to all people.'

Your 'To Do' list is alliterated.

People know you're 'laying up treasures in Heaven' by looking at your car."

As a church planting strategist, one who works daily with church planters, the question immediately comes to my mind: "What does a church planter look like?" Maybe I'll write a book: "You Might Be a Church Planter If..."

In all seriousness, what *does* a church planter look like? Is he a young man just out of seminary or an experienced pastor of many years? Is he a layman who has already been part of a church plant and God is now calling him out to be a planter? Is he an expert in church planting principles (having read and studied a myriad of the latest books on the subject) or is he one who has clearly sensed God's call on his life to church planting but has limited knowledge on how he will fulfill this calling? Is he Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, or of another ethnic group? Is he single or married with several children? Has he grown up in a home of blue collar workers or, from an economic standpoint, did he experience a privileged or under-privileged childhood? Was he born and raised in the country or the city? Does he speak and minister in English or another language? To all of these questions, the resounding answer would simply be, "Yes!"

Just as every human being is unique and different in many ways, so are those God calls to serve Him in ministry. No two pastors, missionaries, or church planters are alike. Each comes with his own individual background, experiences, talents, abilities, spiritual gifts, and many other things that define him. Nowhere is this better illustrated and more evident than among those God has called to be church planters within the SBCV. It will be surprising to many who read this article to discover the incredible diversity of our church planters. Along with our church planters from the US, we have many church planters from other lands

and nationalities. We presently have church planters from:

Argentina ▶ Caribbean Islands ▶ Cuba ▶ Egypt ▶ Mexico ▶ Pakistan ▶ Peru ▶ Philippines ▶ Romania ▶ Russia ▶ South Africa ▶ South Korea ▶ Venezuela ▶ Kenya ▶ Brazil ▶ Ghana ▶ India

We are incredibly and wonderfully blessed to have church planters reaching these many peoples of the world who live within our reach. This is one of the distinctive privileges of our state convention. God is allowing us to play a part in reaching the world for Christ.

The diversity of our church planters is obvious; however, no matter the nationality, educational background, or ministry experience, our planters all have some things in common. There is a certain DNA that is found in every planter. Some common characteristics are:

- A personal and vital relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ
- A certain and clear calling to the missionary ministry of church planting
- A passion for the lost and a desire to see every person come to a saving knowledge of Christ
- A belief in and commitment to teach biblically sound doctrine
- A teachable spirit
- An ability to lead others
- A personal, relational, and spiritual integrity
- A passion to see God use him to plant His church

Although this list doesn't describe all the attributes of a church planter, it does help us answer our original question of what a church planter looks like. If this short list describes you, then you might just be looking at a future church planter each time you look in the mirror!

RESOURCE

■ Website:

www.sbcv.org/planting

■ SBCV Contact:

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

■ Consider This:

Your uniqueness and differences may be the reasons why God calls you to serve Him in the ministry of church planting.

■ Prayer Focus:

Pray for God to call out many more church planters into the harvest.



He Still Loves the City

by Larry Black, Church Planting Strategist for the Central-East and Central-West Areas

Richmond has a population of 192,913 with more than 27 nationalities.

God is passionate about reaching cities. More than 81% of America is urbanized. This compares to 47% for the rest of the world. Cities are densely populated with multiple ethnic groups and cultures, and Richmond is no exception. The capital city has a population of 192,913 with more than 27 nationalities. Three universities in Richmond have students from over one hundred countries.

Richmond is considered to be part of the Old South and, by some, has been called the “buckle on the Bible belt.”

Wrong! Consider these past realities:

- The city of Richmond and First Baptist Church were founded toward the end of the first Great Awakening, but there is no indication that their founding was related to this awakening.
- During the Civil War, many of the regiments from Virginia experienced revival in what was called the Great Prayer Revival, but no reference is made to this taking place in Richmond.
- The first indication of a spirit of revival in Richmond came at the end of the Civil War. It

is recorded that a spirit of revival took place among African-Americans. In 1878, there were 3,088 salvations recorded among African-Americans in Richmond (*A Right Grand Worthy Mission*, Marlowe). This seems to be the only reference in the history of Richmond when a movement of God, through revival, took place.

Does this mean that God has bypassed Richmond—that He does not love the city? There is reason to be encouraged that God is up to something. Consider our present environment:

- Hundreds gather in two evangelical groups (one that meets monthly and one that prays seven days a week), praying for spiritual awakening for Richmond.
- In addition to the SBCV, there are at least six recognized evangelical groups starting churches in the city of Richmond.
- Within the last four years, three new SBCV churches have started within Richmond proper. Two more will start soon. These five church planters have been called by God and are passionate to reach their city.

God has not forgotten Richmond. He is at work, and He still loves the city.

Is God calling you to bring spiritual change to the city? Many are praying for God to call out church planters and team members. To get more information, contact Larry Black at lblack@sbcv.org or Ron Kidd at rkidd@sbcv.org.

View of downtown Richmond while walking to Bell Isle

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/planting

SBCV Contacts (email):

Larry Black, lblack@sbcv.org
Ron Kidd, rkidd@sbcv.org

Prayer Focus:

Pray for revival and spiritual awakening in the city of Richmond.

A Fresh View

AN AREA STUDY

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

How do we know if a city, town, or community is in need of a new church plant? As a church enrichment missionary, I have the opportunity to build relationships with existing churches and their leadership. Through Annual Church Profiles, I am made aware of the number of people being reached by our SBCV churches, and I compare these statistics with the current population determined by the most recent census. These figures are very telling but not as revealing as the observation of new housing developments springing up; churches with near-empty parking lots on Sunday; and houses where every family member seems to be home during traditional church service times.

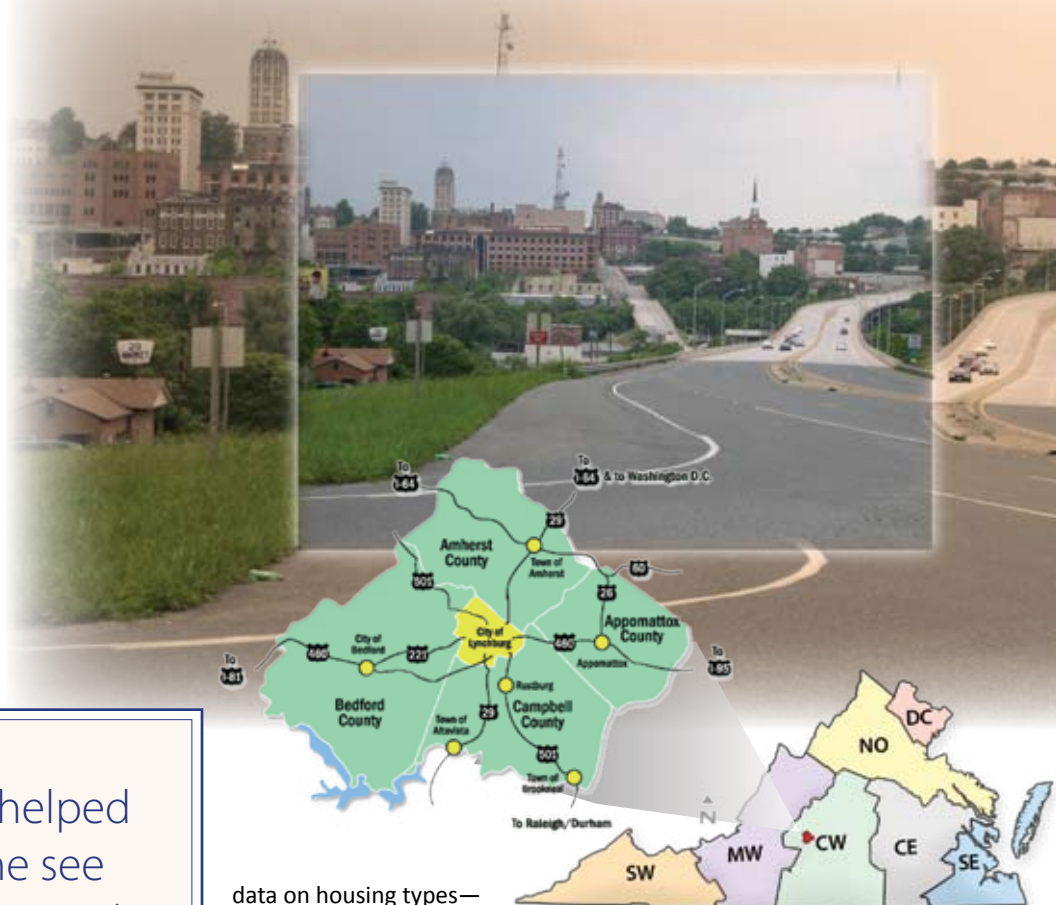
When a church enrichment missionary notices an area seeming to be in need of more churches, he notifies the area church planting strategist, who coordinates the next step to determine the need — a church planting probe in strategic areas. A probe begins with area pastors, staff, and church members who are willing to survey the neighborhoods through a drive-by study or conduct random interviews. The church planting strategist trains the volunteers, explaining what to look for and how to record data. He also provides a list of survey questions regarding spiritual matters. The probe begins early the next morning and runs through the lunch hour. The team collects data about area churches, such as the condition of the church facilities, activities listed on the marquee, and the parking capacity. In neighborhoods, the team records

“It helped me see the need for more churches in my own community.”

data on housing types— whether the area consists of homes with small children (evidenced by toys outside), senior living facilities, etc. Also discovered in the surveying are possible buildings for rent or purchase as potential meeting places. While interviewing people about spiritual matters, the teams often discover persons of peace who are interested in helping get the plant off the ground. These persons of peace become the liaisons between their neighborhoods and the sponsoring church.

In the Central-West area, church planting probes have been conducted in the following cities and towns: Danville, Bedford, Concord, Rustburg, Lynchburg, Madison Heights, Amherst, and Farmville. What I find interesting through this very productive process is that pastors from surrounding churches who become involved always say something to the effect of, “The area probe benefits more than the church plant. It helped me see the need for more churches in my own community, and it also opened my eyes to neighborhoods my church should be reaching and has failed to reach in the past.”

Pastors, staff, and lay persons can and should take advantage of church planting probes by participating in them, gleaning from the demographic and statistical data, and taking a fresh objective view of the Jerusalem where God has strategically placed them.



RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/planting

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 to get details from the missionary in your area.

Please contact your area missionary regarding church planting needs in your area.



by Bill Wennersten,
Church Planting
Strategist for the
Greater DC Area

Urban Church Planting

Prior to 1920, the majority of the United States population lived in small towns and rural areas. The 1920 national census, however, revealed that for the first time in the nation's history, a 51% majority of the population lived in cities and suburbs. Today, 81% of the population of the United States lives in urban or suburban areas of the country. This seismic shift in population has taken place in less than 100 years and has far-reaching implications on how we go about the work of evangelism and church planting.

The greatest number of people and most of the opportunities for sowing the Gospel and starting new churches are in urban areas. Urban settings need to be interpreted individually, people groups identified, needs recognized, and networks established for effective ministry to be accomplished.

"...most of the opportunities for sowing the Gospel and starting new churches are in urban areas."

An Influential City

Washington, DC is an urban area and also happens to be the most influential city in the world. The world has come to DC, and that presents us with an incredible opportunity to plant new churches for all people groups and, in doing so, to reach many parts of the world with the Gospel. Every nation, tribe, and tongue is represented in DC, making it potentially the most significant city for furthering the Gospel

since 1st-century Rome. All roads now lead to DC.

Church planting in DC, as in most urban areas, is only successful when significant relationships are developed between those involved in church planting and individuals in the people groups and segments they seek to reach. This takes time and, more importantly, submission to the Lord for the sake of the Gospel. Please pray for workers for the harvest in our cities, especially Washington, DC, and perhaps ask, "Will you send me, Lord?"

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/planting

SBCV Contact:

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

Prayer Focus:

Pray for churches that will partner in planting new churches in Washington, DC




SBCV South American Partnership with Uruguay

URUGUAY

Montevideo

RiodelaPlata
SBCV PARTNERSHIP

Uruguay, the most secular society in Latin America, has 1.8 million people along the "Golden Coast," and less than .02% profess any form of Christian faith. Most of the population has its roots in Europe, and the society as a whole has rejected Christ and the idea of the institutional church.

Two ways you and your church can help:

- Pray for God's movement through Uruguay
- Send a short term team to do GAP

GAP (Gospel Advancement Project)

www.sbcv.org/partnerships

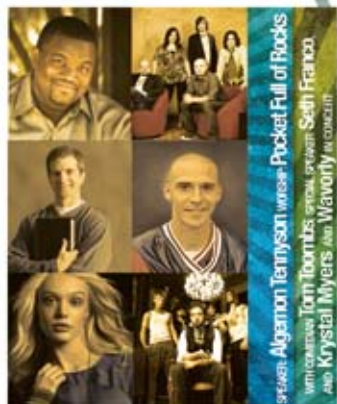
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1 Corinthians 9:24

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www.sbcv.org/studentz/networks



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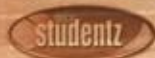
August 6-7

Colonial Heights Baptist Church
Colonial Heights
www.sbcv.org/studentz/yec

So they stayed there for some time and spoke boldly, in reliance on the Lord, who testified to the message of His grace by granting that signs and wonders be performed through them.

Acts 14:3

studentz
YEC



Ken Freeman
Speaker



Echoing Angels in Concert



Drew Worsham
Illusionist



Matt Papa
Worship Leader



Chasing Daylight
in Concert