

SBC of Virginia



PROCLAIMER



Southern Baptist churches
PULLING TOGETHER
to fulfill the Great Commission

www.sbcv.org
Jul : Aug 2009
Volume 11
Number 4



MULTIPLYING
MATURING
MOBILIZING



VIEWPOINT

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Twittering and CP Missions

Dr. Ginn's Itinerary

JULY 5

Cave Spring Baptist Church
Roanoke

JULY 12

York River Baptist Church
Williamsburg

AUGUST 2

Lifesong Baptist Church
Harrisonburg

AUGUST 9

Spotswood Baptist Church
Fredericksburg

AUGUST 16

Spotswood Baptist Church
Fredericksburg

AUGUST 23

Hillcrest Baptist Church &
Iglesia Bautista Hillcrest
Ridgeway

AUGUST 30

Filipino American Community Church
Alexandria

I must confess that I like innovation as much as anyone. I have a DVR, a Blackberry, and I even twitter (www.twitter.com/jeffginn)! The book, *Diffusion of Innovation*, postulates that there is a bell curve of sorts when it comes to adopting what is new. If so, you can plot me somewhere near the front end of that curve. In many ways, I am an "early adopter."

Having said that, there are some things that are tried and true. Time has proven their enduring worth. We should faithfully hold on to these. This edition of the *Proclaimer* touts the value of one such methodology—the Cooperative Program (CP). Don't let the well-worn label fool you. It is ingenious. It is effective. It is biblical. Let me take each of these adjectives in order.

First, it is ingenious. There are a myriad of ministries that merit our support—seminaries, local ministries, national missions, international missions, world hunger, etc. How can a local church support them all? Answer: CP missions. Through this one channel, all of these legitimate ministries are supported. Our cooperatively supported entities have decades of experience that result in hard-won wisdom. It would be foolhardy to discard what has been so fruitful.

Second, it is effective. Through the CP, some 200 missionaries are supported in Virginia and Washington, DC; more than 5,000 serve elsewhere



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

in North America; and another 5,000-plus are deployed in far-flung corners of our world. Thousands of young people are preparing for ministry in our seminaries. Relief ministries bind up the wounded and hurting. CP missions do not have to take a back seat to any other strategy.

Third, it is biblical. This is mentioned last, not because it is the least important factor, but because it is the *most* important. Working together for the truth is a biblical mandate. The Apostle John challenges us to "work together for the truth" (3 John 8). In the context of that verse, he was referring to missional ventures. It is in those arenas where synergistic cooperation is absolutely vital.

Let's embrace innovation when it serves Kingdom purposes. At the same time, let's hold on to the truth that was once for all delivered to the saints and to the cooperative means that make possible its global spread.

For Jesus' sake,


Jeff Ginn

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 }





Kids these days ...

... face a lot of tough choices.

August 9, 2009

Day of Prayer For Students

Send them back to school
sheltered in prayer.

MISSION opportunities 09
www.sbcv.org/projects

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



**SEP
13-20**

- MINISTRIES
- MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS
- MISSIONARIES

GOAL: \$230,000

*If the State Missions Offering goal is exceeded, the additional funds
will be applied to the general State Missions Offering account.*

2009 SBC of Virginia CALENDAR

● 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 .. 20

● October

Basic Training I 2-3
Men's IMPACT Conference 9-10
Church Planting Network (CPN),
Statewide 22
Basic Training I 22-23

● November

Annual Homecoming 8-10

● December

Week of Prayer for
International Missions Nov 29-Dec 6

For more information,
visit www.sbcv.org



Contents

JUL • AUG 09 Vol. 11 No. 4

5



Maddie's Party for Soldiers

Seven-year-old Maddie Vicars just wanted to "bless others so they could see Jesus" in her. For her birthday, she decided that rather than receive gifts, she would ask her friends to help make *Virginia Soldier R&R Kits* to send overseas.

7



Hope for Uruguay and Beyond

The Inmons (Tony, Denita, and Taylor) prepare to follow God's call to Uruguay to begin a new ministry called *Esperanza*. It's their desire to see the hope of Christ spread rapidly across Uruguay.

9



CP — The Southern Baptist Way of Doing Missions

The Cooperative Program is explained in manageable-sized bits of information. This special, four-page pullout was created as a source of reference, so check it out!

14



The Southside Story

Route 58 takes travelers through some of the economically hardest-hit communities in Virginia. Despite this, God's people in this region have remained faithful to giving financially to spread the Gospel.

16



Sharing Hope

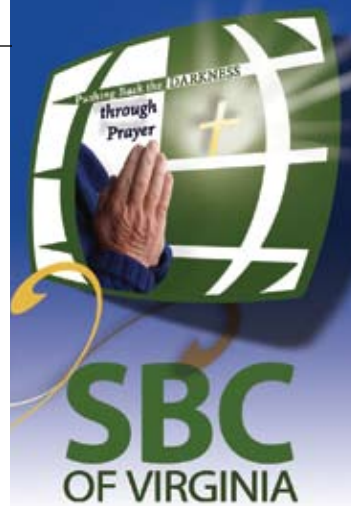
Disaster Relief volunteers share their saving faith in Jesus Christ as they minister to communities in times of crisis. As God opens doors during disasters, our DR teams meet both physical and spiritual needs.

18



CP Testimonies

Read personal accounts of how the Cooperative Program has affected the lives of four: a missionary in Kenya, a church planter in northern Virginia, a statewide missionary in Virginia, and a missionary from the southwest region of the Dakotas.



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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sbcv.org/resources/proclaimer.

For more information or

to contact us, visit

www.sbcv.org.



Maddie's Party for Soldiers

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

"God has blessed me a lot, and I wanted to bless others so they could see Jesus in me." That is the answer seven-year-old Maddie Vicars gave when I asked her why she wanted to help with the *Virginia Soldiers Rest & Relaxation (R&R) Kits* mission opportunity. For her seventh birthday party in January, Maddie decided that rather than receive gifts for herself, she would ask her friends each to bring a DVD movie to send to a soldier overseas. Maddie's mother had purchased snacks for the kits, along with tracts for each one. The children had a great time putting the kits together and using colored markers to write notes to the soldiers.

Maddie's parents, Mike and Elise, have a heart for missions and have encouraged their three children to get involved. The family is part of a missions-minded church, Parkway Baptist in Moseley. Church members are given many opportunities to be involved in missions at all levels—community, state, national, and international. This project had special meaning to Maddie because she knew someone who had served in Iraq—her best friend Allie's dad.

Maddie did not want publicity for doing this project, but when she learned we wanted to write about it for the *Proclaimer*, she was willing to share her story. Her hope and prayer is that "God will use this to cause other people to want to help with missions." After talking with this young girl, I left feeling inspired by her heart to help others. I am confident the Lord will continue to use her in even greater ways as she seeks opportunities to bless others so they can see Christ in her.

In addition to Parkway, 67 other churches around the state participated in the *Virginia Soldiers R&R Kits* hands-on mission project. Their collaborative efforts produced 1,400 kits, which have already arrived in Afghanistan. The soldiers are elated! Thank you to all who participated in this project. The kits are a great encouragement and inspiration to our soldiers, who are serving to protect the freedoms we enjoy in America.



RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/projects

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



SBCV Studentz YEC 2009

Youth Evangelism Conference

Reliance

August 6-7
 Colonial Heights Baptist Church
 Colonial Heights
www.sbcv.org/studentz/yec

Studentz
 YEC

See You at the Pole™

It's about students meeting at their school flagpole to pray—for their school, friends, teachers, government, and nation.

- student-led
- student-initiated
- student-organized

See You at the Pole™ is not a demonstration, political rally, nor a stand for or against anything.

For more information, visit www.syatp.com/info

SEP
 23



Focus Week:
JULY 13th - 17th
 SBCV STUDENTZ
missionplant
www.sbcv.org/studentz/networks



“Hey, three minutes of your time?”

by Jack Noble, Church Health Strategist for the Midwestern and Southwestern Areas



RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/missions

SBCV Contact:

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

Prayer Focus:

Pray that the Dakota Partnership will be fruitful.

The camouflaged man blurts out, “Hey, would you give me three minutes of your time to get the chance to win a \$500 Gander Mountain gift card?” A skeptical hunter looks back with an uncertainty the situation demands and asks, “What?” The camouflaged man repeats, “Yeah, if you will let me talk with you for three minutes, you can walk away entered to win a \$500 gift card. You in?” The skeptical hunter hesitantly nods and grimaces, “Yes.” Three minutes later, when the man finishes speaking, tears fill the hunter’s eyes as he begins to pray and ask Christ to be his Savior. This type of scenario occurred 57 times last fall as members of Craig Valley Baptist Church in New Castle shared their faith with hundreds of participants at the annual Hunters’ Festival in Craig County.

Last August, Bill Grindstaff, pastor of Craig Valley Baptist Church, went on an SBCV exposure trip to the Dakotas to flesh out a state-to-state reciprocal partnership. Reciprocal partnerships involve two states sharing their expertise and passions. In this

case, the Dakota Baptist Convention shared an innovative idea. The convention buys a Harley Davidson to give away at the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, SD. The deal is essentially the same: “Three minutes of your time and you could win a Harley.” Thousands of people accept the offer each year, and the Gospel is proclaimed.

Pastor Bill brought the idea home to Virginia and fit it into the local culture of Craig County. His original idea was to buy a gun but quickly decided it was probably not in the best interest of the church to give away a gun. The Gander Mountain gift certificate seemed to be the next best thing. Pastor Bill’s exposure to a great idea in the Dakotas resulted in hundreds of people in Virginia hearing about Christ.

State-to-state partnerships are made possible by your faithful Cooperative Program giving. Contact your area missionary to find out how your church can get involved in the Dakota Partnership.

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



Hope for Uruguay and Beyond

by Tony Inmon, Church Planting Strategist

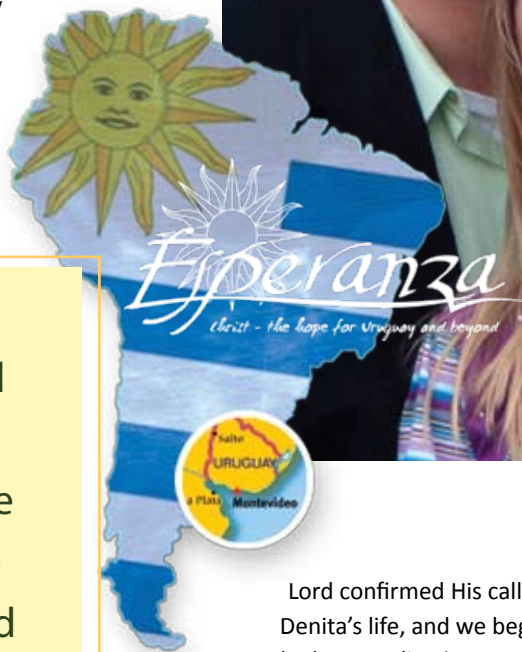
In April 2004, my wife Denita and I went on our first short-term mission trip to South America with Bethel Baptist in Chesapeake. While we were there, God did a work in both of our hearts. We developed a strong passion for the Hispanic people, and Denita even remembers thinking she would like to live there someday. She had the opportunity to return the next year and fell in love with the South American people even more.

Fast-forward to 2007. One of my statewide assignments for the SBCV was to develop a partnership with the IMB in South America. Through prayer and open

“I wish I could express myself in a way that would adequately communicate how thankful we are for the SBCV and how blessed we have been to know you and to have served with you.”

doors, the Lord led me to the country of Uruguay and the Rio de la Plata partnership. After seeing the hopelessness of the people and the great need to impact Uruguay with the Gospel, the Lord began to stir in my heart the desire to see a church planting movement take place there. I knew the Father was calling me to be a part of His work in Uruguay.

As I spoke with Denita about the possibility of long-term overseas missions, she knew she was not ready and had not yet felt God call her personally. It was extremely important to us that we both sense God's call. So I waited on the Lord and realized that my task was not yet complete here in Virginia. I knew the Lord of the harvest was answering our prayers and beginning to lay a foundation for church planting in southwest Virginia. In early 2008, the



Lord confirmed His call on Denita's life, and we began the long application process with the International Mission

Board. As we prepared to follow God's call, we searched through the needs in South America until we discovered the job request in Uruguay that was a perfect match for us. Now in the midst of leaving everything we know, I can't help but pause and look back over the last few years. The Lord has used our time in Virginia to teach us so much about His mission and the multiplication of His Kingdom. I wish I could express myself in a way that would adequately communicate how thankful we are for the SBCV and how blessed we have been to know you and to have served with you. We long for the day when we meet your mission teams in the airport in Montevideo and partner with you to see the hope of Christ spread rapidly across Uruguay. We eagerly await the day when a multitude of Uruguayans will worship before the throne of God.

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.sbcv.org
www.hope4uy.com

■ SBCV Contact:

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

■ Prayer Focus:

Join us on this journey through prayer, as the Inmons follow God's call to minister to the people of Uruguay.





VIEWPOINT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

One Pastor's Perspective **THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**



Having been in a Southern Baptist church since birth, I am well-acquainted with the Cooperative Program (CP). I saw and experienced its blessings before I ever knew the label. Now, having served in staff roles in Southern Baptist churches for more than 25 years, my perspective on the CP can be summed up with these words:

PRINCIPLED

We are a giving people because we are children of a giving Father. We teach our people to give out of obedience, love, and sacrifice. The principles of Malachi 3:10 and Luke 6:38 that we encourage individual believers to emulate should be equally reflected in our corporate budget priorities. If we tell them that the tithe is a “starting place,” why shouldn’t the same be true for the church? If we are asking our people to be even more faithful during tough economic times, why shouldn’t the church budget reflect the same?

PURPOSEFUL

For more than 85 years, the Cooperative Program has existed for only one reason: to enable us to carry the Gospel to our neighbors and the nations. It allows us to accomplish together the Great Commission and be obedient to the Great Commandment. I know of no greater purpose for us and no ministry more “purpose driven” than this. If a church is serious about having a global impact for Christ, CP giving is an excellent way!

PRACTICAL

In days such as these, everyone is desperately trying to find the most “bang for the buck.” We all desire to practice good stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to us. In our CP giving, we are supporting ministry through dozens of children’s homes, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and crisis pregnancy centers; hundreds of colleges, universities, and new church plants; and thousands of pastors, missionaries, and other ministry leaders.

PRODUCTIVE

Perhaps this is the greatest reality about CP missions. Over 500,000 people were baptized in other parts of the world in 2008, and we share that blessing through CP giving. Some 1,500 churches were planted in North America, and we all rejoice because of our partnership in the Gospel through the Cooperative Program. When the 18-wheelers brought supplies to Biloxi, MS, following Hurricane Katrina, we all were there. When Doug is counseling students on the campus of Virginia Tech, CP churches are there with him. When Kathy in Tanzania teaches Bible stories to children in a 98% Muslim community, we are teaching with her. When Tim and Merry are giving Bibles to Chinese tourists in Thailand, we who share in the Cooperative Program are giving out Bibles with them. Hundreds of thousands of lives are being eternally changed!

I have learned that the Cooperative Program is not really about a “program” at all. It is about touching the community and the world with the love and truth of the Gospel message. It is an eternal matter of our hearts, of life and death, and of faithful obedience to the lordship of Christ.

The Cooperative Program

the Southern Baptist Way of Doing Missions

by Don Cockes,
Church Health Strategist for
the Southeastern Area,
and Mark Custalow,
Church Planting Strategist
for the Southeastern Area

5.8 billion

people on the planet are lost without Jesus.

EVERY NUMBER HAS A STORY

"I will seek the lost, bring back the strays, bandage the injured,
and strengthen the weak..." — Ezekiel 34:16a, HCSB



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Love In Action

www.sbc.net/cp

Special Section — Pullout



Cooperative Program

What Is the Cooperative Program?

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

In 1925, the leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) proposed a unified funding campaign that, for the first time, included everything—the missions and ministries of all the state conventions as well as that of the Southern Baptist Convention. A God-given partnership of missions support was conceived—the Cooperative Program. Prior to that time, each SBC entity made direct appeals to the churches. This method was referred to as the “societal” approach to missions and is common even today. This method, however, resulted in severe financial deficits, competition among entities, overlapping pledge campaigns, and frequent emergency appeals, which greatly hampered Southern Baptist mission efforts. Frequently, missionaries were delayed from going to the field or denied the opportunity altogether due to lack of funding.

The Southern Baptist Convention is a network of churches that have learned an important principle—we can do far more together than we could ever do separately. It is the concept of synergy found in Ecclesiastes 4, where it says, “Two are better than one.” If two are better than one, how much better would hundreds of churches working together be? Since its inception, the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program has been dependent upon individuals, churches, state conventions, and SBC entities cooperating, working toward a common goal of sharing the Gospel with every person on the planet.

The Southern Baptist worldwide missions enterprise is funded in large part through the unique, efficient, and equitable Cooperative Program. Each church determines a portion to invest in the Cooperative Program from the undesignated tithes and offerings received from individuals. In 2008, the churches of the SBC of Virginia invested over \$10 million through the Cooperative Program to support work throughout Virginia, Greater Washington, DC, and the various ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

HOW IT WORKS (adapted from www.cpmissions.org)

Simply put, it begins with each individual Southern Baptist. First of all, you give yourself to God (2 Corinthians 8:5). Next, out of gratitude and obedience to God for what He has done for you, you commit to give back to Him, through your church, a portion of what He provides. This is commonly called a tithe and represents ten percent of your income (Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10).

Your church decides the next step. Every year, your church prayerfully decides how much of its undesignated gifts will be committed to reaching people in Virginia, Greater Washington, DC, and around the world through the Cooperative Program. If your church is an SBCV church, this amount is then forwarded to the SBCV. The SBCV gives fifty percent to support local missions and ministries, and the other fifty percent is forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for North American and international missions and ministries.

At the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meetings, messengers from across the country decide how the gifts received from the states will be distributed among SBC entities. These gifts are used by Southern Baptist entities to send and support missionaries; train pastors and other ministry leaders; provide relief for retired ministers and widows; and address social, moral, and ethical concerns relating to our faith and families. The bottom line—people around the world hear the Gospel and receive Christ.



WHAT IT DOES

Cooperative Program investments through the SBCV work together to support a wide array of ministries and missions, including evangelism efforts, disaster relief responses, volunteer missions, new churches, and much more.

Following the original intention of the Cooperative Program funding model, all undesignated giving to the SBCV is divided equally between national Southern Baptist causes and Virginia Southern Baptist causes. The SBCV is a network of Southern Baptist churches cooperating together to help local congregations fulfill their task of the Great Commission. The SBCV lives out this evangelistic mandate in three ways:



EVANGELISM THROUGH MULTIPLYING CHURCHES—The primary focus of Multiplying Churches is church planting. The SBC of Virginia has been partnering with churches to plant churches since its beginning. It is a core value. To this end, your area SBCV church planting strategist is available to assist SBCV churches to plant other churches through a systematic approach, which has been proven to facilitate the planting of healthy, reproducing churches.



EVANGELISM THROUGH MATURING CHURCHES—Maturing Churches encompasses two strategic objectives: (1) supporting pastors, staff, and their families; and (2) strengthening existing churches. The purpose of the Maturing Churches strategy is to assist the local church in insuring good congregational health and to encourage steady growth. Church health strategists and associates are deployed throughout the state to work in close relationship with ministerial staff, lay leaders, and church members in providing resources, training events, and specialized equipping opportunities. The New Testament church had everything in common, shared their resources, increased in salvations, grew in their spiritual walk, and scattered in order to carry forth the Gospel. Even though the strategies and process may look different today, the message and the goal are the same—to be a healthy, growing, and maturing church.



EVANGELISM THROUGH MOBILIZING CHURCHES—Through Mobilizing Churches, the SBC of Virginia continues its endeavor to educate and mobilize church volunteers in SBC cooperative missions. To do this, we seek to network local church key leaders, utilize missions specialists to assist local churches, provide a missions webpage, develop missions partnerships among churches, and provide aid in disaster relief and Baptist Builders efforts. Churches are encouraged to embrace the Acts 1:8 Challenge by reaching their Jerusalem (community), Judea (Commonwealth), Samaria (country), and the ends of the earth (continents).

The other half of all Cooperative Program contributions to the SBCV go to support the Southern Baptist Convention:

- Through the International Mission Board (www.imb.org), Southern Baptists support over 5,000 missionaries, who are engaging more than one thousand different people groups around the world.
- Through the efforts of more than 5,000 North American missionaries, close to 1,500 new churches are planted each year. These efforts are coordinated through the North American Mission Board (www.namb.net) and individual state conventions.
- Six Southern Baptist seminaries (Southern, Southeastern, Midwestern, Southwestern, Golden Gate, and New Orleans) educate in excess of 16,000 pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders each year.
- The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (www.erc.com) is dedicated to addressing social, moral, and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith. They also provide print resources that offer scriptural responses to the moral and ethical problems of our culture.

Although they receive no Cooperative Program support, LifeWay Christian Resources, GuideStone Financial Resources, and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) actively promote the Cooperative Program in publications and missions resources.

For more information concerning your missions investment through the SBCV, visit www.sbcv.org/budget.



The Cooperative Program

HOW IT WORKS (adapted from www.cpmissions.org)

If “two are better than one” (Ecclesiastes 4:9), how much better are more than 16 million? This is the current membership in more than 44,696 Southern Baptist churches across the United States. With a global population exceeding 6.5 billion and a command to take the Gospel to every nation, we must enhance our cooperative efforts if we are going to fulfill Christ’s command.

To help the Cooperative Program reach its potential, would you please:

Pray.

Pray regularly for your Southern Baptist missionaries in your state and around the globe. “Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers” Matthew 9:38 (HCSB).

Go.

Be involved in some sort of missions endeavor. Talk with your pastor about available opportunities. You are God’s missionary right where you live. “Go...and make disciples of all nations” Matthew 28:19 (HCSB).

Give.

Out of love for the Lord, give regularly to Him through your church. If you are not tithing, begin to do so, and also discover the blessings of giving beyond the tithe. Encourage your church to increase its participation in the Cooperative Program. “Since you excel in so many ways...now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving” 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT). “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse” Malachi 3:10 (NKJV).

Thank you for your love for the Lord, your love for people, and your participation in the Cooperative Program.





DC Baby Packs

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

Teen pregnancy is on the rise in Washington, DC, and the latest statistics available from 2005 show that half of all teen pregnancies end in abortion. Children born to unwed mothers in DC have a greater probability of being raised at or below the poverty level in multigenerational, single-parent homes. This also increases the likelihood of these children dropping out of high school and entering the same cycle of life.

SBCV churches from across Virginia and Maryland have once again shown their concern and care for these DC babies and mothers. Over 430 individual *Baby Packs* were received by Jerusalem Baptist Church in Fairfax Station. The much-appreciated and needed packs were then collected and taken to SBCV's DC Mission Center downtown for distribution by church planters in the Greater DC Ministry Area.

Art and Michele Thompson and Cristian and Carina Pablo, SBCV church planters, want to see an end to the cycle and hopelessness that accompany the lifestyle of many unwed moms. They use the *Baby Packs* in direct ministry to meet real needs in the community. The gift of a *Baby Pack* is a no-

strings-attached way of showing love and concern to young, often unwed mothers in the communities and people groups they serve. Sometimes, the packs are the first gift these mothers receive for their children. Inside, they find much-needed, everyday items—clothing and blankets for newborns, as well as copies of the *New Testament* and other books to help them find answers to life's biggest questions.

Small gifts and expressions of genuine care can open doors into people's lives, building bridges of trust and communication. Couple these expressions with the life-transforming message of the Gospel, and lives will be changed. Cycles of hopelessness and destructive lifestyle patterns can be altered for individuals and communities. It's a lot like offering a cold cup of water to a tired and thirsty man.

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/projects

SBCV Contact:

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

Prayer Focus:

Please pray that doors into people's lives will open and negative cycles of life will be broken.



DC
Unwed Mothers/Babies Packs
→ June - July 31
www.sbcv.org/projects

National Evangelism Initiative
www.NEI2020.com
www.sbcv.org/evangelism

FOR MANY, THE PATH ISN'T THIS OBVIOUS.

GOD'S PLAN FOR SHARING



The Southside Story

DESPITE THE ECONOMY, MISSIONS GIVING REMAINS STRONG

by Steve Bradshaw, Church Health Strategist for the
Central-East and Central-West Areas

South Boston, Danville, and Martinsville make up what's known as the Route 58 Corridor. Route 58 takes travelers through some of the economically hardest-hit towns, cities, and communities in Virginia. The unemployment rate in February 2009 skyrocketed to 11.4% in Pittsylvania County; 12.3-13.6% in the city of Danville and the surrounding area; 12.2% in Halifax County; 14.6% in Henry County; and a whopping 20.2% in the city of Martinsville. Despite the depressed and recessed state of the economy, God's people in this region have remained faithful to His mission, continuing to give financially to spread the Gospel. The following are excerpts from the testimonies of pastors and church staff in the area.

Grace Southern Baptist Church, Virgilina ■ Dave Cline, Associate Pastor

*We keep missions at the forefront of all we do. We seek to be more than just a missions-minded church. We are committed to being a missions-giving and going church as well. In 2003, our church entered into a 2-million-dollar building project, while at the same time committing to raise our Cooperative Program giving from 5% of the church budget to 10% of all undesignated receipts—all the while, never failing to meet the church budget and, in many cases, surpassing it. In 2008, our total missions giving was nearly 25% of the total church expenditures. **We decided that despite the difficult financial times our region, nation, and world are in right now...instead of looking at missions as something we cannot afford to do right now...we look at it as something we cannot afford not to do.***

The Tabernacle, Danville ■ Lamarr Mooneyham, Sr. Pastor

In 2006, when the state's unemployment rate was flip-flopping from Martinsville to Danville, The Tabernacle gave an unprecedented \$500,000 to missions. Since that time, the missions giving, which includes the Cooperative Program; [support for] the International Fellowship of Christians and

*Jews; support for other missionaries in Haiti, Mexico, the Philippines, Tibet, Japan, Brazil, Russia, and Jamaica; and [support for] local missions such as the Rescue Mission, Little Life, and God's Storehouse, the missions giving has increased to over \$530,000. At The Tabernacle, **missions giving is an investment. It is not a debt you owe but a seed you sow.** The principles of investment, increase, and interval are constantly taught from 2 Corinthians 9:6. [The verse] reminds the congregation that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. A biblical stewardship lesson to be learned is that the tithe is the Lord's. **You don't pay your tithe; you honor the Lord with His tithe. The church doesn't take an offering; you receive the offering.** I believe the Lord has honored our giving because of good accounting of the investment; we do not go in debt as a church, and we offer help to families who are struggling financially through Dave Ramsey seminars.*

North Main Baptist Church, Danville ■ Jason Barber, Sr. Pastor

*Our church and city have been hit hard by the layoffs and closings at Dan River, Goodyear, and Corning. Of course, other businesses and industries are always impacted by wide-scale layoffs or shut-downs. We're blessed with a very generous congregation, surpassing each year's annual receipts. In addition to our special offerings for international missions and North American missions, we also support locally The Gideons International, the Crisis Pregnancy Center, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, and a church plant. My experience has been true to the testimony of history: **during difficult economic times, people are more consistent in their giving because they must depend upon God to bless that which they bring home.** It's when we get financially bloated and experience a level of prosperity (relatively speaking, of course) that we get sloppy in our giving. We will probably feel the impact of the economic collapse this year more so than last year. **But God is our Provider, and our Provider is secure. Though the name on the check may change, our Provider is faithful and sure.** If He can provide for our greatest need (i.e., salvation), then He can be trusted to provide for our lesser needs.*



US 58 crosses underneath the Blue Ridge Parkway at Meadows of Dan, VA

SOUTHSIDE Highway 58

Woodlawn Baptist Church,

Danville ■ Curt Faison, Sr. Pastor

Since the late 1980s, Woodlawn has given 16.5% of its budget to the Cooperative Program of the SBC and has made a commitment, even during tough economic times, to maintain at least a 10% level of giving while setting challenging goals for other special missions offerings. In recent years, Woodlawn has not only given to missions financially, it has done missions by sending teams to Bland, VA, and disaster relief and re-builder teams to devastated areas, as well as getting involved in local ministries. For those who cannot go, we participate in many SBCV hands-on mission projects and, at Christmas, Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan's Purse, through which we collected 300 shoe boxes of personal supplies for needy children throughout the world. **We have come to recognize that when our financial resources become less, our greatest resource is people. We can still make a difference for Christ by helping others with our presence and our talents.**

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Martinsville

■ Doug Ramsey, Sr. Pastor

We have more people unemployed in our church than at any other time in the twenty-two years I have been the pastor at Hillcrest. Yet God continues to provide, and our people continue to give sacrificially. Last year, our offerings were the highest in the history of the church and, thus far this year, we are ahead of last year. We continue to give to missions with a budget that is greater than the previous. We are also doing missions by sending teams to Louisiana, Tazewell/Bluefield, Peru, North Dakota, Uganda, and Pennsylvania. We are

also starting a local Hispanic ministry and attending the growing benevolent needs of our community.

We are trusting God to provide, and He has never let us down. No one knows the future, but God is sovereign, and we believe He wants us to continue evangelizing and ministering where He gives us opportunities. God is good all the time, and all the time God is good! Hillcrest is living proof of this.

The Community Fellowship, Collinsville

■ Michael Harrison, Lead Pastor

The Community Church, just over two years old, has come to realize that God's call on our lives is for us to minister to those who are on the edge of life. The first piece of that was our clothes closet, which serves an average of 30 families a month. The stories that we hear from some of the people we have served shout the fact that Jesus is still in the business of changing lives. Just months ago, we entered into a partnership with Metro Ministries in Roanoke to feed the homeless. During some of the most difficult of times in our nation, especially in our county, the jobless rate has soared above 20%, making the homeless population rise. **What makes this pastor excited about ministry is seeing our people serve.** Currently, over 75% of our congregation is involved in ministry, and 60% assist with the homeless. With an average weekly attendance of 175, that means at least 130 people are doing more than just attending worship services. It is worth it. Just last week, a gentleman we have been ministering to, along with his family, accepted Jesus. I cannot wait to see what God does next.

May we likewise be found faithful in our giving cooperatively in order that the Gospel might go forth in these cities, towns, communities, and abroad. The economic times may change, but the need for Jesus remains constant.

RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org

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

■ **Consider This:**
Economic times may change, but the need for Jesus remains constant.





Sharing Hope

PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL NEEDS BEING MET

by Mark Gauthier, Director of Mobilizing Churches

The Cooperative Program—we all know it is crucial to Southern Baptists, but just how has your giving impacted the world? Let me take, as an example, just one relatively new SBCV ministry, Disaster Relief (DR).

The SBC of Virginia DR Ministry began in November 2002 with one shower trailer. We determined that our focus would be intentional evangelism first, last, and always. The DR Ministry's goal is to go through the doors God opens during disasters and minister to the victims' spiritual needs. While we do this, we strive to meet their physical needs as well. DR teams are comprised of trained volunteers—people just like you who have a heart to serve in Jesus' name. In the seven years the SBCV has been involved in this ministry, our teams have led more than 75 people to Christ and planted untold thousands of seeds.

SBCV DR teams were deployed for the first time in May of 2003 to Indiana and Ohio to assist with flood recovery in those states. During the response to Hurricane Isabel in 2003, our shower unit was used to support the general public in Gloucester County, providing an average of 380 showers per day. During this time, the SBCV purchased our first two recovery units and participated in recovery operations in Gloucester and Williamsburg. Our teams also conducted disaster assessments on more than 550 homes in Gloucester County. This was the first time Southern Baptist DR teams had conducted assessments for a local government.

The year 2005 was pivotal for the SBC of Virginia's DR Ministry. During that year, we began building our first feeding unit and added two more recovery units. The feeding unit was completed on August 31 and, on September 1, we were deployed

to Prentiss, MS, for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Prior to this deployment, our teams had only used this unit during training events, so we requested to be sent to a low-key site where we could grow. Our goal was to be able to complete a 10-day term, preparing a modest 50,000 meals. The Lord took our goal and multiplied it to seventy-one days, four feeding sites (in three states), and 464,313 meals! He even gave the team the opportunity to lead twelve people to a saving relationship with Jesus in just the first weekend! In addition to serving in Prentiss, we had the opportunity to serve in Gulfport, MS; LaPlace, LA; and Key West, FL, before coming home to Virginia.

Since then, the SBCV DR Ministry has added two more feeding units; a command/communication unit; two bunk houses; a water closet unit, containing three complete bathrooms with heat and air conditioning; and a 50KW generator unit. We now have the capability to deploy our team and be fully self-sufficient, requiring zero support from the impacted community.

Since the beginning of the SBCV Disaster Relief Ministry in 2002, our volunteer teams have prepared and served more than 736,094 meals; provided over 35,500 showers; conducted 1,121 disaster assessments; and completed 578 repair jobs. They have served in eighteen states (as far north as Frenchville, ME; south as Key West, FL; and west as KS and TX) and the countries of Thailand and Greece.

The Lord has truly blessed this ministry, allowing us to grow far faster than our plans or expectations. Without your sacrificial giving to the Cooperative Program, none of this would have been possible. The bottom line is that **you** have made 769,293 ministry touches through Disaster Relief. All the glory goes to God for SBCV churches and their members for continuing to support the Cooperative Program.



RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/disaster_relief

SBCV Contact:

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

Prayer Focus:

Pray that God will continue to open hearts to a saving faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, through this ministry.





vision20/20 Team Moves Forward

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

The Vision 20/20 Team (V20/20), initiated by the Executive Board of the SBCV at its January meeting, is moving forward in its assignment. The team's purpose 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 this vision will be for the next decade of ministry leading up to the year 2020.

The entire team met for its second plenary session on April 21, 2009. The team organized into four work groups: Multiplying Churches, Maturing Churches, Mobilizing Churches, and Church Ministry Services. Each focus group is prayerfully considering goals and strategies for its respective areas that will give direction for the collaborative ministries of the SBCV.

Executive Board and V20/20 chairman, Carl Weiser, senior pastor of Hyland Heights Baptist Church, commented on the process: "A couple of years ago, I stood before our Annual Homecoming and tried to speak to the fact that, while we had experienced great blessings during our first ten years, there was still much to be done in the next ten years. You can only imagine my excitement when I was asked to chair V20/20. We are eagerly working on forming this vision. God is at work in our midst, and I believe that He will give us His plan to help reach our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. The SBCV has always been on the cutting edge of building God's Kingdom. I see this new vision as the next step in keeping our ministry effective. God is at work and, through V20/20, we are joining Him in the greatest task in human history—making disciples of all people."

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

PRAY.

Pray for the team members as they seek God's direction. Pray that they will have faith and wisdom in equally great measure.

GIVE INPUT.

V20/20 has devised a questionnaire to garner input from SBCV churches and leaders. Be sure that you access and complete the questionnaire.

ATTEND THE ANNUAL HOMECOMING.

The Annual Homecoming is Nov. 8-10 at First Baptist Church, Norfolk. The timeline calls for a report and any recommendations from V20/20 to be presented at that gathering. It will be a momentous occasion. Don't miss it!

20 **FUTURE** 20

20 **PRESENT** 09

19 **P A S T** 96

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

vision20/20

V20/20 TEAM:

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

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

testimonies



Nancy and I have been IMB missionaries serving in Kenya for over 18 years. We have raised four children and have made a home among the pastoral tribal group of 1.45 million called the Maasai.

I have three tasks that I do on an ongoing basis. I evangelize, start churches, and train leaders and pastors to lead the churches among the Maasi people. The Cooperative Program provides funds for us to live and work among the Maasai. Without the house, the Maasai could not have easy access to our home. We have Maasai guests on a weekly basis -- sometimes a daily basis. Without the four-wheel-drive vehicle provided with these funds, we could not drive through the semi-arid areas in search of their homes. In the area I was originally assigned to work, we have started over 80 churches. In all of Maasailand, we have over 230 churches.

We have had numerous volunteer groups from the SBCV to help us with evangelism with air storying cloth. They have all done a marvelous job: Ed Rodriguez, Todd Kyle, Rick Quast, Porky Jones, Allen Collier, Ben Jenkins, and Joe Taylor.

Thank you all for giving to the Cooperative Program for the cause of Christ around the world.

Bob and Nancy Calvert
International Missionaries, Kenya



The Calvert Family

Thank you, Southern Baptists, for supporting our ministry through the Cooperative Program. You help make our ministry possible through your prayers and support.

Garvon Golden
Regional Missionary &
Associate Executive Director
for the Dakota Baptist Convention

Garvon and Cindy Golden have been serving in the Dakotas for 21 years. Garvon is the associate executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention and the regional missionary for the southwest region. He leads a three-person team in his region to assist local churches in becoming healthy churches, reaching their areas, and starting new churches in unreached communities and people groups. One of Garvon's main responsibilities is organizing the evangelism ministry at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally each year. For the last three years, the Gospel has been shared with over 10,000 bikers, and over 3,000 have prayed to receive Christ.



Garvon Golden

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

We have had five tremendous years of ministry undergirded by a great sending church (Stafford Baptist), the training and accountability provided by the SBC, and a steady stream of resources made available because of the Cooperative Program. Since my family started working in Dumfries in late 2004, we have seen four new churches emerge in Virginia and one internationally. Our church planting work in northern Virginia would be drastically different without the resources provided by the Cooperative Program. I know that God is honored when churches unite around the great goal of spreading His message far and wide.

Clint Clifton
Catalytic Church Planter
Dumfries, VA



The Clifton Family

The past two years have been an incredible journey for Kim, Chris, and me. From the time we said 'Yes, Lord, we will go,' He has been ever faithful and kept us close. The opportunity to serve as statewide missionaries for the SBCV would not be possible without your faithful giving to the Cooperative Program. Because of your generosity, the hope of Christ has been shared with hundreds of thousands through the Disaster Relief and Baptist Builders Ministries alone. We thank you for the opportunity to serve and look forward to the coming years with anticipation of what He will do.

Mark Gauthier
Director of Mobilizing Churches
SBC of Virginia



The
Gauthier
Family



PROCLAIMER

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- Student Ministry
- Sunday School & Small Groups
- Technology & Media
- Women's Ministry



WEST

First Baptist Church
Roanoke

SEP 20

In conjunction with
Vantage Point Pastors' Conference
Vantage Point Pastors' Conference will
continue through Monday evening.
For details, visit www.firstroanoke.com.

