 Leading on Empty

Some years ago, I led the church that I pastored in a long-range planning process. As a part of that endeavor, we traveled to Atlanta to visit some of the nation’s fastest-growing churches. As we neared our destination, the van began to sputter and soon died, leaving us stranded.

Can you guess why? We ran out of gas. Think about it. Long-range planning...ran out of gas. Something is woefully wrong with that picture.

I can readily bear witness to the fact that it is possible to be so focused upon a desired destination that you neglect vital short-term needs. Driven leaders are particularly susceptible to this type of disconnect.

In his fascinating book, Leading on Empty, Wayne Cordeiro tells his own story of burnout and recovery. This mega-church pastor, author, college president, speaker, husband, and father had an emotional crash at the apex of his ministerial career. He admits that it came because he ignored the warning lights on the dashboard of his life. Three of these were a desire for isolation, difficulty with decisions, and the increasing allure of sin. If one or more of these lights are flashing, pull over! We ignore these signs at our peril.

I write this article with two groups in mind. First, I want to address pastoral leaders. Good leadership begins with your personal spiritual health. You must take responsibility for it. Don’t lead on empty. So much depends upon your well-being—the Lord’s honor, your family, and your church. A crash is coming if the tank runs dry.

Second, I write to the church membership at large. Protect your pastoral staff. Don’t let them run until the tank is dry. Insist that they take a day off each week. Make sure that their marriages and families are getting the attention that they need. Put policies in place for adequate rest and vacation periods. Consider a sabbatical after some years of service. Observe anniversaries, pastor appreciation month, and things of the like.

The Bible teaches that the pastor is to care for the flock. Similarly, it instructs the church body to care for the pastor and his family. If all will do their part, healthier churches are the sure result.

Where is the fuel gauge pointing in your life? E or F? I pray that it points toward full!
2009 SBC of Virginia CALENDAR

- **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 Conference, Wildfire ............................................. 9-10
  - Church Planter Network (CPN), Statewide ............................. 22
  - Basic Training I ............................................................... 22-23
  - Jesus Focused Youth Ministry Forum ................................... 23-24

- **November**
  - Annual Homecoming .................................................. 8-10

- **December**
  - Week of Prayer for International Missions ....................... Nov 29-Dec 6

2010

- **January**
  - Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) .......................... 15-16

- **February**
  - PSW (Pastors, Staff, and Wives Retreat) ......................... 13-14
  - Student Pastor Retreat .............................................. 19-20
  - Disaster Relief Training, North Region ......................... 19-20
  - Church Planter Network (CPN), Statewide ....................... 25

For more information: www.sbcv.org
Contents

Leading from a Team Perspective
Can a ministry led by an all-volunteer leadership team work? Crosspointe Community Church proves that this unique, unconventional approach not only works but is effective.

Breaking All the Rules
River Oak Church in Chesapeake is experiencing a breaking-out of the norm. Pastor Heath Burris points to a unique ingredient, the church’s strong lay leadership. River Oak is a testament to the moving of God in the midst of a church.

Infectious Leadership
Manuel Chacon, SBCV church planting missionary to Hispanic and Latino peoples in Northern Virginia, is an infectious leader. Pastor Manuel’s church, Iglesia Bautista Roca Eterna, is now planting three new churches in Northern Virginia with plans for more.

Pushing Back the Darkness through Evangelism
The SBCV’s Annual Homecoming begins Sunday, November 8, and continues through Tuesday afternoon, November 10. Plan to be a part of this statewide meeting held at First Baptist Church, Norfolk.

GPS ACROSS VIRGINIA information meetings coming in September.
Learn how your church can take the Gospel to every home in your community!

For many, the path isn’t this obvious.
National Evangelism Initiative

GPS
GOD’S PLAN FOR SHARING
www.NEI2020.com • www.sbcv.org/evangelism
SIoux Falls, SD – The panacea of a “one size fits all” program for church growth has given way in the Dakotas to one-on-one process coaching.

Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention, developed process coaching over a dozen years and has implemented it over the last three years in the two-state convention.

“Part of the problem in the Southern Baptist Convention is that we’re always tinkering with the structure,” Hamilton said. “That’s because we don’t have a strategy that tells us who we are, what we’re doing, and where we’re going. Structure is simply an organizational tool to help you be effective in carrying out strategy.”

Hamilton explained that strategy is what happens when strategic thinking develops into a well-defined process.

“I’ve seen process coaching work,” the Dakota executive director said. “Until we begin to help churches make the shift from programs to process, our expectations for church health, church planting, and evangelism will continue to fall short.”

It’s not that Hamilton believes all programs are bad; he agrees most of them are good when utilized at the appropriate time.

“In the Dakotas and across the Southern Baptist Convention, most of our churches are in survival mode,” Hamilton said. “They’re keeping their head above water. They’re struggling to pay the bills, pay the pastor, and keep the church open. They don’t need another program. The programs they’ve done haven’t gotten them out of survival mode.”

For these struggling churches, Hamilton believes process coaching can be the catalyst—as the churches that agree to take part in it move from survival to stability, from stability to ministry, and from an inward focus to stretching outward.

“When I came to the Dakotas, I realized that what was really going to make a difference long term in our churches was to help them make this paradigm shift from being programmatic to process-driven,” the executive director said. “This includes thinking about the biblical results they want and how to get there, rather than just dipping into an ‘activities box’ of programs and pulling out what’s in there.”

Hamilton explained that the unconnected programs in a church’s “activities box” end up wearing people out, with little long-term effect.

“But when you have a process, rather than being program-driven, you have a well-thought-out plan that helps you plug in the right activities and programs to get better results,” the Dakota leader continued. “It’s really a tool that helps people fulfill the Great Commission.”

When Cross Pointe Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, SD, completed its process coaching, it was the number-two giver to missions through the Cooperative Program in the Dakotas, and it reported the largest number of baptisms that year in the two states. When it had started 18 months previously, however, the beleaguered congregation was staggering under a $1.2 million dollar debt and a lack of focus.

“Process coaching put a renewed focus on the purpose of reaching lost people with the Gospel,” said Pastor Vince Smith. “Our mission statement is ‘pointing people to new life in Jesus Christ.’ The church completely reorganized around how we [can] do that.

“As the process emerged, we saw we were looking at a missionary training process, with every member a missionary,” Smith continued. “The style of music Sunday morning isn’t a topic of discussion anymore. Topics now are how you grow in Christ, how you reach people for Christ. As a pastor, that’s refreshing.”

Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention, will be the keynote speaker at the SBCV Church Leadership Conference Sept. 19 and 20 (see back cover for more information).
Leading from a Team Perspective

by Randy Aldridge,
Church Planting Strategist,
Southwest Region

What do you get when you combine a former occultist and his wife; a retired Marine turned tire specialist; and a gaggle of dramatically and musically inclined family and friends, all of whom are sold out to Christ? That eclectic combination is Crosspointe Community Fellowship (CCF), a church plant in the economically crippled Tazewell area of rural southwest Virginia.

Crosspointe is unique for many reasons. The core leadership team describes the worship services as an unconventional blend of music, multi-media, drama, and worship style to engage the community (1 Corinthians 9:22). Furthering this unconventional approach, CCF seeks to meet people’s physical needs first. Food items are given away at evangelistic outreaches, and light refreshments are provided at every worship service. When people’s physical needs are met, they are more willing to examine their spiritual needs. As individuals come to know Christ, families are transformed and hearts are healed. While these methods of ministry may be uncommon, what makes CCF the most unique and effective is its team approach to leadership.

The Lord has brought together a group of volunteers, with varying spiritual gifts and talents, to serve as the leadership team for CCF. Pastor Roger Cook is bi-vocational and has a strong background in ministry, music, drama, and business. His wife, Charity, handles the website, leads the worship team, and puts together the majority of all media mailings and advertising. Patsy King is the pianist, a praise team member, and a ministry consultant. Her husband, Ed, has a strong background in business and is retired from the United States Marine Corp. Ed is often the voice of reason and the one who can make any project happen. Finishing the core team is Jeremy Branham, the ministry intern. He is a nurse by vocation but has been called by God into ministry. Jeremy leads the audio/visual ministry at CCF. The children of the core team members are also active church members, serving in various capacities.

How does a ministry led by an all-volunteer leadership team work?

FOCUS

First, there is but one authority, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5). “We strive together to build a healthy relationship of service and worship,” the team explains. Worship is at the center of everything, permeating all aspects of ministry, and this concept is taught to the congregation. “Our prayer for all Christians,” says Pastor Roger, “is to have the reputation of worship and integrity within the context in which they serve and live (Acts 17:6).” The team realizes how essential it is for leaders to keep their focus on Christ and not themselves. Pastor Roger cautions, “Those in leadership cannot fall into the sin of 2 Timothy 3:2 and be obsessed with self. It is all for my Jesus, and not for us. There must be trust and accountability given, even at the expense of one’s self-perception of excellence.”

PLANNING

Time is a precious commodity for an all-volunteer leadership team, so proper planning is a must. At CCF, the leadership team meets regularly to pray, share devotionals, fellowship, and plan for the upcoming worship services and ministry opportunities. Prayer, discernment, and Scripture are the litmus tests by which all decisions are made. Pastor Roger says, “The Great Commission, as stated in Matthew 28:16-20, is our planning structure and implementation process.” The team’s projected plans are not static but flexible and organic (Hebrews 4:12), able to be molded as the Lord leads. General services are planned weeks in advance, and larger ministry plans are planned months prior. Pastor Roger testifies, “Team strategy applies to all we do... One person simply cannot perform all duties of the church. It is much more effective to have several people with the same vision sharing individual responsibilities and doing them well than for one person holding the vision for the church ransom, trying to accomplish everything themselves, and doing none of them justice.”

Crosspointe Community Fellowship is a stellar example of a group of believers committed to leading as a team. Their united approach results in the Gospel proclaimed, hearts and lives changed, and glory given to God!
Servant Leadership

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

A servant leader in the church is one who serves but doesn’t look for the accolades of others; one who walks in the spirit, in tune with the Lord but not spiritually arrogant; one who provides wise counsel but doesn’t leverage his influence for his own gain; one who equips others that they would, in turn, serve but doesn’t gather his own group of followers; and one who demonstrates a life of faith in humility, never presuming upon what he knows or who he knows. Does this sound like someone you would want to be a member of your church? Bernard Whitlow, a Sunday School teacher and deacon emeritus at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Richmond, fits this description.

Pastor Andy Rist said, “I am concerned [about] when Bernard is not able to do his ministry—the pastor and staff will be in trouble.” He went on to say that when members are having surgery, Bernard is there. He is a caring pastoral leader to the people and staff of the church. Bernard not only ministers to the needs of the members, he seeks opportunities to care for the needs of other hurting people while at the hospital. Pastor Andy says the church frequently receives calls from families because of Bernard’s ministry to others at the hospital. He faithfully teaches the Word of God and has done so for more than fifty years. When returning from hospital visits on Thursdays, Bernard goes by his Sunday School classroom at the church and does chalk art portraying the coming Sunday’s bible study theme.

When Pastor Andy became the pastor at Oak Grove after a lengthy associate pastor role, Bernard met with him in his front yard, and they knelt under a tree and prayed together. Bernard provided wise counsel and a timely word. Pastor Andy says Bernard “seems to always have the right word at the right time. He knows what to say, and he can be trusted.” He does not have an ear for gossip nor will he allow himself to be caught up in the politics of church life. “He always takes the high road.”

“When I think of men of great faith, I think of Billy Graham, Henry Blackaby, and Bernard Whitlow,” says Pastor Andy. A servant leader—would you agree this is what every church and pastor needs?

Bernard Whitlow speaking with a fellow church member

Serving Churches

by Sue Sawyer, SBCV State Bible Drill Coordinator

When Alexis Kate Landry from Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox stepped on the stage May 16 for the SBCV Youth Speakers Tournament, it was the ninth consecutive year she had participated in the tournament and/or the State Bible Drill. In 2001, as a little 4th grader, Alexis participated in her first of three State Children’s Bible Drills. The children’s division is for 4th through 6th graders. Every participant receives a trophy, but there is no state winner. When a child has completed three years in children’s drills, he/she has learned 75 verses and 30 key passages. As a 7th grader, Alexis began to compete in the State Youth Bible Drill, which she won two years in a row in her 8th and 9th grade years. Youth Bible Drill is for 7th through 9th graders, and there is a state winner each year. When a young person has completed three years in youth drills, he/she has learned an additional 60 verses and 30 more key passages.

Alexis began to compete in the Youth Speakers Tournament (for 10th-12th grades) in the 10th grade. Speeches must be four to six minutes in length and presented on a topic chosen from an SBCV-provided list. Speeches must be the work of the individual speaker, and they are judged on content/composition; delivery; whether or not notes are used; the speaker’s articulation, confidence, and personal appearance; and if the speaker keeps within the time allotment. Alexis won the SBCV State Youth Speakers Tournament in her 11th and 12th grade years.

She took the stage this year with much confidence as she shared her speech, “The Sanctity of Human Life,” never looking at her notes. She ended her very informative, compelling speech by quoting Psalm 139:13-16 and reminding the audience that “life is a precious gift from God not to be taken lightly.”

Alexis is a champion in many ways, not only in Bible drills and speakers tournaments, but as a young lady whose life exemplifies that of a child of God desiring to please the Lord in all her ways. SBCV can be proud to call her our State Speakers Tournament winner!
River Oak Church in Chesapeake is a church that breaks all the rules—not the rules of the Word of God but commonly accepted rules of church development. First of all, a church usually does not grow during the time when it’s searching for a pastor, but River Oak did. In addition, rare is the church that grows from around 300 in attendance to close to 1,000 in less than 18 months’ time. Furthermore, the national average for baptisms among SBC churches is a ratio of 1 baptism for every 40 resident members—River Oaks’ ratio is 1 baptism for every 12. A typical church wouldn’t have upwards of 45% of its membership in some type of service role, but River Oak does. Pastor Heath Burris, who came to serve as pastor in March 2008, says, “We keep on breaking the norm by experiencing an uncommon movement of God in our midst.”

The common ingredient in all of these unusual aspects is strong lay leadership in the congregation. Just one example in the congregation is Dave Bower, team leader of the church media team. Dave and his wife, Debbie, came to River Oak in 2000, and he immediately began sharing his gifts in the area of technology and media. He has not, however, done it alone. He has assembled a team of servants who share his passion for using technology to point people to Jesus.

The composition of the media team Dave leads is very unusual as well. In addition to several adults, many on the team are under the age of 16. “We have 12 teenagers and older children who man the cameras, projection system, and audio. They serve on a rotation. We have found them to be very knowledgeable and reliable,” Dave remarks. The equipment they man includes a congregational camera, computer camera, video mixer, audio mixer board, and more. At one time, the group even included a ten-year-old named Caleb Cook, whose family recently received a military transfer out of the area. “Initially, I wanted to give the youth something to do, but it has quickly become a way [for them] to take responsibility for their church,” Dave states. “It is my goal,” Dave explains, “that we don’t notice the scenery of technology but [that] it merely helps to communicate the message of Jesus in a meaningful way.”

Communicating the message of Christ in a meaningful way is happening at River Oak, as church members are actively involved in spreading the Gospel. Dave Bower and his young media team are just one example of what God can do in a church with willing and available members.
Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering

SEP 13-20 2009

MINISTRIES | MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS | MISSIONARIES
Gather together any group of youth. Ask them how to do evangelism. You’ll probably receive a list that includes church visitation (evangelistic visits to non-Christians); sharing one’s faith story; using tracts such as the Four Spiritual Laws; inviting and bringing lost friends to church for special programs or concerts; inviting non-Christians to church camps; and various campus-oriented evangelism approaches. There’s one evangelism tool that will likely be overlooked—planting churches. Mission Plant is that tool. Pray for SBCV church plants and for churches to send teams in 2010.

The SBC of Virginia, in partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB), supports volunteer teams to Kenya where they assist missionaries in presenting the Gospel to the Maasai people. On a recent trip, a team of four using a story cloth witnessed 127 professions of faith. As a result, a new work with the Maasai has begun in an area untouched with the Gospel. Pray for leaders to be developed among the Maasai believers and for new opportunities to reach those who have never heard of Jesus.

The Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) responds to spiritual and physical needs of the people living throughout Appalachia. Working in partnership with the North American Mission Board (NAMB), the SBC of Virginia also ministers through local churches to those hiking the Appalachian Trail. Pray for the churches to have wisdom as they reach out to hikers on the trail and for open doors to reach families throughout the Appalachian area.

Families on Mission (FOM), is a pre-packaged, week-long (Saturday through Thursday) family mission opportunity that allows moms, dads, and grandparents to model an on-mission lifestyle for their children and grandchildren. Parents and grandparents have the unique privilege to be hands-on as they guide their families through devotions, missions awareness, mission projects, worship, family small-group discussions, and interaction with resident missionaries and the community. In 2010, for the second year, Big Stone Gap, VA, will be one of the FOM sites, so bring your family and serve!
In 2009, we began a partnership with the Dakota Baptist Convention. The SBC of Virginia serves as a learning laboratory for decentralization related to resourcing local churches and church plants. We offer consultation regarding church planting strategies, provide the opportunity to work alongside Dakota Baptist churches planting churches, and receive similar assistance from their network of churches. Please pray for SBCV churches to respond to God’s invitation to join Him in planting the Gospel in the Dakotas.

God continues to open doors for SBCV churches, partnering with the International Mission Board (IMB), to provide Bibles and other Christian literature to Han Chinese tourists vacationing out of their country. In 2009, we began a partnership with the Dakota Baptist Convention. The SBC of Virginia serves as a learning laboratory for decentralization related to resourcing local churches and church plants. We offer consultation regarding church planting strategies, provide the opportunity to work alongside Dakota Baptist churches planting churches, and receive similar assistance from their network of churches. Please pray for SBCV churches to respond to God’s invitation to join Him in planting the Gospel in the Dakotas.

GPS — Evangelism Outreach
God’s Plan for Sharing (GPS) is a national evangelism strategy coordinated by the North American Mission Board. As we see in Scripture, God has a plan for every person to hear the Gospel through every believer sharing. This offering will help purchase air time for evangelistic GPS commercials and print materials to reach Virginia and the rest of North America for Christ.

The SBC of Virginia is in partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB) to send volunteer, short-term mission teams to Uruguay. The focus of our work in the Rio de la Plata partnership is on the Gold Coasts from the capital city of Montevideo to the city of Punta del Este. This area is the most secular metropolitan area in South America with many neighborhoods having less than 1% of their population claiming an evangelical belief in Christ. Please pray for the lost people in this area and the teams going to share the Gospel.

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MINISTRY
Church Health Workshops

MINISTRY
Property for Church Plants

MINISTRY
Ministry Intern Scholarships

MINISTRY
Worship Equipment for Church Plants

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How will this offering be used?

$ 5,000 **Baptist Builders** — When Disaster Relief ends, Baptist Builders begins. Partnering with the North American Mission Board and other SBC entities, Baptist Builders is a long-term construction recovery ministry assisting churches, communities, and families who have been impacted by disasters.

$ 5,000 **Church Health Workshops** — These workshops are designed to provide existing churches with the necessary tools to conduct a congregational survey; receive a health assessment; and acquire resources to benefit the church’s current life stage.

$ 20,000 **Disaster Relief** — The SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief teams stand ready to minister in a time of need and in a split second’s notice to natural disasters that occur across our state, the nation, and the world.

$ 20,000 **Food Distribution** — More than 34 million Americans are exposed to the threat of hunger each year. This offering will help to develop a partnership with SBC of Virginia churches in hunger ministries such as food pantries, soup kitchens, food drives, and grocery vouchers.

$ 20,000 **GPS – Evangelism Outreach** — This is a national evangelism strategy coordinated by the North American Mission Board. As we see in Scripture, God has a plan for every person to hear the Gospel through every believer sharing. This offering will help purchase air time for evangelistic GPS commercials and print materials to reach Virginia and the rest of North America for Christ.

$ 25,000 **Property for Church Plants** — Healthy church plants face the challenging need of finding land and permanent facilities that are instrumental in helping grow their ministry. This offering will help church plants strategically locate and purchase the property that is suitable to meet their needs.

$ 35,000 **DC Mission Center** — Worship space, small group meeting locations, and church planting office space are very limited and, at the very least, costly in our nation’s capital. This offering will assist church planting strategists, missionaries, and planters in renting the facilities necessary to reach Washington, DC for Christ.

$ 50,000 **Ministry Intern Scholarships** — Churches are often understaffed to meet the growing needs of their congregation. Utilizing an intern is a great way to extend the ministry of the pastor and staff, while also mentoring and investing in future church leaders. This offering will make it possible to offer these valuable scholarships to SBC of Virginia churches.

$ 50,000 **Worship Equipment for Church Plants** — As church plants reach the stage of holding public worship services, they need to purchase equipment that is often very costly and beyond their means. This offering will assist church plants to proclaim the message of the Gospel through worship.
Student Leadership
by Steve Maltempi, Strategic Missionary Associate, Studentz Ministry

Student Ministry and leadership go hand in hand. Literally, thousands of books have been written on each subject. Brent Crow, executive director of Student Leadership University, states, “Leadership begins at the feet of Jesus.” Beginning at the feet of Jesus means, among other things, surrendering, praying, and seeking His will for our lives and the ministries we lead. What are the practical aspects of leading a student ministry at the feet of Jesus?

The first and perhaps most important aspect of leading in student ministry is to place yourself under the authority of your pastor. Keep your pastor informed about what you are planning and doing. Get his advice and counsel as you learn the church, community, and culture. When you leave your current position for God’s next assignment, you should be able to use the pastor as a reference on your résumé.

The next practical aspect of student ministry is like a double-edged sword—leading through working hard and smart. Student ministers need to outwork the other staff members, especially since student ministers find themselves in the middle of a perpetual harvest field. Our work ethic should easily match that of professional football coaches. It is interesting to note that football coaches at the professional level had the same work ethic when they were coaching high school teams. For the student pastor, the size of the church is not a determining factor for how hard and smart he should work.

A third practical aspect of student ministry is leading through education. Student ministers must never stop learning. Student pastors must be life-long learners in a variety of fields. Ask your lay leaders to help you identify your weaknesses; then pour yourself into those subjects. If your lay leaders won’t point out your weaknesses, I am sure you wife will be more than happy to point out one or two. Being a life-long learner will keep you fresh and sharp.

The fourth aspect of student ministry is to lead through being professional. Being professional includes, among other things, dressing for the occasion. For instance, never dress in jeans and a t-shirt, with a ball cap and flip-flops, when going to visit a principal in his office. After all, we are treated as we present ourselves. If you want to be accepted in student circles, then dress like students. If you want to be accepted in business circles, dress like a business professional. Student pastors wear many hats, which require differing types of attire. And just in case it has crossed your mind, being professional does not mean you have to abandon having fun and cutting up with teenagers or adults.

Another practical aspect of student ministry is leading by developing deep relationships. Student ministry is to lead through earning and, sometimes, demanding respect. Some respect is earned through your position or title. Some respect must be demanded as well. Just because you may be the youngest person on staff and the lowest paid does not mean you are any less important than any other member of the ministerial team. Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young! (1 Timothy 4:12). Remain humble with a teachable spirit, and even those who may tend to look down on you will respect you.

One last aspect of student ministry is to lead through growing your ministry. If your ministry is growing or declining, there will be troublemakers who surface in your ministry. If conflict is going to happen no matter what, then it is much better to deal with conflict related to growing students and growing a student ministry.

There is much more to leadership in student ministry than can be mentioned in this article. As you continue to lead and learn, God will continually stretch you in leadership. In all our ways, we must trust in the Lord and allow Him to direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

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RESOURCE

- Websites:
  www.sbcv.org/studentz
  www.studentleadership.net
  www.brentcrow.com

- SBCV Contact:
  Call Steve Maltempi at 888-234-7716 or email him at smaltempi@sbcv.org for details.

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Mentoring 101: Next-Generation Leaders

by Steve Bradshaw, Church Health Strategist, Central-East Region

REV. ROBERT ROWLAND, pastor of Smyrna Baptist Church in Dinwiddie, had the privilege of being shielded, shepherded, and mentored by the late Rev. Roland Powell. To glean practical mentoring principles and encourage investment in next-generation leaders, the SBCV interviewed Pastor Robert.

Q Robert, how long did you know Rev. Powell and how long did he invest in your life?

A I first met him in 1984 as a result of chasing my girlfriend (now my wife) to the church where she was a member. Rev. Powell had agreed to serve as pastor of Dinwiddie Baptist after having retired from Matoaca as its pastor of 23 years. He was so kind to me and, as we got to know each other, he would say, “The preacher in me can see the preacher in you.” So for the next 22 years, he prayed for me, encouraged me, and showed me how to be a pastor.

Q What mentoring principles did Rev. Powell use that impacted your life the most?

A You know, he mentored me and I didn’t even know it was happening. It began as a shadowing process. He would take me visiting with him and to various meetings. I began going to funerals and visitations. I remember watching him get down on his hands and knees to pray a boy into the Kingdom of God one night in the family’s living room. He simply spent time with me, allowing me to watch him comfort a family after a family member had died or celebrate with a young couple at the birth of their newborn.

Rev. Powell taught me to love people. He used to say, “If they know you love them, even a bad sermon or two won’t run them away.” Finally, I want to say that what he did so well was to make me believe that I could be special in the hands of God. He always made me think that he thought I was such a fine young man, so I always tried to be!

Q Are you in the process of mentoring anyone? If so, whom?

A I like to think that I have been and continue to mentor Mark Wingfield. Mark was a member of Smyrna when I arrived there in 2001. He was an English teacher at Dinwiddie High School. I began to sense that God’s hand was on him for ministry. As Rev. Powell would say, the preacher in me could see the preacher in Mark. We began to spend time together and, to make a long story short, over the next couple of years, he was led to quit his job, sell his house, go to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and accept the youth pastor position at Smyrna. Mark has served with me for five years now. The exciting news is that God has called [Smyrna] to plant a church, and Mark is going to pastor our new church plant called The Opposite Way!

Q From your experience with Rev. Powell, what additional principles are you sharing with Mark?

A I am trying to help Mark develop a heart for pastoring people. He is already a very good preacher, and now it is just a matter of leading a flock. He is going to do well. Lately we have been talking about developing qualities and characteristics that would cause people to want to follow you.

Q As a mentor, what are some of your greatest joys in seeing Mark develop as a next-generation leader?

A His preaching ability has developed so nicely over the years. I get excited when I realize that even though we have journeyed together, God has made him a little different than I am. He has strengths that I don’t possess, and they will serve him well in the style of church that The Opposite Way is going to be. He brings a good balance between being biblically solid and culturally relevant.

It has been a great joy watching him develop as a result of seminary training. His eyes were opened to the Word of God, and His passion for the Word skyrocketed when he went to seminary. He stands on the Word so faithfully, and I am proud of that!

He already has a young man under his wing named Tercel Tweedy, whom he believes may be our next church planter. Mark meets with him regularly in an attempt to mentor him.

Q If you could share with pastors the value of mentoring, what would you say to them?

A Don’t miss the thrill. You will learn from them as they learn from you. Do it because it is a biblical model. Jesus was all about mentoring. If you could think of it as multiplication and not addition, it would help. I am overwhelmed when I think of Mark out there pastoring a new church plant, reaching another segment of the population that we would not be able to reach without him and The Opposite Way. The benefits are worth the work. Train them up, turn them loose, and watch them burn for Jesus—all to the glory of our great God and King!
Behind the Scenes of SBCV

by Tony Inmon, International Mission Board (IMB) Missionary

My favorite scene from The Wizard of Oz is when Toto pulls back the wizard’s curtain to reveal what was going on behind the scenes. In such a trying economic time, we would all like to pull back the curtain to see what is really going on with the companies in which we invest. As you make a ministry investment in the SBCV through your Cooperative Program giving, it is my hope to pull back the curtain and give you a small glimpse of SBCV life.

It has been my great honor to serve on this missionary team, and I can report from behind the scenes and honestly say these are men after God’s own heart. These men, who have become like family, are driven not by their own agenda but by a desire to bring glory to the Father. I can tell you they are men who love the local church because I have heard them praying for your churches by name. I have seen them with their faces in the carpet, groaning for your churches, pastors, and workers. I have listened to them plead to the Lord on behalf of the lost people in your towns and cities. There is no domineering arrogance; there is only a team of men and their wives who bleed and sweat more than 70 hours a week to serve you. They take the SBCV purpose seriously, as they desire to come alongside the local church to assist it in accomplishing the task of the Great Commission. Even further behind the curtain, there is a group of dedicated men and women in the Glen Allen office who serve with grateful hearts to support and undergird the mission of the SBCV. There is no doubt in my mind that they are a strong team because SBCV is made up of strong churches committed to God’s Word and God’s mission.

We have been so humbled and proud to be a part of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. Your expressions of love, service, and sacrifice are invested in the Kingdom everyday, and it is making a difference. Whether it is in the life of one young missionary family on their way to Uruguay or whether it is in the life of a young family in southwest Virginia who has never trusted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, your cooperation is making a difference. We will never forget how you have been a part of our lives, and we will continue to lift you up before the throne of our Creator with thanksgiving in our hearts. In the end, all we can do is say, “thank you,” and urge you to pray for us and God’s work in Uruguay!

Tony Inmon is the former SBCV church planting strategist for the Southwestern and Midwestern Ministry Areas. He and his wife, Denita, have just been commissioned by the IMB to serve as missionaries in Uruguay. Please pray for Tony, Denita, and their daughter, Taylor.

Infectious Leadership by Bill Wennersten, Church Planting Strategist, North Region

As I was preparing to write this article, the World Health Organization announced that the H1N1 virus (the swine flu) had become a worldwide pandemic. The flu spreads from one person to another either by a sneeze, a handshake, or another form of personal contact. It is passed along, and whether we are looking for it or not, it finds us and we become infected. In several ways, good leadership shares some of these characteristics. A good leader in gathering people passes along the “infection.” In this case, the “infection” is a vision and passion to win people to Christ, bring churches together for the work of the Gospel, and see many new churches planted.

Manuel Chacon, SBCV church planting missionary to Hispanic and Latino peoples in Northern Virginia, is an infectious leader. People in his church (Iglesia Bautista Roca Eterna) and the church planters with whom he works all seem to become carriers of his infectious passion for Christ, seeing people come to faith in Christ and planting new churches everywhere.

One example in the past year is a family from Pastor Manuel’s church that moved out of state for work. When they couldn’t find a church like their home church in Virginia, they planted one there. Within just a few weeks, they brought eight people with them to Virginia to be baptized. Iglesia Bautista Roca Eterna is now planting three new churches in Northern Virginia, with plans for more.

Pastor Manuel is also encouraging other existing Hispanic and Latino church leaders to do the same through networks and relationships. He was the driving force behind the first gathering of SBCV Spanish-language churches in Northern Virginia this past spring. Three hundred attended the time of worship and fellowship, and another gathering is planned for the fall. These types of gatherings and the encouragement they bring are helping spread the “infection”—the passion for seeing lives transformed by the Gospel of Christ and for churches to plant new churches, pushing back the darkness. Are you living infectiously for Christ?
Pastors Who Lead by Going

by Mark Gauthier, Interim Director of Mobilizing Churches

In the short time I have been a member of the SBCV team, it’s been exciting to see the number of SBCV churches that are truly on mission. As I’ve spoken with pastors and church members, I’ve noticed one similarity between the churches that have missions at their core.

The pastors of these churches do not just send their members on mission. They do not just preach from the pulpit that church members should go. They do not just go on mission trips. Instead, these missions-minded pastors LEAD their members on mission trips. They are at the very front—encouraging, showing, and paving the way.

These pastors disciple their members to be missionaries.

One such pastor, Neal Hawks of Pioneer Baptist Church in Max Meadows, explains:

“Leading our churches on mission fulfills two valuable roles for us as pastors: (1) It allows us to personally and corporately fulfill the Great Commission; and (2) it allows us to equip and edify the believers.”

“Our church has been so impacted by missions that we asked Ron Gibson, our worship leader, to become our missions pastor as well. This move alone proved vital in our commitment to the Acts 1:8 strategy.”

“It’s humbling to see our rural church live out the commitment to reach Max Meadows, Virginia, the United States, and the ends of the earth. God has allowed us to partner with Him here, in New Hampshire, Alaska, the Ukraine, and South Africa. I would encourage every pastor to consider that his role as equipper, feeder, and leader of the local body reaches much further than simply tending to the flock. We must, as Henry Blackaby puts it, see ‘every congregation as a world-missions strategy center.’ If pastors don’t recognize this, how can we expect the members to be on mission?”

In Acts 16, we read that on Paul’s second missionary journey, he spent months with Timothy, molding him into the leader he would become. Praise God for the many SBCV pastors who are “Paul” to their congregations’ “Timothy’s” — teaching and leading their churches to truly be Acts 1:8 partners.

A Towel and Basin

by Mark Gauthier, Interim Director of Mobilizing Churches

SERVANT LEADERSHIP— we often hear the term. The example most often used is Jesus and rightly so. We see the Ultimate Servant Leader in John 13:3-5:

Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him (HCSB).

What do servant leaders look like today? Sometimes those who seek to model Christ’s example in this way are few and far between. These special people always seem to be far in the background: in the parking lot directing traffic; filling the baptistery on Saturdays (and insuring the heater is on during the winter months!); or emptying trash cans from Sunday School rooms. Usually, no one is aware what the servant leaders do, and that is just how they want it!

I remember one such leader at Union Baptist Church in Hayes. James Barrett began coming to my home to guide my wife and me through a discipleship course for new Christians. No one asked him. There were no announcements. He just did it.

I recall a time, during the final preparation for a Disaster Relief response, when one of the volunteers approached Jack Noble, then state Disaster Relief director, and asked, “What is the next thing you are going to do?” When Jack replied, Eddie Urbine’s response was, “I’ll take care of it.” He did just that. No questions asked, he just “got’ er done!” With the task complete and no fanfare, he quietly asked, “What’s next on your list?”

There are many books, courses, and classes available on the topic of leadership. Our tool kits are full of the latest, greatest tool to help us become leaders. But really, do we need anything other than a towel and basin?
**A Closer Look**

**WOMEN’S MINISTRY LEADERS**

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

God prompting you to an area of ministry that you don’t feel qualified to lead? Cindy Hall and Jean Davis are two Women’s Ministry leaders who said, “yes,” when the Lord called them, even though neither considered herself a leader.

A handful of praying women and the yet-to-be-discovered gift of leadership—that’s all Cindy Hall had when she felt God’s call to begin a Women’s Ministry at Centreville Baptist Church (CBC) over 16 years ago. Nevertheless, that was enough. God seems to delight in using the unlikely, and He did so when He chose this shy mom with two young children to launch a life-changing ministry that continues to this day.

CBC’s Women’s Ministry has grown to include a mentoring program, a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) ministry, multiple Bible studies, retreats, events, and more. Cindy constantly prays for God to reveal potential leaders. She trains and equips them for leadership roles and then watches as they put their gifts into practice. She has led women’s ministry training workshops on the local, state, and national level.

Knowing that good leaders are always learning, she recently earned her Women’s Ministry Certificate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Twelve years ago, God gave Jean Davis from Onley Baptist Church a vision to have a women’s seminar at her church as an outreach to all women on the Eastern Shore. That vision became a reality the same year with their first seminar, which was attended by 75 women. Jean did not consider herself a leader, but her vision was a perfect foundation for beginning a Women’s Ministry. Unleashing different areas of giftedness and passion, a team of women surrounded her. The Women’s Ministry has blossomed and reached its desired goals. Under Jean’s leadership, they have continued to host seminars each year.

Three years ago, after the seminar reached full capacity with 160 women in their church building, they took a huge step of faith and moved the event to the local high school. The first year at the school, 400 women attended and, this year, they reached full capacity with 550 women. Even though the numbers are exciting, what is most exciting is the impact this event is making—numerous women have been saved, and great numbers of women have been encouraged and strengthened in their faith. Jean leads the women to follow up on every decision. Their qualities of vision, excellence, team building, motivation, prayer, risk taking, evaluation, and follow-up make Jean and her team effective leaders.

We will never know the total impact these two women leaders—who simply said, “yes, Lord,” when they did not feel like leaders—will have on their churches and communities.

**Homegrown Leaders**

by Darrell Webb, Church Health Strategist, North Region

Think back just a few months...remember enjoying a juicy, sweet tomato? Oh, there’s just something about seeing the first tomato on the vine. Even greater still is the satisfaction of actually producing and sharing those tasty, red tomatoes with others. Deep in the Shenandoah Valley of Northern Virginia is a ministry that is producing, not homegrown tomatoes, but homegrown leaders.

In 1976, three local Shenandoah Valley men, Eric Farel, Bob Quinn, and Ron Combs, saw the need to develop students in their area athletically, academically, and spiritually. All shared similar backgrounds of coaching and teaching students in local public schools. In addition, they shared a collective passion to reach young people and develop servant leaders who would impact their generation for Christ.

Pastor Eric says, “The greater days for these ministries are still ahead of us. The selection of new leaders...will not require a search committee because trained leaders are rising from within our congregation. In the future, I envision numerous families serving in missions. I envision families serving within local churches, developing strong homes through biblical principles, and impacting the world in a greater way.”

As Associate Pastor Ron says, “A sign of a healthy ministry is one where the leaders are reproducing themselves in the lives of others.” Through the ministries of SVBC and SVC, God uses these three leaders to do just that. They are planting and nourishing character development in hundreds of students’ lives and preparing them to be leaders too.
WE TALK OF THE SECOND COMING; HALF THE WORLD HAS NEVER HEARD OF THE FIRST.

Oswald J. Smith

For information or to register,
www.sbcv.org/annualhomecoming

Revitalizing Your Church:

Who runs the church? A calm look at a hot topic: Dr. Ken Keathley

Heart Language Worship (below) will span both seminar times:
- Fiesta de Alabanza (Fiesta of Praise) for Hispanics
- Korean worship time

MONDAY MORNING
Session 2
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Two Breakout Seminars:
The following breakout seminars will be repeated.
- Evangelism for the 21st Century: Dr. B. Gray Allison
- Every Church an Acts 1:8 Church: Panel Discussion with Rev. Jerry Daniel, Mr. Chip Hewette, Rev. Craig Clayton, Rev. Neal Hawks

MONDAY AFTERNOON
Session 3
EVERY BELIEVER Sharing, Every Person Hearing
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Introduction of Business
Executive Director/Treasurer’s Report
Presentation of The Macedonia Awards
Executive Board Recommendations
- Affiliation Requests
- 2010 Ministry Investment Plan
- Nominating Committee Report
- Seminary Recognitions

MONDAY EVENING
Session 4
Every Believer SHARING, Every Person Hearing
6:30 PM – 8:45 PM
Theme Challenge, SHARING: Rev. Daniel Floyd
State Ministry Report 1: Multiplying Churches
Recognition of Eagle Awards
Message: Dr. Tom Elliff

TUESDAY MORNING
Session 5
Every Believer Sharing, EVERY PERSON Hearing
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Executive Board Reports
Resolutions Committee Report
Theme Challenge, EVERY PERSON:
Dr. Drew Landry
SBCV Partner Reports

Theme Challenge, EVERY BELIEVER: Rev. Jason Barber
Message: Dr. B. Gray Allison
WE TALK OF THE SECOND COMING; HALF THE WORLD HAS NEVER HEARD OF THE FIRST.

OSWALD J. SMITH

PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS THROUGH EVANGELISM

SUNDAY EVENING THROUGH TUESDAY AFTERNOON

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Two different groups, MESSENGERS AND GUESTS, attend the Annual Homecoming of the SBC of Virginia.

MESSENGERS are selected by SBCV churches to represent their churches at the Annual Homecoming. They can vote, make motions, speak to motions, make resolutions, and hold office within the SBC of Virginia. Each church affiliated with the SBCV can send at least two messengers. A church can send up to fifteen messengers, based on the amount of Cooperative Program giving in the most recent twelve-month period. Each messenger must be a member in good standing with his/her church.

GUESTS are also welcome to attend the Annual Homecoming of the SBC of Virginia. They can attend the general sessions, participate in worship, attend luncheons, and enjoy the display area. Guests are welcome to stay during all business sessions, but they cannot vote, make motions, speak to motions, make resolutions, or be nominated for office. If space is limited, messengers will be given seating priority over guests, but otherwise, there is no limit to how many guests may attend. All interested parties are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP MEALS SCHEDULE (prices to be determined)

Monday: 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM
Seminary Luncheons (off site)

Monday: 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
Church Planting Dinner
God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) Dinner
Minister of Music & Worship Dinner
Minister of Education Dinner
Women's Ministry Dinner with Mrs. Jeannie Elliff

Monday: 8:45 PM
Student Minister Reception

Tuesday: 12:00 PM
Missions Fair and Food Court Lunch (Cost: $5)
CLC
CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

1 CONFERENCE
2 LOCATIONS

for information and to register:
www.sbcv.org/leadership_training

East: Sep 19
West: Sep 20

EAST SEP 19
SATURDAY
MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
COLONIAL HEIGHTS

WEST SEP 20
SUNDAY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROANOKE

Process Coaching
with Jim Hamilton
Executive Director/Treasurer
Dakota Baptist Convention

East: Sep 19
West: Sep 20
Tracks offered at both locations:

- Discipleship
- Sunday School & Small Groups
- Adult Ministry
- Student Ministry
- Preschool/Children’s Ministry
- Pastors
- Process Coaching
- Servant Leadership
- Music & Worship
- Women’s Ministry
- God’s Plan for Sharing (GPS)
- Church Policies & Procedures
- Stewardship & Finances
- Technology & Media
- Multiplication - Church Planting
- Missions Mobilization
- Men’s Ministry
- Hispanic Ministry