

SBC of Virginia



PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS
THROUGH EVANGELISM

MOBILIZING CHURCHES

in their task of fulfilling
the Great
Commission



PROCLAIMER

www.sbcv.org
May : June 2010
Volume 12
Number 3



MULTIPLYING
MATURING
MOBILIZING



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Awaken the Giant!

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

Supposedly Napoleon, the diminutive French dictator, pointed to a map of China and said, "There is a sleeping giant. Let him sleep! If he awakes, he will shake the world."

I believe the same thing could be said of the Church. Too often, we are a sleeping giant. If we awake to the power of God that can be exerted through our congregations, we will shake the world for Christ.

One of the ways I see the church awakening is through missions mobilization. The SBC of Virginia is touching the world through mobilized churches. In this edition of the Proclaimer, you will read thrilling accounts of such impact.

These stories are not written to entertain; they are written to enlist you in this awakened army! Let's not only shake the world; let's turn it upside down for Jesus!

Your co-laborer in the Gospel,

Jeff Ginn

WHAT IS CROSSOVER?

Held every year in conjunction with the SBC's Annual Meeting, Crossover is a series of evangelistic events designed to reach people in the host city.

For more info, visit www.goba.org

June 12

Thousands of volunteers impacting the central Florida area for Christ.

CROSSOVER

Impact a City for Christ

20 ORLANDO 10



Southern Baptist
Convention





As a Door Closes, A Window Opens

by Mark Gauthier,
Director of Mobilizing Churches

After more than four years and numerous churches having participated, the Rio de la Plata Partnership, in the official sense, has ended. Of the churches who have been engaged in this partnership, many will continue to go and serve. Even as we close one chapter of SBCV involvement in South America, another begins.

This October and November, SBCV churches will have the opportunity to participate in the **Sport Shoes and Socks for Uruguay** Hands-on Mission Project. The focus area (from the capital of Montevideo to the city of Punta del Este) is the most secular metropolitan area of South America. Inexpensive sport shoes and warm socks for the impoverished children will open many doors for workers to share the Gospel and plant churches. Shoes and socks will be shipped to Uruguay in the spring of 2011, as the SBCV and the International Mission Board (IMB) partner together to send teams to share the Good News of Jesus.

This partnership with Uruguay will be developed using a new strategy, where churches will partner

directly with missionaries on the ground. The SBCV will assist churches in connecting with specific missionaries there. This will allow churches to plan directly with the missionaries and to meet the specific strategy of those missionaries' ministries. Tony and Denita Inmon, formerly on staff with the SBCV, will arrive as IMB missionaries in Uruguay in 2011 after completing language school. SBCV churches will be able to renew a relationship with the Inmons and may have an opportunity to minister alongside them in Uruguay.

SBCV's new associate church mobilization strategist for partnerships, Eddie Urbine, has been working closely with Terry Sharp of the IMB to begin the transition to this new partnership strategy. Urbine and SBCV associate church mobilization strategist for projects, Sue Sawyer, are working to develop an interrelated outreach where at least one Hands-on Mission Project each year will transition to a "going" opportunity the next year. The 2010 Sport Shoes and Socks for Uruguay Hands-on Mission Project is one such example. In 2011, SBCV churches will have the opportunity to send teams to Uruguay as the shoes and socks are shipped and distributed.

While the Rio de la Plata partnership has drawn to a close, God is opening new doors to reach Uruguay for Christ. How will you and your church be involved?



RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/mission_opportunities

SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from the missionary in your region.

Consider:

Hands-on Mission Projects are opportunities to get involved. How will you respond?



SBC of Virginia 2010 CALENDAR

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Disaster Relief Training, Southwest 14-15
Statewide Bible Drill & Speakers' Tournament 22
Day of Prayer & Fasting for World Evangelism . 23
Statewide Church Planter Network..... 27

June

Southern Baptist Convention 14-16
Mission Ops, Back-to-School Packs for ARM Jun 1-Jul 31
Southern Baptist Convention 24
Studentz Mission Trip to Dakotas..... Jun 26-Jul 2

July

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August

Statewide Church Planter Network..... 26

September

SBCV Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering 12-19
Regional Church Planter Network 23

October

Cooperative Program Emphasis Month

Mission Ops, Sport Shoes ad Socks for Uruguay Oct 1-Nov 30
Soul Winning Commitment Day 3
World Hunger Day 10
Statewide Church Planter Network..... 28

November

Annual Homecoming 7-9
Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 28-Dec 5

For more information: www.sbcv.org



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By starting a coffee shop, Pillar Church in Dumfries found a way to provide a meeting place for the church plant and support orphans in Indonesia. Employees and volunteers are ready to share their faith, pray with customers, and talk about their ministry.

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Sharing God's Love

The SBC of Virginia, in partnership with NAMB and many other state conventions, launched the Buckets of Hope project to minister to the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Each bucket feeds a family for a week!

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Getting More Than You Shopped For

Would the community miss us if we didn't exist? For the past several years, Pastor Drew Landry has challenged his congregation with that question. They responded by purposefully reaching out to the community of Fredericksburg with a Family Festival at the local mall.



PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS THROUGH EVANGELISM

SO THAT ALL...
HEARD THE WORD
OF THE LORD.

ACTS 19:10



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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EVERY BELIEVER SHARING
EVERY PERSON HEARING



Are you ready?

**Disaster Relief
2010 Training Dates**

Southwest - May 14-15

Learn more at
www.sbcv.org/mobilizing

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**ANNUAL
HOMECOMING**

**7-9
NOV
2010**

@
Hyland Heights
Baptist Church
Lynchburg

The Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia



All Disasters Are Local

..... RESPOND!

by Mark Gauthier,
Director of Mobilizing Churches

LARGE OR SMALL, EVERY DISASTER RESPONSE MUST BEGIN LOCALLY.

Each time SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief (DR) volunteers attend training, they hear: all disasters are local—respond! There are many disasters that, in the greater scheme of things, may be overlooked or seen as just a small storm—but for those affected, they are just as devastating as Hurricane Katrina or an earthquake.

In late November, just down the road from Enon Baptist Church in Chester, one such disaster occurred. A large tree fell, barely missing the home of a single lady. The root ball measured over seven feet high. Pastor Doug Echols from Enon knocked on her door to see if there was anything the church could do to help, but there was no answer. He then called the DR team leaders from his church, Carl and Bonnie Perry, and asked them to check on her too. When the Perrys stopped by, the owner answered the door. She could not believe there were trained volunteers willing to cut up the tree, move the brush to the woods, and salvage the good wood for firewood. The Perrys took time to pray with her and, with tears in her eyes, she said they could work on her tree. The entire community had been watching this tree, just waiting for it to fall, but no one else had offered to help.

Nine chainsaw-team members from Enon Baptist and Swift Creek Baptist in Midlothian finished 95% of the tree in one day and returned a second day to finish the job, cutting it down to the roots. The Enon Baptist family also delivered food to their new friend. When the homeowner called the Perrys to say “thank you,” she said, “no one could have done a better job.” Although the homeowner works on Sundays, the Perrys hope she will visit Enon soon—if not, they’ll be back at her door, telling her God has sent them again to give her the “Best News.”



Several other churches’ DR teams have similar stories of helping with local disasters. Whether large or small, every disaster response must begin locally. If your church responds and finds it is unable to meet a need, email disasterrelief@sbcv.org, and additional teams can be deployed to minister to your community.

RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/disaster_relief

■ **SBCV Contact:**
disasterrelief@sbcv.org

■ **Prayer:**
Pray for the local church to have a strong impact in its community.





Mission Plant experiences can be tailor-made for students, adults, families—all types of groups!

A Customizable Mission Opportunity

by Mark Custalow, Director of Multiplying Churches and Church Planting Strategist, Southeast Region

Are you looking for a low-budget, high-impact mission opportunity for your church? Look no further than SBCV Mission Plant! Mission Plant is an easily customizable mission opportunity for your church to partner with an SBCV church plant in sharing the Gospel and displaying the love of Christ. Read below the testimonies of church planters who hosted Mission Plant teams in 2009:

Chris Dowd — Executive Pastor,
Bedrock Community Church, Bedford

Having the mission team from the SBCV Studentz Camp was a tremendous blessing. With their help, we were able to complete 12 different projects all over the city of Bedford. It had such a tremendous impact on our city and its leaders that they awarded our church with the annual "Bedford Beautification" award. For the city to give our church an award like this in our first year of existence is an amazing testimony to the truth that blessings follow obedience.

Chris Gill — Pastor, Reservoir Community Church, Yorktown

The benefits of hosting a Mission Plant team at Reservoir: It built excitement within the church as we prepared for the team. It built excitement in the community as people saw roofs replaced, porches repaired, fences installed, houses painted, etc. There was rejoicing in heaven as seven gave their lives to Christ.

Brad Mullinax — Pastor of Small Groups and Evangelism, Oasis Church, Amherst

The impact these soldiers for Christ had on our community is still a point of conversation around the tables of our community members. Over 100 students parachuted into our town and met some major needs. Jesus' and Oasis Church's reputation were improved because of the work of the young, energetic teams. The Gospel was advanced in a powerful way because of their prayer, efforts, and sweat. We look forward to utilizing this opportunity again and would encourage every pastor to do so as well.

Steve Swisher — Pastor, Essential Church, Virginia Beach

We had a mission team come in during the first month that we launched our church. They hosted several block parties in our community, and we are still reaping the benefits a year later. Just last week, we had a first-time visitor at church whom I met at one of the block parties our mission team hosted.

Andy Davis — Pastor, Mecklenburg Community Baptist Church, South Hill

We were blessed to have a volunteer team minister with us last summer. They came from Hitesburg Baptist Church in Virgilina, VA, about an hour away. Pastor Bob Watts and his team, led by Carl Daniels, did a superb job. The team members came in various ages, but all came to serve. They were well-prepared and excited about the prospect of serving both our small church plant and especially the children of South Hill. They led a one-day VBS that began with Bible study and ended with the Gospel presented to both parents and students. This team not only provided the labor, they also brought all snacks and crafts and cooked us lunch. The children were very appreciative of the efforts this group made. There was one profession of faith, and we followed up on several prospects from this event. We will be glad to welcome the team back this year! This kind of help is a real blessing to young church plants, especially when we did not have enough workers to do it alone.

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.sbcv.org/mobilizing
www.sbcv.org/multiplying

■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.

■ Consider:

Begin planning now for your Mission Plant experience.



SBCV STUDENTZ
missionplant



Missions Road Trip Leads Back Home

by Jack Noble, Church Health Strategist, Central-West Region

Sometimes church life is just plain confusing. In late 2008, Pastor Michael Harrison of The Community Fellowship in Collinsville announced to his congregation that they would take a monthly trip 50 miles north to Roanoke to feed the hungry and worship with an SBCV church plant, All-Nations Metro. The town of Collinsville, however, had its own problems—20% unemployment and another industry planning to close permanently. Some members were confused, wondering why the church needed to travel 50 miles to meet needs when its own community was hurting. Nevertheless, The Community Fellowship began a year-long commitment to help All Nations Metro and Pastor Matthew Murphy reach downtown Roanoke. On the appointed monthly Sunday, the congregation would depart minutes after the morning service, drive to Roanoke, serve a late lunch to the needy, and join in a time of worship with All-Nations Metro.

With each passing month, church members

learned how to effectively minister to those in need. Not only did they discover the necessary tools for a strong and healthy hunger ministry, their hearts and compassion swelled. Over 130 church

members joined in the “Serve-olution,” growing in faith and developing a passion for helping people in need. They began to realize how they could provide a similar ministry to hurting people in their own community.

As Pastor Michael had expected all along, the natural next step was clear. In January 2010, The Community Fellowship started its own hunger ministry, physically feeding 150 the first month and spiritually feeding them with the hope of Jesus Christ. Although going to Roanoke had been confusing to some at first, it was actually a clearly thought-out and prayed-over plan to help the congregation learn, serve, grow in compassion, develop excitement, and start their own hunger ministry in Collinsville. Sometimes the most perplexing scenarios yield the most amazing results.

The Community Fellowship now serves meals from its building twice a month. Pastor Michael shares, “For me, as pastor, the greatest blessing has been watching our people volunteer their time and do hands-on ministry. For all of us, the biggest blessing is building relationships with people and watching their lives change.”

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.thecommunityfellowship.org
www.sbcv.org

■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.

■ Consider:

What are ways your church can build relationships with the people in your community?



2010 SBC Annual Meeting

Orange County Convention Center
(West Building)

June 15-16
ORLANDO, FL

for details and to register, visit www.sbcannualmeeting.net/sbc10



Coffee with a Cause

by Ron Kidd, Church Planting Strategist, Central-East Region

Church planters must be creative, be able to think outside the box and, most importantly, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Jonathan Davis and Clint Clifton are two such church planters.

In 2008, Pillar Church in Dumfries sent out Jonathan and Jennifer Davis to plant a church in Locust Grove, west of Fredericksburg. The Davises and Clint Clifton, Pillar's church planter/pastor, worked diligently on a strategy to reach Locust Grove for Christ. They needed to find a way to meet people in a non-intimidating and non-threatening environment. They hosted an outdoor movie, a paintball competition, and even a banquet in honor of community leaders, but saw little success. In an area filled with gated communities, busy commuters, and few who showed interest in another new church, Jonathan and Clint became discouraged.

Several months later, on a mission trip to Indonesia, the Holy Spirit led Jonathan and Clint to a group of orphans in Nagara, a city of extreme poverty. Just weeks before, the overseer of the orphanage had died in a tragic car accident. His widow had assumed the heavy responsibility of caring for the 25 children but was struggling under the financial burden. Clint was able to connect the children to an Indonesian friend who, with the blessing and endorsement of the government, took the orphans into his home. Although his generosity was extraordinary, housing that many children proved difficult.

Upon returning to the States, Jonathan and Clint worked to raise \$8,000 and later returned to Indonesia with another team. They purchased a piece of land and built what is now called the Pillar House. The house shelters the orphans but is still lacking plumbing and electricity. Jonathan and Clint wanted to do more, and the Lord gave them an idea: What about opening a coffee shop in Locust Grove

that could provide a meeting place for the church plant and also support these orphans? Since coffee is a major export of Indonesia, they could exclusively serve Indonesian coffee.

Coffee with a Cause (CWAC), located 15 miles west of Fredericksburg on Constitution Highway (Route 20) is now a fully functioning coffee shop and a ministry of Pillar Church at Locust Grove, the church the Lord enabled Jonathan Davis to plant. CWAC uses its setting to engage people in conversation and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the community. Its two employees and several volunteers are always eager and ready to share their faith, pray with a customer, and talk about their ministry. Customers are happy to purchase an excellent cup of coffee in support of a worthy cause. Every penny made above CWAC's expenses goes to serve those in the community and to support the orphanage in Indonesia with food, clothing, and school supplies. Not only is the coffee shop a community gathering spot, it's also the meeting place for Pillar Church at Locust Grove. Needless to say, the 5:00 PM weekly Sunday worship service has incredible coffee!

Pillar Church at Locust Grove is establishing itself as a Christ-centered fellowship of believers with a strong commitment to the surrounding communities of Locust Grove, Lake Wilderness, and Fredericksburg. It all started with two men who listened to the Holy Spirit and were willing to step out of the box. Is the Lord calling you or your church to move out of your comfort zone to reach your community for Him?

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.coffee-cause.com
www.sbcv.org/mobilizing
www.sbcv.org/multipling

■ Contact:

Call 540-854-4242 (Coffee with a Cause) or your SBCV regional missionary at 888-234-7716 for details.

■ Consider:

Are you being called to move out of your comfort zone?

Founders (l-r): Jonathan Davis and Clint Clifton





Rebel-utioneers

by Steve Maltempi, Student Ministry Strategist, and Larry Black, Church Planting Strategist, Central-West Region



THEY ARE staffing our churches as student missionaries and summer interns. They serve as mission volunteers during Missions Track at Studentz Camp and Studentz Mission Plant—often doing in one week the work that would normally take many months. They are demanding, aggressive social-change agents and expect no less wherever they become involved. It has been said that one can have a revolution without a revival but not a revival without a revolution. This

generation of late-20-somethings described by the media as spoiled, entitled, and even narcissistic is proving those notions wrong every day. These “rebel-utioneers” are rewriting the ministry playbook one ministry and mission experience at a time. They will be the leaders, bosses, influencers, and ministers to our teenagers and the next generation of teens as well. Who are they? How are they doing ministry differently?

THEY ARE extreme team players, doing ministry with all ages—friends, parents, and teachers. They don’t mind asking for advice from the older, wise, more mature generation.

THEY ARE digital natives, using the web to gain knowledge, network, and do ministry.

THEY ARE game-changers, finding chinks in conventional or outmoded ministries and the assumptions that go along with them. A healthy disrespect for the status quo leads them to experiment fearlessly. They do not depend on trusted and cherished institutions to feed them spiritually or give them ideas for ministry or missions. They disrupt and revitalize old ministry models by reimagining discipleship and models of evangelism and reinventing established ministries.

THEY ARE insiders, who see the culture from the inside out when it comes to serving society’s needs. They target certain demographics, create casual networking communities, and establish appealing environments. They are distinctive, which allows them to penetrate the culture faster and deeper.

THEY believe in and practice social impartiality, making a difference in the world through responsible actions. A recent report found that freshmen entering college were the most civically minded class in 25 years—86% were engaged in some sort of volunteer activity.

When they have the chance to create their own, their workplaces are anything but traditional—they

are mission-driven, member-centric meritocracies. They don’t punch clocks or have traditional hierarchies. They disciple and hire staff from within. Work/life balance, flexibility, and fun are core values. They embrace and think of themselves as servants, not servant-leaders.

THEY ARE improvisers who take a “just do it” approach to ministry. They are not risk-takers, for they have nothing to lose; however, they are willing to experiment and fail. They may not spend

a lot of time on the process, but they get results. They will adapt and reinvent as necessary, often changing strategies as rapidly as their ministry target. Dynamic ministry excites them as does pounce on unexpected ministry opportunities. When they fail, they fail fast and move on.

This generation is at the center of a ministry and missions revolution. Although they have far less experience than their seasoned counter-parts, they come hardwired with an impressive—and, to some, threatening—set of tools. To ignore them is perilous; this inside look at their playbook is invaluable. The rebel-utioneers are here, so get ready to do ministry and missions in ways you never dreamed of before!



RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/studentz

■ **Print:**
Upstarts! by Donna Fenn

■ **Contact:**
Call your SBCV regional missionary for details.

■ **Consider:**
Why not engage a “rebel-utioneer” in ministry and missions?





Sharing God's Love

by Mark Gauthier, Director of Mobilizing Churches

H

The earthquake was the strongest to hit Haiti in 240 years, leaving the capital of Port-Au-Prince—10 miles from the epicenter—all but destroyed. The death toll is thought to be in the tens of thousands—



perhaps as many as 200,000, according to the president of Haiti.

The SBCV, in partnership with NAMB and many other state conventions, launched the Buckets of Hope project to serve the victims of the earthquake. In

Matthew 25:40, Jesus said, “And the King will answer them, ‘I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’” (HCSB).

Buckets of Hope are just one means by which Baptists are fulfilling the mandate of Jesus Christ to feed the hungry in His name. At the time of this publication, the buckets have been collected and are being delivered to victims in Haiti.

The cost to prepare each bucket was approximately \$40 (\$30 for the contents and \$10 for shipping). In these tight economic times, such a donation was a challenge for some; for others, it was just a matter of using disposable income. There is one, however, for whom it was a great sacrifice. Single and in her mid-60s, *Barbara lives in Gosnold Apartments in Norfolk, where most residents are chronically homeless and have incomes below the poverty level. With a Social Security check her only income and a third of it required for rent, Barbara has no surplus resources. Nevertheless, when she heard about Buckets of Hope through her home church, First Baptist Church of Norfolk, she sensed God’s call to help.

For many of us, when we hear God’s call, we do what we think we can. Barbara, however, chose to do *all* she could. She chose to fill not one, but two buckets. As of this writing, she was working to fill a third. Having no means of transportation, she asked her social worker to take her shopping for the buckets’ contents. Inspired by Barbara’s sacrifice, the social worker purchased the contents for one bucket too.

Out of her poverty, Barbara sacrificed to share God’s love with others. What is the difference between doing what we think we can and doing *all* we can? Jesus said it best in Luke 21:2-4 with the well-known story of the widow with two mites.

“He also saw a poor widow dropping in two tiny coins. ‘I tell you the truth,’ He said. ‘This poor widow has put in more than all of them. For all these people have put in gifts out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, has put in all she had to live on’” (HCSB).

The next time God calls, will we do what we think we can or *all* we can?

* Name has been changed

RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.sbcv.org/disaster_relief

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 for details from the missionary in your region.

■ **Consider:**
Through the Buckets of Hope ministry, the local church had an opportunity to help Haiti victims.





HELP FOR HAITI



Packing & Shipping Buckets of Hope

DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS





Taking Jesus to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria

by Gary Horton, Church Health Strategist, Southwest Region



Appalachian Trail Days hikers

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.sbcv.org/mobilizing
www.reachdamascusfbc.org/athikersmin

■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.

■ Consider:

Isn't it amazing how God has grown a ministry that meets the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of many—church family, hikers, and visitors alike—from the simple beginning of a bonfire and grilled hotdogs?



First Baptist Church of Damascus (FBD) is following the Lord's command to take the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria (Acts 1:8). They are ministering to the people of Damascus, their community, their neighboring state of Tennessee, the United States, and the world!

Each year, over 20,000 Appalachian Trail hikers from all over the world come through Damascus to celebrate Trail Days. "I used to be judgmental and did not really want to love on people who were different than me," says church member, Linda Austin. "I started asking God to help me see people through His eyes, and He changed my heart." Over 10 years ago, God gave Linda a burden to reach the hikers. With the help of other FBD members, the Appalachian Trail Hiker Ministry was birthed to meet the needs of those hiking the trail. The ministry provides food, basic necessities, a shower unit, medical services (through a team from Alabama), and an Internet café. "Everyone has gone out of their way," says Chris Holter, one of the hikers. "You mention a need, and someone works on it." Loving others is the heart of FBD's ministry. Trail Days, according to Bob Foster, one of the doctors from the medical team, "is a time we

can show God's love to hikers." The Appalachian Trail Hiker Ministry gives FBD an opportunity to share the love of Christ with hikers from all over the world.

Another ministry of FBD began about four years ago, when God gave Linda Austin a burden to reach another people group: prisoners. Linda and other FBD church members are now ministering to inmates in southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee. In December 2009, over 30 volunteers, myself included, visited the Northeast Correctional Center in Mt. City, TN, to host a unit party. The team fed and gave gifts to over 120 inmates. The chaplain mentioned that one of the units would not have a party due to a cancellation from its host organization. On the bus ride back to Damascus, our team sensed God calling us back to host a party for that unit. Not knowing how the money for the food and gifts would appear, Linda began planning the party. As word of the need went out, God provided, as always. Two weeks later, volunteers hosted the party, where they fed and gave gifts to another 140 inmates. In the past year, FBD has been able to touch prisoners' lives with Christ's love and lead 36 inmates to faith in Him.

FBD's missions involvement extends beyond Trail Days and the prison ministry. Three years ago, the Lord prompted church members to help residents in the community who were struggling to provide for their families at Christmas. This desire gave birth to a Christmas Store for needy families, where every item would be free. The former Rock School in Damascus, which has been converted into apartments, allowed the church to host the Christmas Store in its old auditorium at no cost. FBD and several other Damascus congregations volunteered labor and donated clothing, used toys, household items, etc. A church from



Shopping day at the Christmas Store



maria

It Starts with One— One Who Is Willing to Go!

by Sue Sawyer, Women's Ministry Strategist and Associate
Church Mobilization Strategist for Projects

Shelbyville, TN, even sent a truckload of items, and local Boy Scouts collected food. If a family mentioned a certain new toy a child wanted, FBD members tried to meet that need too. When Deb Taylor arrived to open the door for the 2009 Christmas Store, there were already 50 people in line. For three days, members of FBD were able to meet the physical and sometimes spiritual needs of over 400 people.

First Baptist Church of Damascus is committed to the *Acts: 1:8 Challenge*—reaching the world with the Gospel of Christ. Will you join them and make a difference in your neighborhood, state, country, and the world?



When God called Kim Moore, a member of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights, to jail ministry, she stepped out of her comfort zone into an area of ministry she had never considered. Below is her story in her own words:

"The sound of the door slamming behind me welcomed me to the jail. I had never thought about leading a small group Bible study, much less starting one at a regional jail. As the ladies in green jumpsuits began to file into the room with looks of expectancy, I nervously prayed that God would equip me with the message He wanted to share. The rules were strict—no hugging, no holding hands, no first names, no food, and no coffee! This would be unlike any Bible study I'd ever experienced. Yet, we shared, we prayed, and we studied the Word of God. When the class was over, the women thanked me repeatedly for coming. I was filled with joy and excitement about God's plans for them. These grandmothers, mothers, and daughters needed to hear the Good News of hope and redemption through Jesus Christ.

"[My call to jail ministry] began when a woman in our church began crying and shared that she would soon be serving time for a crime she had committed. While a few whispered and shook their heads, I felt an overwhelming need to go with her. I stood up and reminded them that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God—her sin was just made public. I soon contacted the jail and began the process of applying to be a volunteer to lead a women's Bible study. It has been almost two years now, and every time I am at the jail, I feel the love of God reaching out to countless women who are hurting."

Mount Pleasant has supported this ministry by donating Bibles and Bible study materials, praying for the women, and encouraging others to volunteer their time and resources at local correctional facilities. Your church has the same opportunity to get involved. Volunteers are desperately needed to share their time and talents with a growing number of incarcerated people in Virginia. It starts with one who is willing to go.

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.mpbc.us
www.sbcv.org

■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from the missionary in your region.

■ Consider:

Are you willing to go wherever God calls you?





Getting More Than You Shopped For

by Darrell Webb, Church Health Strategist, North Region

Where could you find 400 volunteers, 75 game booths, a live petting zoo, door prizes, a karate demo, a magic show, and 8,000 – 10,000 enthusiastic people? The answer may surprise you: Spotsylvania Towne Centre mall in Fredericksburg! Spotswood Baptist Church (SBC) left the comforts of its campus to partner with Spotsylvania Towne Centre and a secular radio station to sponsor the second annual Fredericksburg Fall Family Festival. With the highest attendance ever for a festival sponsored by SBC, this free, fun family event impacted the community with the light of Christ on the dark night of Halloween.

For the past several years, Senior Pastor Drew Landry has challenged his congregation with one resounding question, “If our church ceased to exist, would the community miss us?” SBC members have embraced this challenge and united as a mighty army to get involved in multiple community outreach events. According to Children’s Pastor David Short, they are sending the message: “the church that meets at 4009 Lafayette Boulevard is interested in meeting the needs of its community.”

How did SBC accomplish such a God-sized task to reach out to the growing community of Fredericksburg?

- **VISION** — Pastor Drew and the SBC staff had a vision to address a need and to change the perception of “church” in the community.
- **INVOLVEMENT** — Every age group and ministry in the church (children, preschool, youth, adult Sunday School, Music Ministry, etc.) got involved through advertising, sponsoring game booths, and volunteering in multiple ways at the festival.
- **GOD’S FAVOR** — God granted SBC favor with Spotsylvania Towne Centre and with the community.

Through the Fredericksburg Fall Family Festival, the light of the love of God has been illuminated throughout the community. Unchurched people in the Fredericksburg area now see that SBC is interested in meeting their needs. Not only does the festival make a difference in the community, it makes a difference in the church. Short shares, “Volunteers realized that in a crowd of nearly 10,000 people, they came face to face with lostness, and this enlarged their hearts.” Short remarks, “If we [didn’t] do this event again, there would be a revolt by the church members.” God’s people at SBC want to give and serve rather than come and see.

Is there a need in your community your church can meet? Step out of your comfort zone. You never know—you may get more than you’re shopping for.

RESOURCE

■ Website:

www.spotswood.org

■ SBCV Contact:

Email David Short at dshort@spotswood.org or call your SBCV regional missionary at 888-234-7716 for information.

■ Consider:

How can your church make your community's shopping experience a life-changing event?



Holland Jordan and David Price man a booth sponsored by Spotswood's adult Bible fellowship group.





PRAY4GCR.com

Fulfilling the Great Commission

GCR Great Commission Resurgence

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

The Southern Baptist Convention voted overwhelmingly last summer to form the **Great Commission Resurgence Task Force (GCRTF)**.

This task force is prayerfully and diligently preparing recommendations on how we can better pursue the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The SBC will consider the task force's report in Orlando at this year's convention.

The release of that report is due on May 3, 2010 in anticipation of the convention. Watch for it at www.pray4gcr.com. I encourage you to read the GCRTF's report. Also, numerous articles in Baptist Press have appeared that give varied perspectives on the proposals and the possible ramifications. Let's pray that the report's recommendations will strengthen our convention-wide commitment to a cooperative approach to mission support and practice.

Recently, the officers of our state network met with staff leadership in a retreat to consider the GCR and possible ramifications. I am so grateful for the godly wisdom and sweet spirit of these leaders. There is absolute unity on the basic issue of desiring to pursue the Great Commission more effectively. The SBCV has in its spiritual DNA and unique history an unwavering commitment to missions.

Fresh evidence of this commitment was demonstrated in the unanimous adoption of our own Vision 20/20 Report this past November. Predating the GCR movement, SBCV churches had already set about casting a new vision for helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

Our leadership believes that SBCV priorities

are in sync with the heart and Word of God. They provide us with clear "marching orders," regardless of what happens in other spheres. Furthermore, our conviction is that they represent much of what the GCRTF is attempting to achieve—greater resources for missions, streamlined organizations, church planting priorities, Kingdom mindset, etc.

The challenge is that we continue steadfastly on the course He has set before us. Remember, our state network can only stay the course as our constituent churches do the same. Sacrificial giving must begin with individual believers, be modeled by local churches, and upheld by SBC partners. Let's recommit ourselves to this joint effort of reaching the nations for Christ. In doing so, there is a sense in which we can help set the pace for our entire national network.

Some years ago, I saw a documentary on the Colorado River. Major tributaries such as the Gunnison, the San Juan, and the Green River unite to make it a mighty force; however, as it courses through several arid states, innumerable users siphon off the precious water. The result is that the once powerful, life-giving Colorado peters out before it ever reaches the ocean. It ends just inside the Mexican border sixty kilometers from the sea. Wetlands and wildlife that once thrived on its delta have given way to barren mudflats. May God grant that we be vibrant tributaries who facilitate the life-giving flow of the Gospel!

RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.pray4gcr.com

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.

■ **Prayer:**
Pray for the members of the GCR Task Force and for God's leadership to be upon them.



The SBCV Is a Mobilizing Missional Network

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

THE GOAL

The third goal of the Vision 20/20 Report is that the SBCV function as a mobilizing missional network in which the number of congregations committed to the *Acts 1:8 Challenge* grows from approximately 50 to over 500.

THE CHALLENGE

Churches do not exist solely for the benefit of the local membership. The church exists to fulfill the Great Commission. The SBCV partners with local congregations to facilitate missional impact in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of earth. The spiritual, personnel, and financial resources in our churches represent a tremendous tool for furthering God's Kingdom among the nations.

THE NEXT STEPS

What would be the next steps in seeing your church have an *Acts 1:8* ministry? Explore the *Acts 1:8 Challenge*. Log on to www.actsone8.com to learn more about it. Here are eight commitments to which it calls each participating church:

Prepare. Empower a designated leader of missions to develop teams, strategies, and plans to take the Gospel to your community, state, continent, and world.

Learn. Bring mission awareness and interaction to the entire church, train members for service, and connect them to missionaries and mission needs.

Pray. Ask God for Kingdom perspective and worldwide vision and intercede for Christian workers and unevangelized peoples.

Give. Increase the financial support of the Cooperative Program and other SBC cooperative missions.

Go. Enable a growing number of members to participate personally in short-term, long-term, and marketplace opportunities to minister and spread the Gospel beyond your church's walls.

Tell. Involve an increasing number of members in intentional, culturally relevant evangelism.

Send. Provide members with opportunities to hear and respond to God's call to vocational mission service.

Multiply. Participate in church planting and facilitate church planting movements.

Ready to commit? I pray that your church will choose to step across the line and make a commitment to the *Acts 1:8 Challenge*.

PART 3
of 6

Editor's Note:

At the 2009 Annual Homecoming, the SBCV unanimously approved the Vision 20/20 Report. It outlines a course of action for the next 10 years leading to the year 2020. This series of articles unpacks one by one the six major proposals of the report. For the entire report, refer to www.sbcv.org/aboutus/vision2020.





Hungry for God's Word

by Sue Sawyer, Associate Church Mobilization Strategist for Projects

In the fall of 2009, the SBCV added a new ministry to its list of Mission Opportunities—Christian Libraries for Overseas. These materials are given to Hands for Christ, an organization with a burden for the lost and a deep commitment to telling the world about Jesus through the printed Word. The call and vision of one man, Dr. Bob Bowers, to see the Word reach lost souls birthed Hands for Christ in November 1969.

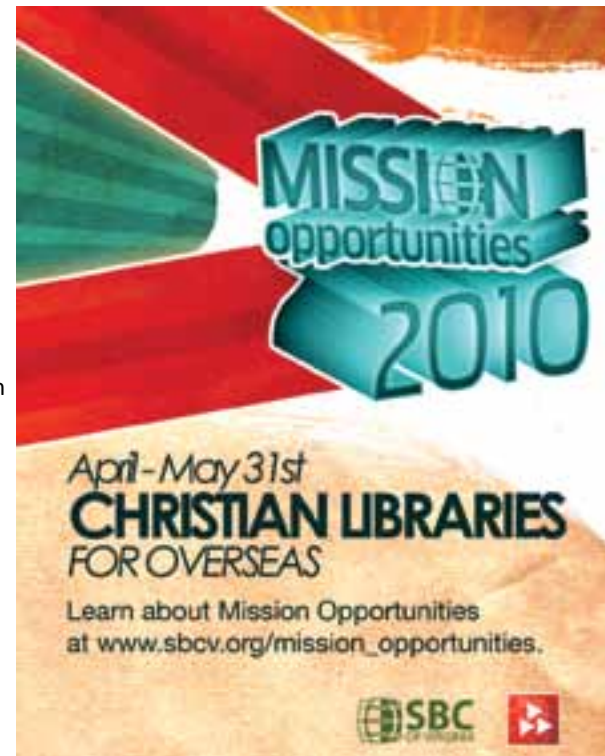
With such a large number of souls being won for the Kingdom, there are not always enough teachers to mentor the new converts in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ. From that need, Hands for Christ Lending Libraries were birthed. Once a new convert comes into the fold, he/she needs direction for how to grow in Christ. Having a library nearby where a person can “study to show [himself] approved” is a major key to the growth of these new Christians (2 Timothy 2:15).

In America, we have easy access to libraries, and many of us have bookshelves

full of resources to help us grow spiritually. Most of us have more than one Bible, but there are thousands of believers around the world who sacrifice just to have one page. They are hungry for God's Word.

Hands for Christ is very grateful for the privilege God has given it of sending His Word to the nations of the world. They have sent over 50,000 Lending Libraries to India, Tanzania, Malawi, Philippines, Cameroon, Uganda, Malaysia, Nigeria, Kenya, Central African Republic, Benin, Ghana, and Liberia.

You can help Hands for Christ by going through your bookshelves and sharing some of your resources so others around the world can have the opportunity to grow. Do you have at least one Bible you can give for a fellow believer to be able to read God's Word? The SBCV is currently promoting this Mission Opportunity.



RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/mission_opportunities

SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from the missionary in your region.

Consider:

How often are you able to open and study God's Word? Can you offer another the same opportunity by donating some of your resources?



Left: materials to be shipped overseas

Below: boxes ready for pick-up and delivery to overseas libraries





Making a Difference for Military Families

by Don Cockes, Church Health Strategist, Southeast Region,
and Sue Sawyer, Associate Church Mobilization Strategist for Projects

Throughout the state of Virginia, there exists an often-overlooked people group that churches have the opportunity to serve in the name of Jesus: the military. The Hampton Roads and Washington, DC areas are home to bases for every U.S. military branch, and numerous National Guard units are spread throughout the Commonwealth. Ministering to servicemen and women and their families is an opportunity for churches to make a difference in the name of Jesus.

Rev. Gary Sanders, founder and president of the Military Missions Network and a staff member at First Baptist Church of Norfolk, shares, “Military missions has to do with intentionally and strategically reaching the military with the Gospel as an effective means of fulfilling the Great Commission throughout the world. Military ministry is simply carrying out the commands and teachings of Christ as applied to military members and families. It means reaching, loving, serving, caring for, blessing, teaching, training, etc., those connected to the military. The foundations are the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Chaplain (MAJ) J. D. Moore, NAMB-endorsed full-time support chaplain with the Virginia National Guard, suggests ways your church can minister to military families:

1. **Organize a Soldiers and Wives’ Day Out** after soldiers return from overseas or just prior to deployment.
2. **Organize events**—Bible studies, worship services, Sunday School, etc.—at military Community Readiness Centers (Armories) during drill weekends, which take place one Sunday each month.
3. **Connect** with chaplains and commanders at local military posts—offer resources like childcare, home repair and maintenance, counseling, marriage enrichment and family enrichment seminars, or divorce recovery programs.
4. **Adopt military families** into your congregation and homes. There is nothing better than a home away from home for military personnel and their families to receive mentoring, friendship, and a smile.
5. **Advertise** in the local paper and on the Internet that your congregation is military-friendly.

Just like all human beings, U.S. military personnel need the love of Jesus. How will your church minister to and reach the military for Christ?

RESOURCE

■ **Website:** www.sbcv.org

■ **Contact:**

To find out how to connect with your local military base, contact Chaplain (MAJ) J.D. Moore at jd.moore1@us.army.mil or 434-298-6106.

For more information, contact your regional SBCV missionary at 888-234-7716.

■ **Prayer:**

Pray that your church will make a difference for servicemen and women and their families.





June - July 31st
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
PACKS FOR ARM

MISSION
opportunities
2010

  Learn about Mission Opportunities
at www.sbcv.org/mission_opportunities.

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Bible School**

2010 Training—Super Clinic!

May 1 @ E412
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Includes Special Needs & Spanish tracks

*VBS Training Clinics are presented
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visit www.sbcv.org/events.*





Can they find the Truth?



**New
Date!**

**STATE
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A SPEAKERS
TOURNAMENT

May 22, 2010
Beulah Baptist Church
Lynchburg
www.sbcv.org/events



Studentz Mission Plant Trip 2010
On mission in the Dakotas

June 26 - July 2

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

crazy love







Learn more at www.sbcv.org/studentz.



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A promotional poster for "Wipeout Camp" featuring a stylized blue and white graphic design. The background is dark grey with white and blue floral patterns. At the top left, the "studentz" logo is in a blue oval, with "CAMP" in large white letters below it. In the center, a large blue and white graphic of a surfboard with a flower on it is shown. Below this, the word "WIPEOUT" is written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. Underneath "WIPEOUT" is the text "ROMANS 8:13" in a smaller, white, cursive font. Below that, the dates "July 12-16, 2010" and the location "Liberty University, Lynchburg" are written in a white, cursive font. The website "www.sbcv.org/studentz" is also included. At the bottom, the word "Featuring" is written in a large, blue, cursive font. Below this, a group of ten young men are shown standing in a row. At the bottom right, there are logos for "studentz" and "SBC OF VIRGINIA". The text "download the video!" is written in a white, cursive font on the right side. At the very bottom, the names "Ken Freeman, Bluetree, Fee, Humble JJP" are written in a blue, cursive font.