

# SBC of Virginia



PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS  
THROUGH EVANGELISM



Working Together to Support  
Missions and Ministries

## It Begins With **YOU**

*What can you do to  
further our Lord's  
global mission?*



# PROCLAIMER

[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)  
July: Aug 2010  
Volume 12  
Number 4





MULTIPLYING  
MATURING  
MOBILIZING

## VIEWPOINT

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEFF GINN



# What's in It for Me?

President John F. Kennedy famously said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." That's a quotation that could be applied to our commitment to the Great Commission. As we engage in and support missions at home and abroad, there is the temptation to think, "What's in this for me?"

That's exactly the question that is sometimes applied to the Cooperative Program (CP), one of Southern Baptists' most dynamic tools in global missions. This edition of the *Proclaimer* shines the light on the CP.

Maybe you've asked, "What's in the CP for me? What does my church get?" To be honest, there's a part of me that wants to answer, "Nothing. We're not in it for what we get!" But that would be an impatient reply. Besides, the truth is that we do get much by giving. Jesus Himself said that it is better to give than to receive. There is joy in seeing fruit borne to the glory of God. There is a sense of fulfillment in having an eternal impact. There is gratitude akin to that of King David who wondered who he was and who were his people that they had been blessed so abundantly that they could give lavishly.

Is there something in it for you when you support 10,000 missionaries; 15,000 seminary students in training for service; the world's third largest relief agency; and more besides? Oh yes! But, don't ask what the CP does for you, ask what you can do to further our Lord's global mission.

May these articles challenge us to do more for our victorious King!

In His service and yours,

  
Jeff Ginn

### Dr. Ginn's ITINERARY

JULY 4 — All Nations SaRang Church, Centreville  
JULY 11 — Hopeful Baptist Church, Montpelier  
JULY 14 — Calvary Baptist Church, Orange  
JULY 18 — London Bridge Baptist Church, Va. Beach  
JULY 25 — London Bridge Baptist Church, Va. Beach  
AUG 1 — Riverside Baptist Church, Graham, NC

AUG 8 — Craig Valley Baptist Church, New Castle  
AUG 12-20 — Camp of the Woods, Speculator, NY  
AUG 22 — Open Arms Church, Schenectady, NY  
AUG 23-24 — Northeast Campus of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Schenectady, NY  
AUG 29 — Mountain View Baptist Church, Independence



# Transforming LIVES

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2010  
Hyland Heights Baptist Church, Lynchburg



ANNUAL  
HOMECOMING

[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)

## SBC of Virginia 2010 CALENDAR

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Week of Prayer for State Missions..... 10-17

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For more information,  
visit [www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org).



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Part 4 of a special 6-part feature

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## 10 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

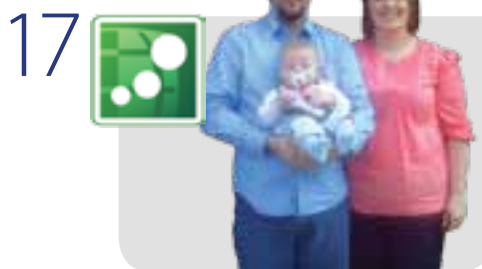
### What Young SBCV Church Planters Are Saying about CP Giving

Shedding new light on the traditions and practices established by the generations preceding them, young church planters offer a new perspective on CP giving.



### Until the Whole World Hears

Southside Baptist Church, Suffolk has found a unique way to invest in the sending of missionaries through its building program. Ten percent of every monetary gift to the building program goes directly to Southern Baptist missions.



### Impacting the Community

With a goal to transform their community "one person and one family at a time," Pastor Jeremiah Sluss and his seven-member church planting team began ministering to the residents of Haysi, a poverty-stricken area (60% of residents earning less than \$18,000 annually).



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



## GOD TO THE LAST DROP.

Nope, that's not a misspelling.

At the SBCV, we take Scripture very seriously. That means our church planting efforts have to be centered around God. To the last drop.

Want to learn more about SBCV church planting?

Come visit one of our Statewide Church Planter Networks (CPNs) and see for yourself.

Our next 2010 Statewide CPNs are August 26 and October 28.

Learn more at [www.sbcv.org/multiplying](http://www.sbcv.org/multiplying).



September 17-18, 2010

Thomas Road Baptist Church

Speakers:

Bobby BOREN, Pat WILLIAMS, Jack WHITE, Tim CLINTON, Jonathan FALWELL

...and more!

For more information: [www.multiplyingweekend.com](http://www.multiplyingweekend.com) or [www.wildfireweekend.com](http://www.wildfireweekend.com) 1-866-634-WILD



# Connecting Chesterfield and Beyond with Christ

## KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

by Steve Bradshaw, Director of Maturing Churches and Church Health Strategist, Central-East Region

**K**ingsland Baptist Church in the southern part of Richmond is reaching people in its “Jerusalem” and beyond with the Gospel. Through a focused outreach strategy and a variety of ministries, they live out their motto—“**Connecting People with Christ.**”

In 2007, Pastor Pat Fiordelise introduced his congregation to *Operation Chesterfield*, a strategy to help members connect their county to Christ. Through this method, the church family spends four consecutive Sunday afternoons canvassing neighborhoods, sharing the Gospel, and inviting people to church and an upcoming block party—a free community event with moon-bounce machines, games, food, and fun for families.

Church member Harvey Mayes explains, “[*Operation Chesterfield*] is a great opportunity for me to share with others what Christ has done for me in my life and to help [them] see that Christ is the answer.” Pastor Pat shares, “Harvey was my teammate canvassing a neighborhood just a mile south of our church. Harvey is a recovering addict who came to Christ a few years ago, and his life has dramatically changed.” At the first house they visited together, the owner did not want to listen to Pastor Pat, but Harvey was able to connect with him, sharing the entire Gospel. “Today,” says Pastor Pat, “Harvey is the leader of our ministry to the Bellwood Flea Market.” Chris Fens, another church member, appreciates that “[*Operation Chesterfield*] is an organized way to strategically go out and connect the community with Christ. It has opened my eyes to

the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of folks in our community. I have prayed for so many hurting people out there.”

When the SBC of Virginia announced the GPS *Find It Here* campaign in partnership with the North



American Mission Board, it was a natural fit for Kingsland. GPS provided a method for churches to reach their communities with the Gospel and invite neighbors to church. This initiative connected smoothly with Kingsland’s existing strategy. Over the past three years through *Operation Chesterfield*, they have contacted 15,000 homes with a personal visit and shared the Gospel and prayed with hundreds of people at their homes and in the community. Many have come to know Christ, been baptized, and now attend Kingsland.

In addition to *Operation Chesterfield*, the church connects its community with Christ through American Family Radio, broadcasting Pastor Pat’s sermons throughout the city each week. Kingsland also participates in nursing home outreach, backyard Bible clubs, first-responder ministry to firefighters, public school ministry to administrators and teachers, flea market ministry, prayerwalking, and community service through home repairs. In the fall of 2009, Kingsland expanded its community connection even further to sponsor a Hispanic church plant. God provided Pastor Fernando Mangieri to plant Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza (New Hope Baptist Church). At the time of this writing, there had recently been 47 in attendance! Pastor Pat testifies, “many are now coming to Kingsland Baptist Church and Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza because church members care enough to connect them to Jesus in word and deed.”

At Kingsland Baptist Church, “Connecting People to Christ” is more than a catchy slogan. It’s a commitment to spreading the Gospel in Chesterfield and beyond. It is a way of life!

### RESOURCE

#### Website:

[www.kingslandbaptist.com](http://www.kingslandbaptist.com)  
[www.findithere.com](http://www.findithere.com)

#### SBCV Contact:

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

#### Consider:

What kind of strategy can you put in place to connect people to Christ?





*Pastor Eric looks on as a church member signs the church covenant.*



## Cooperative Program Is in Their DNA

*by Bill Wennersten, Church Planting Strategist, North Region*

One of the principles a church planter learns very early in the planting process is: “You build in up front what you want in the end.” This guideline insures that important values become part of the DNA of the new church.

**REFORMATION ALIVE BAPTIST CHURCH** (RABC) is a year-old SBCV church plant in the Washington, DC suburbs. Pastor Eric Redmond and his leadership team knew early on the ministry and missions values they wanted to see develop in the new church. Their desire is to see a church “full of compassionate and gracious believers transforming their community with the Gospel.” They value the Cooperative Program as one means to this end.

RABC is an enthusiastic 10% contributor to the Cooperative Program, knowing first-hand that its giving goes to support missions around the world, here at home, and through SBC seminaries and agencies. Especially in difficult economic times like today’s, such giving may seem generous enough. At RABC, however, they want to be involved in their community and beyond in more hands-on and practical ways. Desiring to live out scriptural

principles as a body “full of compassionate and gracious believers,” RABC has reached out to a widow and another family in the church who are struggling financially due to circumstances beyond their control. The church has agreed to assist them financially until their circumstances improve. The congregation sees this added giving as a way to live out the New Testament’s teaching to care for widows and those in need.

With an eye on the larger picture of missions in North America and “to the ends of the earth,” RABC understands that one congregation cannot take the Gospel everywhere it needs to go. As part of the solution to this challenge, they understand they must be part of a larger missional network of like-minded churches. The Cooperative Program of the SBC and SBCV provides them this network and encourages them by example to carry out the work of missions and caring at home. As a value instilled up front, the Cooperative Program is now very much a part of Reformation Alive’s DNA.

### RESOURCE

#### ■ Websites:

[www.baptistsites.net/rabc](http://www.baptistsites.net/rabc)  
[www.sbcv.org/multipling](http://www.sbcv.org/multipling)

#### ■ SBCV Contact:

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

#### ■ Consider:

Are you encouraging your leadership team to value the Cooperative Program by your example?







# Understood Trust

## A MULTIPLICATION FACTOR



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

For pastor and catalytic church planter John Wyble, aligning with the SBC of Virginia has enabled him to fulfill God's plan for his life to reach the Deaf of Virginia. He observed Pastor Marvin Suitt lead Living Word Baptist Church in Forest to align with the SBCV. John, pastor of Living Word Deaf Church, a church plant out of Living Word Baptist, was skeptical at first. The Deaf community with whom he'd been involved was not open to aligning with the SBCV. Pastor John's wife, Denise, came from an independent background, having grown up in the Caribbean with missionary parents. Therefore, she was unfamiliar with and cautious of the SBCV too. Though John and Denise were hesitant, the Deaf church made the decision to align with the SBCV. The Wybles are now grateful for the decision and give testimony of their gratitude for the SBCV.

John and Denise, what have been some benefits of SBCV-alignment for the Deaf church?

*"We have been able to network with other churches, which has been a blessing. Vesta Sauter, the International Mission Board's Deaf missions coordinator, has been a great source of encouragement [and has provided] other networking opportunities. Another benefit has been the resources provided through training."*

When Pastor John started a new Deaf church in Roanoke (partnering with Cave Spring Baptist Church in Roanoke and Living Word Baptist Church), the leadership team attended the SBCV Basic Training for church planters. They saw first-hand the resources provided through the Cooperative Program by the SBCV staff. John and his team also attend statewide and regional Church Planter Network (CPN) meetings and utilize in the Deaf community

the ideas they learn. The new church in Roanoke used a CPN idea at an annual Deaf Club meeting. Members of the church wore matching shirts and volunteered to be the cleanup crew. This one service project gained the church recognition and respect in the Deaf community.

What have been the benefits for you personally?

*Denise says that after visiting her parents in Aruba this year, she saw "a lack of networking and encouragement." She's been sharing with her dad the information she learns at each CPN. For John, he "values the accountability, knowing he is being prayed for" and that he is able to request advice and help without being "looked down on."*



John Wyble

The Cooperative Program has provided the necessary resources for John to serve as the SBCV's Deaf missionary. The Deaf and hearing-impaired make up 2% of America and are a neglected people group who need to know Jesus died for them. In addition to serving as pastor of Living Word Deaf Church and Roanoke Deaf Fellowship, John trains Deaf leaders to start new churches among this often-forgotten people. Consider how your church can be involved in taking the Gospel to the Deaf and hearing-impaired.

Deaf Sunday School class



### RESOURCE

#### ■ Websites:

www.lwbc.net  
www.sbcv.org

#### ■ SBCV Contact:

Email Larry Black at  
lblack@sbv.org or  
call 888-234-7716 for details  
from your region's missionary.

#### ■ Consider:

How can your church reach out  
to the Deaf in your community?





## PART 4 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](http://www.sbcv.org/aboutus/vision2020).

# The SBCV Is a Sacrificial Missional Network

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

## THE GOAL

The fourth goal of the Vision 20/20 Report is that the SBCV function as a sacrificial missional network in which ever greater resources are channeled to national and international mission causes through the Cooperative Program (CP). We intend to raise by 25% per year for the next decade the amount of money going to national and international mission efforts. Despite the fact that our state convention is already a leader nationally by following a 50/50 distribution plan, we will, per an annual review, increase the amount forwarded to the SBC. Early estimates indicate this will result in an additional \$1.2 million for national and international ministries by the year 2020. We have already begun this in 2010, giving 50.25% to the SBC each month.

## THE CHALLENGE

There is a troubling trend at play in the Southern Baptist Convention. The percentage of giving to the CP per church is falling. Not so many years ago, it was typical for a church to give 10% of its undesignated receipts to this funding channel. Now the average stands at approximately 6%. This is heartbreaking because of all the good that is done through this cooperative effort. Here is a partial list of what CP giving does:

- Provides the lifeline for more than 5,000 missionaries serving around the globe through the International Mission Board
- Sustains the ministry of more than 5,000 missionaries serving in North America through the North American Mission Board
- Supports six great seminaries and provides de facto scholarships for thousands of ministers in training
- Enables Southern Baptists to have a strong voice for moral issues in our capital through the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

How can the SBCV continue to increase its giving to SBC mission causes if the giving from our churches continues to decline? The only way this can happen is if our churches will step up in their sacrifices for the Kingdom. It is our earnest prayer that this trend of decline will be reversed in Virginia and throughout our national convention.

## THE NEXT STEPS

What would be the next steps in seeing our network live out this sacrificial goal?

**Look.** Take a good, long look at your local church's budget. How much is being channeled through the CP to support our missionary endeavors? Does your church demonstrate by its own giving patterns the kind of generosity you hope to see in the lives of your members?

**Ask.** Ask the Lord of the harvest if He is satisfied with the level of sacrificial giving that is going to mission causes outside of your local fellowship.

**Set.** Set a goal to increase your CP giving that is in keeping with God's heart for the nations.

**Work.** Work with your finance committee/leadership with sufficient lead time to make the necessary changes.

**Rejoice!** Rejoice as you join God in His worldwide enterprise!





## TOP FIVE Cooperative Program Giving

Based on 2009 ACP data

	CHURCH	SUNDAY AM ATTN	TOTAL GIVEN
1.	First Baptist, Roanoke	1,507	\$385,561
2.	Liberty Baptist, Hampton	2,881	\$383,654
3.	Bethel Baptist, Yorktown	709	\$372,841
4.	Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke	705	\$322,241
5.	Grove Ave. Baptist, Richmond	1,218	\$275,840

## TOP FIVE Cooperative Program Giving, Per Capita

Based on 2009 ACP data

	CHURCH	SUNDAY AM ATTN	TOTAL GIVEN	PER CAPITA
1.	Matoaca Baptist, Matoaca	141	\$ 74,180	\$526.10
2.	Bethel Baptist, Yorktown	709	\$372,841	\$525.87
3.	Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke	705	\$322,241	\$457.08
4.	Good News Baptist, Alexandria	35	\$ 15,257	\$435.91
5.	Beulah Baptist, Lynchburg	176	\$ 71,676	\$407.25

Need help promoting the Cooperative Program  
in your church?

## WE'VE GOT IT!

These are just a few of the resources available to help you promote the CP in your church. Check 'em out!



You can find these resources at:  
[www.sbcva.org/cp](http://www.sbcva.org/cp) or [www.cpmisions.net](http://www.cpmisions.net)

Bulletin Inserts ■ Posters and Ads ■ CP Logos ■ CP Budget Allocation Chart ■ CP Gift Poster ■ Missionary Moments, Prayer Guide ■ Missionary Moments, Video Vignettes—Student Edition ■ Free Video Downloads ■ The Pulse ■ Every Number Has a Story, Vol. 2 and 3 ■ We're In! ■ The Difference—A Resource Suite for Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries



## HOW THE Cooperative Program WORKS



Local  
Churches

49.75%

SBCV Objectives:



50.25%



Southern Baptist Convention







# What Young SBCV Church about the Coope

It is important to take note of the perspective of young leaders. Many times, their thoughts and observations are refreshing, shedding new light on the traditions and practices established by the generations that preceded them. You will find on these two pages Cooperative Program (CP) insights from several SBCV church planters, all of whom are 35 or under.



## RESOURCE

### Website:

[www.sbcv.org/multiplying](http://www.sbcv.org/multiplying)  
[www.sbcv.org/cp](http://www.sbcv.org/cp)  
[www.cpmissions.net](http://www.cpmissions.net)

### SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your regional missionary.

### Consider:

How can you take these insights and make them a part of your church's mindset?



**Noah La Coursiere (26)**  
**Church Planter**  
**Apprentice**  
**Essential Church,**  
**Virginia Beach**  
[essentialchurch.tv](http://essentialchurch.tv)

*I am eternally grateful to the SBC Cooperative Program and its supporters for their generosity in financially enabling me to be a missionary in my city. Because of their generosity, I have been able to focus on my mission for Christ without worry.*



**Matthew**  
**Murphy (33)**  
**Church Planter**  
**All Nations Metro**  
**Church, Roanoke**  
[allnationsmetrochurch.com](http://allnationsmetrochurch.com)

*I know that, for us, giving to the Cooperative Program is automatic. We see it as a way to be a part of a global impact with the Gospel, the benefits far outweighing the costs. The Cooperative Program offers us and other church plants valuable support and help that otherwise would not be available. We think that God is still using the Cooperative Program.*





# Planters Are Saying rative Program

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



**Nathan Knight (35)**  
**Church Planter**  
**Restoration Church,**  
**Washington, DC**  
restorationchurchdc.  
com

*The Cooperative Program as a mechanism is a wonderful and effective tool to bring the Gospel to bear upon the world. In light of this, I am a hearty supporter of the Cooperative Program, having benefited from it both now as a church planter and in seminary, in addition to numerous other times by extension.*

*However, the mechanism is only as strong as the people and places it supports. In my view, the mechanism is very effective when used appropriately.*

*In our local churches, we must guard against creating a mindset that support for the CP or partnership with para-church ministries like state conventions and NAMB relieves us of planting churches. In short, I fear many churches have “contracted out” their inherited privilege to raise men up, train them, assess them, and send them out to plant churches.*

*Having said all of this, I am hopeful, and Restoration Church plans to “stick it out” largely because of how much we have benefited from the Cooperative Program and also because of the great men and women on whose shoulders we stand.*



**Jim Hewitt (34)**  
**Church Planter**  
**Foundations Community**  
**Church, Chesapeake**  
foundationscommunity  
church.org

*The Cooperative Program is one of the main reasons I decided I wanted to serve as an SBC pastor. I believe that combining resources to accomplish the task of the Great Commission is imperative to achieve the most impact globally. I like the idea of supporting individual missionaries as a church or individual sees fit; but I love the idea of being able to give to an organization that makes our contribution work on a global scale. I love the fact that our missionaries sent out know that their funding is secure because of the gifts given through the CP. We, even as small as we are, are making a difference for Jesus across the world.*



**Jeremiah Sluss (30)**  
**Church Planter**  
**Grace Fellowship Baptist**  
**Church, Haysi**  
gracefellowshipbaptist  
church.org

*Five years ago, I did not know anything about the Cooperative Program; yet I am blessed to know about it now, and I don't know what Grace Fellowship Baptist would have been able to do without it. Having this salary has allowed me to be here full-time to focus on the community for the first year of the church plant. I have challenged our church to increase our giving 1% to the CP each year until we reach 25%.*



# Until the Whole World Hears

## BUILDING PROGRAM LEADS TO A TITHE TO MISSIONS

by Don Cockes, Church Health Strategist, Southeast Region



*"It all started with God speaking to my heart through a sermon on spiritual warfare."*

"It all started with God speaking to my heart through a sermon on spiritual warfare," says Stewart McCarter, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Suffolk. "God's Word says, 'The earth is the Lord's,' and I realized that we must send missionaries to take back for God what is rightfully His. I believe the Holy Spirit pointed out to me that missionaries were being prevented from going because Christians had spent the funding needed on themselves rather than on missions." The congregation was in the planning stages of a much-needed building addition. Due to space constraints in the current building, Southside holds three worship services and three Sunday School sessions each Sunday morning.

Pastor Stewart shared with the church what the Lord had laid on his heart—how the building program could be used to invest in sending missionaries. He suggested that 10% of every monetary gift to the building program go directly to Southern Baptist missions. In other words, the church would tithe from its building program. The congregation enthusiastically embraced this missions-integrated approach. In fact, the campaign to raise the

necessary \$5 million for the new building was aptly named, **"Until the Whole World Hears."**

Church members are making sacrificial gifts to make

this vision a reality. One told the pastor he plans to tithe from his disability check, and another plans to sell prized collectibles and give the money to the program. One family was surprised to receive twice the market value for a sale of timber and will give the excess funds to the capital campaign. The building program includes training in missions and has energized the people to both give and go. Southside hopes to break ground near the end of 2010. The tithed building contributions are estimated at close to \$500,000.

Several years ago, Southside Baptist Church embraced a new mission statement that is an acronym from the church's initials:

**S**urrender to His Lordship  
**B**ecome His Disciple  
**C**arry His Message

For the SBC family, adding a future building has become an opportunity both to live out their mission statement and to impact missionary work. Pastor Stewart put it this way: "Building a needed building should not be about us. It should be about taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth, until the whole world hears."

### RESOURCE

#### ■ Websites:

[www.southsidebaptistsuffolk.com](http://www.southsidebaptistsuffolk.com)  
[www.sbcv.org/maturing](http://www.sbcv.org/maturing)

#### ■ SBCV Contact:

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

#### ■ Consider:

Is your church investing in the sending of missionaries?

*drawing of proposed new church building*







# Displaying a Kingdom-mindset

## NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

In 1992, Josh Turner, a native of Louisa County, graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in forestry and wildlife. After working in North Carolina for a time, God brought him back to his hometown to work in a local business. At the same time, the Lord began calling him to vocational ministry. He impressed upon Josh a desperate need and urgency to reach his friends and neighbors with the Gospel by planting a new church. In obedience, Josh and his wife Stacey assembled 30 friends, relatives, and acquaintances to share their burden and vision. At that 2002 meeting, New Life Community Church in Louisa was officially born.

In November of the same year, the church held its first public worship service with 75 in attendance. Josh began as bi-vocational, serving as pastor while working in the secular world. Eventually, the needs of his growing congregation led him to become full-time at the church, but he remains a proponent of bi-vocational church planting. "It helped our church financially and kept me in constant contact with those outside of Christ."

After studying the doctrinal beliefs and positions of the Southern Baptist Convention, Pastor Josh led the previously non-denominational church to join the SBCV in 2003. As a young church planter, he realized the need for practical training and accountability. Through SBCV's Basic Training and monthly Church Planter Networks, he received both. Some of the brothers he met at those

gatherings still serve as accountability partners today.

Because of his unique circumstances, Pastor Josh was never financially funded by the SBCV or sponsored by SBCV churches. Even though he did not receive funding as a planter, he is a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program (CP) and is actively involved in SBCV church planting. Pastor Josh led New Life to give faithfully to the CP from the time it joined the SBCV, and he currently volunteers, encouraging and assessing present SBCV church planters. "I believe wholeheartedly in the CP," says Pastor Josh, "and I see great value in partnering through ministry with others. The way the CP supports missions through the IMB is awesome. [CP gifts] helped our church by providing a church planter apprentice to help us as we prepared the soil to plant in Charlottesville. I'm very grateful that the CP has also helped me personally with my seminary education expenses."

How blessed we are in the SBCV to have pastors and churches like Josh Turner and New Life Community Church! With their Kingdom-mindset, they are faithfully supporting the CP and church planting, helping reach the millions of Virginians who are still without a saving knowledge of Christ.

### RESOURCE

#### ■ Websites:

[www.newlifeinlouisa.com](http://www.newlifeinlouisa.com)  
[www.sbcv.org/multiplying](http://www.sbcv.org/multiplying)

#### ■ 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?





How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?  
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?  
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?  
~ Romans 10:14 (The Message)

# Can you see th



This fall, as you consider the mission field that is Virginia, please commit to pray for the workers on the field. Our missionaries value your prayer support above all else. As you pray for them collectively and individually, consider your gift to the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering. Every penny goes to the field—to our missionaries and your ministries: developing and growing ministries, planting churches, and sharing the Gospel until all have heard. As you pray for our missionaries and give to support them financially, consider joining them in their work through doing or going.

## Week of Prayer for State Missions



Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering. Without your generous giving, many ministries would not be successful. As you give, you become a partner to every one of the ministries used to reach Virginia in the name of our Lord.

## State Missions Offering







**visionvirginia** State Missions Offering will support missions and evangelism efforts across the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. Some of the ministries supported are familiar and, at times, that is a danger. Disaster Relief has always received strong support, both in terms of volunteers and finances. When disaster strikes, you, the members of SBCV churches, have stood ready and provided thousands of volunteers and hundreds of thousands of dollars. After the Haiti earthquake, with less than 30 days' notice, you provided over 4,400 Buckets of Hope and monetary donations for a total value of more than \$250,000. But a disaster, as real and more destructive, is lurking right here in Virginia. It is the disaster of lostness—those who are perishing every day, dying and going into eternity without a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. **That is the reason for this offering.**

# e mission?

Week of Prayer  
for State Missions  
OCT 10-17, 2010



Whether through Baptist Builders, Families on Mission, or working with church planters in the Northern Virginia/DC area, we are all called to go. Why not make a commitment to yourself, your family, your church, and our God that in 2011 you will go on mission?

## Acts 1:8 Challenge



God continues to work through SBCV church planters to reach families in Washington, DC through the *Back-to-School Backpacks* mission opportunity (June – July). Even though this is the capital of our nation and there are many affluent people living in the area, there are also large numbers of families living in poverty. Providing children with basic school supplies will greatly help these families and will open doors for our church planters to share the Gospel. This is a great project for all ages! For information on other opportunities to do missions, visit [www.sbcv.org/mission\\_opportunities](http://www.sbcv.org/mission_opportunities).

## Mission Opportunities





## ONE CHURCH'S MISSION TO BECOME BETTER STEWARDS

# Gazelle Intense!

**“Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.”**  
Proverbs 6:5 (NIV)

**R**agland Memorial Baptist Church (RMBC) in Sandy Hook (Goochland County), offered Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) to encourage and educate church members in basic godly financial stewardship. During the 13-week study, members learned

everything from budgeting to investing to giving.

God's presence was obvious from the start. The church had been praying for the Lord to provide a means of financial education. At the same time, the Lord had begun leading my husband Brooks and me to make RMBC our church home. A few months later, we heard about the church's desire for a means of financial education. Brooks and I started praying about how we could help, and the Lord led us to facilitate the FPU study.

Through FPU, many were led to make sacrifices to truly let go and trust the Lord to provide for their needs. At almost every session, there was an opportunity for members to cut up their credit cards. On one such night, silence covered the room, and everyone looked at each other to see who would make the first move. Our senior pastor, Ed Rodriguez, broke the silence by cutting up his credit card. Following suit were five other couples/individuals. Later that evening, I received an email from one of them:

*“After having cut up my credit cards tonight, I came home and called the companies to cancel the cards. It was interesting to hear the customer service reps try to convince me of all the reasons why I should keep their cards... On the way home, I was thinking, ‘What did I just do? Those cards were my security blanket.’ And God impressed upon me that He is my security blanket and that calling to cancel the cards was a step of faith. Now understand that I rarely used those cards and, when I did, I would pay them off the next month. I think it was a source of power per se to have the borrowing capacity even if I didn't use it. I find it amazing that tonight I eliminated \$94,400 of available credit by faith. Tomorrow, I may be sending you a hysterical message but, for now, I*

*feel peace about this.” —Anonymous*

I was thrilled to see the growth that had taken place in our church in just one evening! God was at work and continued to move in our midst. Another couple testified:

*“This course has made our finances one of the priorities in our marriage. It has helped us set a path to pay off our debt. Deciding to pay off debt and then add to our emergency fund was critical. The path we set will help us reach our debt-free goal in a matter of a few months! [It] also showed us that some sacrifices have to be made now to reap much greater rewards later.” —Anonymous*

The statistics below are based on nine households who answered survey questions about the study's effects (others participated in the study but not the survey).

Lives were truly changed through this study:

- Total debt paid off within the 13-week study: \$73,134
- Total number of credit cards cut up: 30
- Amount of available credit on those credit cards: \$218,900
- Total number of vehicles sold: 4
- In addition to debt paid off, total put into savings: \$11,000
- Increased giving?: 3 replied, “yes”; 3 replied, “not yet”

Although FPU ended in late January, for some, it is far from over. Cleaning up one's finances takes time and discipline. The class members are planning quarterly reunions so participants can share praise reports and lift up in prayer those who are struggling. At the time of this writing, they are planning an FPU alumni yard sale. Many have items they wish to sell in hopes of de-cluttering their homes, lives, and finances.

RMBC plans on offering another FPU class later this year. While mostly RMBC members comprised the first class, the second class is expected to attract more people from the community. FPU has become a phenomenal outreach tool, especially in the lagging economy. People in the community need to know that “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26, HCSB)!

Let us change our track and become better stewards of the resources God has given us! To God be the glory!

### RESOURCE

■ **Website:**  
[www.raglandbaptist.org](http://www.raglandbaptist.org)  
[www.daveramsey.com/fpu](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu)

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

■ **Consider:**  
Have you considered using FPU as a means for helping church members and the community?







# Grace Fellowship Baptist Church Impacting Its Community

by Randy Aldridge, Church Planting Strategist, Southwest Region

**“We live in a very religious community, but religion doesn’t save the soul.”**

In late summer 2009, Jeremiah Sluss and his seven-member church planting team began ministering to residents of the town of Haysi. In this poverty-stricken area, 60% of residents earn less than \$18,000 annually. With the economic situation as it is, ministry opportunities are numerous for those who understand the culture.

Prior to launching Grace Fellowship Baptist Church in Haysi last August, the planting team approached the mayor and town council about possible projects on which they could assist. After input from city officials, Pastor Jeremiah led his team to start an after-school program for kids. The team conducts Bible studies and plays games with the children until parents return from work. In addition to the after-school program, they conducted a coat and Bible distribution in early winter with support from another SBCV plant and helped beautify the town by cleaning and painting local government properties.

Pastor Jeremiah and the team value personal and corporate evangelism and have made them priorities in the church plant. While Grace Fellowship

began with just seven members, it has grown to a current average worship attendance of twenty-eight. Many of these attendees have come to faith in Christ as a result of intentional witnessing. Nancy and Chastity came to faith in Christ, and both mother and daughter were baptized in a river near Haysi last October. They were so excited about their newfound faith that they shared the Gospel with their friend Rocky, a local contractor who serves on the town council. Skeptical at first, he often ridiculed the efforts of the small group. Chastity, however, convinced him to attend their baptism service. Rocky later shared, “God began dealing with my heart during the service. I felt more love from these people than I have ever felt from any church people I had ever known.” In January 2010, Rocky prayed to receive Christ and, in the words of Pastor Jeremiah, has “been on fire” ever since.

Grace Fellowship has had such an impact on the community and its leaders that, in December, Pastor Jeremiah was asked to join the town council in an advisory position. In his words, “we live in a very religious community, but religion doesn’t save the soul. Most families have been involved in church but do not have a personal relationship with Christ. Our goal is to transform our community one person and one family at a time.”



(l-r) Nancy, Chastity, and Rocky



Pastor Jeremiah and family

## RESOURCE

**Website:**  
[www.sbcv.org/multiplying](http://www.sbcv.org/multiplying)

**SBCV Contact:**  
Call 888-234-7716 for details from your regional missionary.

**Consider:**  
How can your church make an impact on your community?





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September 22, 2010

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Learn more at [www.famnet.net](http://www.famnet.net)

Learn about mission opportunities at [www.sbc.org/mission\\_opportunities](http://www.sbc.org/mission_opportunities)

**MISSION opportunities 2010**

**YOU & YOUR CHURCH ON MISSION**

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September - October 17th
- **SPORT SHOES AND SOCKS FOR URUGUAY**  
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- **LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING**  
November - December 12th

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Learn more at [www.sbcu.org/multiplying](http://www.sbcu.org/multiplying)





# CP Dollars Reach the Field and Back

## STAPLES MILL ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

by Steve Bradshaw, Director of Maturing Churches and Church Health Strategist, Central-East Region

There's a unique phenomenon at Staples Mill Road Baptist Church (SMRBC) in Glen Allen. The church family doesn't give missions dollars through the Cooperative Program to receive a reward, but the Lord always seems to provide a return on their investment back at home.

The very Cooperative Program (CP) dollars that supported Rev. Warren Rice and his family as International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in Indonesia brought him back to the United States to serve as pastor of SMRBC in the 1980s. Such was the case with SMRBC's current senior pastor, Dr. Jim Booth. He and his family served as IMB missionaries in South Asia before coming to SMRBC, bringing with them a fresh passion and vision for missions. Serving alongside Pastor Jim is Rev. Mike Bowles, associate pastor for discipleship and missions, whose family served in Thailand prior to returning to the States. Rev. Danny Panter, associate pastor for students, grew up as a missionary kid overseas. SMRBC is conveniently located near the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville and the IMB headquarters in Richmond. It is no wonder many IMB staff members and missionaries in training find SMRBC to be a warm and welcoming church home.

In addition to international missions, CP dollars make seminary education affordable for men and women called out from Staples Mill to prepare for future ministry. Just ask Mike Bowles who went out from SMRBC to seminary and was approved as an IMB missionary before returning home. Just ask the regional church health strategist who went out from SMRBC to seminary, served as a pastor for 14 years, and has now returned to the region as the church's SBCV missionary. Many others have been called out from this church family and are currently being trained

for missions and ministry. There are SMRBC members presently serving in Honduras, South Asia, and Thailand with the IMB.

Out of this atmosphere of going and sending, Staples Mill has increased its CP giving and missions activities in recent years. Darryl Franklin, SMRBC missions coordinator, testifies that the church's impact reaches near and far through their Acts 1:8 strategy. Locally, the church assists with the Pregnancy Resource Center, Lamb's Basket food ministry, AWANA, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, and more. Outside Virginia, the church has ministered in New Orleans for several years with the North American Mission Board's N.O.A.H Project and, this summer, will conduct Vacation Bible School for a church there. SMRBC has recently assisted a church plant in Connecticut and plans to participate in a Power Plant trip to Philadelphia this year. When considering the "uttermost parts," SMRBC has taken annual trips to Thailand and will participate in a student World Changers and Power Plant trip to the Ukraine this summer.

Staples Mill Road Baptist Church is a church on mission through giving and going. Pastor Jim delights, "I'm thrilled with the recent mission efforts our folks have been a part of. I'm looking forward to seeing that continue to unfold."



Darryl Franklin, Missions Coordinator



New Orleans team member, Don Griffith, taking time to pray

### RESOURCE

#### Website:

[www.smrbc.org](http://www.smrbc.org)  
[www.sbcv.org/maturing](http://www.sbcv.org/maturing)  
[www.sbcv.org/mobilizing](http://www.sbcv.org/mobilizing)

#### SBCV Contact:

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

#### Consider:

Could your church invest more through Cooperative Program giving?

Mission team to Connecticut







## PROCLAIMER

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