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What do your prayers and gifts support?
Information begins on page 11.

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Dr. Ginn Accepts Position at Louisiana Church

by Brandon Pickett, Director of Media Services for the SBC of Virginia and the Vice President of Innovative Faith Resources



After three years as executive director of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, Dr. Jeff Ginn has accepted the senior pastor position at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (<http://istrouma.org>).

He notified the SBC of Virginia Executive Board on June 23 in anticipation of the vote from Istrouma. On Sunday, June 26, Ginn preached in both morning services in view of a call. The congregation responded with a unanimous vote after each service. Ginn indicated that his last day as executive director will be July 31 with August 1 as his first day as Istrouma's senior pastor.

"I have always been so proud of the face Jeff put on the SBCV," said Executive Board chairman Rev. Wendell Horton, pastor of Sky View Missionary Baptist Church in Fancy Gap. No interim director has yet been named, but the Executive Committee has already met by phone to begin planning for the future.

The SBC of Virginia's constitution calls for the Executive Committee of the Executive Board to bring a recommendation to the full board for an interim executive director; and bring a recommendation to the full board for a search committee. "We will meet in person this week," shared Horton, "to pray and work towards selecting an interim executive director and a seven-member search committee. We will do our very best to choose a committee that represents a broad spectrum of the SBCV."

Ginn came to Virginia in 2000 to pastor Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights. It was through this ministry that he was introduced to the SBC of Virginia. Ginn shared, "The SBCV's vision of planting new churches, assisting existing churches, and helping all churches to be on mission is a compelling one. For that reason, serving the Lord through the SBCV has been one of my life's greatest joys and honors. The state staff with whom I have labored is unexcelled in their passion for, capabilities in, and commitment to the Great Commission."

Although he has extensive ministerial experience as a former IMB missionary and seminary educator, Ginn senses God's renewed call on his life to be a local church pastor. Ginn said, "The church is at the heart of all that the SBC of Virginia does. It should come as no surprise then when one of her staff returns to the local church to serve there. Istrouma Baptist Church is uniquely situated to have a global impact. Our family is thrilled and humbled at the prospect of joining in what God is doing

at that dynamic fellowship."

It is that special pastoral touch that Dr. Mark Becton, SBC of Virginia president and pastor of Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, feels made Ginn's ministry so effective. "As our executive director, Dr. Ginn epitomized servant leadership," Becton said. "His passion for maturing, mobilizing, and multiplying churches

energized our passion to do the same. Each time he spoke in board meetings, committee meetings, in the pulpit, or when sending out a word of encouragement through *Empowered* (www.sbcv.org/empowered), we heard his heart. I'm grateful for the time God allowed us to have Dr. Ginn. We will miss him."

Ginn began as executive director in 2008, following Dr. Doyle Chauncey, founding executive director-treasurer of the SBC of Virginia. He retired from that role at the end of 2007 after more than 12 years. Chauncey believes that the state convention has been positively impacted by Ginn's service. "His keen wisdom, contagious enthusiasm, gifted leadership, and communication skills helped make us a better team in serving our churches. God used him to accomplish a number of things that would have been left undone had he not served as SBCV's executive director. We will miss the Ginn family, but I am always excited and rejoice when God is at work in the life of His faithful servants wherever He leads them." During Ginn's tenure, ministry highlights include the formation and unanimous adoption of a Vision 20/20 strategy. These goals include the planting of 400 new churches by 2020 and an increase in Cooperative Program giving to SBC causes of 0.25% each year (the SBC of Virginia currently sends 50.50% of all CP dollars to Nashville).

Istrouma Baptist Church has a membership of about 3,700 with an average worship attendance of approximately 1,500. Sunday's affirmative vote for Ginn concludes an 11-month search for a new senior pastor. "Istrouma Baptist Church is praising God for sending Dr. Ginn and his wonderful family to be our next senior pastor," said Don Powers, chairman of the Istrouma Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee. "The unanimous vote of the nine-member search team and the unanimous vote of the congregation further provide evidence of God's hand in bringing him here. The search team and the congregation have been praying that God would send us a loving shepherd, preacher, leader, teacher, and a protector against false doctrine. Without a doubt, Dr. Ginn not only meets what we were praying for, but God has given us someone far beyond our expectations. Throughout the search process, God's direction was felt in many, many ways. We are excited to see how God is going to use Jeff, the Ginn family, and Istrouma Baptist Church to reach the lost in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the United States, and the world!"





PROCLAIMER

Telling About the Amazing
Things God Is Doing
Through His Church

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THE FUTURE OF...



After 150 episodes with Dr. Ginn, *Empowered* has become a featured favorite in SBCV life. Although Dr. Ginn is leaving, *Empowered* will continue! For several weeks, we'll run a "best of" series. Then Brandon Pickett, SBCV's director of media services, will coordinate new editions of *Empowered* during the interim period as the SBCV searches for its next executive director. Keep watching!

features



11 Mission Force Meet Mission Field

Your prayers and gifts to Vision Virginia enable and empower ministries around the state. Physical needs are being met, but more importantly, people are hearing the Gospel and responding to the Holy Spirit. Lives are being transformed by your generosity.



16 Sports Shoes and Socks for Uruguay

SBCV churches answered a mission opportunity project to provide sports shoes and socks for children in Uruguay by donating over 400 pairs of shoes and socks. A team of eleven individuals breaking up into four smaller teams, distributed shoes in several different locations throughout Uruguay, including a park, day camps, homes, and a Bible study where IMB missionaries are teaching *Experiencing God* to new Christians.



18 Heritage Values and Joyful Giving

Catalytic church planter, Daniel Bannister, sees much value in the Cooperative Program and quickly offers praise to the nearly century-old missions plan. As a church planter, Daniel was blessed with financial resources and formal and informal training. He recognizes that by working together, in a cooperative partnership, the Gospel can be taken to all the nations.

ADVERTISEMENT

An historical account of the birth and subsequent rise of the SBCV

Chronologically accurate, including descriptions of the colorful personalities who helped to define and mobilize this great entity for God's glory. The book reveals how both church planting and decentralization helped to carve what would become the foundation of one of America's most modern-day struggles for biblical inerrancy. The book also examines the controversial and often courageous struggle of many Southern Baptist men and women who never originally saw themselves as renegades. Through their obedience to God and bold faith in Jesus Christ, they witnessed their dreams, written on a napkin at a local restaurant, blossom into a great organization known as the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

PAIGE PATTERSON

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Fayetteville, TN

The book is a story of men and women with faith in God, loyalty to Jesus Christ, and genuine love for the "Word of God" who will be inspiring even to those who have no Baptist affiliations.

GENE MIMS

Pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, TN
Former Vice-President of SBCV

The book is factually accurate, easy to read, and timely in its content.

JOHNNY HUNT

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, GA
Former President, Southern Baptist Convention

...a candid and captivating historical record with exceptional detail... The book spells out in great detail the decentralization model which is blessing new trails in Southern Baptist Cooperative circles.



JEFFREY PACKER has been in full-time ministry for over twenty-five years. Aligned with the SBC since its inception in 1916, he has had a unique vantage point from which to observe its early beginnings. He holds three advanced degrees, including a doctorate from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Graduate School. Jeff, his wife, Cheryl, and their twin sons, John and Caleb, live in Fort St. John, Florida.

www.innspublishing.com/Featured-Books-Forged-by-Conviction

God's DNA Lived Out

ON MISSION WITH HARVEST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

by Don Crain, Associate Church Health Strategist, Central-East Region

JUST AS EVERY PERSON HAS A UNIQUE DNA THAT IDENTIFIES HIM/HER FROM EVERY OTHER PERSON IN THE WORLD, EVERY CHURCH HAS A SPECIFIC DNA THAT IDENTIFIES IT FROM EVERY OTHER CHURCH.

BEGINNING WITH ITS FIRST SERVICE on September 13, 2009, the DNA of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Mechanicsville gave life to this new body. The explanation of the church's name shows its unique DNA as birthed by God:

➡ **Harvest** — A body of believers on mission with the Gospel— everywhere and to everyone (Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 28:18-20)

➡ **Christian** — True believers living out the changed life in Christ right where they live (2 Corinthians 5:17)

➡ **Fellowship** — Living in unity and harmony by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Harvest Christian Fellowship is motivated by the foundational truth that the body of believers belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ and ought to represent Him alone. This fellowship exists so that Christ is truly seen, honored, glorified, and obeyed to the fullest.

As the church began to take shape, its leadership realized that, in order to be on mission for Christ, everything needed to be sifted through the grid of

God's Word. Pastor Joel Bradberry and an eight-member team held numerous formative meetings to earnestly seek the Lord's direction and vision for where He wanted Harvest in His Kingdom work. With the heartbeat of God at the center of this body, the Lord's DNA naturally came to life.

Through the study of His Word, the church's passion to be on mission flourished. Integral to Harvest's DNA is a committed conviction to give corporately with other SBCV churches to maximize the spread of the Gospel to a lost and dying world. From the beginning, Harvest has dedicated 20% of its undesignated receipts to Cooperative Program (CP) giving, with a total of 45 – 50% of all undesignated gifts going to missions in some way, shape, or form. In addition to CP giving, the church members of Harvest Christian Fellowship are taking the Gospel to their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth by being on mission in their local community and by sending teams to Druisk, Belarus (to a people group they have adopted for long-term outreach).

No one but God can give His DNA to His Church, His body—a living organism. Harvest Christian Fellowship exemplifies that living organism in obedience, responding to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in faithfulness (2 Corinthians 4:2). Just as God breathed life into Adam and he became a living soul, God has breathed life into Harvest Christian Fellowship.

Pictured above: Harvest Christian Fellowship on mission in southern Belarus. The place is a public school equivalent to our middle schools. Students and staff intently watch a drama presentation set to music and the lyrics of "Jesus Saves."

2011 MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

visionvirginia

August – September
Hygiene Kits for ARM

September – October
Vision Virginia
State Missions Offering

October – November
Eyeglasses for Uruguay

November – December
Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering

sbcv.org/mission_opportunities

Baptisms — Top 5 Churches *based on 2010 ACP data*

Top 5 Total Baptisms:

CHURCH	CITY	TOTAL	SUNDAY AM WORSHIP
LIBERTY BC	Hampton	456	3,023
THOMAS ROAD BC	Roanoke	330	13,500
WATERS EDGE	Yorktown	239	1,763
HIGHLANDS	Abingdon	217	2,828
FIRST BC	Norfolk	192	2,462

Top 5 Per-Capita Baptisms:

CHURCH	CITY	TOTAL	PER CAPITA	SUNDAY AM WORSHIP
IVY FARMS BC	Newport News	15	2.0	30
CROSSPOINTE	Bluefield	20	2.1	42
THREE RIVERS	West Point	12	2.5	30
INDO PAK UNITED BC	Lanham, MD	8	2.9	23
ALL NATIONS SARANG	Centreville	17	2.9	50

One Brick, One Bucket, One Home, One Life at a Time

REBUILDING HAITI

by Mark Gauthier, Director of Mobilizing Churches

A year and a half after the quake that devastated much of the region surrounding the capital city of Port-au-Prince, Southern Baptists continue their ministry to the people of Haiti. More than 1,800 Southern Baptist volunteers have traveled to Haiti to clear debris, reclaim wells, distribute rice and water, train Haitian pastors in crisis chaplaincy, and hold evangelistic sports camps and VBS.

This past February, a team from four SBCV churches traveled to Haiti as part of a construction team. The team constructed eight 14'x28' homes, including siding, roofs, windows, and doors. In addition, they completed a large playground for neighborhood children. Team members included Gary Reynolds (team leader) from The Tabernacle in Danville; Aubrey Ralph from Centreville Baptist in Centreville; Ed Faggart from Kingsland Baptist in Richmond; and Bobby Smith from Hyland Heights Baptist in Lynchburg. While the homes were of vital importance, the playground was the crowning jewel for the children—they played well past midnight the first day it was completed!

There is still much to be done! **REBUILD HAITI** is a cooperative effort of the Florida Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, Baptist Global Response and the Confraternité Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti.

With over one million people still without homes due to the earthquake, Rebuild Haiti is in need of your prayers and teams to go.

How you can help?



PRAY. Your prayers that the Lord will continue to open doors throughout the Port-au-Prince area for home locations and provide safety to our workers and volunteers are needed.



GO. Rebuild Haiti is looking for skilled block masons and carpenters willing to serve in Haiti for three weeks to help train Haitian workers.

Construction mission teams are also needed.

REBUILD HAITI

Steps to Scheduling a Construction Mission Team

1. Submit to Mobilizing Churches (mobilizingdirector@sbcv.org) your desired dates of arrival and departure and tentative team makeup (including number of males and females for housing purposes). Please note that teams are not permitted to arrive in Haiti on a Saturday.
2. An email confirming date availability will be sent to your team's designated contact person.
3. SBCV Mobilizing Churches will then send a request for deposit invoice to your team's contact person (to be forwarded to Florida Baptist Convention (FBC) Rebuild Haiti). A \$500 refundable deposit (if cancelled at least 30 days prior to scheduled arrival) is required for each team. The deposit will be used towards in-country costs for the team (at the time of this article, on-the-ground costs will be \$100 per person per day and include lodging, food, and security).



FACTS:

1,800		Southern Baptist volunteers that have traveled to Haiti
25,377		Gospel presentations
2,009		Professions of faith witnessed
165,000		Professions of faith recorded by Haitian Baptist pastors
272		New churches started since the earthquake
155,000		Buckets of Hope prepared, shipped, and distributed to Haiti
6,200		New homes Rebuild Haiti plans to build
\$2,500		The cost of one new home
59		New block homes completed as of January 11, 2011

4. Once the deposit is received by FBC Rebuild Haiti, your housing and construction project will be confirmed.
5. Rebuild Haiti's mission team coordinator will then contact the team leader and begin planning a successful project.
6. The final construction mission team roster must be received by FBC Rebuild Haiti one month prior to your team's date of arrival. This includes all requested forms and travel information to be provided to the team by Rebuild Haiti's mission team coordinator.
7. The final construction mission team invoice will be emailed to your team's contact person two weeks prior to the team's date of arrival. Final payment will be made to Rebuild Haiti upon arrival in Haiti.

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/mobilizing

Contact:

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

Consider:

Prayerfully consider sending a team to Haiti.





EXTENDING A LEGACY OF CHURCH PLANTING

by Mark Custalow, Church Planting Strategist, Southeast Region

In 1861,

Rev. William Wiatt pastored both Union and Providence Baptist Churches in Gloucester Point, VA. When the Civil War broke out, a regiment of soldiers from the middle peninsula was formed into the 26th Virginia Infantry Regiment. Along with members of the community and his churches,

Wiatt enlisted as a private and was made chaplain, a position he held throughout the war. During wartime, Wiatt passionately preached biblical sermons and led many soldiers to faith in Christ. As these soldiers returned home, they became the nucleus for the birth of at least three new churches. When Wiatt returned to Gloucester, he helped start six churches, one of which being Petsworth Baptist Church (1881).

Fast-forward to the present day, and Petsworth Baptist Church is a healthy church, reaching its community with the Gospel and averaging 400 in weekly worship. In the past eight years, Petsworth has participated in the partial support of three church plants (in Williamsburg and West Point, VA and in Boston, MA). Once again, the church family is stepping out in faith to co-sponsor yet another new plant with one of its daughter churches, Three Rivers Community Church in West Point.

The newly formed church plant is BridgePoint Church of Gloucester Point. Church planters Eric and Amy Ashley and Daniel and Jennifer Speer came to Virginia from South Carolina, believing God had called them to start this new work. Amy grew up in Gloucester and was baptized as a teenager at Petsworth.

Several of her family members have even joined the launch team that is working to establish BridgePoint. At the time of this article, the team has already led 22 people to faith in Christ and baptized 13.

Petsworth's passion for planting can be attributed, in part, to its former pastor of 14 years, Dr. Dennis Hollandsworth.

Under his leadership, the church sponsored its first three plants. When Hollandsworth resigned in 2010 to become the pastor of Seaford Baptist Church, the church did not wane in its heart for church planting. Its new sponsorship of BridgePoint is evidence!

Continuing with the vision and passion established by Hollandsworth, senior associate pastor David Edgell has taken up the mantle to lead the church to continue its legacy of church planting. "I began talking about the heart and passion of our founding pastor, William Wiatt, and his heart for church planting. I used sermons to cast a vision for great Kingdom work in our community, one of which was 'Planting Seeds of Faith,' where I cast a vision for church planting." Edgell goes on to explain, "Many leaders see [BridgePoint] as an opportunity to have a great Kingdom impact in our community. Our deacons have given support at every step. This has maintained a level of excitement and purpose during the transition, and has given new service opportunities for people in the congregation."

Every church planting sponsorship is unique in its partnership with and provisions for the new church plant. In the case of Petsworth's sponsorship with BridgePoint, the sponsor church has given Eric opportunities to preach so the Petsworth family could get to know him and build a level of trust. Furthermore, they have provided financial support, several months of housing in the church parsonage for the planting team, office and meeting space, office resources, and the use of their facilities.

The church planting legacy of William Wiatt certainly lives on through Petsworth Baptist Church and in the new churches it has sponsored. What legacy will you and your church leave?

RESOURCE

Websites:

<http://bridgepoint.cc>

More info on church planting or church sponsorship:

www.sbcv.org/multiplied

More info on William Wiatt:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vaggsv/spiritual_revival_26th_inf.htm

Social Networks:

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BridgePointGloucester

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/EMAshley

Books:

Confederate Chaplain William Edward Wiatt, An Annotated Diary by Alexander Lloyd Wiatt

26th Virginia Infantry by Alexander Lloyd Wiatt



Rev. William Wiatt

Example elements of a church planting sponsorship:

Financial support

Temporary housing for planting team

Use of office space and equipment

Meeting space

Commission members to go out with launch team

Short-term mission teams

Preaching and praise reports from church planter

CP is First Priority

Cooperative Program Status at Prince George Baptist Church

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



Rev. Lewis Garrett has pastored Prince George Baptist Church for the entire 30 years of its existence. With 48 people to start, the church met in the pastor's home for almost three years before purchasing its own building. In 1984, they were given an opportunity to purchase the historical local Presbyterian church, constructed in 1914. Knowing the positive track record of Southern Baptist churches for reaching the lost, the predominantly Slovakian Presbyterian congregation sold the building to Prince George Baptist Church for \$78,000.

Leading by example in evangelist efforts, Pastor Lewis would surely live up to their expectations. While eating at a local restaurant, he says to the waitress, "May I ask you a very important question?" And, of course, the question is, "If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven?" He then follows up with, "Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?"

Through Pastor Lewis' pastoral leadership and evangelistic model, Prince George Baptist Church has built into its DNA the importance of spreading the Gospel. With 20 to 40 in attendance, this primarily senior adult congregation is committed to reaching the state, North America, and the world through Cooperative Program giving and missions offerings. Pastor Lewis shared that they are hoping to increase their commitment from 16% to 17% next year. In 2009, the church gave \$6,372.83 to missions. In 2010, their giving increased to \$6,872.38. It doesn't take a mathematician to realize that the remainder leaves little for monthly expenses and the pastor's salary. As a matter of fact, during a 10-year span when attendance

*Pastor
Lewis leads
the church
collectively
to give to
missions first.*

was down and the offerings were small, instead of decreasing missions giving, Pastor Lewis offered to become bi-vocational. The church agreed, and its pastor worked as a fundraising firm's manager too. After attendance increased, he returned to full-time status at the church. Today, Prince George Baptist Church's Cooperative

Program commitment remains first priority, followed by church utilities. Whatever is left is the pastor's salary—that's right—the pastor does not have a set salary. He actually receives the leftovers. "But God," says Pastor Lewis, "has always provided for our needs."

Prince George Baptist Church is bucking the trend during these difficult economic times. Instead of missions giving being sent from the leftovers, it remains the top priority. It is truly a matter of stewardship. Just as he teaches the members to give to the Lord their first fruits, Pastor Lewis leads the church collectively to give to missions first.

RESOURCE

- **Website:**
www.sbcv.org
- **Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.
- **Consider:**
What is the status of the Cooperative Program in your church?

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August 27

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and share with
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- Follow-up roundtable to discuss the plenary session information
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Speedway Evangelism

by Brandon Pickett, Director of Media Services for the SBC of Virginia and the Vice President of Innovative Faith Resources

There may have been a celebration inside the track when Lee Pulliam won the FindItHere.com NASCAR Whelen Late Model 200, but there was also rejoicing going on in heaven when three teenage girls were led to Christ that same night.

The SBC of Virginia (SBCV) sponsored the Friday night, July 1st, race at South Boston Speedway. The North American Mission Board teamed with SBCV to help defray some of the cost of sponsorship. The annual Fourth of July holiday weekend event is a fan favorite and actually features three different races (Pure Stock 50, Limited 100, Whelen Late Model 200) and fireworks afterwards.

The desire was for this to be more than a community outreach event for the convention. The vision was to provide area churches a unique tool to share Christ with the thousands of race fans in attendance and continue the "God's Plan for Sharing" (GPS) evangelistic effort that was started in 2010.

Jack Noble, SBCV church health strategist for the ministry region, developed a plan where churches would not just come for one race night but for a number of races throughout the season. According to Noble, "Good evangelistic opportunities are not just one-day events. Good evangelistic events take days of preparation and follow-up. That is what we did by distributing FindItHere.com logo items at the four races that preceded the big day. Our newly 'logo-ed' trailer was a magnet that drew hundreds of people who wondered what FindItHere.com was all about. Then we enthusiastically shared the truth."

More than sixty volunteers from eleven churches stood just inside the gates to the speedway before the race and personally welcomed thousands to the track. They asked attendees if they wanted to register to win a free flat-screen TV. Upon registering, the person would hear a three-minute Gospel presentation. Pastor Jackie Carver from Palestine Baptist Church in Moneta trained his volunteers personally—and then personally led three girls to Christ.

Pastor Carver noted the simplicity of the event in allowing him to be present as the girls prayed. He shared, "I'm not special in that, but because of faithful service, God used me to be a light in someone's life that otherwise I would never meet. This calling is bigger than the life we see. I pray that others find their opportunity through our obedience."

Pastor David Rathel of Fork Baptist Church in Scottsburg saw two main benefits through his church's involvement in the race. "First, it gave [SBCV] churches a chance to show the people in the community that we love them and that we are interested in ministering to them. I think many who came to the race were surprised that we were willing to spend our time serving them on a July 4th weekend. Second, it gave people in our churches opportunities to share the Gospel. This was the first time that many of the people in my church have ever participated in an Gospel-sharing event like this. I was impressed by their willingness to boldly approach people and share. I'm excited that they've now had an opportunity to get experience in personal evangelism, and I hope their boldness infects all of our church family."

Pastor Jack Stewart of Grace Southern Baptist Church in Virgilina gave the opening invocation. He was one of a number of SBCV church volunteers who took part in many different aspects of the night: waving the green flag, presenting the winning trophies, riding in the pace car, manning the children's area, and preparing delicious the FindItHere.com funnel cakes.

According to Noble, "The preparation of working four races before the big event and the commitment to follow up set the tone for a great day of evangelism. The spiritual tone was also increased when volunteers arrived the day of the event and were each asked to take a prayer lap around the facility."

Brandon Pickett, Director of Media Services for the SBC of Virginia worked with the track and area media on coverage of the race. "It was amazing how the track and community embraced this race and the theme of "FindItHere.com. Between the track announcer and the drivers, the name "FindItHere.com" was spoken about every 10 minutes. On top of that, I was invited to talk about the website on the radio on and off throughout all three races totaling about 30 minutes of air time."

Cathy Rice, general manager of South Boston Speedway and a member of an SBCV church, was thrilled with not just the turnout but how the community embraced the theme of the race. "So many people came to me and said that this was a true blessing. God was with us all night and we are looking forward to next year's FindItHere.com [race] already!



See photos on Flickr.



Nov 11-12
Thomas Road
Baptist Church
Lynchburg

where men, God,
life, and the
outdoors come
together

for more information
and to register, go to:
www.wildfireweekend.com



A Big Heart for Missions

Valley Street Baptist Church Supports Vision Virginia

by Gary Horton, Church Health Strategist, Southwest Region

Valley Street Baptist Church in Abingdon may be small, but its heart for missions is bigger than life. According to Pastor William Austin, "over half of the church members who attend on any given Sunday morning are on a fixed income," but this does not hamper their giving spirit. This missions-minded pastor uses God's Word to train his people on the importance of supporting missions, and what a generous spirit they have! For example, with an average worship attendance of only 12, they gave \$750 to the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering! The church family was excited that its sacrificial gift would be used for food distribution, Appalachian ministries, Disaster Relief, Baptist Builders, church planting efforts, Church Health Workshops, ministry intern scholarships, and God's Plan for Sharing (GPS). By giving to this offering, they were able to play a part in all of those ministries. Valley Street understands that partnering with other churches accomplishes so much more than if individual churches try to do all of those ministries on their own.

"Our people have a God-sized vision for reaching the world," says Pastor William. "They realize God can do more than they can even begin to imagine." This type of vision propels the church to participate in multiple missions opportunities. Last year, in addition to giving to Vision Virginia, they gave to the Cooperative Program; filled 90 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse; gave monthly financial support to a local family that is now ministering to Muslims; and provided a clothing ministry for needy families.

Rather than taking credit for what they've been able to do as a small church, they give God the glory for what He's been able to do through them. No matter how large or small your church is, you can be a part of reaching Virginia and the world for Christ. Will you join with Valley Street and the other 560+ SBCV churches to support the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering this year?

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org

Contact:

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

Consider:

Are you willing to join with Valley Street Baptist Church and the other 560+ SBCV churches to support Vision Virginia this year?



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Dr. James Merritt

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SEP 18, 2011
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SEP 19, 2011
6:30 PM

at First Baptist, Roanoke
www.vantagepointfirstbaptist.com

Church Planters — an Attitude of Gratitude

Joyfully Supporting Vision Virginia

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

A lady was once asked: “Which is more important—the sun or the moon? She responded quickly, “Why that’s easy—the moon! You see, the moon shines at night when you need it, while the sun shines during the day when it’s already light!” Like this lady, sometimes we totally miss the point. I’m afraid that could be the case concerning our annual state week of prayer and special offering called Vision Virginia. It could be misconstrued as simply a date on our annual calendar, a time to emphasize some special state ministries and to request prayer and financial support. However, it is far more than that! It is about people standing in the gap, working, serving, sacrificing, and pouring out their lives to reach other people with the Good News of the Gospel. It’s about tangible things like food for the needy, Buckets of Hope, or helping with the needs of a new church plant. It’s about people serving as missionaries, planting churches in places like Brookneal, Ashland, Virginia Beach, South Hill, Richmond, and DC.

The Vision Virginia Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering radically affects lives. Here are stories from a few of our church planters who have been directly impacted by Vision Virginia and why they support this offering:

Andy Ferguson, Pastor

Staunton River Community Church, Brookneal



The Lord made it possible for us to purchase an old warehouse in Brookneal, VA. That meant, however, that it would need lots of renovations. One major renovation was to install new heating and air conditioning. Thanks to the

Vision Virginia State Missions Offering, we received help that enabled us to do that. Also, with the help of Baptist Builders and several other churches, we were able to keep the cost minimal. We are so grateful that God chose to use the churches of the SBCV to help us in this way. [Due to] the fact that these funds helped us get to where we are today, we want to, in turn, give to the Vision Virginia offering. We want to do our part to see that money is available for other churches to help them in their time of need.”

Steve Swisher, Pastor

Essential Church, Virginia Beach



Our church has benefited from the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering in the past and, for that reason each year, we give to Vision Virginia. We want to give back in proportion to what was given to us. We’re very thankful to the

churches of the SBCV for their investment in us and, therefore, we want to, in turn, help other churches and ministries.

Paul McDaniel, Pastor

Family Life Baptist Church, Ashland



Vision Virginia State Missions Offering money goes directly to meet the ministry needs in our state. We have benefited and have used equipment that has been purchased with these offering monies. The block party and sports trailers have helped us greatly in our outreach ministry. By our giving back to Vision Virginia, we feel we’re giving back a small portion of what God has given to us through the churches of the SBCV. It also helps us support other church plants that are just getting started with some of their needs.

Andy Davis, Pastor

Mecklenburg Community Baptist Church, South Hill



One thing we keep telling our members is that, as a church plant, we have benefited from many people’s generosity. Some of our needs, particularly in the early days, came from monies that were given through the State Missions Offering. Therefore, in appreciation and gratitude, we want to give to Vision Virginia. We want to see many other churches planted all over Virginia.

With hearts of gratitude, may we commit all that we are and have to reach our world for Christ. Join these churches in our 2011 Vision Virginia Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering.

2011 Week of Prayer: September 18 – 25

2011 SBC of Virginia Goal: \$250,000

visionvirginia

Vision Virginia
is about
standing in
the gap.
Vision Virginia
is about
reaching
people with
the Gospel.



Mission Force, meet

HELLO
my name is

Mission Field

visionvirginia
Can you see it?

WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR STATE MISSIONS & OFFERING
SEPTEMBER 18-25, 2011

www.sbcv.org/visionvirginia



LAST YEAR, your prayers and gifts to *Vision Virginia* enabled and empowered ministries around the state.

- Baptist Builders volunteers were mobilized (more than 500 in the past 2 years).
- More than 120 churches benefited from Church Health Workshops.
- Disaster Relief teams provided over 7,000 man-hours of labor in flood and tornado recovery efforts.
- Food distribution ministries served thousands of families.
- Church plants were able to expand their ministries.
- Interns bolstered church ministries.
- A mission center provided a base for work in Washington, DC.

The list continues . . . thanks to your sacrifice for the Lord.

This year, your prayers will support these



APPALACHIAN MINISTRIES

SBC of Virginia churches and ministry centers in the Appalachian region are presented with many poverty-related issues, including things like physical abuse, drug use, illiteracy, basic physical needs, and worldview differences. Vision Virginia will help meet these needs and open a way for spiritual change.



BAPTIST BUILDERS

Not only do Baptist Builders help rebuild homes and lives in the wake of disaster, they also provide much-needed labor to churches and church plants. Vision Virginia will enable Baptist Builders around the state to continue giving their time and skill to advance the Gospel.



CHURCH HEALTH WORKSHOPS

Church Health Workshops are designed to help existing churches by providing them with the necessary tools to conduct a congregational survey; receive a health assessment; and acquire resources to benefit the church's current life stage.

CHURCH PLANTING

Throughout our state and nation's capital, there are more than six million lost and unreached people. Church planting is an effective means of making new disciples. Vision Virginia will assist churches and church planters in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission.

DC MISSION CENTER

Worship space, small group meeting areas, and church planting office space are very limited and costly in our nation's capital. Vision Virginia will assist church planting strategists, missionaries, and planters in renting the facilities necessary to reach Washington, DC for Christ.

DISASTER RELIEF

The SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief teams respond in times of great need to natural disasters, including things like the floods and tornadoes that struck earlier this year. Vision Virginia will support SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief teams serving across our state, the nation, and the world.



and gifts ministries:

He told them: "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Luke 10:2 (HCSB)

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Through church-based ESL ministries, the Lord can transform the hearts of English learners here in Virginia. By their witness, He may also touch the lives of their families and friends elsewhere around the world. Vision Virginia will empower these ministries to reach more lives with truth.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

More than 34 million Americans are exposed to the threat of hunger each year. Vision Virginia will help develop a partnership with SBC of Virginia churches in hunger ministries such as food pantries, soup kitchens, food drives, and grocery vouchers.

MINISTRY INTERN SCHOLARSHIPS

Churches are often understaffed to meet the growing needs of their congregations. Utilizing an intern is a great way to extend the ministry of the pastor and staff, while also mentoring and investing in future church leaders. Vision Virginia will support this unique ministry by providing scholarships and intercessory prayer.

WORSHIP EQUIPMENT FOR CHURCH PLANTS

When church plants reach the stage of holding public worship services, they need equipment that is often costly and sometimes beyond their means. Vision Virginia will help equip church plants with the tools they need to impact their communities through worship ministries.

FAMILIES ON MISSION (FOM)

Imagine watching your child share the Gospel for the very first time. Through acts of service, prayer, Bible study, and evangelism, FOM helps families grow in the Lord as they work together. Vision Virginia will help continue the legacy of this ministry in the years to come.

GOD'S PLAN FOR SHARING (GPS)

GPS is a national evangelism strategy coordinated by the North American Mission Board. Vision Virginia will help purchase air time for evangelistic GPS commercials and print materials to reach Virginia and the rest of North America for Christ.

PROPERTY FOR CHURCH PLANTS

Owning property says, "We're here to stay." Neighbors notice. Healthy church plants face the challenging need of finding land and permanent facilities. Vision Virginia will help church plants buy land, giving them credibility in their communities and providing new opportunities to share the Gospel.



The Value of Your Gifts

To the right are some examples of the kinds of things that your gifts to Vision Virginia might purchase for the mission effort.

Of course, the true value of your gifts to Vision Virginia and other Southern Baptist mission offerings is not in the physical provision but in the miracle of people hearing the Gospel and responding to the Holy Spirit. The Lord will transform lives through your prayers and gifts, and that's a value that's truly priceless.

2011 Giving Goal: \$250,000

Top-giving churches in 2010

TOP 5 IN TOTAL GIVING

	Total Gifts
1 - Spotswood Baptist Church, Fredericksburg	\$14,474.00
2 - Swift Creek Baptist Church, Midlothian	\$8,293.30
3 - First Baptist Church, Roanoke	\$7,354.44
4 - Cave Spring Baptist Church, Roanoke	\$6,673.50
5 - Centreville Baptist Church, Centreville	\$5,520.97

TOP 5 IN PER-CAPITA GIVING

	Avg. Gift Per Person
1 - Valley Street Baptist Church, Abingdon	\$37.50
2 - Memorial Baptist Church, Port Royal	\$32.52
3 - Beulah Baptist Church, Kents Store	\$26.51
4 - Northside Baptist Church, Fredericksburg	\$25.78
5 - Stevensburg Baptist Church, Stevensburg	\$23.33

Examples

- **\$15 - Disaster Relief:**
Give a stuffed toy to a child who's lost everything in a disaster.
- **\$20 - English as a Second Language:**
Provide an ESL learner with the books needed for class.
- **\$50 - Families on Mission:**
Contribute towards Families on Mission 2012 in Bluefield, VA.
- **\$75 - Appalachian Ministries:**
Buy a warm coat for someone facing the cold Appalachian winter.
- **\$100 - Worship Equipment for Church Plants:**
Provide a church plant with a microphone for its worship team.
- **\$150 - Food Distribution:**
Purchase 790 lbs of food—roughly \$1 to feed someone for a day.
- **\$250 - Baptist Builders:**
Provide a chop saw for builders working with metal construction.
- **\$500 - Church Health Workshops:**
Help fund a multi-church workshop.
- **\$750 - God's Plan for Sharing:**
Support the GPS evangelistic media campaign across the nation.
- **\$1,000 - Property for Church Plants:**
Contribute towards a matching grant for church plant property.
- **\$3,000 - DC Mission Center:**
Provide one month's rent for the DC Mission Center.
- **\$2,000 - Ministry Intern Scholarships:**
Fund a ministry intern for an entire summer.
- **\$5,000 - Church Planting:**
Help support a church planter or apprentice.

**No amount is too much or too little;
give as the Lord leads.**

www.sbcv.org/visionvirginia

New Missions Support Center Means More Resources for the Harvest

In a strategic move to free more resources for the harvest, the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia are breaking ground on a new mission support center facility.

The SBCV has historically leased office space for its Glen Allen mission support center. After a lengthy study, it was discovered that some \$200,000 per year in savings could be realized by owning instead of leasing. The new center will be tailored to support the missionary objectives of the SBCV.

This is another step in the implementation of the Vision 20/20 Report adopted by the SBCV at its 2009 annual convention. Part of the Vision 20/20 plan calls for a streamlining of convention expenses so that additional resources can be applied to missionary endeavors such as church planting, church health, and church mobilization.

The new mission support center will be situated within a mile of the current location of the SBCV's leased space. It will be a part of the Dominion Office Park at 4956 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Resources for the construction are in hand. The intent is to move into these new facilities debt free. The target for relocation to the new center is around October 1, 2011.



Leaders stand at the entrance to the new office park



See photos on Flickr.

Casting a Missions Vision

All Nations SaRang Church

by Darrell Webb, Church Health Strategist, North Region

From its genesis in October 2009, the new Korean church struggled to establish its pastoral leadership and, most importantly, its missions vision. All Nations SaRang Church (ANSC), this young congregation in Centreville, was desperate for a spiritual visionary to lead the flock. As Solomon wisely stated in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (KJV). Meanwhile, Dr. Seong Soo Kim had just retired from Peninsula Korean Baptist Church in Newport News and had moved to Centreville in August 2009. Little did he know what God had planned. A new church in that very city needed someone like him. In February 2010, Pastor Kim accepted God's call to serve as the interim pastor at ANSC. In just 14 months, this seasoned pastor led the congregation to embrace a clear missions vision.

When he was a young church planter, Pastor Kim saw firsthand how the Lord used Cooperative Program (CP) funding as an integral part to birth and sustain two new churches in particular. He worked with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention to start a Korean church that reached nearly half of the Korean population in the city. Through the California Baptist State Convention, he also helped plant an American Indian church that still exists 20 years later. Because of CP gifts, both of these ministries have been able to reach many with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

During his time at ANSC, Pastor Kim faithfully preached the Word and educated the congregation on the benefits

Dr. Seong Soo Kim led All Nations SaRang to sacrificially multiply its monthly CP giving.



of cooperating with other Southern Baptists in missions giving through CP. In these times of economic downturn and while the church is purchasing its first worship facility, Pastor Kim led All Nations SaRang to sacrificially multiply its monthly CP giving through the SBC of Virginia. Through their faithfulness to missions, the Lord has opened the windows of heaven and poured out many blessings on this congregation:

Growing. The church is growing in faith and is united behind a common vision. Pastor Kim explains, "During the past one plus year, the members are more conscious and convinced about their identity in Christ [and] their mission in this area and are spiritually upgraded."

Community Cell Groups. The church has begun five community cell groups. They have seen more than 20 new believers born into the family of God in the past year because of their missions vision to reach their neighbors, friends, and coworkers.

Facility Purchase. The church has been able to purchase a facility for worship and discipleship with a desire to see a God-sized vision fulfilled. Pastor Kim explains, "As we purchase our own building, we pray that the Lord opens a door for us to reach out to the area ethnic groups (Cambodians, Afghans, Thais, Asian Indians, Vietnamese, and Arabs, etc.) in Northern Virginia. We vision that every Sunday morning many ethnic groups have either worship service or Bible study in their own language while all their children have Bible studies in English; then [they] assemble for a worship service in English, thus realizing the Revelation 7 church—"people from every nation, all tribes, people, and tongues, standing before the throne."

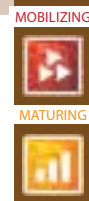
ANSC welcomed its new pastor, Rev. Young Lim, on June 5. Dr. Seong Soo Kim's prayer is that this young body of believers will continue to grow in the grace of giving to CP so that all nations will have the opportunity to hear the message of the Gospel.

RESOURCE

Websites:
www.sbcv.org/cp
www.cpmissions.net

Contact:
 You can reach Dr. Kim by email at revssk@gmail.com

Consider:
 Will you lead your church to increase its Cooperative Program giving by at least one percent in the next year?





Sports Shoes and Socks for Uruguay

by Sue Sawyer, Associate Church
Mobilization Strategist, Projects

Have you ever tried to put shoes on the dirty, wiggling little feet of a small child who is so excited about getting new shoes that he absolutely cannot sit still? We experienced that scenario over and over as we distributed shoes and socks to needy children in Uruguay. With a big smile on her face, one little girl hugged her shoes and said, "I love my shoes. They are divine."

Let me start at the beginning of the story. The SBCV promoted a hands-on mission project opportunity to its churches in late 2010, by which churches could donate sports shoes and socks for children in Uruguay. You responded in an overwhelming way by sending nearly 400 pairs of shoes and a mountain of socks to our collection site. The shoes and socks were prepared for shipment in large duffle bags and, on February 18, a team of 11 individuals left from Dulles International Airport for a vision trip to Uruguay. Each team member carried a large duffle bag of shoes and socks in addition to his/her own luggage. We were quite a caravan traversing through the airports, and the bags were quickly opened as we went through customs in Uruguay. The officials were suspicious that we were planning to sell the shoes, so they wanted to tax us. After explaining that the shoes were from Virginia churches to be given free to the children, they let us through with puzzled looks.

The senior pastors of Beaverdam Baptist, Bacon's Castle Baptist, Fork Baptist, and Soul Purpose Church were on the team, and each pastor brought a lay person with him. The main purposes for the trip were for the pastors to see the needs in Uruguay and pray about where God may want them and their churches to continue ministering there and for the



team to distribute some of the shoes and socks.

We landed in Uruguay late at night and were met by Lyle and Claren Dease, IMB missionaries who have served there for over 16 years. We were also greeted by Tony Inmon (former SBCV church planting strategist) and his wife Denita. The Inmons have recently arrived in Uruguay as IMB missionaries. After a short night of rest, the team was divided into four teams Sunday morning to serve in different churches. SBCV executive director Jeff Ginn and Jimmy Acree, pastor at Bacon's Castle Baptist Church, both fluent in Spanish, were asked to preach. The rest of us served wherever asked. This was the first of our encounters with the excited children waiting for new shoes.

We had the opportunity to distribute shoes in several different locations, including a park where our missionaries are building relationships with needy families; day camps where national pastors are reaching families through their children; a home where a new convert and his wife live in a two-room house with their eight children; and a Bible study where our missionaries are teaching *Experiencing God* to new Christians. While it was exciting to distribute shoes and socks, we were distressed to see and hear of the needs and the vast lostness of the people of Uruguay. We spent time each day prayerwalking in the cities, towns, and communities. We had the opportunity to meet seven of our IMB missionary couples, see the work they are doing in Uruguay, and hear how SBCV churches can help them in sharing the Gospel.

Uruguay is the most unevangelized country in South America with less than 5% of the population being evangelical Christians. Uruguay is advanced technologically, has a 98% literacy rate, and is very open to spirituality but not Christianity. It is, therefore, a very difficult country in which to do ministry. Nevertheless, our missionaries have high expectations that God is going to do a mighty work there and will use Uruguay as the light to reach the rest of South America.

Pray about how God may want to use you to help reach the people of Uruguay.

RESOURCE

Websites:
www.sbcv.org/mobilizing

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

Consider:
How can God use you to help
reach the people of Uruguay?





Going Home

by David Bounds, Church Health Strategist, Southeast Region

MATURING



As the mission group from Virginia traveled to Uruguay, many of the team members were going there for the first time, but for Jimmy Acree, pastor of Bacon's Castle Baptist Church in Surry, he was going home. Even though he had made previous visits, this one was different. This time, he was going back as a missionary with the Sports Shoes & Socks Mission Project through the SBCV.

When the SBCV team first arrived, they visited Montevideo—the place where Jimmy grew up. As an MK (missionary's kid), Jimmy lived in Uruguay from the age of six to seventeen because his parents, Irvin and Annette Acree, were SBC missionaries there. Returning to Montevideo, he saw the seminary where his father had taught and the Baptist center where his office had been and where Jimmy had played as a child. Fond memories filled his senses. Then he made his way to the church where his family had been members—Ebenezer Baptist. As he approached the building, he was stirred emotionally. Just as the Israelites erected an Ebenezer stone to remind them that “thus far the Lord has helped us” (1 Samuel 7:12), one can only wonder if this was Jimmy's “Ebenezer.” It was there at Ebenezer Baptist Church that he was reminded of how God had worked, not only in and through his family, but even

more so, how the Lord was working in and through his life.

After the rest of the team left Uruguay, Jimmy spent four additional days there. He walked about the area and saw the house where he had grown up, a sight that touched him deeply. At a cookout with 30 old friends, he joined in singing choruses and sharing about the Lord. Jimmy even had the opportunity to visit Eternal Rock Church, the first church his father pastored in Uruguay, where Jimmy was baptized at 11 years old. The most impressive thing was that friends he had grown up with were still attending!

Back in Virginia, as he reflected on the trip, Jimmy found himself impressed by the spiritual relationships that had endured through the years. He was further impressed with the work that IMB missionaries, Tony and Denita Inmon, were doing among the Uruguayans. But he was most impressed with what God was doing through earthen vessels yielded to His call and purpose. Many times, the Lord calls people to go to a foreign land to share the Gospel, but sometimes, as in Jimmy's case, He calls us to go back home.

RESOURCE

Website:

www.baconscastle.com



Contact:

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

Consider:

Where is God is leading you?

ADVERTISEMENT



Sing God's Word psalms in tune

Godstruck Ministries presents an exciting and entertaining audio project designed for the elementary-aged child and enjoyable for all ages!

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Songs currently available for review and purchase on the web
CD release—Fall 2011!

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Free downloadable coloring and game pages!



Heritage, Values, and Joyful Giving

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



Daniel Bannister (r) baptizes in the river

*If we commit ourselves
to the work He is
passionate about,
how will He not give
us the resources
to be involved?*

When asked why he values the Cooperative Program even if it requires sacrifice, catalytic church planter Daniel Bannister responded with praise for this nearly-a-century-old missions plan. The following is his testimony. What would be yours?

"I have grown up in Southern Baptist churches all my life. My father was a Southern Baptist pastor in Louisiana for over 20 years and served as vice president [of the Louisiana Baptist Convention]. Dad instilled in me a value for God's Word and for the Cooperative Program and what we as Southern Baptists can accomplish together through partnership in missions.

"As a local church pastor, I see the incredible value of cooperating in missions together. Something that I have come to believe very strongly is that no

local church on her own can fulfill the Great Commission. Instead, He has given those resources to the global body of Christ so that as we work together, the Gospel will be taken to the whole world. Therefore, it is God's intent that we work together in taking the Gospel to the nations so that His Kingdom grows through our working together in cooperative partnership. This idea is modeled for us in the book of Acts as churches partnered together to support the work of the apostles and sending missionaries.

"I pastor the Iglesia Fuente de Vida, a church plant that has been meeting for almost two years [in Charlottesville]. This church plant would not be in existence apart from the Cooperative Program. In addition, as a catalytic church planter with the SBCV, I have been blessed with not only financial resources, but equipping through formal and informal training. In spite of the fact that many of our members have few economic resources, we have been excited to participate with Southern Baptists in the transformation of the world. This has been part of our DNA since before we launched, and our membership holds our participation in missions as a high value. If you ask any of our members about our

involvement, they will let you know very quickly that we are called to 'pray, give, and go' and [that] part of the way we do that is through our participation in the Cooperative Program.

"Some have asked me about how the economic crisis has affected the ability of our church and its members to give to the Cooperative Program. I quickly share with them [that] the God of the universe who owns everything is passionate about missions. If we commit ourselves to the work He is passionate about, how will He not give us the resources to be involved? Therefore, the excuse that 'we don't have the money to give' becomes a demonstration of doubt in God's ability to provide what we need. For this reason, we give gratefully to the Cooperative Program, knowing that 'God will provide all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' In fact, since we have started, God has not only met our needs, but He has continually blessed us with an abundance of resources beyond our own imagination.

"We believe firmly as a church that all healthy living things reproduce, and we are responsible to start new churches. This became a reality for us much quicker than we had anticipated. Before we had reached our one-year anniversary as a church, God began leading us to start another congregation on the south end of Charlottesville. We reasoned that we did not have the people or the resources, but God made it clear that this was His will. He sent the resources through other sister SBCV churches who came alongside of us to help us start the new congregation.

"It is His will that we do this great work together, and since it is His work, we must do it His way—together. Jesus prayed that we would be one in John 17 so that the world would know that God the Father had sent Him. The Cooperative Program gives us an excellent way to demonstrate our unity of purpose, vision, and cooperation in such a way that the direct result is the carrying of the Gospel around the world."

RESOURCE

Website:
www.scribd.com/doc/51349432/6/Hispanic-Church-Planting

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

Strength in Presence

by Bill Wennersten, Church Planting Strategist, North Region

MULTIPLYING



In the past few years, the SBC of Virginia has had a growing presence in Washington, DC. The Gospel is being shared with hundreds of people, and servant evangelism is meeting real needs of real people who live in our nation's capital.

This kind of ministry would not be possible without an around-the-clock presence in the city through the SBCV's DC Mission Center (DCMC). The DCMC provides a place for SBCV churches and other partners from around the country to live and work when they are in the city. It allows teams from churches like Oak Grove Baptist Church from Big Stone Gap to a send youth mission team for a week to serve with Living Water Church and church planter Art Thompson in the Anacostia neighborhood of DC.

Teams from North Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, and as far away as Oklahoma have joined in the work of Restoration Church and church planters Nathan Knight and Joey Craft. Nathan says, "Restoration Church has been strengthened in part by the availability of the Mission Center for coordinated and strategic Gospel ministry." Joey Craft agrees, "The Mission Center has been invaluable to the ministry of Restoration Church as we labor to plant a vibrant, Gospel-centered church in Washington, DC." Art Thompson and his church have benefited as well. "The Mission Center is a real blessing to the work of Living Water Church."

The DCMC also provides a location for church planters to hold team meetings and host Bible studies and other Gospel-related events. The Bridge and church planter Jumaine Jones use the center for weekly small group discipleship meetings. Restoration Church hosts an outreach meeting there on the last Thursday of every month. This meeting, called "The God Who Is There?", attracts a range of folks from atheists and non-Christians to committed followers of Christ. Living Water Church uses the center for leadership meetings and for part of its Men's Ministry. SBCV Church Planter Network meetings and meetings with other Great Commission partners take place at the DCMC. In addition to housing a variety of meetings and mission teams, the center is the official address for the SBCV's work in DC. Having a DC address gives our work an identity in the city, which helps

overcome the view that we are outsiders without a vested interest. It shows our commitment to being part of the city the Lord has called us to serve and see transformed by the Gospel.

The DC Mission Center is only available because of the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering and the commitment of SBCV churches to see the Gospel proclaimed in our nation's capital. From those of us who work in the city and the hundreds of volunteers and others who have benefited from the DCMC, thank you, SBCV churches!

"The Mission Center has been invaluable to the ministry of Restoration Church as we labor to plant a vibrant, Gospel-centered church in Washington, DC."

*Joey Craft,
Restoration Church*



RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.sbcv.org/multiplying

■ Contact:

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

■ Books:

Urban Ministry: The Kingdom, the City & the People of God by Harvie M. Conn and Manuel Ortiz

A Theology as Big as The City by Ray Bakke





Churches Doing CP Well

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



Often the Cooperative Program of the Southern Convention is viewed solely in terms of its financial benefit—churches cooperating monetarily to out missionaries. But CP is also about churches parting together in action and exponential resources to make incredible impact. Let's take a look at how churches in the Central-West Region have banded together:

Praying

Several churches in the Central-West Region are going beyond just praying off a page or holding prayer meetings. They are banding together in prayer to serve their community. Pastor Jackie Carver of Palestine Baptist Church in Huddleston and Pastor David Timma of Quaker Baptist Church in Bedford are just two of the pastors who gather weekly in prayer. Their goal is to pray for revival, particular issues in their churches, the community at large, and the world.

"We have developed a friendship between ourselves and [an] openness to communicate about issues that affect our churches," says Pastor David. "We have also learned about community issues... from people in our communities but not our particular church."

Giving

Pastor Curtis Nester of Mountain View Baptist Church in Catawba says, "Do not touch my CP." Earlier this year, he willingly took a reduction in salary to enable the church to continue giving 10% to CP. Nester's commitment is representative of SBCV churches that believe that together, we can do more.

Doing

Over the last few years, Marion Baptist Church and its pastor, Hank Meadows, have made significant investments in the Baptist Center in Savannah, GA. During yearly mission trips, their goal was to share the Gospel, and they prayed that the children would see Jesus in them when they wiped a tear from a cheek,

taught discipline, or played a game.

The Marion team began to see hunger, fears, and hurts that they had only seen on the news. In addition to going, it became clear that doing was necessary. They began to collect Bibles, Christmas presents, clothes, gift cards, backpacks, and food to make a physical, tangible difference where they were already sharing spiritually.

"It has helped me see firsthand that all children just want to be loved," Meadows expresses. "It does not matter where you come from or what you have—

God loves you and wants to have a relationship with you. When Jesus told the disciples not to suffer the little children to come to Him, it means me also. I feel a much stronger need now to go to the children of this area."

Going

Fellowship Community Church in Salem just culminated its 10th year of ministry by taking 10 mission trips. When their mission teams venture to Zambia, Australia, or Thailand, they see firsthand how CP dollars are invested, and they always return with a deep impression of the dedication and commitment that IMB missionaries possess.

Stephanie Painter, director of missions at Fellowship, shares, "Whether or not people have gone on an international trip, I'm noticing that more people are continually becoming more missions-minded. They want to give more. They want to serve more."

"Slowly but surely, people are beginning to understand and accept that this call is for them as well," says Pastor Ken Nienke, "not just for the 'exceptional' few on the mission field. This is the call of the believer—to go into the world."

Networking

Six SBC of Virginia churches partnered together to host Breakaway, a two-day student event at First Baptist Church of Roanoke. Students from Fincastle, Cave Spring, New Century, Good Shepherd, Grace Life, First Roanoke, and other churches came together for a retreat weekend with over 500 students and 100 adult volunteers. During the retreat, the youth in attendance served on numerous mission projects in the Roanoke Valley.

Men at Craig Valley Baptist Church in New Castle connected with men from Main Street Baptist Church from Alexandria, KY to have a retreat. Soon that group expanded to include Life Pointe Church in Roanoke (Craig Valley's church plant) and Grace Baptist Church in New Castle,

Greg Rawe, an attendee from Kentucky, testified, "The men of Craig Valley Baptist Church are nothing short of spectacular! ...I have never seen a group of men more concerned for each other's wellbeing and sharing the Good News of our Savior with everyone they come into contact with. They are the definition of Christian brothers."

Yes, CP is about cooperative giving, but in order to have the full impact of being together on mission, churches of the Central-West are praying, giving, doing, going, and networking to impact their neighborhoods and the nations for Christ.

RESOURCE

Website:
www.sbcv.org

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

Subscribe to the IMB prayer request list:
www.imb.org/main/pray/prayerrequests/default.asp

Subscribe to the NAMB prayer request list:
www.namb.net/prayerrequests

Central-West Counties

Alleghany	Augusta	Bedford City	Campbell	Covington	Franklin	Highland	Martinsville	Roanoke	Salem
Amherst	Bath	Botetourt	Charlotte	Craig	Halifax	Lexington	Nelson	Roanoke City	Staunton
Appomattox	Bedford	Buena Vista	Clifton Forge	Danville	Henry	Lynchburg	Pittsylvania	Rockbridge	Waynesboro

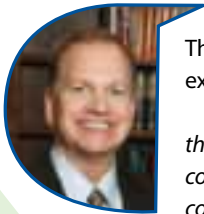




Together, We Are!

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director and Brandon Pickett, Director of Media Services

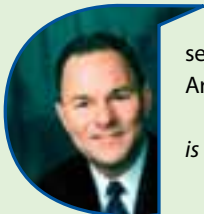
The SBC of Virginia is privileged to partner with the Executive Committee and the Stewardship Development Association of the SBC with promotion of the Cooperative Program. The theme that has developed and is now being used by many state conventions is, "Together, We Are". You may want to show the current videos to your church members. (view and download these videos at: www.sbcv.org/cp) It speaks to the fact that together, we can do much more than we could ever do alone. And wherever there is a calling from the Lord to reach a lost and dying world, *Together, We Are There!*



Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote about the missionary example of the churches of the SBC of Virginia:

When I think of a Great Commission state convention, the SBCV immediately appears on the horizon. This convention provides a model worthy of emulation when it comes to reaching North America and the nations through the Cooperative Program. A 50/50 convention from the beginning, its churches have determined to do even more in the future to get the Gospel to the underserved and unreached peoples of our nation and the world. What an honor and blessing it is for me to serve and partner with such brothers and sisters in training men and women to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. SBCV, may your tribe increase for the glory of God and the good of the nations!

The Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Report called on Southern Baptists to renew their commitment to world missions through Cooperative Program giving. The SBCV, in a real sense, was ahead of that vote. SBCV has always been a 50/50 convention. But in 2009, it voted to increase its allotment to national and international causes by adopting the Vision 20/20 Report.



Ronnie Floyd, chairman of the GCR and senior pastor of Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas, sent this challenge and affirmation:

The best financial investment you can make as a church is to give more than you have ever given to finishing the task

of advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program fund not only the outstanding ministries offered to your church by the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia but also fund the work of at least 10,000 missionaries worldwide and many other Great Commission ministries. As we work together to make disciples in every people group of the world, together we will see lives changed for Jesus Christ. As a Christ-follower and a Southern Baptist in Virginia, your giving will change the world, one life at a time!

This edition of the *Proclaimer* focuses on the Kingdom impact we can have by participation in the Cooperative Program. Thank you, SBCV churches, for the example you already set.

At the same time, please remember the unanimous vote taken at the Annual Homecoming this past November. SBCV messengers voted unanimously to challenge every church to move toward 10% giving to the Cooperative Program. May that vote be more than mere words!



To view videos, please scan the QR code into your smartphone or go to www.sbcv.org/cp

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
together
we are



Going Beyond

by Tammy Bennett, Women's Ministry Strategist

“God doesn’t change the circumstances of our lives; He changes us through the circumstances.”

Car packed, snacks ready, radio on—ROAD TRIP! It’s a girls’ getaway—Emily, Holly, Charlotte, and Dorothy are “going beyond.” For the weekend of April 15–16, the SBC of Virginia partnered with LifeWay and Thomas Road Baptist Church to host the Going Beyond Conference, featuring Bible teacher Priscilla Shirer and singing artist Anthony Evans.

After two and a half hours of talking, sharing, and side-splitting laughter, the girls arrived at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg just in time to find seats before the start of the event. Promptly at 7:00 PM, Anthony Evans took center stage and led more than 2,300 women in an awe-inspiring time of praise and worship. Women from all walks of life joined their voices together singing, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty....” God was in the house, and the Holy Spirit seemed almost tangible. As the song came to an end, Priscilla Shirer entered the auditorium and led the ladies in a powerful time of prayer. Gals from differing backgrounds gathered at the altar, praying, weeping, and repenting—putting their harried lives on hold in order to get real with the Master. Afterwards, Priscilla opened her Bible to the Book of Judges and encouraged the women from the Word, referencing Gideon as the example. “God doesn’t change the circumstances of our lives; He changes us through the circumstances,” Shirer said.

Once dismissed Friday evening, the gals—Emily, Holly, Charlotte, and Dorothy—ran into the women from Centerpoint Baptist Church of Mechanicsville. The girls from Centerpoint were highly exhilarated and greatly encouraged over the event. Brittany reported, “I haven’t felt God’s presence in my life in quite a while, but I really felt

it tonight.” Jennifer added, “I know God Has used this night to prepare me for things to come.”

Once outside, they were greeted by another 40 women from Raleigh, NC. “Come on over to the Hampton Inn—we’re havin’ a slumber party!” one gal yelled as she boarded the bus. The four gals chuckled at the thought but headed to their place of lodging to have their own little get-together. Once settled in for the night, the girls did what all girlfriends do—they shared, encouraged, and prayed together. Lights out.

Early the next morning, at 7:30 AM to be exact, the conference reconvened for a special time of prayer with Priscilla Shirer. Approximately 300 from all seasons of life stood in the gaps, laying hands on one another and lifting specific needs up to the Father. As the prayer time came to an end, another 2,000 women filed into the auditorium for another amazing time of worship through song, the Word, and prayer. At the conclusion of the conference, Priscilla commissioned the ladies in attendance with a challenge—“Go home, get into the Word, and set a plan into action to obey it.”

As Emily, Holly, Charlotte, and Dorothy piled into the car for the long ride home, they all agreed it was a weekend they’d never forget, and it was way beyond what they had expected.

RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/mens_and_womens_ministries

Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 or email Tammy at tbbennett@sbcv.org.



SBC WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES

new women's ministry strategist named

by Steve Bradshaw, Director of Maturing Churches

Tammy Bennett has been hired as the new SBCV Women's Ministry strategist, effective April 1, 2011. She succeeds the very first SBCV Women's Ministry strategist, Sue Sawyer, who retired at the end of 2010. Tammy says of Sue, "[She] has not only blazed the trail for Women's Ministries within the Commonwealth, but she exemplifies the advancement of women mentoring women for the sole purpose of furthering the Kingdom of God. She has set high standards that I am going to strive to further and promote within the SBCV. Thank you, Sue."

Our new strategist has a wealth of experience in her background—professional acting; production and development research for a national Christian TV show; authoring two books under the Harvest House Publishing Company label; authoring three books under the Baker Publishing Group label; and authoring numerous magazine and blog articles for *HomeLife* magazine, *Crosswalk.com*, *Journey* devotional magazine, and *Insight* magazine. She has been a motivational speaker at women's events and an instructor of Upper Class, a division of CLASServices, where she taught women effective non-verbal communication skills. She has been a senior writer and guest host for the Christian women's TV show, "Living the Life," with CBN. In developing young women, her passion has been reaching girls and teens through AWANA and expanding that ministry to the 20-something generation. She is also involved in the National Religious Broadcasters organization, where she has assisted in coordinating its convention of over 6,000 people. She has been a Women's Ministry coordinator at her church, served as Women's Ministry Committee chair for the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Chaplaincy Ministry, and has developed, written, and taught conversational English for the Chinese. She has also been on numerous mission trips within the US and abroad.

Tammy studied environmental and interior design at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She also has certifications in personality profiling, motivational speaking, media insights, and teen and youth missionary training. Because of her husband's military career, Tammy and her family have lived throughout the country, making three Virginia cities home and three SBCV churches their extended family—London Bridge Baptist Church, Spotswood Baptist Church and now, Grove Avenue Baptist Church. Tammy and her husband Ed have two grown children, Matthew and Ashlee.

"In the days ahead," says Tammy, "I look forward to personally meeting each one of the Women's Ministry leaders, and I'm eager to hear about what God is doing within your ministries." If you have any questions, needs, concerns, suggestions, prayer requests, etc., you may contact Tammy at tbenett@sbv.org.



RESOURCE

Website:

www.sbcv.org/mens_and_womens_ministries

Contact:

You may contact Tammy at tbenett@sbv.org.

Social Network:

Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/#!/SBCVgal>

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/pages/SBCV-Womens-Ministries/145661312162290

or follow Tammy by clicking the links available on the SBCV Women's Ministry page, www.sbcv.org/mens_and_womens_ministries



CALENDAR

AUGUST

Aug/Sep Mission Opportunity:
Hygiene Kits for ARM

Statewide CPN 27

SEPTEMBER

September Mission Opportunity:
Vision Virginia State
Missions Offering

Vantage Point Star City Bible Conf. 18-19

Vision Va State Missions Offering 18-25

OCTOBER

Oct/Nov Mission Opportunity:
Eyeglasses for Uruguay

Emphasis for October:

Cooperative Program

Soul Winning Commitment Day 2

Fall Basic Training 7-8

World Hunger Sunday 9

Statewide CPN 27

Fall Basic Training 28-29

NOVEMBER

Wildfire, Men's Conference 11-12

SBCV Annual Homecoming 13-15

Serving Your Community Day 17

DECEMBER

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering & Week of
Prayer 4-11





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