

visionvirginia Proclaimer

Where do your CP dollars go?

SPECIAL CENTER PULLOUT

*A flowchart depicting how the
SBC of Virginia spends your
generous donations*

Stewardship Resources

*How to find the
resources you need*

Putting Together a Conference

*So much work, so much prayer!
Insightful information on launching
the YEC Conferences*

May | June | July 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE SBC OF VIRGINIA



sbcv.org

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Brandon Pickett
bpickett@sbcv.org
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NUMBERS...rejoicing

Numbers. They can be your biggest friend or your worst enemy. If you are trying to lose weight, you are probably always thinking about certain numbers (calories, servings, the number on the scale). If you are trying to save money, you are probably consumed with other types of numbers (interest, percentage, prices). I heard someone say that if God didn't care about numbers, He wouldn't have named an entire book of the Bible after them. But if you are a Christian, especially in church leadership, numbers take on a different meaning. You probably see a person's face in each number. Within our SBC of Virginia family, we are celebrating some numbers this year that really make our themes from the past two years—*Transforming Lives* and *Transforming Churches*—come alive.

Director of Maturing Churches, Steve Bradshaw, recently shared the latest figures from the 2011 Annual Church Profiles (ACPs) with me.

"Amongst SBCV churches, some of the major increases from the year before were baptisms, Sunday School/ small group attendance, and mission project participation," Bradshaw said. "Baptisms rose by 15.1%. That means that in 2011, SBCV churches celebrated 6,785 lives that surrendered to the lordship of Christ and followed His example through baptism."

In addition to the increase in baptisms, a rise in Sunday School and small group attendance was also reported. Participation in such gatherings rose by 12.7% or 73,799 people.

"Not only are SBCV churches winning people to Christ, but they are growing, equipping, and training them to be more like Him," shared Bradshaw.

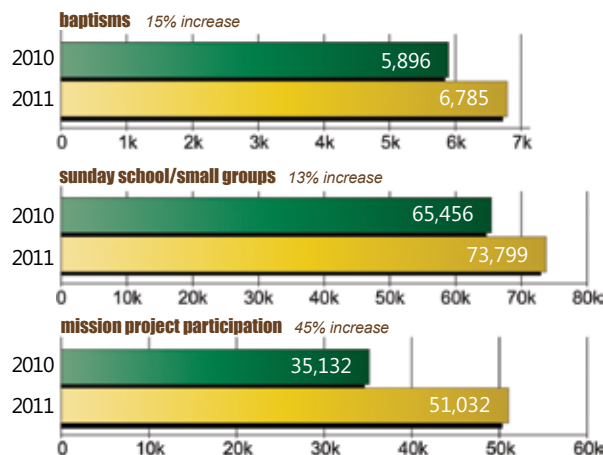
The greatest increase, however, was found in the area of missions. A total of 51,032 people participated in some type of mission project, which was a 45.3% increase from the previous year. Bradshaw explained, "This indicates that SBCV churches are leading their members to be doers of the Word and not hearers only."

This is truly a "Praise the Lord!" report. We rejoice in seeing how God is moving in and through the churches of the SBC of Virginia. Even still, as we pull back and see the big picture, the actual numerical value of the numbers has little significance. Instead, it is the impact the church members, lay leaders, and pastors are having on their local communities for the sake of Christ...resulting in transformed lives and churches!

2011 INSTANT FACTS

- 6,785** the number of lives that were surrendered to the lordship of Christ and followed His example through baptism
- 73,799** the number of people participating in small groups
- 51,032** the number of people who participated in some type of mission project
- 15%** the increase in baptisms
- 13%** the rise in small group participation
- 45%** the increase in mission projects participation

2011 Annual Church Profile



Proclaimer

TELLING ABOUT THE AMAZING
THINGS GOD IS DOING
THROUGH HIS CHURCH

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Because of your valued support of the Cooperative Program, we are able to send free copies of the *Proclaimer* upon request. To subscribe, go online to: sbcv.org/resources/proclaimer

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COVER LOOK

This month's cover is "Stewardship" and is taken from a Cooperative Program promo video created by Innovative Faith Resources called "Empty Hands." You can view the video in its entirety at vimeo.com/innovativefaith.

Cover created exclusively for the SBC of Virginia by Innovative Faith Resources designer Patti Spencer.

For information on Innovative Faith Resources, email ifr@innovativefaith.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT

SBC OF VIRGINIA

Randy Hahn

SBCV President and Senior Pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Colonial Heights, VA

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Brilliant words from *A Tale of Two Cities* that have probably started as many articles and messages as about any famous quotation. Why? Because it is always true. Every moment, every day, every season is an opportunity for good or evil, an opportunity for Satan to advance his kingdom or God His. These times have been given to us, and we are told to be wise with them and make the most of them (Ephesians 5:15-17).

It is a unique and interesting time in Southern Baptist life. Clearly, we are trying to find our way, understand new models, and pursue our future. It is a difficult time for our agencies and state conventions. Pray for them, while at the same time praising God for our own state convention.

When I think of where we are now and how we got to an SBCV (SBC of Virginia), I think of Joseph’s words, “What you meant for evil, God meant for good” (Genesis 50:20). Disagreements and division are normally what we might think of as evil, but it was out of those struggles that the SBCV was birthed, a convention uniquely positioned for the times we are in—to lead, to minister, and to do Kingdom work. God knew what would be in front of the SBC today and, over 15 years ago, birthed an answer in the SBCV. We have been given these times and with them, we have been given the SBCV. What a gift! It demands good and wise stewardship. To care for this gift, we must cover it in prayer, faithfully give, and come together to work ever more diligently.

I believe the SBC needs to see us set a pace! We cannot busy ourselves with just our own work, but with the work we do together. Oh, survey again the field of relationships Paul remembers in Romans 16. It is what we faithfully do together for our Lord! Now, more than ever before, we need to be asking how we can do more together.

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and how you can be a part of this missions movement.

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May 10 at 7 pm

STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

WEBSITES

For a wealth of information about Christian personal finances — from budgeting to banking, from making money to saving money:

christianpf.com/money-in-the-bible

For a solid foundation in money management, well-known author and teacher Dave Ramsey has resources to train churches and members how to live debt-free:

daveramsey.com

An online library on biblical generous giving:

library.generousgiving.org

How to make sure your church is a good steward of the resources given to it:

buildingchurchleaders.com/downloads/survivalguides/howtoteachstewardship

Equipping churches to address biblical stewardship through resource development and leader training:

stewardshipdirect.com

ORGANIZATIONS

Provides payroll and budget-management services for churches and church plants at a reasonable cost — *Church Ministry Services of Innovative Faith Resources*

innovativefaith.org

Provides retirement planning and investment funds; risk management services; medical, dental, life, and disability insurance — *GuideStone Financial Resources*

guidestone.org

BOOKS

Books available from *LifeWay Christian Resources* and other Christian bookstores

- ***The Treasure Principle*** by Randy Alcorn
- ***Giving and Tithing*** by Larry Burkett
- ***Bring the Full Tithe: Sermons on the Grace of Giving*** by William Watley
- ***Stewardship Is More than Time, Talent, and Things*** by C. Neil Strait
- ***Knowing the Economy of God*** by Thomas Meglia
- ***Money Strategies for Tough Times*** by Matt Bell

SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Stewardship: Living a Life that Counts — smallgroups.com

Fields of God by Andy Stanley — small group study questions at library.generousgiving.org/articles/display.asp?id=168

The Law of Rewards by Randy Alcorn — small group study questions at library.generousgiving.org/articles/display.asp?id=138

Mastering Money by Dudley Delfs, Navpress

Understanding Financial Stewardship by Charles Stanley, Navpress

STEWARDSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Gary Horton
Church Health Strategist, Southwest Region

THE ABC'S OF HANDLING MONEY GOD'S WAY (crown.org)

This Bible-based curriculum uses an interesting story and fun activities to teach kids the basics about money.

Designed for ages 5 to 7, the *ABC's of Handling Money God's Way* features the adventures of Elizabeth, Paul, Sarah, and Juan as they try to save enough money to buy a puppy. As they find out how to earn, save, give, and spend money, they also learn some important things about God.

The 12 lessons in this book include full-color illustrations, simple Bible studies, hands-on activities, and a guided prayer journal. Together with the accompanying teacher's guide, this curriculum is an ideal tool for parents, homeschoolers, Sunday School teachers, and Christian school teachers.

DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY OF HANDLING MONEY TEEN STUDY (crown.org)

A recent article confirmed that the number of high school students with credit cards has tripled in the past two years. This growth in teen credit card debt shows a lifestyle of instant gratification and the inability (or unwillingness) to live within one's means.

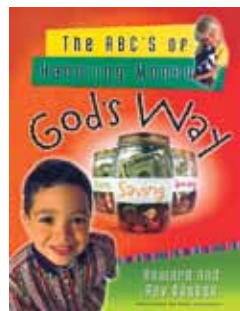
The revised 10-week edition of *Discovering God's Way of Handling Money Teen Study* is designed to practically help teens create habits that will set them on a lifelong journey of handling money responsibly.

THE SECRET OF HANDLING MONEY GOD'S WAY (crown.org)

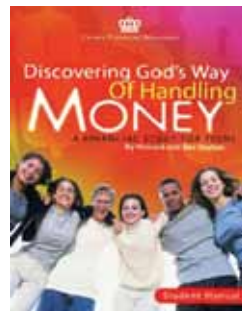
This teacher's guide is designed for use with *The Secret of Handling Money God's Way*, a Bible-based money-management curriculum for

RESOURCES

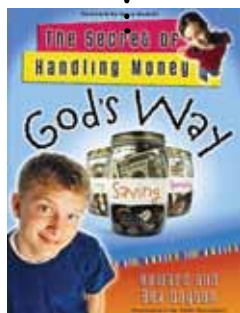
Looking for stewardship resources to teach children how to handle money God's way? Check out some of these!



crown.org



crown.org



crown.org



davaramsey.com



stewardshipdirect.com



RESOURCE

WEBSITES crown.org | daveramsey.com
stewardshipdirect.com/resources/download/children_youth
CONTACT 888.234.7716 for details from
your region's missionary

ages 8 to 12. In the featured story, Maria, Josh, Andy, and Ruth try to save enough money for baseball camp. As they find out how to earn, save, give, and spend money, they also learn some important things about God.

Using a 12-week format, the teacher's guide provides discussion questions, quizzes, and teaching helps for each lesson. An ideal tool for parents and teachers, this curriculum can be adapted for use in a variety of settings: classrooms, small groups, or one-on-one.

FINANCIAL PEACE JUNIOR (daveramsey.com)

Teach your children how to handle money while they are young, and they'll avoid costly mistakes later. *Financial Peace Junior* is the power of *Financial Peace* tailored for children ages 3 to 12.

STEWARDSHIP ADVENTURE (stewardshipdirect.com)

A children's stewardship activity book used to teach your children how to handle money.



Please complete the following brief survey.
Your answers will help the SBC of Virginia (SBCV) continue to be good stewards of Cooperative Program resources.

Thank you!

If you have trouble viewing or submitting this form, you can fill it out online at tinyurl.com/ProclaimerSurvey.

How long have you been receiving the *Proclaimer*?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not receive the <i>Proclaimer</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 years | |

How many articles do you read in the *Proclaimer*?

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not read the <i>Proclaimer</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 articles | <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ articles |

Which sections do you enjoy reading most?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maturing Churches (Church Health & Growth) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiplying Churches (Church Planting) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobilizing Churches (Missions) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | |

What types of stories would you like to see in the *Proclaimer*?

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missions | <input type="checkbox"/> Time-sensitive issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Testimonies | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry growth | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media resources | |

Which version of the *Proclaimer* would you rather receive?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print copy | <input type="checkbox"/> Online version |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|

What is the primary reason that you read the *Proclaimer*?

- | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To learn how to grow my ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To learn what is going on through the SBC of Virginia. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To learn about current missions and ministries. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To learn how our Cooperative Program money is used. |

What are your thoughts on the bar codes (QR codes) in the *Proclaimer*?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not know how to scan the bar code. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have not scanned any of the bar codes. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I occasionally scan a bar code. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I scan bar codes regularly. | |

We currently produce four *Proclaimer* issues each year. How many would you like to see?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> I would rather not receive any issues. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | | | |

What improvements would you like to see in the *Proclaimer*?

What other types of media do you enjoy from the SBC of Virginia?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> video | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> website | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> social media | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> print mailers (brochures, postcards, etc.) | |

Is the church you attend affiliated with the SBC of Virginia?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Does the church you attend contribute to the Cooperative Program of SBCV?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

[submit]

Please cut off the completed survey, place a stamp on the reverse side, and drop it in the mail. Thank you!

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MOBILIZING
MATURING

FEEDING THE 5,000 OUR WAY OR GOD'S WAY?

Sue Sawyer

Associate Church Mobilization Strategist, Projects

When Michael checked into his hotel that night, he never intended to check out. He had reached the end of his rope and planned to take his life... until he heard a knock at the door.

In late 2010, Mandy Eames, member of Western Branch Baptist Church in Portsmouth, VA, felt the Lord tugging on her heart to begin a hunger ministry to meet needs in the community. Her pastor, Dr. Walter Black, and his wife Joyce also saw the need when they visited another church and witnessed a Thanksgiving hunger ministry. The Blacks began to pray about a way Western Branch could be used to minister in the same way to the Portsmouth community. Through much prayer and with the gift of organization, Mandy began the process of organizing, training, preparing, and implementing the Feeding the 5,000 Hunger Ministry at Western Branch. The church family embraced the ministry, and volunteers were abundant!

With much anticipation and excitement, they kicked off the ministry on February 16, 2011. The meal was prepared, the tables decorated, the servers ready, and the greeters in place. There was only one problem—no one showed up to be fed. Although their plans were well-organized and good-intentioned, God had a different plan! The team prayed, and the Lord immediately prompted them to pack up the food and take it to people on the streets—to the homeless and those living temporarily in hotels. Since that night, teams have continued to take meals every week to those who are not able to get to the



RESOURCE

WEBSITE wbbchurch.net

CONTACT call 888.234.7716 for details from
your region's missionary



Michael (front) cooking at church

church—who need the church to come outside of its walls to reach them with God’s love through meals, prayer, and the Good News of Jesus.

Just when he thought there was no hope, Michael opened his hotel room door to a man and woman who asked if he would like a free meal. By God’s careful planning, the woman had even grown up across the street from Michael many years before. The team was able to talk to Michael and share some counsel from God’s Word. Over the course of four weeks, they were able to lead him to faith in Christ, get him into a local alcohol rehabilitation center, and establish his residency in a local halfway house. With restaurant work experience and a love of cooking, Michael now comes to the church twice a week (by three buses that take two hours each way) to assist with the Feeding the 5,000 Ministry. He also participates with the street teams taking the meals to the homeless and sharing what God has done in his life.

The hunger ministry continues to grow at Western Branch. While teams continue to take meals to those outside the church, a number of folks now come to the church for meals as well. Many have accepted Christ and are now part of the Western Branch family. The church also started a clothing ministry and began special ministries on Wednesday nights to meet the specific needs of the newly attending families.

“The body of believers at Western Branch Baptist Church is becoming



Michael praying with the Western Branch cooking team

...the Lord immediately prompted them to pack up the food and take it to people on the streets—to the homeless and those living temporarily in hotels.

more like Jesus by sacrificing, giving freely, leading others to Christ, and training and equipping others to become disciples,” says Mandy. “We are fulfilling the Great Commission in our own city, and our church has been blessed many times over through obedience.” God’s way was definitely the best way!



SEWING SEEDS FOR THE GOSPEL *one stitch at a time*

Darrell Webb

Church Health Strategist, North Region

Eighty-year-old Mildred made fifteen quilts in two weeks. Ann crocheted 800 crosses in one year. While this might sound like a sewing competition, these two ladies are actually “Serving the Lord One Stitch at a Time” through the Sewing Sisters ministry of Laurel Hill Baptist Church (LHBC) in Charlottesville, VA.

In February of 2010, God led Peggy Moyer and Nikki Grimsley to begin Sewing Sisters. Although in different seasons of life, they shared a common purpose and vision—to share the love of Christ through their talent of sewing. As they followed Him in obedience, God began to provide what they needed: ten ladies from the church joined the ministry; materials were supplied through Peggy’s part-time job at a local fabric store; and an assortment of fabric scraps and four sewing machines were donated. All of these things came together just in time to complete quilts for a local assisted living residence.

Meeting biweekly during the school year and weekly during the summer, the Sewing Sisters organize their time to share personal needs, pray together, and serve. Grimsley says, “The ladies have not hidden their talent nor given just to loved ones, but give a labor of love to all who receive them.” Mildred’s 15 quilts supported a local project, and Ann’s 800 crosses were sent with a mission team to Romania to benefit the Samaritan’s Purse Shoebox Ministry.

This summer, six girls (ages eleven to thirteen) joined the group, and the older ladies have embraced the biblical principle of Titus 2 to mentor and train the younger generation. Moyer remarks, “[They] are teaching the younger women life principles of learning how to share. We want to teach these girls that they don’t have to wait

until they are older to serve the Lord.” Over the summer, the six young Sewing Sisters each made one dress and three quilts that were given to help others.

With the prayers and financial support of the Laurel Hill congregation, the Sewing Sisters have expanded their missions outreach statewide and around the world to countries like the Philippines and Africa. Mission projects for 2012 are already underway. The Lord continues to use this missions and mentoring ministry to “sew” seeds for the Gospel “one stitch at a time.”

*Perhaps your church could glean
some missions ideas from the Sewing Sisters:*

LOCAL MISSION PROJECTS

Make quilts for shut-ins at a local assisted living residence; quilts for babies or maternity tops for clients at a local crisis pregnancy center; baby doll clothing and Bible story books for a local school; or fleece blankets for a local cancer center.

STATEWIDE MISSION PROJECTS

Make quilts and meal bibs for a veterans’ hospital or quilts and doll dresses for an Angel Tree ministry.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROJECTS

Make quilts and dresses to send with missionaries and mission teams to minister to widows, mothers, and infants.



RESOURCE

WEBSITES sbcv.org/mobilizing | visitlaurelhill.org

CONTACT If your church would be interested in beginning a Sewing Sisters Ministry, email Nikki Grimsley at nn4js@hotmail.com or Peggy Moyer at plmres4@yahoo.com

SEP 8 OR 15
2012

FOR CHURCH LEADERS

YOUR EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

REGIONAL



SEP 8

CENTRAL-EAST

Swift Creek BC, Midlothian

SOUTHWEST

Euclid Avenue BC, Bristol

SEP 15

NORTH

Ramoth BC, Stafford

CENTRAL-WEST

Fincastle BC, Fincastle

SOUTHEAST

Nansemond River BC, Suffolk

Because people matter to God.

Network and learn from other church leaders in your region. Attend an E412 Regional Church Equipping Conference in a location near you.

Breakouts

Women's Ministry | Men's Ministry | Student Ministry | Children's Ministry |
Preschool Ministry | Sunday School/Small Groups | Missions |
Discipleship/Assimilation | Evangelism & Outreach | Worship & Music |
Churches Planting Churches

FELLOWSHIP & NETWORK
WORSHIP & TEACHING
LEADERSHIP TRAINING



SBCV.ORG/EVENTS

It all starts here...

1

God expects me to give my tithes and offerings through my church. The Lord expects my church to support missions in our neighborhood and across our state, nation, and world.

2

Our church cooperates with other Southern Baptists because New Testament churches cooperated on missions and ministry and because we can accomplish more for the Kingdom when we work **together**.

3

together, our SBC of Virginia churches partner with more than 45,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. That's more than 16 million Southern Baptists across the country. We send 50.75 percent of our Cooperative Program dollars to the SBC, so that **together** we can partner with other Baptists nationwide to support three main causes:

50.75**1**

Through our International Mission Board, we support more than 4,900 missionaries who are working to engage 6,700 unreached people groups around the world. There are more than 3,800 unreached people groups as yet unengaged.

2

Southern Baptists start more than 100 churches every month, yet many more are needed to reach the more than 258 million lost people in North America.

3

Six Southern Baptist seminaries — more than 13,000 future ministers and missionaries attend these schools.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

works



together at the Annual Homecoming, our SBC of Virginia churches **agree on what missions and ministries we want to support.**

4

Churches send in **contributions**, and the Convention sends the money on to causes agreed upon.

more than
560 churches
working **together!**



5

75%



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
How Virginia Baptists Support Missions

We call this system of partnering and putting our money **together** for missions our Cooperative Program!

49.25%



This is how we minister **together** in many ways across Virginia.

Evangelism
Church Planting
Stewardship
Women's Ministries
Bible Study & Sunday School
Worship Ministries
Cooperative Program Promotion
GuideStone Services
Leadership Development
Student Ministries

Acts 1:8 Network
Vacation Bible School Clinics
Vision Virginia
Disaster Relief
Mission Projects
And More!

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
together

God-sized Work

immeasurably more...than we can imagine

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20*



Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering

visionvirginia

September 16-23, 2012 | Goal: \$250,000

sbcv.org/visionvirginia



SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AT RIVER OAK CHURCH

David Bounds
Church Health Strategist, Southeast Region

Something amazing is happening at River Oak Church (ROC) in Chesapeake, VA! Although ROC has been a growing church since its start in 1999, enormous growth has taken place in the past four years. In 2008, the church was averaging 450 in worship, but attendance has now tripled to almost 1,400 with just two services. Even more impressive than the attendance is the number of baptisms. Recently, 40 were baptized all on one Sunday, and in 2011 as a whole, ROC baptized 94 new believers! At a time when so many churches have plateaued or are declining in attendance, one has to admit that whatever is happening at ROC deserves more than a passing glance—it deserves a careful investigation!

We asked Heath Burris, senior pastor of ROC, how this happened. He admits it is hard to explain but notes that the church has stayed focused on its mission—"to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ." He points out that this mission has been the focus from the beginning. ROC was started by former pastor, Dennis Culbreth, who led the church for eight and a half years. During that time, the congregation met at Oscar Smith High School, where the character of the church developed. In 2007, they moved into a building of their own and later built an addition to accommodate the rising attendance. Whether meeting in a school auditorium or a multi-purpose church building, the facilities exist solely to facilitate the ministry of the saints at ROC, not the other way around. The church grew, not because of a building, but because the people kept their eyes on the mission.

In our investigation, we wondered what church-growth techniques had been employed; however, no one method can be pinpointed as the catalyst for such growth. ROC, more than anything, has intentionally kept things simple to stay focused

on the mission. They developed a two-word strategy—commit and connect. ROC leads people to commit to membership and maturity and connect through service and small groups. This strategy has, no doubt, helped grow the church to its current size.

As we continued our search, we shifted our focus to the church staff. If anything, ROC has been (and still is) understaffed. For example, when the church doubled in size (500 to 1000) in 2008 – 2009, ROC only had two pastors. However, ROC has always had great staff members who complement the leadership of the senior pastor. The staff members do not drive the church; rather, they come alongside the church members to encourage them.

Despite investigating several factors, it's hard to fully explain the rapid growth of ROC...and there is a good reason for that—Jesus Christ is the One transforming people's lives! He is leading people through the levels of spiritual growth—from salvation to maturity to service to leadership. As people come to know Him, the church naturally grows!

Just as the blind man who was healed by Jesus said: "One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see" (John 9:25, HCSB)—the church members at River Oak Church can only testify that many lives have been and are continuing to be transformed by God's amazing grace!



ATTENDANCE FACTS

101 attended, January 23, 1999

First service of River Oak

495 attended, December 2, 2007

First service in their building

1,465 average attendance, March 2012

2,246 attended, Easter Sunday 2012



RESOURCE

WEBSITE riveroakchurch.org

CONTACT 888.234.7716 for details
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YEC Youth Evangelism Conference

How Does It All Come Together?

Steve Maltempi
Student Ministry Strategist

THE PROCESS

How does the Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) come together? YEC begins in prayer 18 months before the actual event. Each year, a group of student pastors called the SBCV Student Advisory Team (SAT) considers speakers, worship leaders, illusionists, drama teams, concert artists, themes, etc. The team is composed of student pastors from across the Commonwealth who voluntarily meet twice a year to advise the SBCV Student Ministry. Beyond the SAT's work, there are even more tasks to complete: securing a venue; enlisting graphic design to support and promote the event; ordering t-shirts; setting up the website for promotion, information, and registration; lining up hotels; and recruiting staffers, to name a few. It is a long, grueling process. Our goal is to bring the best, most spiritual and gifted speakers, musicians, and other personalities before our students. This is balanced with considerations of cost/budget, availability, style, popularity, etc. The SBCV YEC has a nationwide reputation for being a national-quality event. We want to compel our students to attend and bring lost friends. We will not take a backseat and let the world do a better job of compelling our students to action!

THE RESULTS

2012 YEC East: 52 churches, 1,489 participants, \$4,013 missions offering, 39 recorded salvations (1st night only), 96 rededications (1st night only), and countless other decisions (for an excellent recap of YEC East 2012, see the editor's article inside the front cover of the Feb/Mar/Apr edition of the *Proclaimer*)

THE GOAL

The goal of the SAT is to have details of 2013 SBCV Student Ministry events posted online by August 2012. This allows student pastors and churches to include these events in their Student Ministry plan and budget process.

THE FUTURE

The process has already begun for YEC 2013—although some of this information could change based on evaluations and decisions of the SAT, the dates and venues have been secured!

YEC EAST — will be held in Virginia Beach, VA again at London Bridge Baptist Church, January 25 – 26. Some student groups will want to stay in the area, do missions, and attend London Bridge Sunday morning.

YEC WEST — will be held in Roanoke, VA again at First Baptist Church, January 18 – 19. In 2013, groups will have the option of adding a snow-skiing package. Since YEC West will take place over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, groups can take advantage of the slopes Saturday evening, all day Sunday, and Monday.

Based on evaluations, two components will be added next year: (1) a student worker training session and (2) training in evangelism for all attendees.

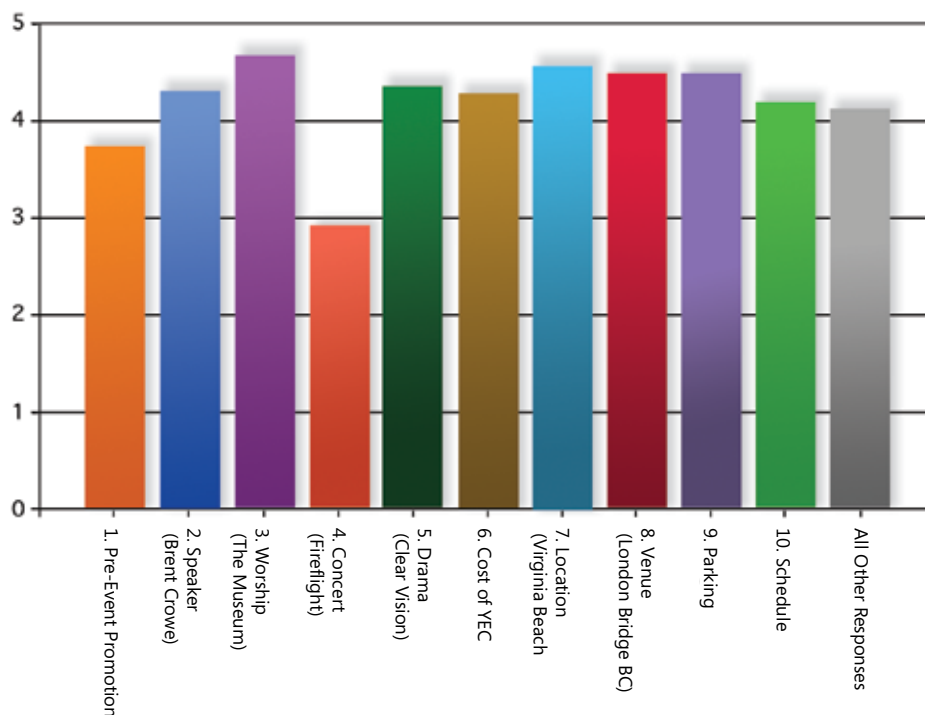
PRAYER

Please covenant to join the prayer effort behind YEC! The Student Advisory Team will meet this spring to consider artists and personalities, the schedule, and all of the other details for 2013. Your prayers are needed as we seek God's direction in this process. Prayer works! YEC West at FBC Roanoke was the direct result of three years of listening and praying. We prayed constantly for God to open a way for students across the Commonwealth to have access to YEC. God made it possible to partner with a group of SBCV churches already doing a yearly event at FBC Roanoke to bring YEC to the western part of the state. Praise God for His provision!

EVALUATION

How did we do? Each year, we seek raw, honest feedback from attendees. This year's results for YEC East are shown below. In most categories, YEC was rated very high. The SAT continually reviews and makes adjustments to meet the

On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the following?



RESOURCE

WEBSITE sbcv.org/studentz

CONTACT 888.234.7716 for details from your region's missionary

changing needs of student pastors across the state.

As of this printing, YEC West (March 23 – 24 at First Baptist Church, Roanoke) had not yet taken place. An article will be posted and emailed later

this spring showing God's hand on YEC West! Between 600 and 1,000 are expected to attend. This will bring our total statewide YEC attendance close to 2,500—PRAISE GOD!





MOBILIZING



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The SBC of Virginia continues to mobilize volunteers. To accomplish this task, we need your prayers and financial support. Your generosity helps those most in need.

tinyurl.com/DRdonate

ACTING ON A GREATER NEED

Amanda Sullivan

Project Coordinator, Innovative Faith Resources

When a series of tornados ripped through West Liberty, KY in early March, a trail of death and destruction was left in their wakes. The 120-mph winds flattened some parts of the city and left many individuals with beaten and battered homes, testing the faith and hope of most people involved.

The wreckage from the tornados created a need—a need that was answered by nearly 70 college students from across the country during their week of spring break. Volunteers from the SBCV Disaster Relief (DR) Ministry were part of the clean-up team connected with the Kentucky Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

“SBCV team members were invited to assist due to our previous involvement in mobilizing more than 300 college students for a response in New York last year,” said Jack Noble, SBCV DR director. Leadership from Kentucky Baptist Disaster Response asked Noble to arrange leadership of this new group of volunteers. “We normally require 10 hours of training and background checks,” said Noble, “but when confronted with 70 college students desiring to respond and the need is great, you make a way.”

The team that was sent to Kentucky by SBCV’s DR Ministry was carefully chosen. “In a situation like this,” explained group leader Ron Early, “Jack will make the requirement known, and the rest will volunteer. Then he assesses whether or not the people who volunteered can do the job. And, luckily, he thought we could.”

During a week when most college-aged students are sitting on a beach somewhere working on their suntan, these students volunteered to act on a greater need. “The thing that you could see was 75 to 100 young men and women in distinctive...shirts who had dedicated themselves for a week to picking up trash—any kind of trash, any kind of tornado debris—and

putting it where it was designated,” said Early. “And they were doing all of this with a smile. It was reason enough for me to be there.”

The impact that the DR teams had on the community extends beyond picking up rubble. The overall generosity and consideration exhibited by the volunteers made an even greater influence on homeowners. Early shared one story that specifically stuck out to him. The team was spread out across 50 – 60 acres of a property where the top of someone’s house had been blown off. He recalls noticing one of the student volunteers running down the hillside with something in his hand.

“He came into the room and had a \$100 bill that he had found and could not wait to give it to that homeowner...,” Early remembers. “We don’t know whether it was the owner’s or not. It could have come from several miles away, but it was found on her property, and he assumed it was hers. The expression on her face when that young man handed her a \$100 bill that he could have just as easily put in his pocket—well, her expression was priceless. She was brought to tears.”

The actions of the student volunteers not only impacted the West Liberty community, but also the team leaders, including Ron Early. “Every opportunity I get, I’ve expressed my own gratitude for going and the way it has changed my concept of young people.”

Aiding in clean-up efforts is more than a job; it’s about people’s lives and faith. “The thing that we have to keep in mind,” emphasized Early, “is that when we go out on Disaster Relief, as Jack has said, ‘We use [it] as a means to get peoples’ attention so that we can evangelize.’”



WHAT MAKES A GREAT MISSION TEAM MEMBER?

Jack Noble

Church Mobilization Strategist, Western Virginia

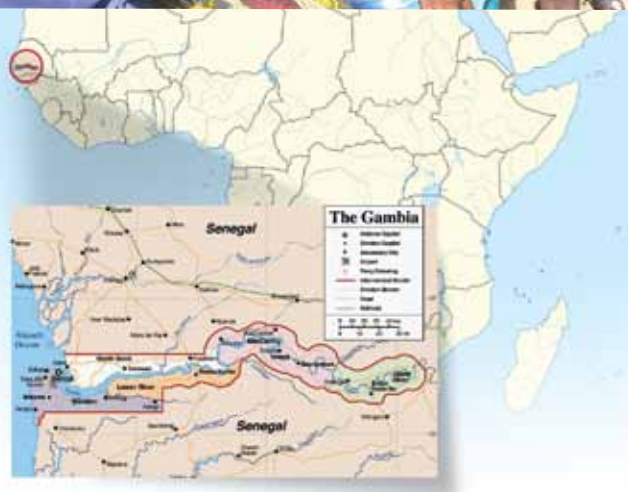
The team looked a little different than what we may consider a “normal” mission team. A team of only three ladies—a 12-year-old, her mother, and a 23-year old—headed to The Gambia, Africa, to touch an unreached people group. When asked what they contributed to the team, all three offered simple responses. It was God who took those simple offerings and did amazing things!

The mother on the team was Elizabeth Campbell, wife of Pastor Danny Campbell of Wayne Hills Baptist Church in Waynesboro, VA. Elizabeth was not new to mission trips—she’d been on many before. In the past, she had used her singing voice and nursing skills to connect to the people. For The Gambia trip, however, her most valuable attribute was that of being a mother. Women in The Gambia cannot socialize in mixed company like ladies in this country, so it takes a woman to connect with them. Elizabeth very excitedly shared that she offered a “mom” connection to the women of The Gambia.

Jamie Fleming, a 23-year-old college coed, was much more sheepish in her response. With this being her fourth trip to the region, Jamie clearly has a passion for the people. When asked what she contributed to the team, she raised her eyebrows, tilted her head, and modestly shared, “All I can do is tell stories—Bible stories.” What became clear on the trip, however, was that telling Bible stories was exactly what the Lord wanted her to do. She discovered that the stories that connected the quickest and best were the “The Man with the Demonic Spirit” and “Creation to Christ.” God used those stories to encourage the women of The Gambia to follow the Gospel and accept Christ as their Savior. Jamie’s gift of storytelling enabled the women to receive the greatest Gift of all.

Last but not least was 12-year-old Hope Campbell. She clearly knew her purpose as prayer leader, but when asked what she contributed, she spoke hesitantly, as if concerned her role wouldn’t sound like “enough.” On the contrary, everywhere the team went in The Gambia, she was the constant prayer warrior. She was there to pray on site with the insight of what was happening at the time. She could be very specific in her pleadings as she saw things come together or as things seemed to go off in a different direction.

What did these three humble women have to offer the women of The Gambia? They connected with them as a mother, a young woman, and a child; they expressed Christ’s love through Bible storytelling; and they interceded for them through prayer. While their roles were not grandiose in man’s eyes, God used “simple” things for His great glory!



FACTS ABOUT THE GAMBIA

The Gambia—hard to find on any map of Africa—is surrounded by Senegal on three sides and the Atlantic Ocean on the west. The small nation gained its independence in 1965 and follows the 1,140 kilometers of the Gambia River. At the widest part, the country is only 48 km wide. The Gambia has over 1.7 million people with less than 10 percent of them adherents to any flavor of Christianity. Research shows that the people have little resistance to hearing and responding to the Gospel. The hard part is often the heart-breaking questions that follow:

- After one of the Bible story times, a young lady named Mary Ama accepted Christ as her Savior. Her friend, Selah, asked, “Where will I live if I make this decision?” She knew that if she followed Christ, she would be out on the streets.
- Even though Selah did not accept Christ at that time, she asked the team of ladies to visit some elderly men in the community, including her grandfather. The men asked Jamie to share her stories with them. After she finished, she faced the heart-wrenching question, “Who will tell us more stories?”
- One Gambian asked Elizabeth, “Why did you come so far to tell me these stories?”
- Another asked Hope, “[So] I can’t get to heaven by my good works?”



RESOURCE

WEBSITE sbcv.org/mobilizing
CONTACT 888.234.7716 for details from your region’s missionary

DEVIN OSBORNE MODELS **TITUS 2**

Tammy Bennett
Women's Ministry Strategist

Devin knew something wasn't right. She could hear it in her mom's voice. "What's wrong?" she asked. In an instant, Devin went from feeling like the happiest person in the world to feeling crushed—her beloved great-grandmother had passed away. Her heart ached over the loss of her Granny—her mentor whom she loved and had spent her entire summer caring for.

Raised in a Christian home, Devin Osborne learned at an early age what it meant to be mentored and saw God's

hand in the lives of others. "I have always seen God work in unbelievable ways in my church," says Devin, "but this past year, [He] has been working in my life in indescribable ways."

Before Devin received that fateful call, she was on top of the world. She had just begun her freshman year at Liberty University, where she'd dreamed of attending since she was a little girl. She was already making friends and settling into a routine, prayerfully expectant about all God had for her there.

Devin returned home to help her family arrange the funeral details. By the end of the week, she was emotionally spent and ready to head back to school, but it didn't provide the relief she expected. "When I arrived back to campus," shares Devin, "everything seemed so different, and I didn't know why. My friends appeared indifferent and distant, and I didn't know what to do." Over the next several weeks, Devin found herself feeling deserted by her friends, devastated over Granny's death, disconnected from her life-long dream, and disappointed in the way things were turning out.

She started praying more earnestly, seeking the Lord for guidance. Over time, He steadily replaced her college dream with a desire to model Him in the lives of teen girls. She clearly sensed the Lord directing her to leave Liberty and return to her home church to carry on the mentorship her great-grandmother had started with her. At the end of her first semester, Devin packed her car and

Have you ever considered
being a Titus 2 model?
Make a difference in
someone's life today.

headed home for good.

Devin's new goal was, first and foremost, to mentor young girls into the Kingdom and secondly, to model what it means to live your faith out loud. Devin prayerfully sought to be a Titus 2 model—a trusted friend, confidant, and mentor to the teenage girls at Mountain View Baptist Church in Independence, VA.

Through SBCV's Women's Ministry, Devin chose and was able to borrow *His Girl: A Bible Study for Teens* by Vicki Courtney. Over the next six months, she led the study with teenagers at Mountain View, and God worked in amazing ways, transforming lives and growing the girls' faith. At a youth night hosted by another local church, one of the girls Devin had been mentoring and specifically praying for made her way to the altar at the invitation. Devin quickly followed. Trembling, Adanna turned to her and said, "I want to stand for Jesus and get baptized." In a moment, all of the other girls involved in Devin's small group made their way forward to support and encourage Adanna in her decision. A few weeks later, she stood before the congregation at Mountain View Baptist Church, professed her faith in Christ, and was baptized.

As Devin mentors them, the girls are, in



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the Titus 2 Model

Women of All Ages Mentoring Women of All Ages

Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that is appropriate for someone serving the Lord. They must not go around speaking evil of others and must not be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to take care of their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.

— Titus 2:3-5

turn, mentoring younger preteens. They call this mentoring project, “My Sister’s Keeper,” designed to help preteen girls see that becoming a follower of Jesus is awesome and fulfilling. Every week, the older ones write notes to the younger ones, encouraging them in their faith and teaching them lessons they learned from the *His Girl* Bible study. The preteens have even written letters of their own. “We don’t change the Gospel,” says Devin. “Instead, we take it to their level so they can understand it and relate.” Although the teen girls intended to

bless their younger counterparts, they themselves have been blessed.

The Titus 2 Model of mentoring has taught Devin and the girls she’s encouraged that age doesn’t matter and that both being mentored and mentoring make a difference.

Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. (Timothy 4:12)



RESOURCE

WEBSITE For more information on the Women’s Ministry resources available for loan to SBCV churches, please visit: sbcv.org/mens_and_womens_ministries, scroll down to “Resources,” and click on the link.

CONTACT You may contact Tammy at tbenett@sbcv.org or by telephoning her at 888.234.7716.

SOCIAL NETWORK

Twitter: twitter.com/SBCVgal

*Devin and the teens she is mentoring
(l-r) Kate, Sarah, Taylor, Olivia,
Shelby, Adanna*





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MAY

Regional Pastor & Staff Power Meals

Mission Project: BGR Kits for Kids

- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 3-5 ESL Regional Train-the-Trainer
- 7-8 Executive Board
- 13 *Mother's Day*
- 19 Bible Drill
- 22 Intern Training
- 24 Regional Church Planter Networks
- 28 *Memorial Day*

JUNE

FindItHere.com Race Season (June-July)

Mission Project: Bibles for Southern Africa

Mission Plant Emphasis Month

- 16 Crossover, SBC Annual Meeting
- 17 *Father's Day*
- 19-20 SBC Annual Meeting
- 24 Missions: Dignity Sunday
(formerly Adopt an Annuitant Sunday)
- 24-29 Families on Mission
- 28 Regional Church Planter Networks

JULY

FindItHere.com Race Season (June-July)

Mission Project: Bibles for Southern Africa

- 4 *Independence Day*
- 9-13 Studentz Camp
- 11 Youth Speakers' Tournament at Studentz Camp
- 15 Serving Your Community Sunday

AUGUST

Regional Pastor & Staff Power Meals

Mission Project: Baby Kits for ARM

- 23 Statewide Church Planter Network

Mission Projects

**Bibles for
Southern Africa**

June - July
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CHURCH LEARNS ABOUT GOD'S PLAN FOR STEWARDSHIP

Gary Horton
Church Health Strategist, Southwest Region

Most of us are familiar with Solomon's teaching in Proverbs 22:6 (KJV): "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." According to Jack Rutherford, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church in Rural Retreat, VA, this verse holds the key to our future. He is dedicated, therefore, to making sure all who attend Sharon Baptist Church have been trained regarding what God's Word says about stewardship.

When we have a divided allegiance to God and money, says Pastor Jack, poor stewardship follows. As Matthew 6:24 (HCSB) says, "No one can be a slave of two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot be slaves of God and of money." With a burden for his church to practice godly stewardship and with the Lord's leading, Pastor Jack decided to host a stewardship conference at Sharon Baptist two years ago. During the conference, church members were taught about God's ownership of all things and what His Word says about debt and work habits. Not only did they learn how to manage their money; they also learned how to be a faithful steward of the physical talents God has given them.

The congregation took advantage of the conference and walked away with a better appreciation of the Bible as it relates to stewardship. "Since the conference," says Pastor Jack, "our giving has remained constant even though many have been hit hard with the economic downturn. We have also seen many of our members using their God-given talents to minister to others in our community." One man offered to do simple repairs for those who need assistance. Another offered to cut firewood for people in need. One lady volunteered to help a handicapped member do housework and other tasks with which she needs assistance. The pastor shared that these are just a few of the many members who have applied what they've learned about stewardship from God's Word.

Pastor Jack has recently started teaching *Financial Peace University* (by Dave Ramsey) on Sunday nights because some in the congregation wanted to learn even more about managing God's resources! What about you? Are you being the best steward of what God has entrusted to you?

Mission Projects

April – May

Baptist Global Response **BGR Kits for Kids**

June – July

Bibles for Southern Africa

August – September

Baby Kits for ARM Appalachian Regional Ministry

September – October

Vision Virginia State Missions Offering

October – November

Gleaning for the World

November – December

Lottie Moon

Christmas

Offering

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JUNE 30

Old Dominion Speedway, Manassas

JULY 3

South Boston Speedway, South Boston

JULY 4

Motor Mile Speedway,
Christiansburg/Radford

JULY 21

Langley Motor Speedway, Hampton