

# visionvirginia Proclaimer

## Church Planting in Africa

SBC of Virginia Pastor  
Now an African Church Planter

## From Virginia to Colorado

Virginia Church Planter  
Answers the Call to Reach  
Western Colorado

Students  
Step Up to  
Church Plants'  
Opportunities

Lifepoint Church  
Launches 2<sup>nd</sup> Location  
in Only Two Months

SPECIAL CENTER SECTION:  
**Annual Homecoming**

Nov Dec Jan 2012-13

A PUBLICATION OF THE SBC OF VIRGINIA



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

Visit SBC of Virginia online  
by scanning this QR code  
with your smartphone.

## FROM THE EDITOR



Brandon Pickett  
bpickett@sbcv.org  
facebook.com/brandon.pickett  
@brandonpick

## FROM ROANOKE TO ZAMBIA

**THE SMITH STORY—A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP  
WORKING THROUGH A POWERFUL GOD!**

**H**ave you ever thought you knew someone quite well but when you spent a little more time with that person, he/she surprised you? Sometimes the surprise can be for the worse, but isn't it nice when it's for the better? That happened to me just a few weeks ago, and I had to travel more than 7,000 miles to discover the rest of the story.

I've known Mike Smith for a number of years. In fact, it was at an SBC of Virginia event in the mid-2000s that I was first introduced to this pastor from Deerfield Baptist Church. My wife then met Mike's wife Amy not long after at a pastors' wives event not long after. We immediately thought highly of this great couple and were sad that we couldn't spend more time with them. But it wasn't until Mike was called to reach the NKoya people in Zambia, Africa, that I really started digging into his story.

It's amazing how the call of God on a life can be so powerful—powerful enough to take a family out of their comfort zone and away from a church that loves and supports them to a mission field half a world away. It's also amazing how a coalition of churches (such as the SBC of Virginia) with its powerful partnership can introduce a young, relatively new pastor to his

new calling. You are a part of this partnership. You are a part of this missionary's ministry even though you may have never met him. Through your prayers, Cooperative Program gifts, and the Lottie Moon offering, you provide the resources for Mike and his family to live and serve among the peoples for whom God has now called them to give their lives.

I thought I knew Mike pretty well. I've heard his story a number of times. But having the opportunity to spend time with him and his family on the Zambian mission field gave me a whole new perspective. God is using the Smiths' mightily to plant churches (four new churches

in four years!), disciple new believers, translate the Scriptures (in the NKoyan language) and evangelize. Oh, and if that weren't enough, the NKoya high chief (or king) calls Mike his pastor and has given him total freedom to spiritually serve the entire tribe. But at his very heart, Mike is still a man who loves the Lord, loves his family, and is broken for a people called the NKoya.

I could write so much more, but this story is one you really have to see and hear for yourself. And you will get that opportunity at this year's Annual Homecoming! From the Roanoke Valley through the suburbs of Staunton to the back bush of Zambia—the Smith story is really one of a powerful partnership working through a powerful God!



# Proclaimer

TELLING ABOUT THE AMAZING  
THINGS GOD IS DOING  
THROUGH HIS CHURCH

**PUBLISHER** Dr. Brian Autry  
SBC of Virginia  
bautry@sbcv.org

**EDITOR** Brandon Pickett  
Innovative Faith Resources  
bpickett@sbcv.org

**COPY EDITOR** Christina Garland  
SBC of Virginia  
cgarland@sbcv.org

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Patti Spencer  
Innovative Faith Resources  
pspencer@sbcv.org

### WRITERS

BRIAN AUTRY	RON KIDD
LARRY BLACK	STEVE MALTEMPI
DAVID BOUNDS	JACK NOBLE
STEVE BRADSHAW	BRANDON PICKETT
MARK CUSTALOW	SUE SAWYER
CHRIS DOWD	DARRELL WEBB
RANDY HAHN	BILL WENNERSTEN

The *Proclaimer* is a collaborative effort of the missionaries of the SBC of Virginia (SBCV). As a ministry of the SBCV's Cooperative Program, the *Proclaimer* is published four times annually.

The SBC of Virginia is a fellowship of Southern Baptist Convention churches cooperating to assist local congregations in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 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](http://sbcv.org/resources/proclaimer)

### ADVERTISING

For advertising information or to request a *Proclaimer* advertising package, email [bpickett@sbcv.org](mailto:bpickett@sbcv.org) or call 888-234-7716.

Advertising in the *Proclaimer* does not imply editorial endorsement.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF YOUR LIFE

"If you happened to die today, do you know if you would go to heaven?"

It's the most important question of your life because **YOUR DESTINY FOR ALL ETERNITY** depends on your answer. God says that in order to go to heaven, you must be born again. He gives us a plan of salvation, how to be born again, in the Bible. His plan is simple!

First, you must realize you are a sinner and that you are condemned to death (an eternal separation from God in a place called hell). *Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death..."*

But God loved you so much that he gave His only Son to die for you, to take your place and pay your sin debt. *Romans 6:23, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."*

We can see what's required for salvation in Romans 10:9, *"that if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

## Basically, it's as simple as A-B-C!

**A** **Admit you're a sinner who needs to be saved.** *Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

**B** **Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again.** *Romans 10:9, "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

**C** **Commit to accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord.** *Romans 10:23, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Would you be willing to pray this prayer with a heart of faith, trusting and believing what the Bible says about Jesus and His love for you?

*"Oh, God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me. I believe His shed blood paid the price for my sin, and that His death, burial, and resurrection were all for me. I now receive Him as my personal Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and for the gifts of salvation and eternal life. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."*

Take God at His Word and claim His gift of salvation. Remember, it's God who does the saving—not your good works, not your family pedigree, and not your church. Believe and you will be saved.

## CONTENTS | Proclaimer

2012-13 EDITION — VOL. 14, NO. 4



## 12-13 Annual Homecoming Schedule and Speakers

SBC of Virginia churches celebrate the Gospel partnership that unites us in our common Christ-given mission for reaching our neighbors and the nations.

- 4 Changing the Way You Think
- 5 Behind the Scenes
- 6 Church Planters' Training Ground
- 7 Keep the Jars Coming
- 8 Roca Eterna
- 10 An Incredible Birthday Celebration
- 11 Teens Doing Significant Ministry
- 14 Meet the Blakes
- 14 From the SBC of Virginia President
- 17 Name Changed—Mission the Same
- 18 Not Just Another Camp
- 20 New Life Community Church
- 21 The Power of Partnership

## COVER LOOK

This month's cover, *Church Planting in Africa*, was created from a photo taken by Innovative Faith Resources while documenting Mike Smith's church planting effort in Africa. The cover was created exclusively for the SBC of Virginia. For information on Innovative Faith Resources, email [ifr@innovativefaith.org](mailto:ifr@innovativefaith.org).

**LOTTIE MOON  
Christmas Offering**

2012 Week of Prayer for  
International Missions

Dec 2-9

**BE**

**HIS HEART / HIS HANDS / HIS VOICE**

SBC of Virginia Goal  
\$3 million





# CHANGING The Way You Think ABOUT CHURCH

*Above, Lead Pastor Stuart Hodges*

**S**ince its birth, Waters Edge Church (WEC) in Yorktown, VA has experienced tremendous growth. Lead Pastor Stuart Hodges started WEC in 2002 with 50 people and, 10 years later, the average worship attendance is 3,300 between two locations. What has fueled this growth is found in the church's mission statement: *At Waters Edge, we are going to change the way you think about church.*

## **They have changed the way church is done.**

When Pastor Stewart started out, he envisioned a new kind of church that was different from the traditional church. The difference is seen through high-energy, creative services consisting of contemporary music, drama, video, and practical teaching. Their goal has been to reach the unchurched people on the peninsula.

## **They have changed where the church is located.**

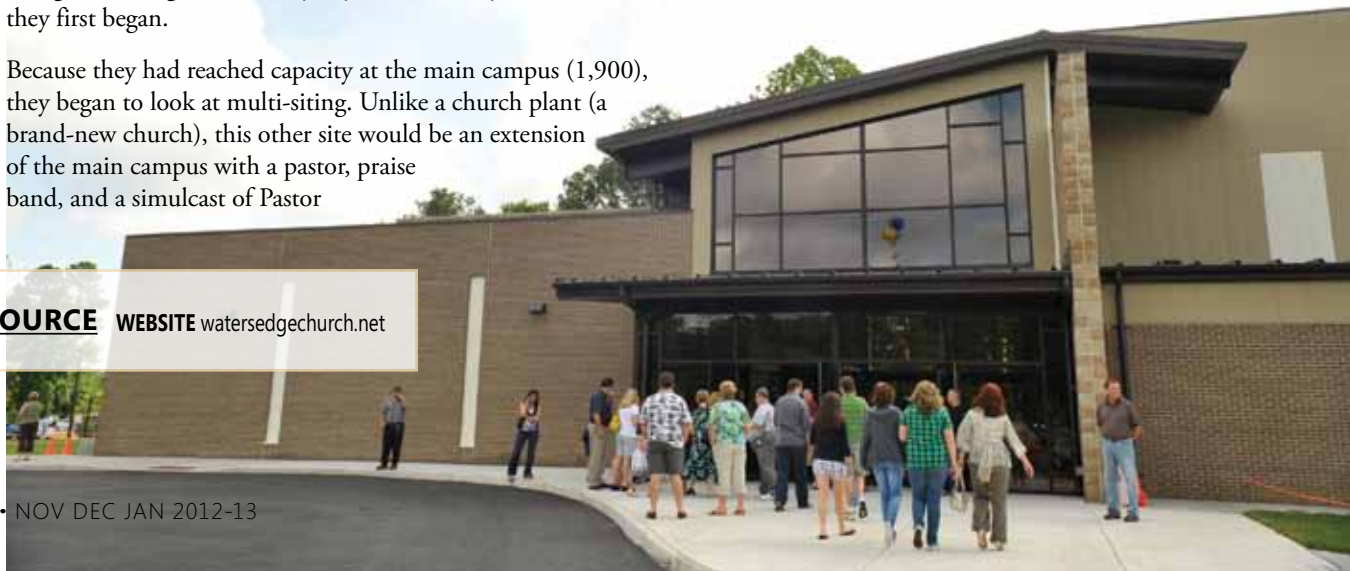
In the beginning, they met in the Victory Family YMCA and grew significantly over the next seven years. In 2009, they moved into their permanent location (what is now the main campus) and, in the first year there, the church grew by 85% and accommodated that growth with five services. God was doing something that was way beyond what they had seen when they first began.

Because they had reached capacity at the main campus (1,900), they began to look at multi-siting. Unlike a church plant (a brand-new church), this other site would be an extension of the main campus with a pastor, praise band, and a simulcast of Pastor

Stu's message. With this direction, they opened WEC Hampton in March of 2011, and it has grown impressively with no letting up at the Yorktown campus. Now they are looking at opening a second satellite location in Newport News in November of 2012. After an appeal to the church for volunteers, 500 – 600 members committed to go to the new location. There is a movement here that will likely lead to additional locations.

Sometimes large, growing churches are accused of only being concerned about the numbers. At WEC, that is true. It is *all* about the numbers! Not just about how many are coming but how many are *not* coming. From the beginning, WEC's target has been people, not buildings. They have a vision for reaching the over 550,000 people that live within a 10-mile radius of all three locations. Just recently in all seven services, Pastor Stu read names from a phone book (yes, he had to explain what that was to the under-30 group) and asked, "Do you know this person?" The intention was to help the church see that it should never become satisfied with the number that are attending. There are still so many more who need to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus.

**There is no doubt that Waters Edge Church is *continuing* to change the way we think about "church."**



**RESOURCE** WEBSITE [watersedgechurch.net](http://watersedgechurch.net)



# BEHIND THE SCENES

A LOOK AT EQUIPPING CHURCH PLANTING TEAMS

For many years, Southern Baptist church planters had little to no training available to them that specifically addressed the how-to's of church planting. In 1995, mission leaders at the Home Mission Board began the arduous task of developing a training curriculum that was ultimately titled *Basic Training*. For 17 years now, thousands of church planting teams have gathered for centralized *Basic Training* events taught by Southern Baptist church planting leaders across the United States and Canada. In recent years, SBC of Virginia (SBCV) church planting leaders have offered this training to church planting teams at least twice a year. At first, the training events were held over a four-day period, which made for a very intensive training dynamic. More recently, *Basic Training* has been offered over the course of two weekends with a break between the two to allow ample time for processing and applying the information received. In each case, *Basic Training* was conducted at the SBCV Glen Allen Mission Support Center.

In 2010, SBCV church planting leaders began to consider the need for an updated training curriculum. The desire was to have a curriculum that was consistent with our missiology of churches planting churches; that provided practical insights from recent church planting practitioners; and that could be taught in numerous settings.

Former SBCV church planter, Ben Arment, was selected to be a co-editor with Mark Custalow, SBCV's church planting team leader. Ten other SBCV church planters were selected to write original material for the new curriculum. Each writer had been involved in planting SBCV churches that have grown to be healthy multiplying churches—making disciples and planting new churches. Together this group designed the content to be covered and wrote from insights and wisdom gleaned through their own church planting experiences. Having been a church planter himself, Dr. Brian Autry (SBCV's new executive director) wrote a unit of the curriculum that describes the history, values, and vision of the SBC of Virginia. That unit makes



a clear case for cooperating together for the work of the Gospel.

The new curriculum was piloted in January of 2012 with nine church planting teams. Based on observations and feedback from the pilot weekend, revisions were made to make the content and related exercises even stronger. In October 2012, *PLANT: Equipping for Church Planting Teams* in its final form was taught to nine teams.

To enable churches to be more directly involved in planting churches, the new *PLANT* curriculum has been written in a manner that allows church planters to be trained in the context of their own sending church. Currently, there are eight established SBCV church plants that are training their own church planters and partnering with the SBCV to place them in under-reached communities across Virginia and Washington, DC. Such churches are referred to as church planting centers (CPCs). These churches typically adopt a specific geographic area or people group in need of the Gospel and train church planting teams from within their church to go and plant churches among those areas/people groups.

The SBCV Church Planting Team will continue to partner with churches and church planting centers to train church planting teams with the new *PLANT* curriculum in both centralized and on-site venues. To learn more about *PLANT*, go to [sbcv.org/church\\_planting](http://sbcv.org/church_planting) or talk to the SBCV church planting strategist located nearest you.



**RESOURCE WEBSITE** [sbcv.org/church\\_planting](http://sbcv.org/church_planting)

## Regional Women's Conferences



in-person!

PRISCILLA  
SHIRER  
LIVE  
SIMULCAST

APRIL 27, 2013  
RICHMOND, VA

- MARCH 9** CENTRAL-WEST & SOUTHSIDE Regions combined (Lynchburg area)
- MARCH 16** NORTH Region
- APRIL 6** SOUTHWEST Region (Abingdon/Bristol area)
- APRIL 13** VALLEY Region (Roanoke area)
- APRIL 27** Statewide Women's Events Combined!  
PRISCILLA SHIRER with Regional Women's Conference  
CENTRAL-EAST Region,  
Grove Ave. BC, Richmond
- MAY 4** SOUTHEAST Region

# Church Planters Training Ground

**A**lmost two years ago, God brought Kevin McGinn and his wife Carrie to the city of Lynchburg, VA so Kevin could further his training in pastoral ministry at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (LBTS). He came with his own understanding of what pastoral ministry meant based upon his own experiences in churches around Central Massachusetts. His ideas about his calling and direction in life, however, soon began to change.

Kevin recalled, "...as I began my coursework at LBTS, it became apparent to me that my idea of 'pastoral ministry' was lacking in substance. Sitting under the teaching of men like Rod Dempsey, Dave Wheeler, and Dave Earley exposed my ears to the word 'multiplication'—a word they sometimes seemed to say as many times as they could within one class period."

The more Kevin wrestled with the concept of church multiplication and the more he spoke with his professors, the more he discovered a deep calling to plant a church. God is now uniting his passion for pastoral ministry with his passion for the people of New England and his newfound passion for church planting.

"Soon after we realized God was calling us to plant churches, my wife and I (with the counsel of trusted mentors) decided to find a church-planting church that would be able to serve as a training ground for our future ministry," said Kevin.

This is where Bedrock came into the story God is writing for Kevin's life. At the same time that Kevin was discovering his calling to church planting, we (Bedrock Community Church in Bedford, VA) were discovering our calling to train church planters.

"On our first visit to Bedrock," Kevin explained, "we were handed a bulletin, which contained the church's vision—build relationships, build believers, build churches—and the message we heard was concluded with a pledge from Chris Dowd of the leadership's commitment to train up church planters in fulfillment of that vision. I knew then that Bedrock was the place for us."

How could we be that "training ground" that he was searching for? What could we offer to help train Kevin and others like him in a way that could not be achieved in a classroom? In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he challenged him with these words, "You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:1-2, ESV). God has certainly taught us a lot in planting Bedrock, and we are still learning every day. Whatever God has taught us, we want to be faithful to give to other faithful men. Whatever is in our "cup," we want to pour into theirs. The way we are attempting to accomplish this is through developing our own church planting center, a training hub for church planters.

The Apostle Paul also reminds us of the charge that sits before all ministers of the Gospel: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Tim.



*"...what is preparing me the most for a ministry of multiplication is being able to sit at a roundtable with men who are willing to commit to me the things they have learned."*

*Kevin McGinn and family*

2:15, ESV). That challenge involves elements of personal integrity, calling, theology, and ministry. We desired to help encourage and equip the members of this program through that journey of discovery. We wanted to develop a program that would help others grow in each of these critical areas. The result would not just be planting churches but seeing approved, unashamed, faithful servants being sent out to deliver the Word of truth.

So in the summer of 2012, Bedrock Community Church started our own church planter training program. It is our desire to invest in the church planter himself as a man, a theologian, and a leader. We lean heavily upon an "experiential learning" approach. We want all of the guys not only to have some roundtable classroom environments but also to be able to get hands-on experience in a church plant setting. At the time of this writing, God has brought us 12 men and their families, who come together twice a month for a period of one year. At the same time, they are all getting plugged into various ministries throughout our church and participating in one-on-one mentoring with our staff. Our prayer is that at the end of this first year, churches will be planted, the Kingdom will be advanced, and God will be glorified.

As Kevin puts it, "I've been in full-time ministry, I've been ordained, I've been to seminary, but what I believe is preparing me the most for a ministry of multiplication is being able to sit at a roundtable two nights a month with men who are willing to commit to me the things they have learned so that I am able to do the same with others also."

That sounds a lot like 2 Timothy 2:1-2 to me.

*The Author — Chris Dowd, Executive Pastor, Bedrock Church, Bedford, VA and Associate Church Planting Strategist for the SBC of Virginia*



**RESOURCE WEBSITE** [bedrockchurch.com](http://bedrockchurch.com)

# KEEP THE JARS COMING

Pastor Daniel Floyd and Lifepoint Church (LC) in Fredericksburg have come to understand the amazing biblical principle of Elisha and the widow in 2 Kings 4:1-7.

"YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE BUT A JAR OF OIL...GO BORROW (EMPTY) VESSELS FROM EVERYWHERE...WHEN THE VESSELS WERE FULL...THE OIL CEASED."

The exponential growth Lifepoint has experienced since it began in 2005 with 50 people can only be explained as a work of the Lord. In recent months, they welcomed growing pains, which created challenges and caused them to evaluate their meeting space's seating capacity. Creative Arts Pastor Josh Lazar explained that worship service attendance on Easter Sunday swelled to 1,800. They were over 100% seating capacity at Riverbend High School. Pastor Daniel cast a "Join the 300" prayer vision. His challenge was for 300 of the church to pray and to commit to attending the new 8:30 AM service. God moved in the hearts of 700 people to move to the earlier service. After the first month of 2012, all three services at Lifepoint Church were now at 80% capacity.

What would God have them do? He revealed to Pastor Daniel, the staff, and church (through fasting, prayer, and visionary counselors) that He wanted them to not just start another service but to begin a second campus. Unthinkably, they were to launch this new site on Easter Sunday, which was in just two months! The vision was for one church in two locations with live-synch services. God was asking this church to seemingly do the impossible. In two months, Lifepoint was to:

- Gain the permit to have services on Sunday at Courtland High School in Fredericksburg.
- Acquire the necessary portable church equipment to create an identical worship experience as the original campus.
- Gain approval from the county school system to install broadcast servers and a dedicated fiber-optic link between the two campuses (schools).
- Secure a company to install fiber optic between two campuses that were seven miles apart (this would normally take six months or more to engineer and install).
- Experience two weeks of testing the equipment and the experience at Courtland before launching on Easter Sunday.

God made it happen! From the first contact, the fiber link company had everything installed in just five weeks and God even gave Lifepoint favor with the new principal at Courtland. He is using this new campus to reach families with the Gospel. Presently, Sunday worship attendance is 700. The Riverbend Campus has an average of 1,300. By the finish of 2012, Lifepoint envisions having nearly 3,000 worshippers between the two campuses. Since Courtland's launch on Easter 2012, 92 people have been baptized. At the time of this writing, 340 people have accepted Jesus as Savior through the ministry of both campuses in 2012. The ministry volunteer rate has grown at Lifepoint from 690 in 2011 to over 1,000 in 2012. Lifepoint has been faithful to "love on" the faculty and staff and add value to the facilities of the schools.

God has allowed the church to purchase a new facility in Fredericksburg that will open in the fall of 2013. The church will then have the capacity to reach another 4,500 people at that campus. The vision of Lifepoint Church is to reach 25,000 people from Richmond to DC by launching campuses up and down the I-95 corridor. God has continued to bless Lifepoint because, as Josh Lazar testified, "The oil does not stop until the believer runs out of jars."



Pastor Daniel at Riverbend Campus

## Proclaimer



stay connected  
more than 570 churches  
in the SBC of Virginia  
fellowship

### TARGET YOUR MESSAGE

ADVERTISE IN THE  
PROCLAIMER

approximately 30,000 readers

### A PROVEN RESOURCE

FOR OVER 10 YEARS

published quarterly

For advertising information,  
email [bpickett@sbcv.org](mailto:bpickett@sbcv.org)  
or call 888-234-7716.



**RESOURCE WEBSITE** [visitlifepoint.org](http://visitlifepoint.org)

**VBS** FREE! EARLY-BIRD OVERVIEW 2013  
Saturday, March 2  
Offered in each region  
Features LifeWay 2013 Curriculum

Learn more at  
[sbcv.org/vbs!](http://sbcv.org/vbs!)

SBC OF VIRGINIA



# ROCA ETERNA

## REACHING LOST PEOPLE, MAKING DISCIPLES, AND STARTING CHURCHES



*(left) church planter/pastor Manuel Chacon teaching, (right) Manuel posing with men who were disciplined to become church leaders*

**W**e are living today in a fast-paced world connected by rapidly evolving technology and constant change. For some, it is difficult to keep up with the changes we face daily and all the new ideas that confront us. This is not only true in the world around us but also in our approaches to church ministry and church planting. Many leaders and churches want to be on the cutting edge of what they see as a move of the Holy Spirit in reaching their communities and the world with the Good News.

Church planting centers (CPCs) are viewed as one of these new, cutting-edge ideas. However, they're actually an old idea straight from the Book of Acts in the New Testament. Everywhere followers of Jesus went, they started new churches, and the church at Antioch hit a whole new level. At Antioch, equipped disciples were sent out to reach the world with the Gospel. In a few years, they were said to have “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6, ESV). It was a movement of the Holy Spirit in the expansion of the Kingdom of God and is very much what the SBCV would love to see happen today through churches and church planting centers.

One contemporary definition of what a church planting center is comes from the North American Mission Board: “Church planting centers are environments where multiple disciples are intentionally cultivated, selected, developed, and sent with support to

make disciples which result in new churches.” One example is Iglesia Bautista Roca Eterna in Dale City, VA.

Under the leadership of Church Planter/Pastor Manuel Chacon, Roca Eterna began by meeting in homes with the intention of honoring Jesus; sharing His love and the Gospel; and making disciples who would, in turn, make disciples. They were fruitful in their work, and the church began to grow. As the church grew, so did Manuel's vision for the larger Hispanic community around them. He realized that his work needed to be like that of a missionary—not just a pastor. Manuel perceived the need for many new churches to be started just like in the Book of Acts. To reach people with the Gospel, he began to build a biblical strategy to identify workers for the harvest from his congregation and equip them for the work of evangelism and church planting. As he began to put his strategy into place, the conviction that churches plant churches—one of the most effective ways to reach the lost—became part of the church's mission.

Classes were started to train church members

in the Bible; how to share the Gospel; how to teach the Bible; and how to plant churches. In cases where men are identified as being potential church planters/pastors, preaching opportunities are provided during Sunday worship. Time is also spent with each man in one-on-one discipleship training.

In the past five years, Roca Eterna has sent out and partnered with four church plants in Northern Virginia and one more in North Carolina. This is what a church planting center is about, just like in the Book of Acts—reaching lost people with the Gospel, making disciples, and starting new churches.



### RESOURCE

**WEBSITE** [churchplantingvillage.net/ChurchPlantingCenters](http://churchplantingvillage.net/ChurchPlantingCenters)

**BOOK** *The Kingdom Matrix* by Jeff Christopherson, Russell Media

# MedAdvance 2012

*Connecting Health Care Professionals with Strategic Global Evangelization*



**GLOBAL MEDICAL ALLIANCE**  
*Meeting Human Needs for Eternity*



**Oct. 11-13, 2012**  
**International Learning Center**  
**Rockville, Va.**

**For health care professionals, missions ministers ...  
 anyone interested in health care missions**

**Program highlights:**

- Keynote speakers: Tom Elliff, Gordon Fort, Rick Donlon
- Health care missionaries from all over the world
- Bible study, prayer and worship
- Networking to discover how you can get involved

**imb**  
*connecting*

Registration at [www.regonline.com/MedAdvance2012](http://www.regonline.com/MedAdvance2012)



# An Incredible Birthday Celebration

*Pastors Gus Agostino and Paul McDaniel*

**S**unday, September 9, 2012, Family Life Church of Ashland hosted a wonderful celebration of the birth of its three-year-old church plant, Family Life Church of Aylett.

Over 150 people from both churches assembled together to enjoy an incredible assortment of culinary delights; fellowship together; and worship the Lord by recalling what He has done since the September 2009 beginning of the Aylett church. Both Paul McDaniel (SBCV catalytic church planter and pastor of Family Life of Ashland) and Gus Agostino (bi-vocational church planter of Family Life of Aylett) were visibly moved as they recounted God's amazing faithfulness during this journey. As every mother can attest, giving birth is not without a measure of discomfort, pain, and suffering. Yet, every mother accepts this reality in order to receive the matchless joy and blessing of having children. Similarly, bringing into existence a new body of believers is not without its own measure of sacrifices but likewise, is greatly fulfilling.

Since its inception, Family Life of Aylett has seen many lives transformed by the power of the Gospel and now averages over 100 in Sunday worship attendance. It is the fastest-growing and one of the largest churches in King William County. Pastor Gus is quick to testify

that the amazing things that have happened in Aylett are all because of God's incredible and marvelous grace.

Not only is God's blessing obvious in Aylett, but Family Life of Ashland, the mother church, is also experiencing His favor. The church has been provided with a facility in a key location in one of Ashland's main shopping areas. This new meeting place has provided instant visibility in a prominent place in town and the ability to establish permanence and have a site that can be used 24/7. Pastor Paul is thrilled with all that God is doing in and through the church to reach people in Ashland with the Good News of the Gospel. As a catalytic church planter, he has a vision to see a whole network of churches all over his region.

One of the highlights of the birthday party was the wonderful announcement that the Family Life members will soon experience another new birth! In the spring of 2013, the two churches will send out families to plant a new church. Although both churches will be working together to establish the new church in Hanover, Pastor Gus and the folks at Aylett have agreed to spearhead this new plant. This will be their first church plant.

So in a way, Family Life of Ashland will be a grandparent! What a joy to see church plants birthing new church plants! In the coming days, let us pray for a record number of these kinds of birthday parties!



**RESOURCE WEBSITE** [familylifehanover.com](http://familylifehanover.com)

## TO DO THIS MONTH:

- ↳ Logo Update
- ↳ Promo Video
- ↳ Website Redesign
- ↳ Livestream Events
- ↳ Community Marketing
- ↳ Church Banners

## CALL THESE GUYS:

804-665-1448



Media • Marketing • Branding • Financial Services | (804) 665-1448

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

# TEENS Doing Significant Ministry

Across the nation, teenagers are doing significant ministry inside and outside of the church. In church plants, students often have even more opportunities to serve. Because the pool of ministry volunteers in church plants is small, students may have the ability to step into ministry positions usually reserved for adults. I recently heard about a 17-year-old at a church plant who was instrumental in discipling a 12-year-old unto salvation and had the opportunity to baptize him—amazing! (Yes, the 17-year-old was a mature, solid believer and was under the leadership of the student pastor in a local church.)

Caleb Smith is a senior at Tabb High School in Yorktown, VA. His family was one of 10 families with teens originally involved in planting Catalyst Church with Church Planter/Pastor Jeff Mingee. Caleb ministers on the setup/tear-down team to turn a store-front café into a church setting. Caleb and a couple of other youth arrive early to replace 30 tables and chairs with rows of chairs then hang a curtain across the glass front to limit distractions. The thing he enjoys most about being involved in a church plant is that the congregation is able to follow the Lord's leading without the typical church structure of approvals, etc.

"Morgan Dean is a rock star!" said Rob Shepherd, church planter/pastor of Next Level Church in Newport News, VA. "She's been with us since our very first interest meeting in February 2012." Morgan, a 17-year-old senior, ministers to the 2- and 3-year-olds each week, teaching them Bible stories and lessons. The children's director, Amber Amezcuca, testified of the good reports she receives from parents about the great job Morgan is doing. In addition to her service at the church plant, Morgan had her dog certified as a registered therapy dog. The two make weekly trips to the Cancer Center to sit with patients while they receive chemo treatments. She also volunteers at the HELP Banquet for homeless in her area. Needless to say, Morgan is a busy girl!

Not only are students involved in significant ministry at church plants, but those plants often receive visiting student mission groups to further their work. One such group came to Jonesville, VA in June 2012 from Trinity Baptist Church in Ocala, FL and worked with Church Planter/Pastor Randy Aldridge at Christian Life Fellowship. Trinity's youth pastor, Mark Owens, explained the unique perspective gained from ministering with a church plant:

*"Over the past several years of doing mission trips for students, I have noticed a difference when it comes to serving with a church planter.*

*"The first thing I noticed is Randy loves his people. This seems like a no-brainer, but when you work with a church planter, his heart is for the people, and the work that gets done is a byproduct.*

...students are impacting the world for Christ.



*"Second, I (as a student pastor) get to teach the details of the Southern Baptist Convention and its entities. So many students today do not hear about the big picture of how God uses all SBC churches to work together to further the Kingdom and support our missionaries. It is a huge eye-opener for our students when they begin to learn about the Cooperative Program and state missions and become a part of it by working and [to learn that] it all starts by tithing in the local church.*

*"Third, our students get to learn about the people and the culture of the area they are serving in. In return, it allows students to be better missionaries.*

*"I believe all types of mission trips are beneficial for students, but working with church planters like Randy allows our students to develop a heart for people and realize that they are a small part of God's amazing work for the Kingdom through the SBC."*

Inside and outside the walls of their churches, students are impacting the world for Christ. One way to provide them an outlet for service is through SBCV Studentz Camp. With the Missions Track option, students can serve alongside church plants in ministry and evangelism. Scan this QR code to read about 2012's Missions Track.

For 2013, Studentz Camp will expand to an additional location in the Richmond area, which will be even more focused on missions. Fusion Mission Camp—the best of camp and missions—will take place June 23-27, starting at just \$99/person. Students will do missions every day in addition to the camp features they love. There will also be an opportunity to attend Kingsfest at Kings Dominion after camp. Registration is now open, and more information will be posted online soon.





# Transforming the WORLD

## SBC of Virginia ANNUAL HOMECOMING

November 11-13, 2012

Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton

At their annual meeting, SBC of Virginia churches celebrate the Gospel partnership we have that unites us in our common Christ-given mission for reaching our neighbors and the nations. We celebrate what God is doing and seek God's direction in fulfilling His Great Commission.

### SCHEDULE

#### **Nov. 11, 2012— Sunday Evening, 6:30 – 8:45 PM**

This session includes:

- Praise & worship and special music led by Liberty Baptist choir and praise team
- **Q&A with Blake Koch**
- **Message: David Miller**

#### **Nov. 12, 2012 — Monday Morning**

**9:00 – 11:30 AM**

This session includes:

- Praise & worship led by the Liberty Baptist praise team
- Recognition of seminaries
- Breakout session 1 (9:15 – 10:15)
- Breakout session 2 (10:30 – 11:30)

11:45 AM — Seminary Luncheons, off site (visit your seminary's exhibit for more information), or lunch on your own

#### **Monday Afternoon, 1:25 – 4:45 PM**

This session includes:

- Special music by Sounds of Liberty
- Theme introduction: Tim Hight
- Call to order:
  - » Introduction of business and reports
  - » Approval of 2011 Annual Homecoming minutes
  - » Treasurer's Report
  - » Executive Board recommendations
    - 1. Affiliation requests
    - 2. Ministry Investment Plan
    - 3. Nominating Committee Report
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> chapters/Clint Clifton
- **Message: Ellis Prince**

4:45 PM — Church Planters' Dinner (by invitation only), Women's Dinner (tickets required), or dinner on your own

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Randy Hahn | Ellis Prince | Michael Catt | Afshin Ziafat | David Miller



## SPECIAL MUSIC

Sounds of Liberty



## FEATURING

Compelling Stories

Scriptural Challenges

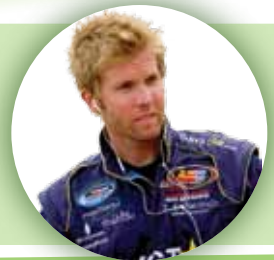
Renewing Relationships

New Executive Director Installation

Breakouts with Practical Ministry Insights

## SPECIAL GUEST

Blake Koch,  
NASCAR driver



### Monday Evening, 6:45 – 8:45 PM

This session includes:

- Special music by Sounds of Liberty
- New Executive Director installation
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> chapters/Clint Clifton
- Eagle Awards
- North American Missions Report
- **Message: Michael Catt**

### Nov. 13, 2012 — Tuesday Morning 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This session includes:

- Special music by Sounds of Liberty
- SBCV partner reports:
  - » The Baptist Banner
  - » SBC Executive Committee
  - » Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
- Call to order:

- » Executive Director's Report
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> chapters/Mike Smith
- **President's Address: Randy Hahn**

12:00 PM — Fellowship Lunch  
(free to registered members and guests,  
tickets required)

### Tuesday Afternoon, 1:30 – 4:00 PM

This session includes:

- Special music by Sounds of Liberty
- International Missions Report
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> chapters/Mike Smith
- Call to order:
  - » Unfinished business
  - » Election of officers
- Macedonia Awards
- Pentecost Awards
- **Message: Afshin Ziafat**

 ANNUAL  
HOMECOMING

For information or to register:  
[sbcv.org/events](http://sbcv.org/events)

# MEET THE BLAKES

## ROB BLAKE—A VIRGINIA-COLORADO CHURCH PLANTER

“We spent months in prayer and regular fasting. Our goal [was] to go to an area where the Gospel is not already present.”

With a passion like that to reach the lost, you'd think Rob and Julie Blake were packing up their family to serve as missionaries overseas. However, God called them to western Colorado. While it's hard for many of us to believe, there are areas of the United States where the Gospel is practically a foreign concept. Where God led the Blakes, there is only one evangelical church for every 9,500 people!

Having served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Millstone in Nathalie, VA for three years, Rob, his wife Julie, and their three children (Branche (15), Carter (11), and Roger (9)), followed God's call to start The Grove, a church plant in Ouray, CO. This past June, they moved almost 2,000 miles across the continental US to serve as

self-funded Mission Service Corps (MSC) missionaries with the North American Mission Board.

Before the Blakes headed to Colorado, Rob and Julie graciously answered a few questions about their journey of ministry and service.

### How does MSC work?

MSC is structured so that every Southern Baptist can be directly involved. For some, this means the opportunity to go and serve. For others, it is the opportunity to become a ministry partner and financially support others to go. For still others, it means faithfully praying for those who go and those who support as ministry partners. We are supported by both individuals and churches.

### How has your education at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary prepared you?

ROB: I completed my MDiv at Liberty with a concentration in missional studies. I feel that the education has prepared us by teaching us how to learn new cultures, develop a missional strategy, contextualize the Gospel message, and plant our lives in the new area.

JULIE: I feel that classes in missions and church planting have helped equip us to understand other cultures and learn to plant a church that will, in the end, achieve the vision that God has given us.

### How has your ministry at First Baptist Millstone prepared you to plant a church?

ROB: I have learned the value of relationships and the importance of having a biblically solid discipleship method. Discipleship happens best in the ebbs and flows of everyday life and through



## FROM THE PRESIDENT SBC OF VIRGINIA

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

Run by Romans 16 when you have a moment. When we think of Romans, we think of verses like 1:16, 1:20, 3:23, 5:1, 5:8, 8:1, or really just all of chapter 8. Then we dive into the depths of chapters 9-11. We come out of that to 12:1-2. There is so much in Romans. Preachers have spent years doing sermon series in Romans...and then we get to chapter 16, and it just kind of drops off. I mean, really, who has a memory verse in chapter 16?

I actually have grown very fond of chapter 16 as a pastor. Paul, in closing this great theological treatise, mentions by name 30 individuals who were friends and co-workers in the ministry. These are names that history gives us very little information about. We won't really know what they did. Why does God take so much space to give us names that really will never mean anything to us? One reason: they mean something to God. There are always leaders and names out front, but God sees all the names, all the people who are serving, and they are noted before Him. When I see chapter 16, I see that everyone gets noticed. I also see that Paul didn't do anything alone. His ministry was all about working together.

I pray you can be at the Annual Homecoming. As always, there will be great preaching and worship, great fellowship, and important information and decisions will be dealt with. Oh yes, and there is this other little matter of the installation of a new executive director! This actually is a really big Annual Homecoming. But, big or little, someone you want to hear or not, we need this. It is easy out there in ministry to feel unnoticed and alone. Romans 16 and the Annual Homecoming remind co-workers that we are not alone and we are noticed. I really believe God will honor your effort to gather with fellow co-workers and be encouraged in the Lord. See you there.



## RESOURCE

**WEBSITE** [thegrovevillages.com](http://thegrovevillages.com)

**FACEBOOK** [facebook.com/pages/The-Grove/192345790847122](https://facebook.com/pages/The-Grove/192345790847122)

**TWITTER** @GroveVillages

relationships, not as a program. Jesus made disciples as He went about His daily life, and we believe that we should follow His example. I have also learned the importance of having a clear vision for the mission of the church and the need to protect it as the church moves forward. The natural tendency of all groups is to turn inward, and this defeats the entire purpose God has for the Church in the world.

JULIE: Having served in many different ways and ministries has helped me learn to look for and identify gifts/talents of others and help them find their place to serve—so they can serve in their strengths and grow in their weaknesses.

### Has God given you a particular verse for this portion of your life?

ROB: Romans 15:20-21—these are the verses that spurred us on to leave an established church and plant a new one.

JULIE: Acts 2:42-47—this is the vision we have for the life of the church as it gets going.

### What has generated the greatest excitement for you during this transition?

JULIE: Probably just seeing new things, meeting new people, [and] learning about the community and how it works.

ROB: I would agree with Julie about the opportunity to see new places and meet new people. I've also found it fascinating to see how God has worked through the whole process. The best way that I can describe it is—nothing has

worked out the way we planned, but it has all worked out. It's like riding a wave with all the ups and downs. I enjoy the adventure of being on mission with God.

### How will this culture be a change for you?

ROB: The first thing I have noticed [that is] different is the extreme postmodern mindset [here]. Truth is relative. Good is determined by what "works best" for each particular person. The majority of people do not seem to believe in any sort of universal truth. People are spiritual, and there are many different religions represented here. Christianity is a minority. It is not an accepted, standard part of life like where we lived in [Virginia]. On the contrary, many people are skeptical of Christians because of their reputation for trying to impose their beliefs on others.

JULIE: Even though we are accustomed to a small, rural community, this one is far different in that it is a transient-type community. People who live here year-round are from all over the United States. We haven't met many Colorado natives. People are constantly moving in and moving out. It is also a resort-type town—hundreds of thousands of tourists come every year.

### What is your greatest concern in this planting effort?

ROB: My greatest concern during this planting effort is from the external sources. It is my prayer that we will stay faithful and patient to

allow Jesus to build His church. We are starting more of an organic movement, so there aren't timelines and set milestones. This loose model can naturally create some tension or uneasiness with partners and associations. We don't want to reach a point where external pressures threaten to jeopardize the vision the Lord has given us.

JULIE: I tend to worry about the day-to-day stuff—getting the kids adjusted to a new place, new friends, being far from family, starting in public school after homeschooling...our day-to-day temporal needs continue to be a source of anxiety for me.

### What are The Grove's purpose and vision?

**MISSION:** We lead people to glorify God by making disciples and planting churches.

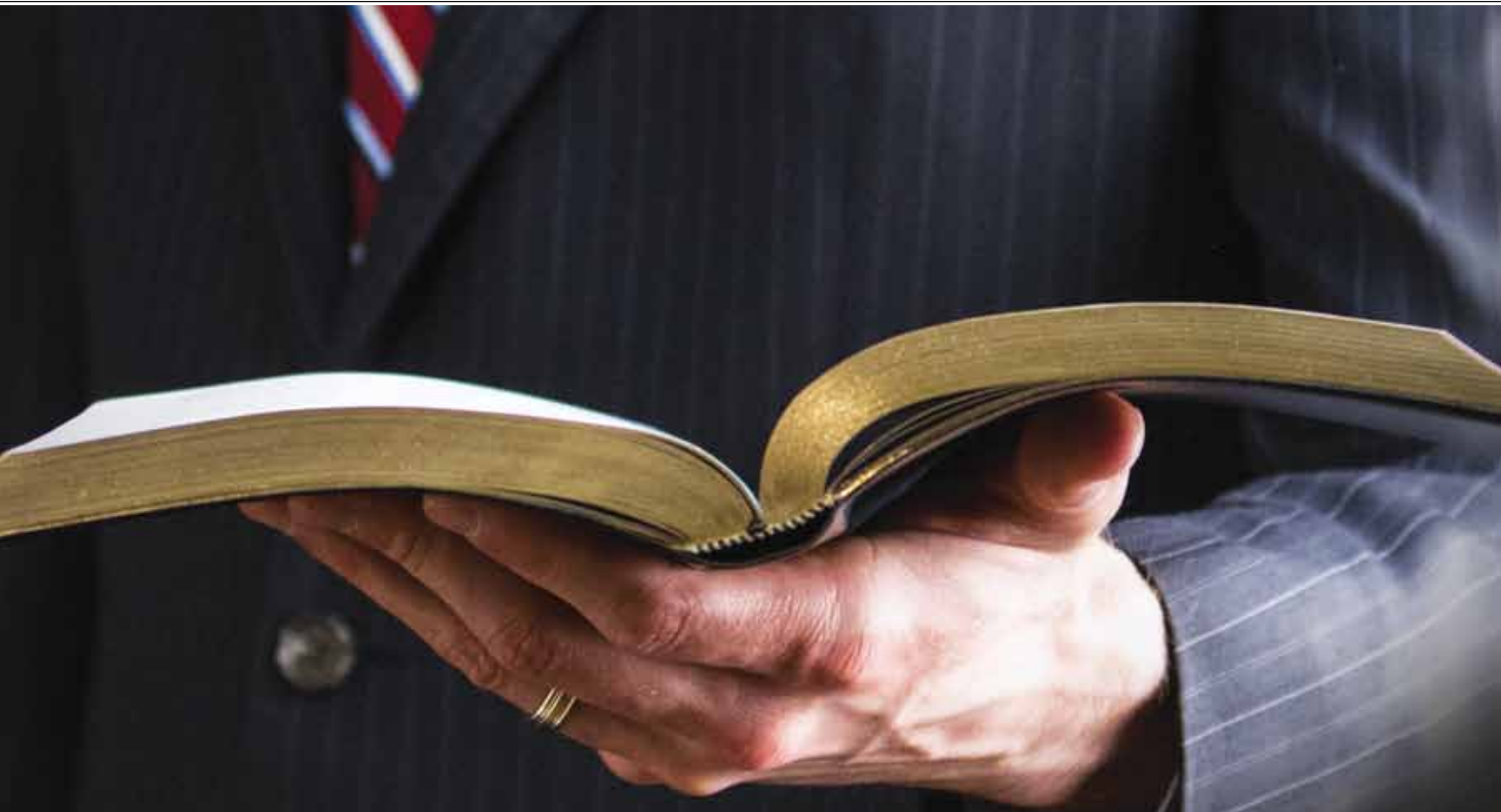
**VISION:** We are a culturally relevant multiplying church that: PLANTS churches through loving relationships with servant evangelism / GROWS leaders through intentional discipleship / SCATTERS missionaries to the ends of the earth.

### What is your greatest prayer request?

ROB: That God would be glorified and we would remain faithful to Him and the vision He has given us to this area.

JULIE: Protection and provision for our family—physically, spiritually, emotionally.

Please pray for the Blakes as they seek to make disciples in western Colorado.



# GOSPEL.

LEARN IT.

LIVE IT.

SHARE IT.

Don't just talk about the Gospel. Come to Southwestern where you'll be equipped and challenged to take the Gospel to the nations. Are you ready? Let's go.

Learn more at [swbts.edu/letsgo](http://swbts.edu/letsgo)



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



The Apostle Paul's letters demonstrate that first-century churches not only sent missionaries, they also gave resources to support missions. Mission projects follow a similar model. Members of your church may not all be able to go on a mission trip, but through mission projects, every member can partner in reaching the world.

**Here's a list of projects you can be a part of in 2013:**

Jan – Feb:

**Quilting Materials for  
IMB Missionaries**

Feb – Mar:

**Annie Armstrong Easter  
Offering**

Mar – Apr:

**Support Local Hunger  
Ministries**

Apr – May:

**Bibles for Southern  
Africa**

Jun – Jul:

**Backpacks for DC**

Aug – Sep:

**Adopt a Local School**

Sep – Oct:

**Vision Virginia State  
Missions Offering**

Oct – Nov:

**Sports Shoes and Socks  
for ARM**

Nov – Dec:

**Lottie Moon Christmas  
Offering**

➔ Get the latest info online at  
[sbcv.org/do](http://sbcv.org/do).



**Acts 1:8  
Families**



## FAMILIES ON MISSION

### Name Changed—the Mission Is the Same

At the “Walk Through Bethlehem Day Camp” this summer, the children of Bluefield, VA had an opportunity to experience life as children in biblical days. The camp was conducted by families from all around Virginia who participated in the SBC of Virginia’s Families on Mission (FOM) week. The children made clothes and fishing nets; ate fruits, nuts, and bread; played games; and joyfully danced to songs like children would have done in Jesus’ days. They heard Bible stories each day that helped them learn more about Jesus and what He has done for them. The FOM participants served as “clan leaders” for the various stations, dressing in biblical costumes and decorating their tents to appear authentic to the times. It was a fun learning experience for the children who attended and for the FOM families.

One of the aspects of Families on Mission is the opportunity to do service projects together. Each afternoon, the families participated in projects like car washes; serving food and sorting clothes at a mission center; painting at a local Christian camp; and canvassing the neighborhood near the church to publicize the community-wide block party. That Thursday evening, approximately 300 people attended the block party, which included food, fun, fellowship, and a Gospel presentation by Pastor Roger Cook of Crosspointe Community Fellowship. For the FOM participants, the highlight of the evening came when 11 people accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior!

The Families on Mission name is changing to Acts 1:8 Families, but the mission will remain the same. Parents and grandparents may not always realize how important their examples are in the lives of their children and grandchildren. When those little ones see Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, and Grandpa serving the Lord and practicing what they preach, there is a greater likelihood they will do likewise. That is what Acts 1:8 Families is all about—parents and grandparents influencing their children/grandchildren’s lives by practicing what they preach in a hands-on way with them by serving others and sharing the love of Christ. Plan now for your family to participate in Acts 1:8 Families next year: June 23 – 28.



**RESOURCE WEBSITE** [sbcv.org/articles/category/acts18families](http://sbcv.org/articles/category/acts18families)

# NOT JUST ANOTHER CAMP

**T**he last night of SBCV Studentz Camp is always special, but in 2012, it was exceptionally awesome and Spirit filled! Everyone assembled felt God's presence. The speaker, Ed Newton, even commented, "I have done several camps each year and have done them for years but have never felt the presence of the Lord like this! This is special!"

## DECISIONS

We work hard to make sure the last night of camp is not just an emotional time for students. We want the decisions they make to be heartfelt and solid, not based on emotion. For this reason, the plan was not to offer an invitation on the last night of camp. However, after worship, which was led by Matt Papa, the speaker knew it was time for an invitation. Led by the Holy Spirit, he asked students to consider a call to missions and ministry. It didn't take long for 78 students to surrender their lives to that call. This type of invitational response is rarely seen. *Studentz Camp 2012 was not just another camp.* The lives of students and adults were challenged, changed, and surrendered to the Lord. The theme was *Uncharted*, and participants were guided to consider having a life uncharted by self and the culture, but charted by Christ as their savior, guide, and main influence.

There were 900 campers, and over just the first three days, 39 students surrendered their lives to Christ as Lord and Savior, and 39 had made other decisions. But God had more in store for this camp. By the end of the week, all attendees knew they had been in the presence of the Lord, and many said it was the best camp they had ever attended. *Studentz Camp 2012 was not just another camp.*

## MISSIONS TRACK

Not only were there many decisions for Christ, but there were also students in the Missions Track doing ministry with church plants, helping the community recover from the storms the week before. The entire Lynchburg area was in a disaster zone for the week prior to camp—trees were down, power was out all week, and churches were helping the community recover. The 300 involved in Missions Track were able to help three communities. To see the impact and stories of Missions Track, go to [sbcv.org/articles/detail/is\\_it\\_worth\\_it](http://sbcv.org/articles/detail/is_it_worth_it).

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION COMPETITION

Once again, students were challenged to memorize and quote Scripture while at camp. The top three students were Ryan Kirby (who memorized 66 verses and 31 chapters), Danielle Turley (who memorized 83 verses and 30 chapters), and Morgan Portillo (who memorized 46 verses and 19 chapters). Over 5,500 verses and 244 chapters were memorized and recited during the week!

## YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

The tournament was held the Wednesday night of camp. There were 10 participants competing for a \$500 scholarship to the college of their choice. The winner was Miranda Brewer from Sugar Grove Baptist Church in Sugar Grove, VA; and the runner-up was Hope Cummings from First Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA.



Miranda Brewer

Steve Maltempi  
congratulating  
Hope Cummings





## NEW LOCATION & DATES FOR STUDENTZ CAMP 2013

Beginning next summer (2013), Studentz Camp will move from Liberty University to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Liberty will be involved in construction for several years and has stopped hosting camps for outside groups. God has provided a new location! James Madison University has rolled out the red carpet to us. Their facilities are incredible, their food service was rated number three in the nation, and we are looking forward to establishing a new home for **Studentz Camp**. **Mark your calendars for July 22-26, 2013.** More information will be posted online soon.

## FUSION MISSION CAMP

Speaking of *another camp*...in 2013, we will launch another camp, but it will also not be *just another camp*. It will be called **Fusion Mission Camp**, combining the best of camp and a mission trip. **Held in the Richmond area June 23-27, 2013**, the cost will start at just \$99/camper. At the conclusion of Fusion Mission Camp, attendees will have the option of attending Kingsfest at Kings Dominion theme park, where they can enjoy top Christian concert artists and speakers, as well as rides and a water park. This camp will be limited to 300 participants. More information will be online soon.

SEND NORTH AMERICA

## CHURCH GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE

[namb.net/revitalization/Virginia](http://namb.net/revitalization/Virginia)

with **Johnny Hunt**  
**February 28**  
Colonial Heights Baptist Church



And don't forget

## CHURCH HEALTH WORKSHOPS!

Contact your SBC of Virginia regional missionary to learn more about how these one-day workshops can serve as a springboard for your church to become a healthier, stronger, growing congregation.

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





# NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH<sup>2</sup>

## Same DNA, Two Locations

**T**he website reads, “In December 2009, God led New Life Community Church [in Louisa, VA] to extend its regional ministry into Orange County, VA. Associate Pastor John Nichols and a team of dedicated volunteers from the Louisa Campus began with careful planning, prayer walks, and community outreach events, eventually leading to the first New Life service at the old Christian Church near downtown Gordonsville.”

In the past 16 years of existence as a network of Southern Baptist churches, the SBC of Virginia has diligently assisted healthy churches in planting new autonomous churches. This type of church planting follows an intentional process of discovering through demographic studies the need for a new evangelical work in a particular geographic location. It also includes the search for a church planter who would best fit the needs within that context. Sponsoring churches are asked to partner with the plant through prayer, financial support and, at times, sending a core team to assist the planter and his family and help insure a solid foundation.

Like New Life Community, there are churches that are strategically multiplying, not through traditional church planting, but through multi-site ministries. So how is this different from church planting? Let’s ask Josh Turner, founding pastor of New Life Community Church and senior pastor of the Louisa Campus; and John Nichols, senior pastor of the Gordonsville Campus.

**1** Had attendance at the main campus increased to the point of needing additional space and/or were there people driving in from a distance to attend?

**TURNER ■** Yes. We were faced with the decision of what to do to create more space for our growing congregation. We also noticed that a significant number of people were driving 20 to 40 miles from west of our Louisa campus. Gordonsville was identified as a viable spot to start a new work with the New Life DNA and a reputation of being a Gospel-centered, excited group of believers. With many churches over the years coming and going in Gordonsville, we figured that the people would be skeptical of “another new work”; however, many had already

heard and/or attended the home church in Louisa, so almost instantly it provided a “safe” place for people to come and worship Jesus. So we sent out a leader and a group of about 25 people.

**NICHOLS ■** We began with prayerwalking and planning for an evening service. It was six months before we launched a weekly morning worship service.

**2** What are the advantages of multiplying through a multi-site?

**TURNER ■** The advantages of a multi-site are training, accountability, resources, flexibility, and oversight. Administration and accounting is also already built in, but we choose to take advantage of Church Ministry Services (CMS) of the SBCV that is available to all autonomous churches [CMS offers payroll and bookkeeping services for a small fee].

**NICHOLS ■** The leaders of the Gordonsville Campus communicate constantly with their counterparts at the main campus. We have benefitted greatly from the lessons learned from the Louisa Campus.

**3** How is the ministry at the new campus similar or different from the main location?

**TURNER ■** Even though the multi-site is modeled after the main church, the campus pastor has the freedom to prepare messages each week and move in the direction that he feels God is leading on Sunday morning.

**NICHOLS ■** The campus ministry is built with the DNA of New Life Community Church in Louisa, so the team ministries and leadership structure are very much the same. The worship styles differ on occasions but overall, are also very similar. The service times are the same for both campuses.



*In addition to his role as pastor of New Life Community Church in Louisa, Josh Turner serves as an SBCV associate church planting strategist. (l) Pastor John and (r) Pastor Josh.*

## 4 What are the advantages of a core leadership team being sent out from the parent church?

**TURNER ■** The core leadership team already understood who New Life Community was and shared the same vision. And so the new campus was able to have a strong foundation of leadership from the start.

**NICHOLS ■** The greatest advantages are: the ability to cast and impart vision; provide consistent training for volunteers at the satellite location; and have a key point person for the various ministries. We want to be consistent across the board.

## 5 What is included in the process of grooming, equipping, and sending out the campus pastor from the parent church?

**TURNER ■** We knew that God was calling Pastor John to do a great work somewhere, and when we were praying about who would go to Gordonsville, he and his wife answered the call.

**NICHOLS ■** I served as a Sunday School teacher, team leader, and as an associate pastor at the main campus for more than three years prior to being sent out. Another important aspect of this process was to have clear communication of expectations and vision for the new campus direction.

## 6 Did you consider simulcasts or live feeds of Josh Turner's preaching? How did you come to the conclusion that the campus pastor would also be the preaching pastor?

**TURNER ■** I can't say that this will happen every time, but in Pastor John's case, we knew that he was called to preach, pastor, and shepherd a church, so it was a natural fit for this first campus. We are not opposed to simulcast or live feed, but I believe the community will determine whether or not they are ready for that.

**NICHOLS ■** We [also] chose not to do simulcast because we felt the small-town community would not respond as well. We wanted to provide the personal touch and oversight that a physically present pastor brings.

## 7 Do you have joint ventures or mission endeavors?

**TURNER ■** We do communicate and give the satellite campus an opportunity to go on mission trips with us.

**NICHOLS ■** We are also pursuing a relationship as an Acts 1:8 Network Church and have a passion for work in Africa.

## 8 Can you give us an update on the three-year-old New Life Community Church Gordonsville Campus?

**NICHOLS ■** Average weekly attendance is 125 with a high attendance of 144. The new campus has grown very quickly. The vision is to eventually begin other satellite works. We believe that taking "church" to the people is how we will make a difference for Christ.

Let's celebrate with New Life Community Church what the Lord is doing to multiply the church's ministry in Louisa and now Gordonsville. Multi-siting is a great way to multiply your church's vision, reach, and mission. Like New Life Community Church in Louisa, your church could be "squared" too or should we say, "two"?

In an effort to recognize multi-site churches, the SBC of Virginia would love to hear from parent churches with multi-sites so we can include each multi-site's location on our website's church search feature. Please contact your regional missionary with your multi-site's location, campus pastor's name, contact information, website, social media links, etc. We want to help people locate all SBCV church campuses meeting near them.





**BREAKAWAY EMBRACE**  
TWO LOCATIONS IN 2013:

## WEST

**RYAN FONTENOT  
AARON KEYES  
HARRIS III**

**JANUARY 18-19**  
First Baptist Church  
Roanoke

## EAST

**BRIAN JENNINGS  
MATT PAPA  
HARRIS III**

**JANUARY 25-26**  
London Bridge Baptist Church  
Virginia Beach

**ONLY \$29** before Dec 7  
\$39 late registration/at the door

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



# visionvirginia calendar

## JANUARY

*Regional Pastor & Staff Power Meals*  
*Mission Project: Quilting Materials for IMB Missionaries (Jan-Feb)*

- 1 New Year's Day
- 18-19 YEC West, First Baptist Church, Roanoke
- 25-26 YEC East, London Bridge BC, VA Beach
- 20 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 24 Regional Church Planter Networks
- 26 Annual Disaster Relief Leadership Training
- 27 Day of Prayer for the SBC

## FEBRUARY

*Regional Pastors, Staff, & Wives Fellowships*  
*"True Love Waits" Emphasis Month*  
*Mission Projects: Quilting Materials for IMB Missionaries (Jan-Feb)*  
*and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (Feb-Mar)*

- 8-9 Student Pastor and Family Retreat
- 22-23 Student Leadership Development Retreat
- 28 Statewide Church Planter Network
- 28 Revitalization Conf. with Johnny Hunt, Colonial Heights

## MARCH

*Regional Pastor & Staff Power Meals*  
*Mission Projects:*  
*Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (Feb-Mar)*  
*and Support Local Hunger Ministries (Mar-Apr)*  
*GPS Emphasis Month—Easter Celebrations*

- 1-2 PLANT Training, Church Planting Teams (Part 1)
- 2 Regional VBS Early Bird Overviews
- 3-10 Week of Prayer & Mission Study for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 9 Women's Regional Conference, Central-West & Southside Regions combined (Lynchburg area)
- 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 16 Women's Regional Conference, North Region
- 16 Disaster Relief Training, Southeast Region
- 17 Start a Church Sunday
- 22-23 PLANT Training, Church Planting Teams (Part 2)
- 23 DR Training, Central-West Region, Roanoke
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Regional Church Planter Networks
- 31 Easter Sunday



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SBC OF VIRGINIA

Brian Autry  
bautry@sbcv.org  
facebook.com/brian.autry.70  
@brianautry

## The Power of Partnership

**W**e can all think of examples of powerful partnerships. Pop culture gave us Bert and Ernie; Batman and Robin (that's for my son); Beauty and the Beast (that's for my daughters); Bob Hope and Bing Crosby; and Andy Taylor and Barney Fife. Famous business partners include Rolls and Royce; Sears and Roebuck; and Black and Decker. History notes partnerships like Lewis and Clark; Orville and Wilbur Wright; and Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

I'd like to add another example of the power of partnership: Southern Baptist churches. By joining forces as allies in the Great Commission, as a coalition of churches, Southern Baptists do the following together: support approximately 5,000 international missionaries; plant churches all across America and the world; coordinate one of the top Disaster Relief Ministries in America; have six seminaries that provide education to ministers; and provide resources to over 40,000

churches, and more. Indeed, the sun never sets on the missionary efforts of Southern Baptist churches.

The Bible teaches us that working together is wise. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil" (Ecclesiastes 4:9, ESV). I'm thankful for Southern Baptist churches working together. Thank you for my seminary degrees; for your support when I served as an evangelism missionary; for your help in planting a church; and for a network of fellow pastors. "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5, ESV).

SBC of Virginia takes seriously the power of our partnership. SBC of Virginia is strong churches, mobilized churches, and planting churches to reach our neighbors and the nations for Christ.



*PLANT: Equipping Church Planting Teams* is a dynamic new training curriculum written especially for church planters by experienced church planters. Church planters and their teams will benefit from priceless wisdom and knowledge acquired by experienced church planters who have successfully navigated the journey of establishing a church with Gospel influence within their communities.

If you are thinking about beginning the church planting journey or if your church is planning to begin training church planting teams to send out—then *PLANT* has all of the timely, practical insights you need.

The same God who said that He would build His church (Matt. 16:18) has not left us in the dark about how this takes place.

— PLANT Module 1



Learn more about  
*PLANT: Equipping Church Planting Teams*  
at [www.sbcv.org/planting](http://www.sbcv.org/planting).





**Proclaimer**

4956 Dominion Boulevard  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
888-234-7716 | 804-270-1848  
[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)  
[proclaimer@sbcv.org](mailto:proclaimer@sbcv.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Waynesboro, VA  
Permit No. 129

The background of the entire flyer is a blue-tinted photograph of a large group of students at a camp. In the foreground, a young woman is smiling broadly. In the background, other students are visible, some looking towards the camera and others engaged in activities.

# <sup>SBCV</sup> studentz CAMP 2013

**2 OPTIONS:**

*June 23-27*

*Richmond*

Not just another camp! Includes the best of camp and missions at a budget-friendly price. Limited to 300 campers. Cost starts at just \$99/camper.

*July 22-26*

*James Madison Univ., Harrisonburg*

New incredible location! Includes national-quality speakers, musicians, and other ministers, as well as all the fun you've come to expect from Studentz Camp.