

visionvirginia Proclaimer

The Can-Do Church

Doing whatever it takes
to reach the community

Transforming Hurting People

Pastor's Wife Leads
in a Mission of Hope

Communities of Hope

Taking the Gospel
to the Philippines

Feb-Mar-Apr 2013

A PUBLICATION OF THE SBC OF VIRGINIA



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Running Towards a Tragedy

As soon as I heard the news, my mind immediately went back. Back to a chilly day—April 16, 2007. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Multiple students had been shot on the campus of Virginia Tech. Later that day, I was on the scene, covering the story of the worst school shooting in US history. Seung-Hui Cho (age 23) shot and killed 32 people and wounded 17 others in two separate

attacks, approximately two hours apart, before committing suicide (another 6 people were injured escaping from classroom windows). I was amazed at how first responders were possibly risking their lives by running towards the tragedy. I was also heartened by the sight of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers along with area SBCV pastors and church members looking for any way to minister to the shocked and saddened.

Fast-forward four and a half years. Could this news be worse? Twenty-six adults and first-grade children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT were shot on December 14 by gunman Adam Lanza. Here we go again—another town torn apart by tragedy. How do we process this? How do we pray? How do we minister?

Apparently, I wasn't the only one asking these questions. Matt Willmington, minister of ministries at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA, responded just a day or two after the Newtown shootings. I believe he hit the nail on the head. Here is an excerpt (edited):

Newtown reminds me that our #1 problem is sin-control, before any other issue. Safety issues will and must be debated in our country. But there's no debate in the Church. You always hear these comments on the news after these tragedies:

"They were a quiet family, kept to themselves. We never got to know them."

"Yeah, he was kind of a dark and brooding young man. I just kept out of his way"

Christians—run towards the evil, lonely, or sick person. Bring God's rescue!

Jesus KNOWS who His neighbor is. Jesus takes a long look at the evil, messiness, sickness of the world, and He runs TOWARDS it.

300+ million people in this country. 16 million murders this year. 60 people killed in mass shootings.

The answer begins with Christians actually running the Gospel to their neighbors, work associates, and community.

What a challenge to us in these harrowing days. We may want to look around it. We may want to give towards it. We may even want to preach about it. But why don't we take a page from our public-safety first responders? SBC of Virginia family, let us not grow weary. Let us run towards those who are the most needy—carrying the saving, loving, and redeeming Gospel with us.

Proclaimer

TELLING ABOUT THE AMAZING
THINGS GOD IS DOING
THROUGH HIS CHURCH

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PASTORS' LUNCH

SATURDAY, MAR 9, NOON

Check sbcv.org for details.



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."*

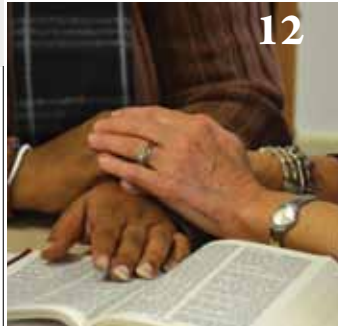
Would you be willing to pray this prayer with a heart of faith, trusting and believing what the Bible says about Jesus and His love for you?

"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.

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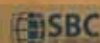
COVER LOOK

This cover was created by Innovative Faith Resources for the SBC of Virginia from a photo taken by Linda Jones, a friend of Donna Paulk from Bayview Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA. For information on Innovative Faith Resources, email ifr@innovativefaith.org.

Support Local Hunger Ministries

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." Matthew 25:35

For information on how you can help, visit sbcv.org/missions.



February-March
do Mission Projects

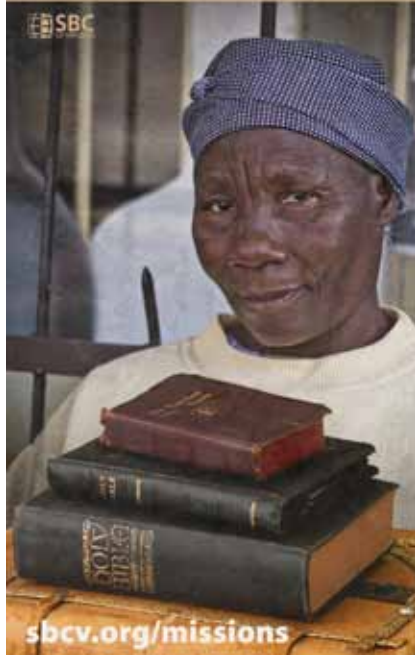
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 Mission Projects

Bibles for Southern Africa


I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the Word of God in its fullness— ... Colossians 1:25

 SBC



sbcv.org/missions

June - July

 Mission Projects

Backpacks for DC

Reaching Out & Providing for Those in Need

sbcv.org/missions



Reaching a Community at Its Point of Need

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, GALAX

The start of a new school year can be a hectic and expensive time for parents and students. To help meet those needs, Midway Baptist Church in Galax, VA has participated for the past two years in a hands-on mission project offered through the SBC of Virginia, putting together backpacks of school supplies for needy children. This year, they decided to reach out even closer to home by offering free haircuts, school supplies, and food in their own community.

Pastor Myron Dalton said, “This is just expanding on our past programs and bringing them closer to home. We want our community to know that God loves them. Churches today are tempted to just focus on what goes on in the church, but the Lord has gripped our hearts as a church, and we need to minister as Jesus did—and that is to meet people at their point of need.” Dalton continued, “The economy is bad and folks are looking for jobs, and for a lot of families, it is tough to fork out \$10 to \$12 for a haircut, especially if they have two or three kids. That adds up, then having to buy school supplies ... we saw this as an opportunity to be a blessing to them.”

Midway’s Back-to-School Bash outreach was a huge success as they ministered to over 500 people in the community. They registered 270 school-age children, gave 77 haircuts, served over 500 hotdogs, and distributed 270 bags of school supplies. They were thrilled that the Lord allowed them to serve the people in their community and are especially excited about how God touched a little boy named Joshua.

A church member invited her co-worker to bring her children to the event. The co-worker’s son Joshua received a Bible in his bag of back-to-school supplies. At the event, Pastor Myron said that Joshua kept pulling his Bible out of the bag and looking at it. When the boy arrived home, he started talking to his mother about the Bible. “Mom, the Bible is a good book, right?” His mother responded, “Yes,” and Joshua noted, “Then if it is a good book, we should start reading it.” So Joshua and his family started reading the Bible each day. He then learned from a child at school there is a book in the Bible called Joshua, so young Joshua decided he wanted to read that book because it shares his name.

Little Joshua has been drawn to God’s Word, and it is changing his life. Isaiah 55:11 says, “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (NKJV). Pastor Myron is praying for God’s Word to continue drawing Joshua to Him, so he and his family’s lives will be changed forever.

Are you willing to step out of the four walls of your church to share the love of Christ with your neighbors? If so, God may use you as a vessel to lead someone to a personal relationship with Him!



Back-to-School Bash



RESOURCE WEBSITE mbcgalax.org

As evident from the line for the clothes closet (seen here), the Back-to-School Bash was a success.



BRINGING HOPE

IN THE SUMMER OF 2011, Randy Aldridge (SBC of Virginia church planting strategist) met with Wendell Horton and Anthony Thomas to discuss the possibility of planting a church in Cana, VA. Under the leadership of Pastor Wendell, Sky View Missionary Baptist Church in Fancy Gap, VA committed to sponsoring the work. Anthony Thomas knew God had a plan for his involvement in the plant but, in his words, “I didn’t know how to get from where I was to where I needed to go.”

This is his story:

When the Lord called me into ministry over three years ago, I was uncertain of what He was asking me to do. I felt like He was calling me to be a pastor-teacher, but the thought of being a church planter had never entered my mind.

At a men’s prayer meeting one Tuesday morning, everything began to change. During this time, my pastor and uncle, Wendell Horton, began sharing with the men how he saw a need for an Acts 2 church in the Cana community. This community had already been laid on my heart but, as he spoke, the Lord really began to get my attention.

Shortly afterward, I began to go through the application process to become a church planter with the SBCV but still struggled with the idea of planting a church. It was overwhelming, and I had no idea what it took to plant a new church, so I ran from the Lord’s calling in fear. I justified my actions by pointing to the fact that there were already many churches in the area and some without pastors. As opportunities arose, I spoke at different churches and even interviewed for senior pastor positions throughout the area, but the Lord always shut the doors. However, the whole time, the door in the Cana community remained wide open.

One Wednesday night as I was dropping my daughter off at Olympians (Sky View’s children program), Wendell approached me with a pilot strategy that the SBCV was initiating called Communities of Hope. He told me to read over it and see if it would be something I would be interested in leading.



Communities of Hope

“After reading over the Communities of Hope material, I knew this is what I had been waiting for. This program would bridge the gap from where I was to where I knew the Lord wanted me to be. I knew what the Lord was calling me to do—I just struggled with how to get there.”

After reading over the Communities of Hope material, I knew this is what I had been waiting for. This program would bridge the gap from where I was to where I knew the Lord wanted me to be. I knew what the Lord was calling me to do—I just struggled with how to get there. The idea of planting a church was daunting, but through Communities of Hope, the Lord gave me a roadmap to accomplish His plan.

I began sharing the vision that the Lord had laid on my heart, and a team began to form. On July 21, 2011, we began our first Communities of Hope Bible study in the cafeteria of St. Paul School. On November 17, 2011, we began the second study and, on December 29, the Hope Development Team began discussions regarding Hope Community Church. January 5, 2012 was the start of the third study, and March 1 began the fourth study.

On May 20, 2012, the Hope Community Church held its first public service with 115 in attendance. Several people were saved through the evangelistic Bible studies and other events over the summer and, on August 5, we baptized eight souls, and five more are awaiting baptism.

The church continues to reach into the community with a high attendance in December of 73.

The people of Sky View have a passion for the lost, and their support for the plant over the past two years has been instrumental in accomplishing the Lord’s work.

Also, it has been a blessing to partner with the SBCV and see their heart for reaching the lost through church planting. I don’t know how anyone could embark on such a God-sized endeavor without the training, resources, and guidance that the SBCV has provided.

What the Lord has done over the past two years is remarkable, and it has been an honor and a privilege that He would allow me to be a part of His master plan. It is my prayer that He has been glorified in all that has taken place through Communities of Hope and now Hope Community Church.



RESOURCE

WEBSITE thehopecommunitychurch.com

COMMUNITIES OF HOPE

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE PHILIPPINES

Communities of Hope has been written and compiled for churches and pastors to provide for two fundamental needs. The first is to provide a process for churches to reach communities beyond their normal reach through committed Christians. The second purpose is to provide basic equipping materials for busy pastors that will enable them to equip and empower everyday Christians to reach those under-reached communities with the Gospel.

All *Communities of Hope* materials are currently available online for free download at www.sbcv.org/coh. The Pastor's Guide will serve as your how-to guide in utilizing these new materials for maximum impact. Inside, pastors will find sections to help their members know how to gather people; how to lead a community group; how to identify and train new group leaders; and how to transition a group from a Hope Community into a new church.

Retired accountant, faithful church member, and passionate lay missionary Tony Sendaydiego recognized the connection between *Communities of Hope* and his burden to take the Gospel to the Philippines to his fellow countrymen. Tony serves as the missions coordinator for Parkway Baptist Church in Moseley, VA and has developed a partnership between Parkway and partner churches in the United States and the Philippines. This coalition of churches known as Gospel for the Philippines is being equipped to take the Gospel to cities, towns, and villages through *Communities of Hope* by using the Bible storying track, *The Hope*. This process is already bearing fruit. Here is a nine-month summary from Tony of how God is at work:

Last April during Parkway's mission project in the Philippines, I brought five sets of the *Communities of Hope* materials, together with CD-ROMs and five videos of *The Hope* in Tagalog. I gave two sets to our Gospel for the Philippines Team and three to the Aurora Southern Baptist churches through Pastor Jerry Dayot. I would like to share with you the exciting news concerning *The Hope* initiative in the Philippines.

AURORA, PHILIPPINES

PASTOR JERRY DAYOT is the pastor of Aurora Southern Baptist Church (ASBC) in the town of Maria Aurora in Aurora province. (Maria Aurora is a coastal town in the middle of



Aurora province. The other Southern Baptist churches call ASBC the mother church.) Jerry is also the leader/mentor for the other SBC pastors. He told me that he gave copies of *The Hope* materials to the following:

- Pastor Roger Dacquel, Dilasag Southern Baptist Church in Dilasag (Dilasag is the northernmost town of Aurora province)
- Pastor Edwin Amansec, Dicabasan Southern Baptist Church in Dilasag
- Pastor Mike Anselmo, Cabituculan Southern Baptist Church in Baler (Baler is the capital of the province)
- Pastor Chris Abalos, Sto. Cristo Southern Baptist Church in Maria Aurora

Pastor Jerry said that the four pastors are almost done with their review of the topics covered by the printed materials.

Ordinary pastors leading ordinary church members to do something...
extraordinary
...all because of obedience to an extraordinary God.

COMMUNITIES OF
HOPE



[They will] determine ways to use them for Bible studies in their respective target areas.

ASBC started using *The Hope* materials in April in its outreach in the town of Puangi. Puangi is one of the venues where the Parkway team had VBS this year. They now have three on-going Bible studies led by committed lay leaders. Jerry said that attendance is growing, averaging 10 per group. The only challenge they have is the lack of DVD players and TVs, so they could not show the 12-part videos to the students. The group leaders use a laptop to review the content and summarize it to the group. ASBC is praying for a church planter to start a church in Puangi.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

CORA DE JESUS, one of our Gospel team members and the worship leader at Herald of Hope Baptist Church, uses *The Hope* study materials. HoHBC is our partner in the church planting ministry in the Philippines. [Cora] reports that she started with children in the class, but now parents and adults are also attending the Bible study.

“[Cora] reports that she started with children in the class, but now parents and adults are also attending the Bible study.”

I have asked Pastor Rene Vitan, pastor of HoHBC and chairman of our Gospel team, to look into arranging for the translation of the materials into Tagalog.

WAYS YOU COULD BE INVOLVED

First, and perhaps the obvious way to be involved is to pray. Have a group at your church pray for these cities and villages to be spiritually transformed by the Gospel. If you would like to receive updates on this ministry in the Philippines, contact Tony Sendaydiego at acts1.8@verizon.net or (804) 739-7231.

Second, you can go. A group from your church could be a part of Gospel for the Philippines. For information about this opportunity, contact Tony.

You can also use *Communities of Hope* in your home area to start evangelistic small groups or use it to take the Gospel to a people or community that God lays on your heart. Pray for where and to whom that should be. Be courageous—God is with you! (Joshua 1:9)



RESOURCE

WEBSITE www.sbcv.org/coh

DOWNLOAD MATERIALS www.sbcv.org/coh

CONTACT Tony Sendaydiego

email: acts1.8@verizon.net / phone: (804) 739-7231

WHATEVER IT TAKES

REACHING THE ONE

MARCH 3-10, 2013

SBC OF VIRGINIA GOAL: \$1.25 MILLION

GOAL \$70 MILLION

Week of Prayer for
**NORTH
AMERICAN
MISSIONS**
and the Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering*

SBCV.ORG/GIVE

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SEND NORTH AMERICA

Adapted from the Testimony of Dr. Trey Hensley, Lead Pastor, The Camp of Faith Church in Stephens City, VA

THE CAMP OF FAITH CHURCH Stephens City, VA

FROM MISSIONS FEAR TO MISSIONS FORCE



It began with a question. “Missions Martha” (Martha Stayer), [The Camp of Faith Church’s] “trail missions leader,” did an informal survey last year asking Camp members where they would be most afraid to go. The most popular answer was, “into the city.” From that moment forward, Martha was determined that our next missions target must be Washington, DC.

She secured John Marshall Park to be their base for missions operations in the city—in view of the US Capitol and close to the Mall. The plan was to go to DC, spend the morning in prayer, the afternoon in evangelism, and the last part of the day in a worship concert at the park.

With the date set and a partnership with Central Union Baptist Church of DC confirmed, The Camp of Faith Church began preparations. Over 20 members took a preview trip to see and pray over the area. Even though they hadn’t intended to do outreach that day, opportunities to share the Gospel and pass out tracts began on the Metro into the city. It was clear God was at work.

On the morning of the big day, we met together to ride the Metro into the city. There were about 40 Camp missionaries armed with Bibles, tracts, and a bold missionary spirit. The train began to fill up fast. Two of our evangelists began to entertain riders with funny one-liners from a Gospel tract they brought with them. Riders began to laugh and were handed a copy of the tract as they got off the train. All the while, Gospel conversations were going on between other Camp missionaries and the Metro riders who had gotten on the train and sat down beside them.

After arriving at John Marshall Park, the team met for prayer then broke up into its smaller evangelism teams. Immediately there were witnessing

conversations going on between Camp missionaries and the homeless friends who made John Marshall Park their home. Most of the evangelism teams left the park and took to several different streets nearby.

The “Million Dollar Street Preachers” team distributed million-dollar-bill Gospel tracts and did street preaching. They had the opportunity to share the Gospel with 15 skateboarders and lead one man to Christ. The “Bubbling Artists” team drew pictures and Bible verses on a long piece of paper they laid out in the park. They were able to engage in conversations with those who stopped to read the mural. The “Good News Gurus” passed out tracts and sought one-on-one conversations to share the Gospel. One team member was able to pass out tracts to everyone on a bus that had stopped at the corner. Another team member wrote questions on a whiteboard to draw people into conversation (ex., “If God is real, why do bad things happen?”). The “Word of God” team distributed Bibles, and other teams used various strategies to reach the lost. Camp members of all ages ministered that day as families served together. Many times, seeing a child caused passersby to be more receptive to the message.

It was an amazing day of evangelism and breaking out of our comfort zones as we quickly found that DC was not like Stephens City. We spread the Gospel far and wide and invited everyone we met back to John Marshall Park for a worship concert that evening.

The concert included worship music, a band, and a Gospel skit. A team of face painters interacted with children and parents as the concert took place. Church members from Central Union

Baptist joined The Camp of Faith to pass out tracts and share the Gospel. The man who had accepted Christ earlier in the day came that night, which provided an opportunity to connect him to a local church—Central Union Baptist—and introduce him to its pastor, Rev. James Lee.

Then the rain came. [It] shut down our worship concert and ended our day, but it was already a full [one], and everyone made the long journey home wet, tired, and full of the Holy Spirit.

The effects of the DC trip were numerous for The Camp of Faith.

Going to DC was a stretch for many Camp members, but it was the kind of stretch that would make missions in Stephens City—our “Jerusalem”—even easier. After reaching out to our community in a variety of ways, we were reminded that there is a world of people in need of the love of Christ not far from us. We want to partner with other churches and go into the city to do what we can with our little team of bold evangelists. DC was one more step leading us toward going to our newly adopted Swahili people group in the country of Burundi. DC made our missionary family units stronger. Kids are growing up at The Camp of Faith Church doing missions with their families. That really excites us!

With God’s help, this church with a missions fear turned into a mission force. Where are you and your church most afraid to go on mission? Ask the Lord to help you overcome your fears and be used as a mission force for His glory. ●



RESOURCE WEBSITE fire2trail.org



2013 Training Dates

SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief training is practical instruction that equips volunteers to confidently respond in times of crisis. Our training provides the credentials necessary to serve on the front lines as we partner with FEMA, The Salvation Army, Red Cross, IMB, NAMB, and other SBC state conventions.

Here's a list of regional training opportunities in 2013:

- March 16 - Zuni
- March 23 - Roanoke
- April 6 - Midlothian
- April 20 - Big Stone Gap
- April 27 - Centreville
- May 18 - South Boston

➔ Get the latest info online at sbcv.org/dr.



The CAN-DO Church

One of the ways to determine a church's health is by examining its efforts to reach the surrounding community with the Gospel, says Dr. Church Lawless, dean of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. "When you look at the number of additions to [a] church in the last five years as opposed to the increase or decrease in church membership and worship, it gives you a good picture of what the health of the church is currently."

Many churches today struggle to penetrate their community with the Gospel. If they were asked to identify the lost or unchurched in their locale, many couldn't do so. A growing number of unchurched people say they don't attend church because churches have become "irrelevant"—not making a difference in the world.

This can't be said, however, of Liberty Baptist Church (LBC) in Appomattox, VA. After reflecting on the Sermon on the Mount, Pastor Rusty Small recently asked the congregation, "What is your vision for the role the church plays in Appomattox?" He recalls, "I thought about how Jesus would answer that question. What would be Jesus' vision for His church and how would the church influence the society... and penetrate the community around them? In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, 'Ye are the salt of the earth' and 'ye are the light of the world'... 'let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven'" (Matt. 5:13-16, KJV).

"In time," says Pastor Rusty, "if the presence of the true disciples of Jesus Christ at Liberty Baptist does not fundamentally make Appomattox a different place,

we have failed." The Sermon on the Mount is about learning how to love your neighbors and pray for your enemies. Although these actions aren't always easy, LBC sees them as practical ways to be salt and light, impacting the people around them with the Gospel.

Just as short time ago, LBC was declining and had even suffered a church split. "The community did not have very high regards for Liberty," says Pastor Rusty, "and it was a hard task to turn that perception around. Yet in the last five years, the church has been able to change its image to [that of] a can-do church that really cares for the community and is willing to do whatever it takes to make a difference. [We] have grown from 100 to over 500 in worship. Lives are being changed, and the community is being penetrated with the Gospel."

These changes have taken place through love and intentionality. The deacons have helped take the lead with their Compassion Ministry, giving their time to help families build, repair, or replace necessities. They also sponsor a HOPE Ministry that establishes care and counseling for those dealing with addictions, broken lives, and special needs.

In addition, LBC began hosting big, semi-quarterly community events in 2010. "Everything we do, we try to do with excellence," says Pastor Rusty. "We try to do something on a large enough scale that it will attract the attention of the unchurched. We also do it for free." This is what he calls "relational evangelism." For example, as a church member interacts with a visitor, he is building a relationship that can eventually lead to ministry and the sharing of the Gospel.



RESOURCE WEBSITE libertybconline.org



“...really cares for the community and is willing to do whatever it takes to make a difference.”

For Super Snow Day, LBC brought in a snow machine and built a small ski slope. River Wild Water Park was another innovative event that offered several large water slides and a zip line adventure. For Easter Egg Extravaganza, over 3,000 Easter eggs were dropped from the air. LBC even had the opportunity to partner with the Appomattox Historical Park to host an 1865 reenactment. Because of federal cutbacks, the park did not have sufficient resources to carry out a large event; however, LBC was able to assist. They funded and helped organize the reenactment, which attracted over 3,000 people to Appomattox.

The past Christmas, the free ice skating rink the church provides each winter touched one man's life in a powerful way. He shared, "I have been out of church for some time. Today I drove by the ice skating rink in the middle of town and heard the Christmas music. I saw the ice skating and heard the laughter of the children. I realized that I needed to be back in church and needed to get involved in doing something for the Kingdom."

In addition to touching people's lives through outreach events, LBC maintains a global focus on missions by

giving financially through the Cooperative Program; sponsoring Guatemalan orphans; building churches in Honduras; sending Disaster Relief teams to New York; and helping sponsor the FinditHere.com race in South Boston.

Liberty Baptist Church's can-do vision for ministry seeks to do whatever necessary to reach Appomattox and the world for Christ. What can your church do?



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WITH
CARE.**



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TO BUILD UP
YOUR PEOPLE**

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The Bible is not a collection of stories—it is one story, the story of God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. Learn how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is present in the entire Bible and how the Good News of the Gospel motivates us to be on mission.

gospelproject.com

LOVELLOUD

LoveLoud is a movement of churches demonstrating God's love by meeting significant human needs while sharing Christ. Start your church on the journey of impacting lives and transforming communities through the power of the Gospel.

namb.net/loveloud

TRANSFORMING HURTING PEOPLE

One Soul at a Time

Pastor's Wife Donna Paulk Leads Bayview Baptist Church in a Mission of Hope

Have you ever met the kind of person who, through only a brief encounter, would forever change your life for the better?

Tammy Bennett, Women's Ministry strategist for the SBC of Virginia, recently sat down with just that kind of person, Donna Paulk, wife of Cary Paulk, the senior pastor of Bayview Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA. After meeting Donna and hearing her story of hardship, hope, and healing, Tammy knew you would want to know her too, so grab a cup of coffee and join her for a moment with Donna Paulk.

Within 60 seconds of meeting Donna, Tammy discovered this is a gal who loves Jesus, is excited about her salvation, and has a joy that won't quit.

Please tell us a little bit about you and your time at Bayview Baptist Church. What motivated you to get involved with the mission?

I have been married to Cary Paulk for 25 years, and together we have three adult children, eight grandchildren, and have served at Bayview Baptist church for the last 12 years.

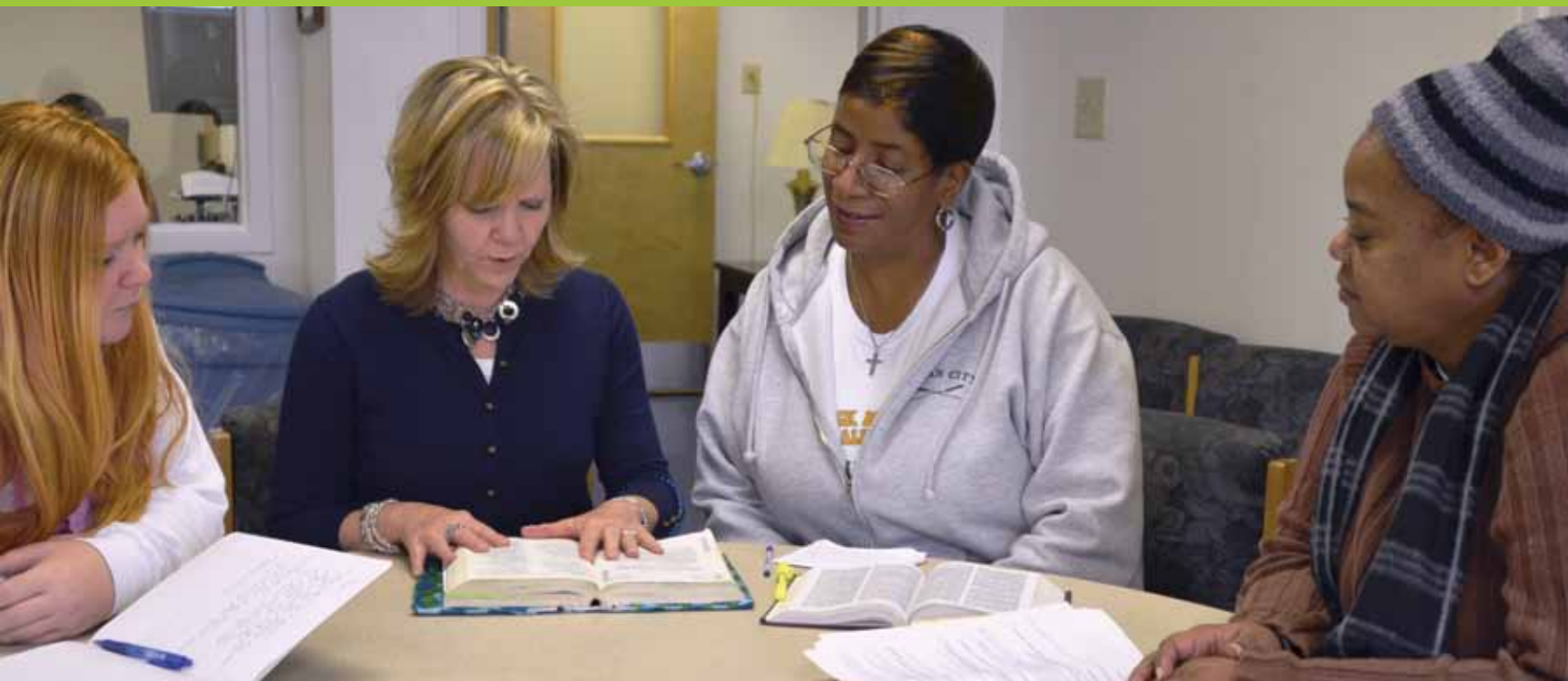
After the tragic death of our oldest son on Christmas morning in 2003, I sunk into

deep depression, and it was only by the love and strength of a holy God that I survived the grief. Through it all, I studied Scripture, devoted myself to prayer, and learned what it means to find hope for tomorrow. As a result of my own healing, I became a life coach for women and asked the Lord how I might use my own experience to help others. So in April of 2010, I volunteered my services at a women's shelter at the Union Mission in Norfolk, VA.

What were your first impressions of the mission and the needs of the people there?

The first thing I recall is how nervous I was and wondering if I should even go. I had never been homeless, so what credibility would I have? When





I walked into the room, my initial impression was how tired, fearful, and dejected the ladies looked. I was taken aback by their absence of vision, lack of purpose, and resignation to hopelessness. I immediately knew I couldn't help them but I knew the One who could. I opened my Bible to Jeremiah 29:11, *For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*

I left the mission that day feeling encouraged, knowing I was exactly where God wanted me to be and that although I had never experienced homelessness, I had suffered loss and much of the hurt, desperation, and hardship these ladies were feeling. I used the grief I'd known to build a bridge between these women and me, realizing that when it gets down to it, emotional pain has no economic boundaries.

How did the ladies respond to you?

In the beginning, I was afraid of being judged because I had a home, a car, and a husband that loved me, but instead, they accepted me for whom I am, just as I did them. Our hearts were connected through loss and, although we had experienced differing forms of loss, we were still able to identify with each other through the hurt that had complicated our lives.

How have you incorporated working with Union Mission into the vision of Bayview Baptist Church?

Our vision at Bayview is to be a life-giving church that proclaims the Gospel in both word and deed. Plus, our Women's Ministry at Bayview participates in a quarterly mission project, so bringing the two together was easy. The women of Bayview simply meet at the mission and serve the

ladies dinner. Through this basic act of kindness, we have been able to build relationships with these women and, as a result, invite them to church. Now on Sunday mornings, we serve a continental breakfast to the ladies. While focusing on our relationship with them, we pray for them and share the Gospel with them.

Have you seen people come to salvation through Christ because of your involvement in the mission?

Oh yes, many. We had this one homeless gal in particular, who was traumatized from abuse and drug addiction, stand up and give her life to Jesus. After hearing her story, it was no less than a miracle that she would find it in her heart to trust Jesus. Since that time, I've watched her grow spiritually and have witnessed firsthand the transforming power of the Gospel. Life-changing stories like hers are what encourage us to keep on doing what we're doing.

What is one thing you and/or Bayview have learned through your involvement with the mission?

You don't have to be a large church to make a big difference. God can use whatever resources you have to reach others with the Gospel of Christ. All He needs is a willing heart.

How has God prepared you for the position you're in today?

Not long after we were married, I suffered a nervous breakdown, which brought on thoughts of suicide. I was hospitalized for 21 days, and it was the Christian counseling and mentoring by other godly women that led to my salvation in Christ. Over the next 12 years, God placed Titus 2 mentors in my life to pray over me and explain



Scripture to me. It's because of the discipleship I received from these women that, years later, I was able to work through the death of my son. It's now my mission in life to pay it forward and be a blessing in the lives of other women.

As a result of volunteering at the mission, I was recently offered a paid position as discipleship coordinator there, which allows me to meet each woman that comes into the shelter and share the Gospel with her. If I can lead just one hurting individual to faith in Christ, it's all been worth it. Bottom line, it's all about multiplying what God has done for me.

My life verse is, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, *All praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the source of every mercy and the God who comforts us. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

What would you tell someone that would like to become involved with her local mission but is afraid or doesn't know how to take the first step?

Call your local mission and find out what they need and how you could partner with them. It might be in the form of serving a meal, collecting some clothing, or making a financial donation, but it all starts with the initial contact.

How can God use you? What can you do to make a difference in the lives of others? How can you and or your church get involved in the mission of offering hope to the needy?



RESOURCE

WEBSITE bayviewbaptist.org

“

Donna, thank you for sharing your story of hardship, hope, and healing. It's inspiring to read about how God has used you and the gals at Bayview Baptist Church to minister to hurting women, reach them with the Gospel, and add them to the church.

~ Tammy Bennett

”



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- APRIL 13 VALLEY Region, Green Ridge BC, Roanoke
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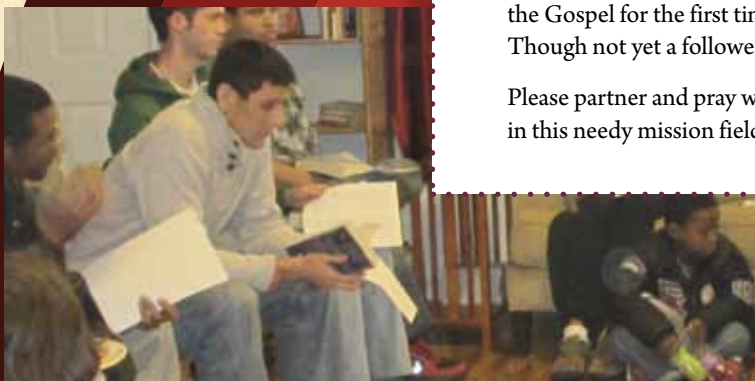
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MATTHEW'S TABLE

Richmond's Inner-City CHURCH PLANT



In 2010, Ricky and Audrey Love came to Richmond to partner with Aletheia Richmond (an SBCV church plant) to plant a new church in one of the city's toughest areas. Richmond's inner city is extremely unreached and desperately needy, and the Loves moved right into the heart of it.

As early as the 1990s, C. Eric Lincoln wrote in his book, *The Black Church in the African American Experience*, about the city that "a major challenge to the church was communities like the East End where there was a growing sector of unchurched black youth, largely teenage and young black adult males." The East End of Richmond is also home to four housing projects. Richmond has more public housing, per capita, than any other city south of New York City.

A year before the Loves moved to Virginia, God began to show Ricky from the Scriptures His concern for the outcasts of society. The vision for this new church, Matthew's Table, was birthed out of a passion to see the Gospel change lives through the local church, especially among the poor and neglected areas of Richmond. Matthew's Table even got its name from the story of Matthew's call.

As a tax collector, Matthew was himself an outcast. Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners (Matthew 9:10). Matthew's table was a place where those who were far from God were invited to come near. It was a place of belonging and acceptance. The Loves and Matthew's Table Church want to be like that. Their desire is to be "a people who welcome and invite those who are normally forgotten by the world and very often the church to find acceptance and family through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Matthew's Table began meeting as a small group in May of 2010. They began to build relationships with people in the city in simple ways, such as hosting meals in their home and playing basketball. During that time, they also developed a wonderful relationship with the Fairfield Court Boys and Girls Club in a community where 70 – 90% of the children are fatherless. Through their partnership, they have put on several events such as cookouts, open-mic nights, and a hip-hop concert.

Over the past two years, they have realized as they look out at a community that is broken and in need of the Gospel, that they too are broken and in daily need of that same Gospel of grace. They need abundant grace to deal with the many difficult situations they experience living and ministering in this community—situations like Diontae's. He is 21 and fatherless and, because of his mother's drug addiction, was raised by his grandmother. In order to survive, he's been selling drugs in his community since age 12. By God's grace, Diontae has been getting to know folks from Matthew's Table. It took him a year, but he recently came to a service where he heard the Gospel for the first time. He has read through the Gospel of John and is now reading Luke. Though not yet a follower of Christ, God is clearly at work in his life.

Please partner and pray with the Loves for those like Diontae and the multitude of people living in this needy mission field.



RESOURCE

WEBSITE matthewstablechurch.com

CONTACT ricky@matthewstablechurch.com

Creative Ministry to Community

Leads to

Nursing Home

Vbs

God's Storehouse saw the value in bringing to seniors the same **Gospel truth** taught to children. The church's goal was the same—to share the love of Christ with those in its community.



God's Storehouse Baptist Church is a small congregation located on Jessup Road in Richmond, VA.

This is not your typical neighborhood church—it's actually *in* a neighborhood! Located in the midst of a housing development, the church itself is a former house that has been converted for weekly ministry. It has a nice sanctuary located at the back, where most garages would be found. The church office, kitchen, restrooms, and classrooms are also housed in this former home. A modular education building was recently added for children's Sunday School, AWANA, and Boy Scouts. It also serves as an open fellowship hall for special occasions.

Pastor Tom Lovorn has been in local church ministry for over 60 years in various capacities. Even though he was at retirement age, he sensed the Lord calling him to serve as pastor of God's Storehouse. He had a vision for the church's potential and has been creative in utilizing its unusual setting.

Creative Ministry. God's Storehouse has adopted the local elementary school. Church members delivered treats throughout the year and sent cards for Easter, Christmas, and the start of the school year to all 103 employees of Hening Elementary School. They have even volunteered to help with school mailings, grading papers, and whatever is needed. The faculty, staff, and teachers are also on the church's prayer list.

On the back of the church property, a walking trail is being constructed for community usage. "God's Acre," as it is called, will also be used as a prayer trail. The figure-eight walk will include landscaping, benches, and a playground. The paving work will be donated by a local construction company, and the design and landscaping by two of the church's Eagle Scouts.

This summer, the church offered its first free yard sale and gave away furniture, clothes, books, appliances, gift cards, groceries, and school supplies to its neighbors. This outreach ministry generated interest in the church and its ministries.

Bringing the Gospel truth to seniors. While its ministry efforts above are creative, it's safe to say that God's Storehouse's biggest creative genius came in taking

Nursing Home VBS

Vacation Bible School to the local nursing home. Many churches multiply their ministry by taking VBS to parks or mobile home neighborhoods, but God's Storehouse noticed a similar need at Chippendale Retirement Home. They saw the value in bringing to seniors the same Gospel truth taught to children. When asked how this VBS was different than a typical one, Pastor Tom said, "It wasn't any different...the 45 who attended listened to the Bible lesson, we taught the story using the flannel graph, sang songs, made crafts, and had snacks." The goal and objective were the same—to share the love of Christ with those in their community.

God's Storehouse Baptist Church doesn't let its facilities, property, or setting stand in the way of reaching its community for Christ. Their creative approach to ministry causes them to seize even the unexpected opportunities—like taking VBS to senior adults at a retirement home!



RESOURCE WEBSITE godsstorehousebc.org



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SBC
OF VIRGINIA

When Values Matter

It has been said that some people pick up their values as easily as stepping on gum—very indiscriminately. But for Ryan Patterson, pastor of the new Harvest Fellowship Church at Gretna, values have been defined in the trenches of spiritual battle and diligently sought from the Word of God.

While serving in a previous ministry, he was confronted when he took a stand on social issues and was told that the Bible didn't matter. Patterson, however, was convicted that "the inerrancy and infallibility of God's Word was a hill worth dying on." He knew that the Lord was directing him to start a church, and he sought guidance regarding which group to align with and why.

What brought you to Gretna, Virginia?

"Lajabra, California [where I grew up], isn't Gretna, but I know that God called my family and me here to serve. Everybody in my family is on mission. We are in this together. I understand the culture and the need for sound doctrine to be taught."

Patterson says that sound doctrine is often not valued, but he is willing to be uncomfortable to preach the Gospel and get the message of the Bible to the lost. He and the new church are doing this through serving—communicating God's Word by meeting people's needs. Through Harvest's acts of kindness, such as hosting a benefit ride for a family in medical crisis or serving as chaperones for special events for the local school system, the community sees God's love.

What made you decide to align Harvest Fellowship with the SBC of Virginia?

Patterson says that he examined other denominations and watched the SBC as it worked through the conservative resurgence. But what it came down to was "a careful study of God's Word and statements of faith." He believes that "the SBC has been faithful to the doctrines of the Bible. Anyone that considers himself Southern Baptist has committed to adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Not to do this would be deceptive and wrong." Patterson notes that the SBC of Virginia is committed to sound doctrine, and the organization has integrity before its churches with how it uses their financial resources. Cooperative Program funds are "invested in ministry with integrity—no compromise."



What has this meant for you and the average Harvest Fellowship member?

Patterson says that being with the SBC of Virginia is part of the fabric of who they are—"what they value, walking the walk." They stand on biblical truth and do not waver. At Harvest Fellowship, "95% of the members demonstrate their commitment by serving. Everything they do is a result of God's love at work in their lives. They are who they are because of His love, and the community sees this. Everything they do is intentional to reach others for Christ and to develop a healthy church."

What we value matters, and there are hills worth dying on. Ryan Patterson came through the crucible of spiritual battle, standing firm upon God's Word. "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow" (Hebrews 4:12, HCSB).





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It's a Big Deal

They have not just won the competition—they have dominated it. They have either been first or placed high in the SBCV State Bible Drill over the past seven years. Even the casual observer would have to wonder why the Peninsula Korean Baptist Church (PKBC) Bible Drill Team has been so successful. The answer: because it's a big deal!

When you talk to the pastor of PKBC of Newport News, VA, Dr. James Chung, you can sense just how important the Bible drill ministry is. Participation is expected and vital. The impact of the Bible Drill Team is so transforming on young lives that students' participation is mandatory. Pastor Chung refers to his own life as a child in Korea where he was encouraged by his parents and pastor to hide God's Word in his heart (Psalm 119:9, 11). He has likewise encouraged the students at PKBC to do the same, which has had a significant impact on their dedication and performance.

To truly understand the value of this ministry, you need to go back to its genesis. Dr. Chung shared that this all began with Mrs. Kim, the wife of the pastor before him. She started and established the PKBC Bible Drill Team with a mindset of ardent preparation and strong discipline. Her leadership set the course for a continuing Bible drill ministry.

When Dr. Kim retired, Mrs. Kim passed on the role of youth Bible Drill Team leader to Jerry Bennett, a lay leader in the church. Jerry attributes the consistent excellence of the team to meeting year

PASTOR CHUNG REFERS TO HIS OWN LIFE AS A CHILD IN KOREA WHERE HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS PARENTS AND PASTOR TO HIDE GOD'S WORD IN HIS HEART.

round. The team and its leaders meet to practice their verses twice a week (Sunday and Wednesday) and two Saturdays a month when they are preparing for competition. Even after competition, they continue to meet regularly to do in-depth Bible study. They actually start with younger children before they are eligible to compete—almost like the minor leagues.

It is more than memorization but grafting the Word of God into the students' lives. The objective is not just winning awards—it is discipleship based on John 8:31-32, where Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (HCSB).

Not only do the Bible Drill Team members study God's Word; they also put it into practice by participating in a youth outreach called Action where they go door-to-door in the community. Last year's drill winner, Ricky Bennett (Jerry's son), has participated for five years (he came in second place the previous two years). He has a heart for the Lord and even gave up football to be on the church worship team.

Studying God's Word is a big deal for the students at Peninsula Korean Baptist Church. As Moses said to the younger generation preparing to enter the Promised Land, "For [the Word of God] is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life" (Deuteronomy 32:47, NASB).



RESOURCE WEBSITE pkbc.org



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.



FEBRUARY

Regional Pastors, Staff, & Wives Fellowships
"True Love Waits" Emphasis Month

Mission Projects:

Quilting Materials for IMB Missionaries (Jan-Feb)
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 Conference, Colonial Heights

MARCH

Regional Pastor & Staff Power Meals

Mission Projects:

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (Feb-Mar)
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 for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 9 Women's Regional Conf., Central-West & Southside Regions combined (Lynchburg area)
- 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 16 Women's Regional Conf., North Region
- 16 Disaster Relief Training, Zuni
- 17 Start a Church Sunday
- 22-23 PLANT Training, Church Planting Teams (Part 2)
- 23 Disaster Relief Training, Roanoke
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Regional Church Planter Networks
- 31 Easter Sunday

APRIL

Regional Pastors, Staff, & Wives Fellowships

Mission Projects:

Support Local Hunger Ministries (Mar-Apr)
Bibles for Southern Africa (Apr-May)

- 6 Disaster Relief Training, Midlothian
- 6 Women's Regional Conf, Southwest
- 13 Women's Regional Conf, Valley Region
- 14 Cooperative Program Sunday
- 18-20 Senior Adult Conference, First BC, Roanoke
- 20 Disaster Relief Training, Big Stone Gap
- 23 Sponsoring Church Network
- 24 Ministry Assistant Appreciation Day
- 25 Statewide Church Planter Network
- 27 Disaster Relief Training, Centreville
- 27 Women's Event—Priscilla Shirer with Women's Regional Conference, Central-East, Grove Ave. Baptist Church, Richmond

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Getting Stronger

My son went through a phase where one of his favorite movies was *Rocky*. (Please don't judge me.) In fact, on a family trip to Philadelphia, we ran up the famous "Rocky steps" together. During one of the many montages of Rocky working out and preparing to get in the boxing ring, they play a song with the words "getting stronger" over and over again. It was obvious that Rocky had to get stronger to be ready for the fight of his life.

Likewise, SBC of Virginia churches are called to keep the faith, run the race, and fight the good fight. Churches, pastors, leaders, and followers of Jesus must be strengthened too. The Gospel partnership of SBCV churches is focused on reaching our neighbors, the nations, and all generations, and this means we must continue to get stronger. Acts 16:5 tells us the churches were strengthened in the faith. Acts 15 tells us the brothers were strengthened and encouraged. As the Book of Acts shows, churches get stronger, they mobilize for missions, and more people are reached and churches planted. Churches are strengthened. Churches are mobilized. Churches are planted.

One of the values of our Gospel partnership of churches is that we can spur one another on to good

works, encourage one another, pray for one another, build up one another. Pastors do not have to fight the good fight alone. SBCV churches can encourage one another in the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. Through this Gospel partnership of churches, we are able to provide networks, resources, and events that strengthen church ministries and leadership. By working together, SBCV churches provide everything from seminary scholarships to student conferences and camps to support for pastors and church leaders. SBCV churches and pastors do not have to keep the faith, run the race, and fight the good fight alone.

As your church prays for, gives to, and participates in this Gospel partnership, churches will be strengthened. Throughout this year, pray for our church pastor and leadership networks, pray for SBCV missionaries to be able to resource churches, and pray for ministries and events to be effective in strengthening churches. The church you are a part of is strengthening churches in many ways. Check out www.sbcv.org for more information on this Gospel partnership of strong churches with a bold commitment to the Great Commission. You are not in the ring alone—let's run this race together!



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